**Universal Periodic Review, 38th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Palau, 6th May 2021**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

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

Denmark commends Palau for adopting a National Action Plan against human trafficking.

The Family Protection Act 2012 provides protection for women and girls who experience violence. However, Palau could take further steps to make sure that victims and survivors report and are provided with the necessary legal, health, psychological and social services.

*Denmark recommends the Government to take effective measures to better assist victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, including by establishing a coordinated referral system.*

Key legislation on countering discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is not yet in place.

*Denmark recommends the Government to revise the Constitution to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.*

Denmark notes that Palau has signed, but not yet ratified, the Convention against Torture.

*Denmark recommends the Government to ratify the Convention against Torture.*

Allow me in this context to highlight that the Convention against Torture Initiative (the CTI) stands ready to explore avenues to assist Palau in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

Denmark wishes Palau a successful review.

I thank you.