**Universal Periodic Review, 42nd session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Japan, 31 January 2023**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the Japanese delegation and thanks it for its presentation today.

Denmark welcomes the 5th Basic Plan for Gender Equality and adjusting minimum age for marriage at 18 years for both women and men but remains concerned with the status of women in Japan.

Denmark *recommends* Japan to:

1. Ensure access to safe abortion for all women without requiring spousal consent and to take further strides towards increasing women’s political participation and empowerment in the work place.

2. Take steps to address discrimination based on sexual orientation and allow same-sex marriage nationally.

3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (OPCAT), and the Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence).

Denmark wishes Japan a successful review.

I thank you.