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

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, May 21, 2012*

Madam President,

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

Sweden appreciates the establishment of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI), set up by royal decree in June 2011. The report on the investigation of the unrest in your country in February and March 2011 concluded, among other things, that unnecessary and excessive force had been used against protesters and that many detainees were subjected to torture as well as numerous violations of due process rights. The report made a number of recommendations and we welcome the intentions by the King and Government of Bahrain to implement them.

In this regards, Sweden would like to recommend the Government of Bahrain to establish an adequate time frame and a transparent follow-up mechanism for an accelerated implementation of the recommendations by the Independent Commission of Inquiry.

Civil society organisations have always taken an active part in public debate on human rights issues in Bahrain. Recent restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Social Development have, however, impeded these organisations from carrying out their activities.

Could the delegation give examples of measures being taken to ensure respect for freedom of associations in accordance with international instruments ratified by Bahrain?

Sweden would like to recommend the Government of Bahrain to reconsider the restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Social Development and to take appropriate measures to ensure that civil society organisations can take an active part in the public debate on human rights.

Thank you, Madam President