



**Statement by Sweden in the
interactive dialogue on United Arab Emirates**

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, January 28, 2012*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes the UAE delegation to the UPR and thank you for presenting your national report.

Sweden is concerned about the latest developments in the UAE with regards to freedom of expression. Since the last UPR in 2008 the situation has deteriorated. The UAE guarantees freedom of expression in its constitution but has not yet signed the ICCPR. Even though the constitution ensures some protection of freedom of expression, the government has taken action to severely restrict citizens' freedom of expression on the Internet, such as the federal decree to combat cyber-crime.

Sweden would like to emphasise that freedom of expression should be applied also on the Internet. Sweden recommends the UAE Government to take immediate steps to ensure that the national regulations relating to the Internet guarantees freedom of expression.

In the 2008 UPR the UAE was recommended to step up efforts to ensure economic, social and cultural rights of migrant workers. Since then the UAE government has accepted recommendations to better provide for the protection of migrant workers. Despite this, there are several reports of continuous abuse of employers and sponsors violating the rights of migrant as well as domestic workers sometimes resulting in long, unregulated working hours, poor living conditions, poor wage levels, and non-payment of wages.

Sweden recommends the UAE Government to take further steps to ensure the economic rights of migrant workers and domestic workers by implementing minimum wages and regulated working hours for all work categories. Further, Sweden recommends the UAE to continue making efforts to ensure that employers and sponsors fully respect the social and cultural rights of migrant workers and domestic workers, for example their right to