**Universal Periodic Review 36 – Liberia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 2 November 2020**

Madame President,

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

The Netherlands commends Liberia for enacting the Domestic Violence Act in August 2019 and thereby classifying domestic violence, including physical, mental and sexual abuse as serious crimes. Furthermore, the fact that Liberia has developed a roadmap to fight Sexual and Gender Based Violence is encouraging.

It is, however, worrisome that despite these efforts high levels of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, including rape and female genital mutilation, remain. Impunity and a lack of enforcement remain major challenges. Additionally, those responsible for war crimes during Liberia’s civil war have not yet been prosecuted.

The Netherlands therefore recommends Liberia to:

1. Develop a legal framework in the Penal Code that explicitly criminalizes the practice of female genital mutilation including specific penalties;
2. And to end impunity of crimes committed during Liberia’s two armed conflicts by creating a war crimes court that operates fully consistent with international legal norms and standards for fair trials.

The Netherlands wishes Liberia success with the implementation of the recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

I thank you, Madame President.