**Human Rights Council**

**28th session of the UPR working group, 06-17 November 2017**

**Review of Zambia**

**Intervention by Denmark**

Mr. President,

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

We commend the Government of Zambia for signing the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – the OPCAT - 2010.

Despite this positive step, Denmark notes that, Zambia has yet to ratify the optional protocol.

The OPCAT establishes a set of practical tools on how to prevent torture and ill-treatment. It has proven to be of real worth both to those working in the custodial systems and those in detention. Furthermore, the dialogue with the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture is highly valuable to all states working to prevent torture and ill-treatment.

Denmark recommends that the Government of Zambia ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Allow me in this context to highlight that the Convention against Torture Initiative, which works through government to government exchange and cooperation, stands ready to explore avenues to assist the Government in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

Thank you Mr. President.