**Universal Periodic Review 33 – Ethiopia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– May 14, 2019**

Mr President,

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

The Netherlands commends Ethiopia for the historic steps it took to open up space for political and civil rights and freedoms, including by releasing political prisoners and addressing issues of torture. The Netherlands also welcomes the on-going deliberations to amend suppressive legislation, such as the anti-terror proclamation and the media law.

Ensuring an inclusive and credible political process towards the upcoming national elections will determine the ultimate success of the announced political and economic reform agenda.

The Netherlands remains concerned about the rule of law and increased lawlessness in various parts of the country.

The Netherlands **recommends** Ethiopia in line with SDG 16:

1. To strengthen the independence and capacity of the Judiciary, Ombudsman and the National Human Rights Commission;
2. To support the victims of human rights violations, including IDP’s,  through strengthening institutional mechanisms for reconciliation, and promoting accountability for atrocities.

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

Thank you, Mr President.