



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

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, May 23, 2012*

Mr. President,

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

Sweden welcomes the work carried out by Finland with regard to the recommendations from its last review in 2008, notably the Finnish National Policy on Roma (2009). Furthermore, Sweden welcomes the Finnish National Action Plan for Human Rights from March 2012, the ambitions it contains, and the methods of open dialogue with the civil society through which it was formulated. Sweden also looks positively on the establishment of a Finnish National Center for Human Rights.

During the previous round of UPR-reviews in 2008, it was put forth that the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) had ruled in individual cases that indicted persons in Finland had been subjected to excessively lengthy trial proceedings and other violations of article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights. Since then, further cases of the same sort have been detected in Finland by the ECHR. In the second National Report by the Government of Finland from February 2012 it is stated that the Government will draft a bill to Parliament in 2012 for legislation on the speed of administrative proceedings, and on legal remedies in cases of passivity on the part of authorities. Sweden welcomes these intentions and the information shared with us today and in line with this, recommends the government of Finland to conclude the drafting of the Government bill on administrative proceedings and the preparations of the client service strategy.

The Finnish Immigration Service has come under criticism for deportations of asylum-seekers to countries where their safety is highly

challenged, even with the risk of torture due to for example religious beliefs or sexual orientation. The European Court of Human Rights Committee against Torture has issued bans on the implementation on a number of deportation orders. My delegation appreciates the response given to our advance question and would like to recommend the government of Finland to evaluate the internal guidelines and criteria with regards to risk assessment in the countries of origin of asylum-seekers, and to ensure a continuous flow of information and education on these internal guidelines.

Thank you, Mr. President