



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with Malaysia

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, October 24, 2013*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes Malaysia to the UPR and thanks it for its national report and active engagement.

In Malaysia's first UPR, recommendations to abolish the death penalty and impose a moratorium on executions were rejected. Recently there have been some positive developments in this regard; a declining rate of executions and a government announcement to review the mandatory nature of the death penalty and to impose a temporary moratorium on executions during the review.

Death sentences are still carried out however. Between 2002 and 2006 no executions seem to have been carried out, but since then at least 12 executions have been reported, three of which this year.

Sweden therefore recommends Malaysia to:

- Broaden the review of the death penalty with a view of eliminating mandatory death sentencing for capital offences and to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment.

The indigenous peoples of Malaysia make up about 15 % of the population. Government policies allowing large scale development projects have a negative impact on indigenous peoples' rights over land and natural resources. The fact that Malaysia has yet to ratify the ICCPR and ICERD contribute to the non-recognition of indigenous peoples' rights to culture and elimination of discrimination.

Sweden recommends Malaysia to:

- Establish an independent National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and to ensure that laws, policies and their implementations are in accordance with the UNDRIP.

Thank you, Mr President