

Human Rights Council
23rd session of the UPR working group, 2-13 November 2015
Review of Myanmar
Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

Denmark sincerely welcomes the presentation by the delegation from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Denmark further welcomes Myanmar's recent decision to join the Group of Friends of the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI). This is a significant step towards ratification of the Convention. Denmark stands ready to continue its support in this regard.

Denmark therefore recommends that Myanmar ratifies the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Denmark is extremely concerned about the four recently adopted bills on the "protection of race and religion" regarding interfaith marriage, religious conversion, monogamy, and population control. These are not in line with the international human rights treaties to which Myanmar is a party and run counter to Myanmar's constitution.

Denmark recommends that Myanmar immediately repeals these four recently adopted laws on race and religion.

The recent signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement on 15 October 2015 represents a remarkable milestone in Myanmar's peace process and provides a real opportunity to end seven decades of armed conflict with Ethnic Armed Groups in the country. Full respect for the rights of indigenous peoples should follow in parallel to the peacebuilding process.

Denmark recommends that Myanmar ensures that national legislation is in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

I thank you.