**Universal Periodic Review – Venezuela**

**1 November 2016**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark sincerely welcomes the presentation by the delegation from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Denmark is pleased to note that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has developed the first National Plan for the Protection of Sexual and Reproductive Rights for the period 2014-2019.

Promotion of integrated family planning services that meet the needs and choices of individuals throughout their life cycle is essential to securing the well-being and autonomy of women.

*Denmark recommends that the Government of Venezuela ensures full and equal access to modern contraceptives throughout its territory, including in peri-urban, rural and indigenous territories.*

Denmark is very concerned about the 2004 Law on Social Responsibility of Radio and Television which grants the Venezuelan authorities control over media content. This is not in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Venezuela is a state party.

*Denmark therefore recommends that the Government of Venezuela adopts and implements the Law on Transparency, Disclosure and Access to Public Information drafted by the Joint Committee in April 2016.*

*Finally, Denmark recommends that the Government of Venezuela ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.*

I thank you.