**Universal Periodic Review, 28th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Guatemala, 8 November 2017**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the Guatemala delegation and thanks it for its presentation today.

Protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls is of key importance in ensuring their physical and mental well-being, safety, and health. Access to health services that are appropriate, affordable,accessible and of good quality are in this regard essential to address and eliminate discrimination against women.

*Denmark recommends that Guatemala decriminalises and eliminates all punitive measures related to termination of pregnancies in cases of rape, incest and severe foetal impairment.*

Denmark takes note that Guatemala has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) in 2008 and later established a National Preventive Mechanism. However, the national mechanism for the prevention of torture is currently not operating.

*Denmark recommends that Guatemala without further delay appoints independent and qualified members of the whole National Preventive Mechanism to enable the mechanism to function in accordance with the aims and objectives of the OPCAT.*

I thank you.