**Universal Periodic Review 35 – Spain**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– (22 January 2020)**

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

The Netherlands is pleased to see that Spain has aligned the recommendations followed from the previous UPR cycle with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Spain has undertaken significant steps to oppose gender-based discrimination and violence. In particular, the Netherlands welcomes the strengthening of access to effective judicial protection for victims, following our earlier recommendation.

In this cycle, we recommend Spain:

1. To establish specialized centers and crisis centers on a national scale so that survivors of sexual violence, as well as their families, have access to adequate information and comprehensive treatment and response services, in line with international human right standards.
2. To ensure that all allegations of torture or other ill-treatment by the security forces are subject to a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation; that those suspected of involvement are prosecuted before ordinary civilian courts; and that victims receive adequate reparation.

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

Thank you, Mr President.