

**Universal Periodic Review, 38th session  
Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Somalia, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mdm. President,

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

We commend Somalia for ratifying the Convention on the rights of the Child. However, we remain concerned over the replacement by Parliament of the Sexual Offences Bill with an Intercourse Bill, which contravenes international human rights standards.

Denmark recommends the Government to submit to Parliament the original Sexual Offences Bill in line with international human rights standards.

We are concerned by legislation that restrict freedom of religion or belief, including provisions of the blasphemy laws.

Denmark recommends the Government to permit apostasy and decriminalize blasphemy in national legislation, in line with international human rights standards.

Finally, Denmark recommends the Government to ratify the OPCAT.

Denmark wishes Somalia a successful review.

I thank you.