



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

*Delivered by H E Ambassador Jan Knutsson
Geneva, May 1, 2013*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes the new migration policy that makes it easier for Cubans to exercise their right to leave and return to their country. We do also appreciate Cuba's support for the resolution on freedom of internet that was adopted by consensus by the Human Rights Council in June 2012. *commend*

However, Sweden is concerned about the continued restrictions on freedom of expression due to government control of all media. Sweden is also concerned about reports of increased levels of arbitrary detentions in Cuba, as well as intimidations of critics through acts of repudiation.

Sweden recommends Cuba to ratify both the ICCPR and the ICESCR without restrictions and to issue a standing invitation to the Special Rapporteurs to visit the country, especially those on human rights defenders, freedoms of expression and independence of judges and lawyers. Sweden also recommends that Cuba allows ICRC to gain access to prisons.

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