

UPR, Cambodia**Intervention by Denmark****Delivered by Trine Gronborg, attaché**

Mr President,

Denmark thanks the Cambodian delegation for their presentation today.

We welcome recent transformative processes in Cambodia and the potential they bring for an increased realisation of political, social and economic rights.

Still, Denmark notes with serious concern the current setback in the freedom of expression in the country. We are particularly concerned by the use of violence towards, and arrests and detentions of, garments workers and civil society actors protesting against the minimum wages set by the Cambodian government.

Respecting the constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of expression requires that all domestic laws and practices are consistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Denmark therefore **recommends** that the Cambodian government reviews all legal cases against individuals who are detained under criminal or judicial investigation on account of the exercise of their right to freedom of expression, as provided in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

We welcome Cambodia's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Still, Denmark remains concerned about a lack of effective implementation of the Optional Protocol, a concern also expressed during Cambodia's first UPR review in 2009.

Denmark **recommends** that the Cambodian government establishes an independent national preventative mechanism with the necessary mandate to fulfil its obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Thank you, Mr President.