**UPR, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 6 May 2014**

**Intervention by Denmark**

Mr. President,

Denmark sincerely thanks Ethiopia for the presentation today.

We welcome the condemnation of discrimination of vulnerable groups in article 25 of the Ethiopian Constitution, as well as the Human Rights Action Plan’s concrete proposals to promote the rights of vulnerable groups.

Still, Denmark is concerned that the Action Plan does not provide a sufficient role for civil society to ensure its implementation.

**Denmark therefore** **recommends** that the Government of Ethiopia takes steps to ensure the active participation of CSO’s and other rights groups in the area of prevention, awareness-raising, and education on existing laws and policies.

Furthermore, free, independent and diverse mass media plays an indispensable role for a democracy.

**Denmark therefore recommends** that the Government of Ethiopia removes any structural and institutional impediments that hinder the implementation of the Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to Information Proclamation.

Lastly, **Denmark recommends** that the Government of Ethiopia signs and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture

Thank you.