**Universal Periodic Review, 43th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Mali, May 2nd 2023**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

Denmark welcomes the reinstatement of the A-status of the National Human Rights Commission and highlights the importance of its mandate, especially given the worrying increase in reports of grave human rights violations and abuses committed by state and non-state actors.

1. Denmark recommends to grant the National Human Rights Commission access to all places of the country to fulfil its inspection mandate freely and without hindrance in order to help create the foundation for both state and non-state perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses to be held accountable.

Denmark is deeply concerned about the shrinking of civic space, including censorship of and self-censorship by media and civil society actors fearing reprisals.

1. Denmark recommends to guarantee civic space and freedoms of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association as enshrined in the ICCPR, while ensuring that civil society actors can carry out activities without reprisals or harassment.

I thank you.