**Universal Periodic Review, 42nd session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Benin, 26 January 2023**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Benin and thanks it for its presentation.

Denmark welcomes the adoption of Act No. 2021-11 that reinforces the penalties and definitions of female genital mutilation. Yet, we remain concerned by reports of its continued prevalence in several communities.

Denmark furthermore acknowledges that Benin’s constitution guarantees freedom of expression under its Articles 23 and 24. Yet, we are concerned that freedom of expression has been restricted online.

*Denmark therefore recommends* Benin to:

1. *Ensure the implementation of Act No. 2021-11 by investigating and prosecuting the practice of female genital mutilation and raising awareness in affected communities.*
2. *Review and amend provisions of the Digital Code that restricts freedom of expression and rights online, specifically sections that provide for prosecution and imprisonment for online content that is purportedly false.*

Denmark wishes Benin a successful review.

I thank you.