**UPR, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 21 October 2013**

**Intervention by Denmark**

Mr. President,

Denmark sincerely thanks the delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the presentation today.

We commend progress achieved in promoting the rights of women in recent years. Education, including higher education, is increasingly made available for women and more women choose to enrol.

Still, Denmark notes with serious concern that women continue to face severe discrimination before the law and in practice. We note that a number of UPR recommendations on this matter, accepted by the government in the 2009 review, have yet to be implemented.

Denmark is particularly concerned by the system of guardianship and the consequent institutional marginalisation of woman, which lead to daily violations of women’s rights and severely limits the ability of women to take equal part in society.

* *Denmark therefore* ***recommends*** *that the Government of Saudi Arabia take urgent steps to abolish the system of guardianship.*

Parliament’s recent adoption of the “Protection from Abuse System” law is clearly a step in the right direction. Yet, in practice women are still inadequately protected against gender-based and domestic violence.

* *Denmark therefore* ***recommends*** *that the government of Saudi Arabia takes further steps to ensure the full implementation of the Protection from Abuse System law. This would call for a clear definition of abuses and harms under the law, so that it can provide an effective mechanism and guarantee for the protection of victims.*

Thank you.