

UPR 16th session

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

*Delivered by Minister Councillor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, Monday 29 April, 2013*

Madam/Mr President,

Sweden wishes to thank the honorable Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni and her delegation for the presentation of the national report and present our condolences to the families of the victims of the collapsed Rana Plaza building.

We welcome the strong commitment of the Government of Bangladesh to improve the situation for women and girls. We urge the Government to continue on this positive path and recommend the Government of Bangladesh to implement the Uniform Family Code as well as to withdraw its reservations against CEDAW (article 2 and 16-1c).

Sweden notes that, since the last UPR report, there has been a reduction in the number of reported extra-judicial killings and of torture by state security forces. However there are still an alarmingly high number of reported incidents. Sweden therefore recommends Bangladesh to increase its efforts to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. Additionally Sweden recommends Bangladesh to sign OPCAT.

Furthermore Sweden is concerned about the high level of violence during general strikes and demonstrations. We encourage the Government to take all possible measures to reduce tensions during political manifestations. This includes explicitly rejecting violence by its own supporters. Recognising the challenges in maintaining public order in the current political situation we encourage the Government to ensure that the police continue to exercise restraint in the use of force.

Thank you, Mr President