**Universal Periodic Review 32 – Afghanistan**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 21 January 2019**

Thank you, Mr vice-President,

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

The Netherlands acknowledges the continued commitment of Afghanistan to improving human rights for its citizens. Including through legislation ensuring that those responsible for human rights violations are held to account.

However, The Netherlands stresses the importance of ensuring a national mechanism for transitional justice and national reconciliation, starting with the immediate release of the conflict mapping report.

The Netherlands **recommends** the Government of Afghanistan:

1. To strengthen the position and the number of women in the security sector and to implement awareness campaigns to raise consciousness on human rights, especially in regard to women’s access to justice.
2. To implement effective measures to fight impunity, including through continued full cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

The Netherlands wishes Afghanistan success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr vice-President.