**Universal Periodic Review, 29th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Bahamas, 17th January 2018**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation from the Bahamas and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ensuring full and effective gender equality and the protection of women and girls against all forms of discrimination is crucial when seeking to advance respect and protection of human rights and must be a key objective also in relation to ensuring social and economic sustainable societies.

*Denmark recommends the Government of the Bahamas to ratify the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (OP-CEDAW).*

With the signature of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2008 it my pleasure to congratulate the Government of Bahamas of the decision by the Cabinet to authorize the deposit of the instrument of ratification for the Convention.

*Denmark recommends the Government of the Bahamas to deposit the instrument of ratification of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as soon as possible.*

Allow me in this context to highlight that the Convention against Torture Initiative, which works through government-to-government exchange and cooperation, stands ready to explore avenues to assist the Government in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

I thank you, Mr. President