**Universal Periodic Review 35 – Guinea**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands – (31 January 2019)**

Thank you Mr President,

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

Further to our recommendation in the last UPR cycle, the Netherlands commends the government of Guinea for the cooperation it has initiated with the ICC regarding the preliminary examination of the crimes committed on 28 September 2009 and its aftermath.

The Netherlands remains concerned about the excessive use of force during peaceful demonstrations and the high level of impunity for killings committed by the security forces. We urge the government of Guinea to fully respect all human rights and to protect civic space, also in the run-up to the 2020 presidential elections.

The Netherlands recommends Guinea to:

1. Bring legislation, including the Criminal Code, the 2016 Law on Cyber-Security and the 2019 Law on the Prevention and Repression of Terrorism, in line with international and regional human rights standards and remove any restrictions that hinder civil society organizations and journalists in doing their legitimate work.

2. Combat the high prevalence of female genital mutilation, including by increasing and strengthening awareness raising campaigns about its harm to the victims and by ensuring that perpetrators are held to account.

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

Thank you Mr President