



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

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, May 29, 2012*

Madam President,

Sweden welcomes the Philippines delegation to Geneva and thank you for the comprehensive report presented here today.

The Philippine Government has been working hard to end extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. It has also made progress when it comes to fighting impunity as well as enhancing the prosecution efforts. *The Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act* that was passed by the Senate in June 2010, but remains pending in the House of Representatives, is an example of this progress. The Government of the Philippines has also declared that it will continue to provide human rights training to military and security personnel.

Sweden welcomes these developments and recommends that further steps are taken to combat extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, including by providing sufficient funding to the national police force and by ensuring that alleged perpetrators of extrajudicial killings are swiftly brought to justice.

Intensive efforts are needed if the Philippines are to achieve the MDG 5 on reducing maternal mortality. Sweden is concerned by the high rates of maternal mortality in the Philippines and the risks to health and life of women undergoing unsafe abortions.

Sweden therefore recommends that the Government of the Philippines intensifies its efforts to meet the MDG 5 on maternal mortality, including by ensuring universal access to SRHR and to information, education and counseling, and by amending the abortion law to allow for safe abortion in cases of rape, incest or when the health and life of the pregnant woman is at risk.

Thank you Madam President