**Human Rights Council**

**UPR 25th Session**

**Recommendations from Denmark to Tajikistan**

**May 2016**

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Tajikistan and thanks it for its presentation today. We commend Tajikistan for its constructive engagement in the UPR process.

During its first Universal Periodic Review Tajikistan took note of recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, while accepting recommendations to take concrete actions to eradicate the use of torture. While we acknowledge that some positive steps have been taken since then, we remain concerned about continued reports of torture and ill-treatment in the Tajik criminal justice system.

Denmark recommends that the Government of Tajikistan ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.

We furthermore recommend that the government of Tajikistan ensure that prompt, throrough and impartial investigations are carried out into all deaths in custody as will as all allegatoins of torture and ill-treatment.

Finally, we would like to express our concern about arrests and imprisonment of human rights lawyers in Tajikistan and urge the government of Tajikistan to ensure that all lawyers are able to conduct their work without fear of threats or harassment.

Thank you Mr. President.