**Universal Periodic Review, 27th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Tunisia, 2nd of May 2017**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

Denmark highly commends Tunisia for the progress made since its last UPR, including progress towards putting in place the necessary legislation to eliminate gender-based violence, and the establishment of a national preventive mechanism in accordance with the OPCAT.

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

Denmark notes with concern that LGBTI people in Tunisia continue to face everyday discrimination and violence. A key obstacle to equal treatment and protection of all irrespective of sexual orientation and gender identity in Tunisia is Article 230 of the Penal Code.

*Denmark therefore* ***recommends*** *that Tunisia decriminalizes same-sex relations of consenting adults by repealing Article 230 of the Penal Code.*

Since 2011, Tunisia has made considerable progress in terms of human rights and fundamental freedoms, not least in regards to freedom of expression. We note, however, that the process could be further enhanced.

*Denmark* ***recommends*** *that Tunisia replaces the decrees number 115 and 116 from 2011 on press and audio-visual communication with legislation in line with the Constitution’s article 65 relating to information, press and publishing and the Constitution’s article 127.*

I thank you.