



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

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, May 21, 2012*

Madam President,

Sweden welcomes Vice President Garces and welcomes him and his delegation to Geneva and thank you for presenting your national report here today.

In recent years the situation regarding freedom of opinion and expression, the freedom of the press in Ecuador, has been highlighted due to a number of high profile cases. Most recently the highest national court convicted a journalist and three directors from the newspaper *El Universo* to three years in prison as well as a \$40 million fine for libel against President Rafael Correa. Although the president afterwards decided to pardon the sentence, the verdict still stands. This is just one case of many and it needs to be viewed in the overall context of the situation of the media in Ecuador.

Sweden would like to recommend the government of Ecuador to promote and protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in accordance with what is stated in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The constitution in Ecuador prohibits violence against women. In the last UPR implementation report provided by the country in 2010, a number of measures were presented to tackle the problem, for example a plan to eradicate violence against children, adolescents and women. Nevertheless, domestic violence and sexual violence against women continue to be widespread. Women report that the police and the judiciary system have, at times, been passive when abuses are reported and the number of non-recorded cases is estimated to be high.

Sweden therefore recommends Ecuador to further elaborate and integrate a gender perspective in the national education system.

Thank you Madam President