

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW 2013 – Burkina Faso
Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

Denmark thanks the delegation of Burkina Faso for their presentation today.

We commend the significant role that Burkina Faso played in the adoption of the UNGA Resolution 67/146 in 2012 banning Female Genital Mutilation. Denmark also applauds the implementation of the country's national action plan taking a zero tolerance stand towards this harmful practice. Although a noticeable reduction has been detected, FGM remains widespread, particularly in certain areas of the country, with serious consequences for the physical and psychological health of women and girls.

- *We recommend that the government take concrete steps, especially in regions displaying a high prevalence, to eliminate harmful customary practices, such as Female Genital Mutilation, which are prohibited by law.*

Denmark welcomes the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture which we recommended during Burkina Faso's first UPR. However, we note with great concern that torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment still persist in detention centres and prisons.

- *We recommend that the government take all necessary steps to establish an effective national preventive mechanism to improve prisoners' conditions, both their physical conditions and their legal rights including due process. Further with this perspective in mind that Burkina Faso supports the accreditation process of the National Human Rights Commission as carried out by the UN Human Rights Council.*
- Finally, we would like to ask what steps the government will take to support the accreditation process of the National Human Rights Commission.

Thank you Mr. President.

Speaker: Ambassador Steffen Smidt