



21 September 2011
Check against delivery

UN Human Rights Council
Eighteenth session, 12-30 September 2011

Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports

DENMARK

Madame President,

Amnesty International welcomes Denmark's engagement with the Universal Periodic Review. Nonetheless we are disappointed that Denmark accepted only 84 of 133 recommendations – most of them very general in nature – and rejected many substantive recommendations aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights in the country. We urge the new Danish government to keep those recommendations under review with a view to accepting them at a later date.

We appreciate the government's efforts to involve civil society in the preparation of the National Report. We regret, however, that key input was absent from the final version of the Report and urge the authorities to ensure that future consultations are more substantive.

Madame President,

Amnesty International welcomes Denmark's commitment to observe the principle of *non-refoulement* and to not resort to diplomatic assurances to circumvent it.¹ This commitment is underscored by a recent decision in the Danish courts halting the extradition of Danish national Niels Hoick to India on the grounds that diplomatic assurances provided insufficient protection against the risk of torture.

We appreciate Denmark's commitment to use detention of refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers only as a last resort.² We take this opportunity to urge the authorities

¹ A/HRC/18/4 recommendation 106.118 (Switzerland).

² *Ibid.*, recommendation 106. 131 (Slovakia).

to ensure thorough individual judicial review, increased use of alternatives to detention, and an end to detention of vulnerable groups.

Madame President,

Amnesty International regrets that Denmark rejected recommendations to conduct an evidence-based review of anti-terrorism legislation.³ We have serious concerns about unfair procedures for terror-suspects in deportation proceedings and weakened legal safeguards for the protection of privacy in the current legislation.

Finally, Madame President,

We have repeatedly urged the government to bring legislation on rape in line with international law. We are very disappointed that Denmark has rejected related recommendations made in the review,⁴ referring to an expert review that has been pending for two years.⁵ It is also disappointing that the government rejected the creation of an Ombudsman for children's rights.⁶

Thank you, Madame President.

³ Ibid., 106.133 (The Netherlands).

⁴ Ibid., recommendations 106.34 (Norway), 106.35 (Switzerland), 106.36 (Belgium).

⁵ Ibid., paragraph 100.

⁶ Ibid., recommendations 106.38 (India), 106.39 (Poland), 106.40 (Norway), 106.41 (Kyrgyzstan).