

**13<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW – TUNISIA****Intervention by Denmark**

*Madame President,*

Denmark warmly welcomes the Tunisian delegation to Geneva and would like to thank them for their comprehensive presentation given here today.

We further welcome the significant improvements to the human rights situation in the country and commend the Government of Tunisia for steps taken in this regard, including enshrining protection of all fundamental human rights in the new Constitution and the creation of a Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional Justice.

Whilst we recognize the important steps taken by the Government of Tunisia towards eradicating the practice of torture, Denmark remains concerned over reports of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners in detention facilities.

**Denmark recommends that the Government of Tunisia establish a National Preventive Mechanism in line with its obligations to the Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.**

Tunisia can today be considered among the most progressive countries in the Arab region with respect to women's rights and gender equality. This said, there continues to be a high prevalence of gender-based violence that has not been adequately addressed, particularly in the providing treatment and protection to women victims.

**In the absence of a law on violence against women, Denmark would recommend that the Government of Tunisia put in place the necessary legislation to eliminate gender-based violence.**

We note with concern the continued excessive use of force by security and law enforcement officials towards peaceful demonstrators that violates the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of expression.

**Denmark would like to ask the Government of Tunisia what measures are being taken to ensure that the training of security and law enforcement officials on methods of crowd control is in accordance with international standards.**

*Thank you, Madame President.*