**Questionnaire re. General Assembly resolution 68/268:** Contribution from Denmark

A)

The constant growth in the number of treaties and signatories over the last decades has challenged both the treaty bodies and the national systems, not least because the human and financial resources have not been increased accordingly. Denmark therefore attaches great importance to the treaty body strengthening process in general and to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/268, specifically. The resolution identifies a number of areas in which all the stakeholders can assist in making the functioning of the treaty bodies more efficient and effective.

In this context, Denmark would like highlight the encouragement in the resolution to make further use of simplified reporting procedures, as it is our experience that a focus on fewer issues in the reporting process can contribute to a more substantial and in-depth dialogue. A more focused reporting process is likely to have more impact on the implementation of the treaty, as it will free resources, which can be better used *inter alia* for follow-up processes. In this particular context, we would therefore argue that less can be more.

The resolution also generally encourages treaty bodies to continue to enhance their efforts towards achieving amongst other things greater efficiency, transparency, effectiveness and harmonization in their working methods, within their respective mandates, and to continue to review good practices in this respect. It is our understanding that treaty bodies have undertaken a number of different steps to explore ways to improve their function within their respective mandate. In this light we find it important that treaty bodies continue to share such new ideas and best practices and that it might be useful to set aside more time and resources for general exchanges between treaty bodies on their functioning, coordination and cooperation.

B)

Re item 2: As mentioned, Denmark finds the simplified procedure a very welcome development, which can contribute to focusing the reporting and the subsequent dialogue on treaty implementation efforts. Simplified reporting can lead to much more effective use of the treaty body system, allowing more in-depth focus on the most pertinent issues in the national context and strengthen the focus on follow-up activities. Denmark is ready to use the simplified reporting procedure where possible and is currently reporting according to this procedure with regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture.

Re item 3: Denmark is in the process of updating its common core document and expects to submit a revised document in 2018.

Re item 7: Denmark fully supports using meetings of the States parties more efficiently and effectively, for instance through focused discussions on relevant issues in relation to the implementation of the treaties.

Re item 8: As one of the main extra-budgetary donors of OHCHR, Denmark attaches great importance to the effective functioning of the treaty bodies. The efforts of individuals and groups contributing to the work of the treaty bodies are therefore highly appreciated. Individuals and groups are protected from reprisals and intimidation through general national legislation. It is also worth mentioning that individuals submitting a complaint to a treaty body may be eligible to legal aid partly or fully covered by public funding. Denmark has accepted individual complaints procedures with respect to six UN human rights treaties.

Re item 10: Denmark is fully committed to ensure that experts nominated to treaty bodies are of high integrity and possess recognized competences in their respective field. The Danish process for nomination of experts to treaty bodies includes an informal vetting process of proposed candidates, including close interministerial coordination with a view to ensuring that nominated candidates fulfill all requirements, including the necessary competences, experience as well as moral integrity.

Re item 13: Denmark attaches great importance to ensuring that representation in the various treaty bodies is in alignment with the recommendation in item 13 regarding equitable geographical distribution, representation of different forms of civilization and principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities.