**Universal Periodic Review, 37th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of** **the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, 19th January 2021**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mdm. /Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Mauritania and thanks it for its presentation.

We commend the Islamic Republic of Mauretania for adopting the Reproductive Health Act, which prohibits all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, including FGM.

We are concerned that prison and detention conditions in Mauritanian prisons are characterised *inter alia* by overcrowding, insufficient access to medical care and individual nutrition and water needs.

*Denmark therefore recommends the Government to brings its prison and detention conditions in line with* the Nelson Mandela Rules.

We note with regret that Mauritania has a restrictive legal framework regarding individual rights and freedoms of women.
 *Denmark recommends the Government to amend its legislation in order to legalize the termination of pregnancies, in cases of risk to the life of the pregnant woman, rape, incest and severe impairment of the fetus*.

Denmark wishes the Islamic Republic of Mauretania a successful review.

I thank you.