**Universal Periodic Review, 39th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Samoa, 2 November 2021**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Samoa.

We commend Samoa for the ratification of the Convention Against Torture as well as for the inclusion of sexual and gender-based violence in the 2018 National Security Policy.

However, we remain concerned about the continued prevalence of domestic and intimate partner violence.

*Denmark recommends the Government to establish a national referral system for victims and survivors of violence, in line with the “Inter-Agency Essential Services Guide for Responding to Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection”.*

We remain concerned about continued discrimination and stigmatisation faced by persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

*Denmark recommends the Government to decriminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults by repealing sections 67, 68 and 71 of the Crimes Act.*

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

Denmark wishes Samoa a successful review.

I thank you.