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

*Delivered by Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, April 25, 2013*

Mister President,

Sweden wishes to thank XX and his/her delegation for the presentation of your comprehensive national report and welcomes this opportunity to continue our dialogue regarding the advance questions raised.

Sweden notes with appreciation that progress has been made in ensuring gender equality as regards i.a. political representation. However, unequal career opportunities, an average gender wage gap of 22 per cent, under-representation of women in executive positions and poor access to childcare facilities remain obstacles to gender equality.

Sweden recommends the enhancing both federal and regional measures to promote equal pay for equal work and to facilitate women's return to their career paths after childbirth.

The adoption of the General Treatment Act containing provisions on compensation and the creation of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency demonstrate advancements in combating discrimination. However, Germany still lacks a comprehensive strategy against racial discrimination. Moreover, persons concerned rarely seek judicial aid. Sweden would like to enquire if measures have been taken to enhance discriminated persons' knowledge of their rights and to provide access to effective legal remedies.

Thank you Mr President,

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At the end of the session
the Council will be held

Chairman

Secretary

Members