



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

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, October 24, 2012*

Madam President,

Sweden thanks XX and his delegation for the report and welcomes this opportunity for dialogue on the general human rights situation in Ukraine.

(~~We thank you for responding to our question on the elimination of violence against women.// Could the Government of Ukraine elaborate on what steps have been taken in this area since then?~~)

One of the key reform areas that have been identified in Ukraine is the justice system and the need to strengthen the rule of law. The new criminal procedure code that will enter into force in November is a step in the right direction, however further needs for reform in this area have been identified, e.g. pertaining to the prosecutor's office and the independence of the court system.

Sweden has noted with great concern widespread occurrence of police brutality and, police impunity, as reported by civil society organizations. The number of incidents with use of excessive force by the law enforcement bodies is reported to be rising. At the same time, the number of criminal investigations of suspected perpetrators remain low. Sweden recommends the Government of Ukraine to improve the legislation and its application in this area, as well as to provide training for staff of the law enforcement bodies concerning the rights of detainees.

Moreover, Sweden considers that the rights of LGBT-persons should be protected and activities that promote homophobic tendencies in a society should be avoided. Lately there have been worrying signals, including draft laws, from the Ukrainian Parliament aiming at restricting the rights of LGBT-persons. Should these draft laws turn into valid legal acts, they would represent a breach of Ukraine's international commitments concerning human rights. Sweden recommends that the Government of Ukraine take an active stance to stop any actions or laws that constitute an infringement of the rights of LGBT-persons.

Lastly, Sweden would like to commend Ukraine on the steps taken to confirm the commitments to the Rome Statute and would like to encourage Ukraine to take all the necessary steps to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute.

Thank you Madam President