**Universal Periodic Review, 38th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Sierra Leone, 12th of May 2021**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone.

We commend Sierra Leone for launching the *Hands of our Girls*-campaign in 2018. However, we are concerned with continued harmful practices against girls and reports that up to 90 % of women and girls have suffered mutilation.

*Denmark recommends the Government to prohibit all forms of female genital mutilation.*

Furthermore, we remain concerned about the continued use of the death penalty.

*Denmark recommends the Government to instate a de facto moratorium on the death penalty and move towards complete abolition.*

Finally,

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

Denmark wishes Sierra Leone a successful review.

I thank you.