**Human Rights Council**

**UPR 24rd Session of the UPR working group,**

**Review of Niger
Intervention by Denmark**

Mr. President,

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

Denmark commends Niger for the progress made to protect and promote human rights since its first UPR. We are, however, concerned about reports of arrests of journalists and politicians, and urge the government of Niger to respect freedom of speech and assembly, as well as democratic principles.

Denmark commends Niger for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. However, we note that Niger has yet to submit its initial report to the Committee Against Torture overdue since 1999.

Denmark recommends that Niger submits its initial report to the Committee Against Torture without further delay.

We also welcome the efforts of Niger in promoting the rights of women and girls. This includes higher school enrolment rates for girls, and the law passed in 2014 raising the percentage of women in parliament. Still, we are concerned that women and girls continue to face discrimination. Denmark is particularly concerned about the high prevalence of child marriage in Niger.

Denmark recommends that Niger adopts a family law that ensures equal rights between men and women and which protects girls from early and forced marriage.

Another concern relates to the rights of pastoralists in Niger, where the practice of land grabbing impedes the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of the rural population and creates a breeding ground for local conflicts.

Denmark therefore recommends that Niger takes concrete steps to effectively increase the protection of the rights of pastoralists.

Thank you, Mr. President.