

**Statement of Ms Adriana van Doijeweert, President of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, to be made through video-messaging 36<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council about agenda item 6 concerning the UPR outcomes of the Netherlands**

President,

Distinguished Delegates,

The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights is pleased to see that most important human rights issues are addressed in the recommendations made during the 3rd cycle of the UPR. They could therefore very well be used for the new Action Plan on Human Rights that the Netherlands announced to develop in its response. The Institute congratulates the Netherlands with this decision and is looking forward to work together, also with civil society organisations, to implement this recommendation. We encourage the Netherlands to use the lessons learned from the previous Action Plan on Human Rights to develop an effective instrument with quantifiable objectives to realize the implementation of the recommendations.

Such measurable human rights objectives are regrettably not included in the response of the Netherlands to the recommendations. Except for the new Action Plan on Human Rights, the response does not include new actions to follow-up on the recommendations. It merely refers to already existing policies without explaining how these actions contribute to the realization of the recommendations and human rights. This goes for the position of several groups, for instance migrants and pregnant women, on the labour market.

The last point that requires your attention is the unjustified difference in the realisation of human rights between the Caribbean part and the European part of the Netherlands. The Netherlands accepted the recommendation to reduce poverty, provide minimum social security and establish legal offices to provide legal advice and referrals to increase access to justice. The current social minimum is not linked to benchmarks for subsistence although living expenses are high over there. This recommendation should therefore be implemented without further delay.

Thank you for your attention.