



UPR 13th session

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

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, May 31, 2012*

Madam President,

Sweden welcomes Minister Spies and her delegation to Geneva and thank you for the active engagement in the UPR process and for presenting your national report here today.

First, we want to commend the Netherlands for its continuous efforts to further promote and strengthen human rights nationally, shown by the establishment of an ombudsman for children, to mention one recent example. We also appreciate the role you play internationally to advance the promotion and protection of all human rights.

Sweden welcomes that the Netherlands has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) in September 2010. We appreciate the Minister's clarification on the criteria for applying the OPCAT, that it is indeed applicable regardless the grounds of detention.

We note with appreciation the answers provided by the Minister today that on the national plans to combat discrimination have been put forward in the last years.

Sweden would like to make one recommendation to the Government of the Netherlands to introduce measures to reduce detention of individuals solely for immigration purposes and consider other alternatives than detention to use when possible.

Thank you Madam President