

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

Mr. President,

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

Denmark commends Somalia for important steps taken to address key human rights challenges in Somalia since its first UPR, such as the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and endorsement of the National Human Rights Action Plan. Somalia pledged during the UPR 2011 to implement a moratorium on the death penalty, nevertheless executions are still occurring, the latest earlier this month.

It also remains a grave concern that all parties to the conflict in Somalia continue to commit serious abuses against civilians, including forced recruitment, abduction, torture and extrajudicial killings, as well as acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

Denmark recommends Somalia to issue clear public orders to the Somali National Forces not to commit unlawful attacks against civilians.

We are also seriously concerned about attacks, harassment and killings of Somali journalists and media workers, just as we are concerned about the media bill passed by Parliament on 28 December last year, jeopardizing the independent media and freedom of expression.

Denmark recommends Somalia to review the media law of 28 December 2015 to ensure compliance with international standards on freedom of expression.

Thank you, Mr. President.