**Universal Periodic Review 34 – Kazakhstan**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 7 November 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

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

The Netherlands is encouraged by the government of Kazakhstan’s wish to combat corruption. Reforms in this area need to be part of systematic strengthening of the overall rule of law.

The Netherlands remains however concerned about the human rights situation in Kazakhstan, such as ensuring equal rights for LGBTI people. The Netherlands also regrets the lack of progress in ensuring the right to freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly for all citizens. The Netherlands is particularly concerned about the many arrests of peaceful protesters surrounding the June 9th elections.

The Netherlands **recommends** Kazakhstan to:

1. Repeal and revise the legal provisions that limit the freedom of expression, and refrain from using criminal provisions as tools to suppress the expression of dissenting opinions, including on the Internet and social media.
2. To amend the Law on Peaceful Assemblies to require a simple notification procedure for the holding of a public gathering.

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

Thank you, Mr President.