**Human Rights Council**

**UPR 20th Session**

**Recommendations from Denmark to the Gambia, October 2014**

Mr. President,

Denmark thanks the delegation of the Gambia for their presentation today. We would like to commend the Gambia for its constructive engagement in the UPR process and for having demonstrated progress in terms of the protection and promotion of human rights since its last review.

Denmark notes that the Gambia acceded to the UN Convention against Torture in 1985 and that it took note of recommendations to ratify the Convention during its first UPR. We note, however, that the Gambia has not taken steps towards ratifying the Convention.

*Denmark therefore recommends that the Government of the Gambia ratifies the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.*

*Denmark also recommends that the Gambia responds favourably to the request of the Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit the country.*

Allow me to highlight the Convention against Torture Initiative launched earlier this year by Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco for the universal ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture. This initiative aims to assist governments in overcoming obstacles to ratification and it is our hope that the Government of the Gambia would find this initiative helpful in terms of advancing on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.