

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

*Delivered by Minister Councillor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni  
Geneva, Monday 22 April, 2013*

**Madam President,**

Sweden wishes to thank Deputy Minister Hajiyev and his delegation for the presentation of your national report and welcomes this opportunity to continue our dialogue regarding the advance questions raised.

Sweden notes with appreciation that there has been some progress in the democratization process of Turkmenistan. For instance, we welcome the coming into effect of a new law, guaranteeing media freedom. The law provides the framework for an independent media, prohibits censorship and states that citizens of Turkmenistan have the right to use any form of media to express their opinions.

Could the government of Turkmenistan elaborate on which regulations that have been issued in order to ensure the practical implementation of the new media law, consequently guaranteeing the freedom of expression and opinion and encourage private financial investment in the media sector?

Sweden recommends Turkmenistan to ensure that every citizen – including human rights defenders - leaders of opposition parties, religious believers, civil society activists and journalists can peacefully exercise their right to freedom of expression in conformity with Turkmenistan's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights.

Sweden values the early release of two prisoners of conscience. However, we remain concerned about the living conditions of other detainees. Could the delegation explain what measures that have been taken with the intention of improving the conditions of the detention facilities?

Sweden recommends the government of Turkmenistan to grant independent national and international monitoring organizations full access to all detention facilities.

Finally, Sweden would like to recommend Turkmenistan to take all necessary steps to fully commit to end impunity for international crimes by acceding to the Rome Statute of the ICC and to fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute.

**Thank you, Mr President**

