

Amb Steffen Smidt

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UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW 2013 – United Arab Emirates
Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

We thank the delegation of the United Arab Emirates for their presentation today. We note the positive steps taken to improve the human rights situation in the country, while remaining concerned about alleged violations of the freedom of expression and of assembly and association, including alleged attempts to arbitrarily deprive political activists of their citizenship.

We commend the noticeable steps taken by the government in recent years which have significantly improved women's rights. We encourage the government of the UAE to continue the promotion of women's rights. In particular, **we recommend that legislation is introduced to prohibit the right of men to physically punish their wives.**

We highly welcome the UAE's recent decision to accede to the Convention against Torture, but recommend the withdrawal of the declaration made upon accession regarding article 1 on the Convention. In this context, DK also recommends **prompt and impartial investigations of all allegations of torture, and prosecution of those responsible for ordering, carrying out or acquiescing in torture or ill-treatment.**

Finally, we welcomed the signing of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2000, and would like to ask whether the government intends to ratify the Statute within the near future.

Thank you Mr. President.