**Universal Periodic Review, 42nd session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Zambia, 30th January 2023**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Thank you Mr. President,

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

We commend Zambia for the adoption of the Children’s Code Act in 2022, which bans corporal punishment of children and prohibits the facilitation of child marriage and sexual coercion.

However, we are concerned about reports regarding restrictions on freedom of expression of members of civil society organisations, journalists and members of opposition parties.

Furthermore, we are concerned about reports on poor prison conditions, including overcrowding and limited access to health care, which can be improved by establishing a National Preventative Mechanism.

Denmark therefore *recommends* Zambia to:

1. *Review and amend the sections, including those in part IX, of the Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Act of 2021, which are inconsistent or incompatible with international human rights standards*
2. *Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*

Denmark wishes Zambia a successful review.

I thank you.