

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

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni  
Geneva, January 22, 2013*

**Mr President,**

Sweden wishes to thank Secretary of State Aurescu and his delegation for taking an active part in the UPR.

We appreciate the information shared here today about the Roma population and the Strategy for the inclusion of the Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority (2012-2020). We note that the school dropout is larger in communities with dominant Roma population. According to latest statistics, only 21% of the Roma minority children aged 15-18 stay in school. The new Roma inclusion strategy gives a larger role to municipalities in integrating the Roma into society. We are concerned that, due to the lack of more accurate statistical information and closer collaboration with civil society, the efforts will not be entirely adapted to the needs of this community.

Sweden would therefore like to recommend that the Romanian Government intensifies its efforts to increase school attendance of the Roma children, as part of the efforts to eliminate disparities in society, and to effectively implement the national strategy by correlating it with specific programs and by strengthening the implementation structures for the Roma at local level.

According to a report of the Romanian National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons, children remain a specifically vulnerable group. In 2011, 35% of the identified victims were children. Victims aged 14-25 are predominantly women who are sexually exploited. Forced labour is also encountered, mainly among the male population aged 25-40.

Sweden welcomes the initiatives taken and recommends the Romanian Government to intensify its efforts to address trafficking.

Thank you, Mr. President