

H.E. Päivi Kairamo

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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

16th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's questions and recommendations to Russian Federation
29 April 2013

Mr. President,

Finland wishes to thank the Russian Federation for the national report and its presentation today. Finland welcomes the ratification of the 14th Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights in 2010.

Also, Finland commends setting up a working group to draft a federal bill on preventing domestic violence, and would be interested in hearing about the time-frame for adoption of this legislation.

However, Finland is concerned about the recent developments regarding freedom of association in Russia, which jeopardise the functioning and participation possibilities of NGOs.

Finland recommends that the Russian Federation

1. Review its legislation regulating the functioning of NGOs, in particular the Federal Law on Non-Commercial Organizations, with a view to bringing it into accordance with international human rights law.
2. Ratify the Council of Europe *Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* (Istanbul Convention).

Thank you.