**Universal Periodic Review 31 - Nigeria**
**Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands - 6 November 2018**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the presentation of its national report.

The efforts to promote and protect human rights through ratification of regional and international human rights instruments has produced some commendable results. However, the implementation and reinforcement of these instruments remains a challenge. The Netherlands is moreover concerned about the human rights violations by security forces, armed groups and rival communities, which are oftentimes exacerbated by the lack of appropriate legal measures and accountability.

Therefore, the Netherlands **recommends** Nigeria:

1. To prioritize the full domestication of international human rights obligations such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to ensure their effective implementation and reinforcement by using domestic mechanisms such as the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act.
2. To intensify efforts to eradicate impunity by strengthening accountability and the rule of law, particularly through monitoring, investigating and reporting on human rights abuses, and to ensure that alleged perpetrators, including security forces, are brought to justice.

We commend the government of Nigeria for its continued efforts to eradicate the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and to prevent human trafficking, in particular the illegal trafficking of women and girls. We encourage the government of Nigeria to continue the development and implementation of measures aimed at preventing all forms of violence against women.

The Netherlands wishes the government of Nigeria every success with the implementation, reporting and follow-up of all the UPR recommendations that it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr. President.