**Universal Periodic Review, 26th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Zimbabwe, 2nd November 2016**

**Intervention by Denmark**

[*Check against delivery*]

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes Zimbabwe’s delegation and thanks it for its presentation today.

Denmark commends Zimbabwe for the progress made since its last UPR, including by adopting the new constitution in 2013, improving conditions for the National Human Rights Commission and establishing the independent National Prosecuting Authority. Full and speedy alignment of all relevant laws to the 2013 constitution is of key importance.

An area of continued concern is freedom of assembly and association as well as civil society space, including in preparing for the 2018 elections.

*As in 2011, Denmark* ***recommends*** *that the Government of Zimbabwe guarantees freedom of assembly and association including through immediate alignment of national legislation - in particular the Public Order and Security Act - with international standards.*

Denmark notes with concern the absence of a constitutionally aligned policy framework to ensure efficient and equitable performance and accountability of state justice institutions. The case monitoring systems of the Judicial Service Commission are commendable, but absence of practical guidelines impedes efficiency, transparency and accountability.

*Denmark* ***recommends*** *that Zimbabwe immediately adopts policies to guide the equitable use of the performance and accountability systems of the state justice institutions.*

*Finally, as in 2011 Denmark* ***recommends*** *that Zimbabwe ratifies the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol.*

I thank you, Mr. President.