**Universal Periodic Review, 42th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Sri Lanka, 1 February 2023**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

We are concerned with the reports of protests that have been met with disproportionate responses, including water cannons, tear gas and baton charges.

Denmark *recommends* Sri Lanka to:

* Ensure law enforcement authorities’ use of force in response to protests is used as a last resort, proportionately, and only when necessary, and that any officials suspected of using unlawful force are brought to justice.

We are also concerned about juvenile justice conditions, notably the extremely low age of criminal responsibility and the absence of legislation guaranteeing children the right to legal representation.

Denmark therefore also *recommends* Sri Lanka to:

* Adjust the minimum age of criminal responsibility so that it is at least 14 years, and take legal measures to ensure that children faced with criminal charges are guaranteed the right to legal representation.

Denmark wishes Sri Lanka a successful review.

I thank you.