**Universal Periodic Review, 42nd session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Gabon, January 24**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Gabon and extends our thanks for the presentation.

Denmark acknowledges the legislative advancements on sexual and gender-based violence and amendments to criminalize female genital mutilation. Yet Denmark remains concerned about reports of shrinking civic space, which also impedes the advancement of the rights of women and girls.

*Denmark recommends* Gabon to:

1. *Initiate an awareness campaign to inform citizens and law enforcement agents about the implementation of Law 006/2021 addressing all forms of gender-based violence, including how to report cases and pursue remedies for violations.*
2. *Take all necessary steps to establish a National Preventive Mechanism as outlined in the OPCAT with sufficient financial, human and technical resources to effectively prevent torture fully in accordance with the guidelines on National Preventive Mechanisms and the Paris Principles.*

Denmark wishes Gabon a successful review.

Thank you.