**Concluding remarks by Mette Kaae Hansen, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Department of Gender Equality**

On behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Denmark, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to engage with you – and participate in the review of our ninth report before the Committee.

Although this dialogue was convened in a somewhat unusual format with some technical challenges we want to **thank you for a constructive and open dialogue**.

You have all raised several relevant issues during the last three day. We look forward to receiving the concluding observations of the Committee.

We see ourselves as very ambitious when it comes to gender equality. Gender equality is a cornerstone in the Danish democracy and the foundation for our welfare, growth and the cohesion of our society. **Denmark has achieved a high degree of equality**, but the fact remains that we have not yet reached de facto gender equality. No country has.

Summing up our dialogue, we would like to **acknowledge the many important areas of concern raised by the Committee** including on; women in decision-making, the gender segregated labour market and pay gap, health, violence against women, trafficking in human beings, gender neutrality, affirmative action and the need for sex disaggregated statistics.

While we know that change takes time, we still need to act now, and as we have highlighted in our reports and during the last three days, we have taken several both legislative and political initiatives in the last years. And we will continue our work.

As this unusual setting reminds us all, this dialogue is held in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also been an **overall undercurrent to many questions raised these last few days.**

I want to underline that it is a high priority for the government to ensure that no woman, man, girl or boy is left behind during the crisis. **Denmark continuously monitor the situations of vulnerable women,** in order to supply timely and adequate services to meet their needs.

**Preliminary studies of the consequences of the pandemic for various vulnerable groups** made in the spring of 2020 has shown us that particularly people with financial instability, women victims of violence, mentally vulnerable people suffer in the time of crisis.

Knowledge stemming from these studies as well as our **extensive databases with sex disaggregated data has helped us to target our help and support to these groups**.

Allow me to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to the **active participation of civil society organisations in monitoring of the CEDAW-convention**. They remain strong and active partners in our common endeavour to uphold a high level of gender equality in the Danish society.

Also, we extend our appreciation to our National Human Rights Institute for the strong engagement and commitment and for the opening statement. We look forward to our continued cooperation.

And thanks to you madame Chair as well as to all the members of the committee. Your questions will help shape our work in the future, and for that we are grateful.

Last but not least thank you to the interpreters for your **outstanding efforts** under these difficult circumstances.

We will look forward to receiving the concluding observations and to continue our work to ensure full equality for all in Denmark.