

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

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone and thanks it for its presentation today. We would like to commend Sierra Leone 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 Sierra Leone during its first Universal Periodic Review accepted recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, which was signed in 2003. We are also encouraged to note in your national report that The Ministry of Justice is currently working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs towards ratification of the Optional Protocol. We would be pleased if you could elaborate on the current status of these efforts and prospects for ratification.

Denmark recommends that the Government of Sierra Leone without further delay ratifies 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 Sierra Leone in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

Thank you, Mr. President.