**Universal Periodic Review 31 - Chad**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands 13 November 2018**

Thank you, Mr President.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of Chad for the presentation of its national report.

We commend the government of Chad for its commitment to women’s rights and welcome in particular the new law prohibiting child marriage. We encourage the government to ensure its swift implementation and enforcement, so that it may prevent early and forced marriages from limiting the opportunities given to girls and women in Chad.

However, the Netherlands remains concerned about the human rights situation in the country. Despite current efforts, women remain unequal under the law, human rights defenders face significant threats and prison conditions are far below international standards.

The Netherlands **recommends** Chad:

1. To continue to strengthen the empowerment of women in public and private life by combatting early marriage through educational campaigns and law changes (such as the adoption of the family law), and by implementing programmes to encourage and support female entrepreneurship.
2. To develop and adopt a law to recognise human rights defenders, to protect them from arbitrary arrests and intimidation, and to support their work in accordance with the UN declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

The Netherlands wishes the government of Chad 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.