**UPR19, Qatar, date**

**Intervention by Denmark**

Mr. President,

Denmark sincerely thanks the Qatari delegation for the presentation today.

We commend Qatar for the progress that has been achieved in the abolishment of torture and other forms of inhumane and degrading treatment. We welcome the institutional and legislative reforms that have been implemented, and are encouraged by the recent amendment to the definition of torture in the Penal Code. However, we note that independent and effective monitoring systems could be strengthened, not least as regards detention facilities.

* *Denmark* ***recommends*** *that the Government of Qatar ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) as also recommended by the Qatari National Human Rights Committee.*

We are seriously concerned about the lack of rights for and legal protection of immigrant workers. We are particularly worried about the many reports of exploitation and abuse of domestic and construction workers. We note that previous UPR recommendations regarding the rights of immigrant workers have yet to be implemented.

* *Denmark therefore* ***recommends*** *that the government of Qatar reforms the Labour Law so that it ensures the protection of labour rights for all workers – including domestic and construction workers – and puts in place mechanisms to improve the enforcement of the law.*

Thank you.