**Universal Periodic Review, 29th session**

**Human Rights Council**

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

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

Indigenous peoples are amongst the most marginalised populations around the world often facing discrimination and exploitative labour conditions violating their human rights. ILO convention 169 is an important tool in securing and strengthening international norms concerning the rights of indigenous peoples.

*Denmark recommends the Government of Botswana to ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organisation.*

During its second UPR, Botswana noted recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. The OPCAT establishes a set of practical tools on how to prevent torture and ill-treatment. It has proven to be of real worth both to those working in the custodial systems and those in detention. Furthermore, the dialogue with the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture is highly valuable to all states working to prevent torture and ill-treatment.

*Denmark recommends the Government of Botswana to ratify the Optional Protocol to the United Nations 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.