**Universal Periodic Review, 29th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Israel, 23rd January 2018**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

Denmark commends Israel on its vibrant and lively democratic debate, which is a crucial precondition for an open and inclusive society with respect for human rights.

However, Denmark notes with concern the shrinking space for human rights defenders.

*Denmark recommends the Government of Israel to take the necessary measures to ensure that human rights defenders and civil society actors can carry out their legitimate work in a safe environment without threats and harassment.*

In the 2013 review, Denmark recommended the Government of Israel to ensure that administrative detention is carried out in accordance with international human rights standards. The Government of Israel accepted this recommendation.

Denmark is particularly concerned with Israel’s adherence to international human rights standards when it comes to administrative detention of children.

*Denmark therefore recommends that the Government of Israel ensures that all Palestinian children detained are held in the occupied Palestinian territory, and not in Israel.*

*Finally, Denmark recommends that the Government of Israel ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (OPCAT).*

The Convention against Torture Initiative stands ready to explore avenues to assist the Government in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

I thank you.