**Universal Periodic Review, 39th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Tajikistan, 4 November 2021**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Tajikistan and commend the establishment of a working group on elimination of gender stereotypes, protection of women’s rights and prevention of domestic violence. However, we are concerned about the prevalence of domestic and intimate partner violence.

*Denmark recommends the Government to amend Article 53 of the draft Criminal Code to criminalize all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including marital rape and domestic and intimate partner violence.*

We are also concerned about excessive restraints on fundamental freedoms, as reflected in the Human Rights Committee’s 2019 recommendations.

*Denmark recommends the Government to establish safeguards against restrictions on the freedom of expression and arbitrary interference with individual privacy, in the context of the Operative and Search Activity Act and presidential decree No. 765.*

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

Denmark wishes Tajikistan a successful review.

I thank you.