

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WG 18th, 29 January 2014

YEMEN

Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

We thank the delegation of Yemen for their presentation today.

Denmark welcomes the steps taken by the Government of Yemen to further discussions on human rights in the country. This includes the on-going development of the country's human rights action plan as well as the concrete recommendations of the National Dialogue Conference.

With respect to follow up on its Universal Periodic Review in 2009, we would welcome an account from the Government of Yemen on concrete progress on recommendations made by Denmark on removing juvenile prisoners from death row and on implementing the National Action Plan for the eradication of female genital mutilation.

Denmark acknowledges the progress made in the National Dialogue Conference to recommend a universal minimum age of marriage of 18 years. We *recommend* that Yemen takes urgent steps to follow up on this recommendation and ensures that an appropriate legal framework is put in place to prevent marriage for children under the age of 18.

We also commend the steps already taken towards establishing a National Human Rights Institution. Denmark *recommends* Yemen to continue its efforts to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution, in line with the Paris Principles and with a merit-based selection of board members and staff.

Denmark finally applauds Yemen for its ratification of the Convention against Torture and *recommends* that Yemen also ratifies the Optional Protocol on the Convention against Torture.

We recognize the many challenges facing Yemen in its struggle to improve the human rights situation. Denmark stands ready to work with Yemen on the recommendations given and on the general efforts to promote human rights in the country.

Thank you Mr. President