



6

**UPR 13th session**

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

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni  
Geneva, May 24, 2012*

~~Madam President,~~

Sweden wishes to thank Attorney General Vahanvati and his delegation for the presentation of your national report and to welcome you to the UPR session.

As time is limited and Sweden posed questions in advance, my delegation will focus on a few comments and the recommendations.

At India's first UPR review, Sweden recommended the ratification of CAT and ILO Conventions no. 138 and 182 concerning child labour. We note that positive steps have been taken. However, as these recommendations have not yet been implemented, Sweden would like to reiterate them.

The Information Technology Rules, 2011, list a wide range of criteria in order to restrict web content. Critics argue that the wide scope of the list of objectionable content and the vagueness of the criteria for restrictions could severely limit freedom of expression on the internet. My delegation appreciates the valuable cooperation and support we have in the Human Rights Council on this issue. In that spirit, Sweden wishes to recommend the Government of India to ensure that measures to limit freedom of expression on the Internet is based on clearly defined criteria in accordance with international human rights standard and international commitments.

Sweden welcomes the decline in maternal mortality the past years. We do, however, remain concerned by the high rate that persists and would like to recommend that India intensifies the efforts working towards the MDG 5, including by withdrawing its reservation to article 16 in CEDAW and by ensuring universal access to information and counseling on SRHR as set out in its National Population Policy.

India has seen a major positive shift in the judicial approach to LGBT rights since the last UPR-session. Sweden welcomes the July 2009-ruling of the Delhi High Court, decriminalizing homosexual conduct among consenting adults. If the Supreme Court upholds this decision it will have significant consequences for LGBT-rights.

Thank you, Madam President

---