

**United Nations Human Rights Council
20th Regular Session, 10 to 28 September 2012
Agenda Item 6**

**ICJ Oral Statement in the Adoption of the Outcome Document in
the Universal Periodic Review of the Netherlands**

21 September 2012

Check against delivery

Madam President,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the Dutch section of the International Commission of Jurists (Nederlands Juristen Comité voor de Mensenrechten, NJCM) commends the Dutch Government for engaging with the second cycle of the UPR in a constructive way.

The ICJ and NJCM nevertheless express disappointment that, although the Government undertook consultations on the UPR process, it has not consulted with civil society on the substance of the UPR and has not been transparent about its intentions regarding positions to be taken on the recommendations of the UPR Working Group during the session today. The Dutch section of the ICJ sincerely hopes that the Government will honour the commitment made to the Working Group in May concerning engagement with civil society in the follow-up to and implementation of accepted UPR recommendations.

As a brief first reaction to discussions today, we regret that the Government has not accepted the recommendations to include human rights education in the civic education programme, especially since many human rights institutions have supported the formal inclusion of human rights in educational programmes in the Netherlands. The Education Council a few weeks ago indicated that the civic education programme in the Netherlands remains a vague and indeterminate element of Dutch education. The Council strongly recommended to give human rights a prominent place in civic education. We therefore sincerely hope that the Government will reconsider its position on this matter.

I thank you.

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