**UN Human Rights Council**

**Third intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**14 January 2021**

**Statement by Denmark on behalf of the core group for the resolution on human rights and implementation of the 2030 agenda**

**(Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand and Uruguay)**

Madame President,

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uruguay and my own country, Denmark, all members of the core group for the resolution on human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you to the keynote speaker and the panellists. As we have heard, an integrated approach to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has never been more important than now.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities in countries around the world. Too often, responses have left the most marginalised and vulnerable persons behind. And too rarely have those, that are already furthest behind, been reached first.

The universal human rights of each individual *must* be at the heart of our response to and recovery from the pandemic. “More than ever”, in the words of the UN Secretary General, “governments must be transparent, responsive and accountable. Civic space and press freedom are critical.”

Efforts to build back better should focus on the many links between states’ human rights obligations and the SDGs. That is key in making new progress towards ensuring development for everyone that is sustainable and resilient.

Thank you.