



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN

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

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, January 30, 2012*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation of Serbia to the UPR and wishes to express its appreciation for its active participation and the presentation of the comprehensive national report here today.

We note some positive developments since the first UPR of Serbia, not least that a strengthened legal framework against discrimination.

The Serbian government has declared its readiness to fight corruption and some actions have been taken. These are positive signs but more efforts will be needed for a sustainable approach to the anti-corruption work. For example, the work to ensure the independence of prosecution and judges need to continue.

In this context, Sweden would like to recommend the government of Serbia to make the fight against corruption sustainable by ensuring that due legal process is being followed from the opening of an investigation through to the end. Political outbursts should be avoided to leave room for genuine and independent work by police and prosecution. Furthermore, practices should be developed and implemented to prevent future cases of high-level corruption, mainly by ensuring increased and effective transparency in processes such as privatization and public tenders.

To conclude, Sweden would also like to recommend the government of Serbia to develop and implement regulations and practices to ensure transparency in the ownership of media, in order to prevent undue influence over editorial material by politicians, businessmen and other centers of power.

Thank you, Mr President