



**Statement by Sweden in the
interactive dialogue on Algeria**

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, May 29, 2012*

Madam President,

Sweden wishes to thank Minister Medelci and his delegation for the presentation of your national report and to welcome you to the UPR session.

Algeria is a ratifying party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and has recognized the Convention's provisions against individual complaints. There are, however, civil society reports on torture and other maltreatment in places of detention, particularly in connection with Algerian authorities' work against terrorism. As a step towards elaborating measures to eliminate torture committed by state agents, Sweden recommends the Government of Algeria to also ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Sweden commends the Government of Algeria for inviting seven UN Special Rapporteurs whereof five visited Algeria during 2011. In this context, we would like to recommend Algeria to extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on torture as well.

Sweden welcomes that the Government of Algeria has adopted a National Strategy for combating violence against women, including a plan of communication. However, as far as we know, no funding has of today been allocated for the execution of the strategy. We share your concerns that women in Algeria continue to face widespread domestic violence in addition to legal and social discriminations. Sweden would therefore like to recommend the Government of Algeria to producing the necessary funding in order to concretizing the strategy with the aim of eliminating violence against women and to criminalize such offence.

If time permits, could the delegation share some examples on measures it is taking or considering to strengthen existing efforts to combat violence against women?

Thank you, Madam President