**Universal Periodic Review, 35th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of the Kingdom of Lesotho 22 January 2020**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mdm. President,

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

Denmark commends Lesotho for incorporating human rights education into the primary school curriculum.

We however remain concerned by reports of widespread sexual and gender-based violence, including the lack of protection against child marriage.

*Denmark recommends the Government adopt the Amendment Bill to the Child and Protection and Welfare Act without further delay.*

Denmark appreciates that the High Court in 2018 determined that criminalisation of defamation was unconstitutional. However, we are concerned by sedition laws.

*Denmark recommends the Government to repeal legislation that could lead to self-censorship, including the Sedition Proclamation (No. 44 of 1938) and the Internal Security (General) Act of 1984.*

*Finally, Denmark recommends the Government to ratify the OPCAT.*

Denmark wishes Lesotho a successful review.

Thank you.