**Universal Periodic Review, 31st session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Malta, 14 November 2018**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

Denmark appreciates the developments in women’s rights as well as reproductive health and rights.

Denmark recommends the Government to amend the Penal Code to decriminalise termination of pregnancies in cases of rape, incest and severe foetal impairment and eliminate all punitive measures.

Denmark commends Malta’s efforts to protect the freedom of expression and welcomes the entering into force of the new Media and Defamation Act. Media freedom and the freedom of expression are essential pillars of democracy. However, in light of the recent case on the assassination of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, Denmark is concerned about the state of media freedom as well as the safety of journalists in Malta.

Denmark recommends the Government to fully investigate all threats, harassment and violence against journalists, bringing to justice not only the direct perpetrators, but also those who incited them to commit those deeds.

I thank you.