**Universal Periodic Review, 28th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Pakistan, 13 November 2017**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation from Pakistan and thanks it for its presentation.

Protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls is key to ensure their physical and mental well-being, safety and health. Child, early and forced marriage of especially young girls is unfortunately often interlinked with sexual exploitation and abuse.

*Denmark recommends Pakistan to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act to include an equal minimum age of marriage of 18 years for all individuals.*

Protecting the rights of religious minorities is crucial to a fair and just society.

*Denmark recommends* *Pakistan to amend Chapter XV in the Penal Code to ensure protection of minorities of all religions and beliefs.*

*Finally, Denmark recommends Pakistan to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.*

The Convention against Torture Initiative stands ready to explore avenues to assist Pakistan on this issue if deemed helpful.

I thank you.