**Universal Periodic Review, 28th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Sri Lanka, 15 November 2017**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

Denmark notes the opening of the Office for Missing Persons as a step towards dealing with the past, incorporating the full range of judicial and non-judicial measures.

*Denmark recommends Sri Lanka to develop a clear timeline and benchmarks for the full implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 30/1.*

Protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls is key to ensuring their physical and mental well-being, safety, and health. Access to appropriate, affordable, accessible health services of good quality is essential to address and eliminate discrimination against women.

*Denmark recommends Sri Lanka to amend the Penal Code to decriminalise and eliminate all punitive measures related to termination of pregnancies in cases of rape, incest and severe foetal impairment.*

*Finally, Denmark recommends Sri Lanka 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 the Government in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

I thank you.