**Universal Periodic Review, 26th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of South Sudan, 7 November 2016**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark sincerely welcomes the delegation of South Sudan and thanks it for its presentation today.

Denmark commends the ratification by South Sudan of CEDAW. However, lack of protection of women’s rights continues to be of great concern, including the alarmingly levels of sexual and gender based violence. To live up its international obligations, South Sudan must ensure that the rights of women and girls are fully respected and protected, in order to move towards a culture of respecting women and girls.

* *Denmark* ***recommends*** *that South Sudan promptly takes concrete and legal measures to address impunity of sexual and gender based violence, including when committed by members of the armed forces.*

Further, while South Sudan’s ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is commendable, Denmark notes with concern the continued recruitment of child soldiers in violation of South Sudan’s human rights obligations.

* *Denmark* ***recommends*** *that South Sudan immediately lives up to its commitment to end the use of child soldiers and minors in armed conflicts*

Thank you, Mr. President.