**Universal Periodic Review, 31st session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Congo, 14 November 2018**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

We are pleased to note that, during its second UPR, the Republic of Congo accepted recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. The Optional Protocol establishes a set of practical tools on how to prevent torture and ill-treatment and has proven to be of real worth both to those working in the custodial systems and those in detention.

*Denmark recommends the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.*

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

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women serves as an important tool in the implementation and reinforcement of the CEDAW convention and the rights to set out herein.

*Denmark therefore recommends the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.*

I thank you.