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23

**Human Rights Council
UPR 24rd Session of the UPR working group,
Review of Seychelles
Intervention by Denmark**

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Seychelles and thanks it for its presentation today. We would like to commend Seychelles 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 Seychelles 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. Additionally, 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 Seychelles intensifies its efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.

Furthermore, Denmark notes that Seychelles' initial report to the Committee against Torture is overdue by a significant number of years. Although Denmark recognize that fulfillment of reporting obligations to treaty bodies is a human-resource intensive exercise, we sincerely hope that the Government of Seychelles will look into this matter in order to be able to initiate a constructive dialogue with the Committee against Torture.

Accordingly, Denmark recommends that Seychelles hands in its initial report to the Committee against Torture as soon as possible.

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 Seychelles in advancing on these issues if deemed helpful.

Thank you, Mr. President.