**Human Rights Council**

**22nd session of the UPR working group, 4-15 May 2015**

**Review of Andorra**

**Intervention by Denmark**

Mr. President,

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

Denmark congratulates Andorra for its constructive cooperation with the Committee against Torture as well as the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, including through the implementation of recommendations into national legislation.

We were therefore also surprised that Andorra during its first UPR review rejected recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. The Optional Protocol establishes a set of practical tools on how to prevent torture and ill-treatment which have proven to be of real worth to those working within the custodial systems as well as by those who are in detention. Furthermore, the dialogue with the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture is highly valuable to all states working to prevent torture and ill treatment.

*Denmark therefore can only recommend that the Government of Andorra ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.*

Allow me in this context to highlight that the Convention against Torture Initiative, which works through government to government exchange and cooperation, stands ready to explore avenues to assist the Government of Andorra in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

Thank you, Mr. President.