**Human Rights Council**

**UPR 22nd Session**

**Recommendations from Denmark to Malawi
May 2015**

Mr. President,

Denmark thanks the delegation of Malawi for their presentation today. We would like to commend Malawi 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. We are in that regard pleased to note that Malawi is working to clear a backlog of state party reports, including by drafting its initial report to the Committee against Torture.

Denmark welcomes that Malawi during its first Universal Periodic Review accepted recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. We hope that concrete steps are being taken to honour this important commitment. 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 recommends that the Government of Malawi speed up efforts to ratify 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 Malawi in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

Thank you, Mr. President.