**Universal Periodic Review, 27th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of the Kingdom of Morocco, 2nd ofMay 2017**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to Geneva and thanks it for its presentation today.

Denmark commends the Kingdom of Morocco for the progress since its last UPR, including ratification of the OPCAT and for steps taken to introduce alternatives to prison punishment which could help alleviate prison overcrowding and improve detention conditions. Denmark looks forward to the promulgation of the legal provisions which will allow for the implementation of alternatives to prison punishment.

In line with the excellent and constructive bilateral cooperation between our two countries, Denmark would like to make the following recommendations.

On freedom of expression, the passing of the new press code which is void of prison sentences against journalistic infractions is a positive step, but concerns remain about the possible use of provisions in the penal code to imprison journalists and restrict freedoms.

*Denmark* ***recommends*** that Morocco when dealing with infractions on freedom of expression refrains from referring to other law than the press code.

Denmark congratulates Morocco for the continuous improvements of women’s rights and the development of gender equality provisions. However, inequalities remain including on guardianship of minor children.

*Denmark* ***recommends*** that provisions which deny women legal guardianship of minor children on an equal footing with men are repealed.

Thank you Mr. President