**Universal Periodic Review, 32nd session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Slovakia, 28 January 2019**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

In 2009 legal barriers to abortion, including mandatory waiting periods, were introduced into Slovak law with the effect of deterring women from accessing abortion services. Those barriers include the requirement of parental consent for all adolescent girls under 18 as well as mandatory waiting periods.

*Denmark recommends the Government to t*ake effective measures to ensure women’s access to safe abortion care, including by removing the requirement of mandatory waiting periods and third-party authorization.

Denmark notes that the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights is accredited with the United Nations International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (now GANHRI) with B status.

*Denmark recommends the Government to complete, without further delay, the legislative procedure to ensure that the Slovak NHRI is fully compliant with the Paris Principles and can apply for re-accreditation with status A.*

*Denmark recommends the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) without further delay.*

The Convention against Torture Initiative stands ready to explore avenues to assist in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

I thank you.