

Human Rights Council  
UPR 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR working group,  
Review of Latvia  
Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the delegation of Latvia and thanks it for its presentation today.

Denmark would like to commend Latvia for being party to core international treaties prohibiting torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.

However, Denmark notes that Latvia, as one of the few EU countries, has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. 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 Latvia intensifies its 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 Latvia in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

Thank you, Mr. President.