**Universal Periodic Review, 32th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Afghanistan, 21 January 2019**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

We welcome the Government’s commitment to improving the human rights situation in line with national and international obligations. This includes launching of necessary judicial reforms and ensuring adequate space for civil society organisations to assist in ensuring accountability.

The Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women was endorsed by Presidential Decree in 2009. However, approval by the National Assembly remains and implementation needs strengthening. Protecting women and girls’ human rights, incl. their rights to sexual and reproductive health, is of key importance.

*Denmark recommends the Government to push for the National Assembly’s approval of The Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women and ensure that the Law is fully enforced.*

*Denmark recommends the Government to ensure that forced and early marriages of girls are prohibited, those responsible prosecuted and punished and the victims rehabilitated.*

I thank you.