



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

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, January 22, 2012*

Mister President,

Sweden welcomes the Malian delegation and appreciates the opportunity to discuss the human rights situation, amidst the on-going, serious and multi-faceted crisis in Mali.

Women in Mali face domestic violence to which the legal system frequently turns a blind eye, (FGM) is widely condoned and the legal system gives preference to men in cases of divorce etc. Gender inequality concerns have been aggravated by the serious crisis. Also, allegations of stonings and amputations in the north give cause for grave concern.

Sweden recommends Mali to take steps to review the Family Code by taking measures to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination and promote and protect women's and children's rights.

Malian law requires that persons deprived of their liberty be formally charged or released within 48 hours. It has been reported that the 48-hour limit is often not respected. In its latest consideration of Mali, the Human Rights Committee recommended Mali to amend its legislation to comply, inter alia, with provisions in the ICCPR that the lawfulness of detention be determined by a court without delay.

Therefore, Sweden recommends Mali to ensure an effective implementation of the criminal legislation and the respect of the principle of a 48 hour limit for any legal framework.

We welcome the recent decision by the Prosecutor of the ICC to open an investigation regarding alleged crimes in Mali. This decision sends an important signal to perpetrators of human rights violations that they will be held accountable for their actions.

Finally, Sweden urges all parties in Mali to act in accordance with IHL in all situations of armed conflict.

Thank you Mister President