**Universal Periodic Review, 37th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of** **São Tomé and Príncipe, 27 January 2021**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Denmark welcomes the delegation of São Tomé and Príncipe and thanks it for its presentation.

We commend the Government for ensuring free of charge birth registration for children up to one year of age and for officially raising the legal age of marriage to 18 years.However, we are concerned by the continued prevalence of early pregnancies and child, early and forced marriage***.***

*Denmark recommends the Government to ensure full and equal access to modern methods of contraceptives and to family planning services.*

Critical journalism is fundamental for democratic debate. As such, we are concerned that defamation, libel and slander are considered criminal offences under the Penal Code.

*Denmark recommends the Government to amend the Penal Code to decriminalize defamation, libel and slander, and to place these within the civil code, in accordance with international standards.*

*Finally, Denmark recommends the Government to ratify the OPCAT.*

Denmark wishes São Tomé and Príncipe a successful review.

I thank you.