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UN Human Rights Council

UPR 16th session

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

*Delivered by Minister Councillor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, Wednesday 24 April, 2013*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to thank Dr. Saidov and his delegation for the presentation of your national report.

Sweden notes that Uzbek authorities have supported earlier recommendations to establish a national independent mechanism to monitor all places of detention. However, such a mechanism has still not been established. We are seriously concerned about the fact that the International Committee of the Red Cross recently has decided to terminate all visits to detainees in Uzbekistan, as a result of not being able to follow its standard working procedures when visiting detainees to assess their conditions and treatment.

Sweden recommends the expedite establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism of all places of detention. Moreover, connected thereto, we recommend that Uzbekistan signs the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture.

There are reports that in the last harvest season of 2012 no systematic use of child labour was in force in Uzbekistan. While welcoming this information, we would like to ask the Government of Uzbekistan which further measures are being taken to consolidate the process. Furthermore, acknowledging the great importance of the work of the International Labour Organisation together with the United Nations, Sweden recommends strongly that these organisations are given access to Uzbekistan with the aim of monitoring the development and assist with advice.

Additionally, Sweden would like to recommend the Government of Uzbekistan to take all the necessary steps to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Thank you, Mr President