**Universal Periodic Review, 33nd session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Equatorial Guinea 13 May 2019**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

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

While commending Equatorial Guinea’s introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty, Denmark remains very concerned about reports of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders. Protection of civil society and human rights defenders are of critical importance for the protection of human rights.

*Denmark recommends the Government to adopt effective measures to prevent and punish cases of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders.*

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture establishes a set of practical tools on torture prevention.

*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 Initiative, the CTI, stands ready to assist the Government in advancing on this issue if deemed helpful.

Denmark wishes Equatorial Guinea a successful review.

I thank you.