

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

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the delegation of Namibia and thanks it for its presentation today. We would like to commend Namibia 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 welcomes that Namibia during its first Universal Periodic Review accepted recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, and 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 Namibia 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 Namibia in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

Thank you, Mr. President.