**Universal Periodic Review, 39th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Papua New Guinea, 4th November 2021**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Papua New Guinea and commends it for its National Strategy to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence. However, we remain concerned by the widespread practice of child, early and forced marriage. These are preventable sources of violence and discrimination, particularly against women and girls.

*Denmark recommends the Government to abolish any exceptions to 18 years as the minimum age of marriage.*

We remain concerned by the prevalence of discrimination and stigmatisation against the LGBTI community.

*Denmark recommends the Government to decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults by repealing sections 210 and 212 of the Criminal Code.*

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

Allow me in this regard to highlight that the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) stands ready to explore avenues to assist Papua New Guinea in advancing on this issue, if deemed helpful.

We wish Papua New Guinea a successful review.

I thank you.