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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

## 14th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

### Finland's questions and recommendations to Zambia 30 October 2012

Madam President,

Finland wishes to thank Zambia for the national report and its presentation today.

Finland acknowledges the steps Zambia has taken to address human rights issues. Finland is pleased to note that Zambia has extended a standing invitation to the UN human rights special procedures.

Finland commends the Government's commitment to support the socio-economic empowerment of women and various measures it has taken to promote gender equality and women's rights.

However, we remain concerned about the full incorporation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) into domestic law, in particular with respect to the current Constitution. While article 11 of the Constitution guarantees the equal status of women, article 23(4) permits discriminatory laws and practices in the area of customary law.

Finland makes the following two recommendations:

1. Ensure that the provisions of the CEDAW are reflected in the new draft Constitution by, inter alia, retaining the removal of article 23(4).
2. Enact and amend legislation to ensure that the prohibition against discrimination is in line with the CEDAW, especially with article 1 concerning direct and indirect discrimination in general, and article 16 relating to marriage and family relations.

Thank you.

PAIVI HECLA - KAIRAMO