**Universal Periodic Review 31 – Central African Republic**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands –9 November 2018**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of the Central African Republic for the presentation of its national report.

The Netherlands compliments the authorities of the Central African Republic on their willingness to address the human rights situation in the country, and on their engagement with the UN Human Rights Council and the Independent Expert.

We remain gravely concerned about the continuing human rights violations and abuses, especially sexual violence against women and the displacement of over a million people. We encourage the authorities to restore peace, security and the rule of law. Ensuring accountability for human rights violations and abuses is paramount; impunity is not an option.

The Netherlands **recommends** the Central African Republic:

1. To ensure implementation of and ongoing funding for the National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, thereby guaranteeing in particular medical, psychological and legal services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and assuring participation of women at every stage of political processes.

1. To comply with the Paris Principles to ensure the class A status of the Central African National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in particular through the allocation of adequate resources and powers of investigation.

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

I thank you, Mr. President.