**Universal Periodic Review, 29th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of United Arab Emirates, 22nd January 2018**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation from the United Arab Emirates and thanks it for its presentation today.

We commend the progress achieved in improving the human rights situation in the United Arab Emirates. However, Denmark remains concerned about the continuing discrimination against women and girls.

*Denmark recommends the Government of the United Arab Emirates to amend Federal Decree Law No. 2 of 2015 to include prohibition of discrimination based on sex.*

We appreciate the steps taken to improve the protection of domestic workers including the introduction of a new law. However, Denmark is concerned about the potential interpretation of a particular clause within the law on applying fines on workers in case of “failure to protect employer secrets”.

*Denmark therefore recommends the Government of the United Arab Emirates to amend Federal Law No. 10 of 2017 to specify offences**falling under the term “failure to protect employer secrets”.*

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

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

I thank you