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Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with Nigeria

*To be delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, October 22, 2013*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation of Nigeria and expresses its appreciation for the presentation of the national report.

The ICCPR, to which Nigeria is party, states that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his/her life. In this regard, Sweden welcomes the commitment affirmed in your national UPR-report to put an end to extrajudicial killings, underlining the Government's "zero tolerance".

Sweden recommends that the Government of Nigeria take all necessary measures to put an end to extrajudicial killings, investigate all reported cases, and ensure that all suspected perpetrators are brought to justice.

Sweden welcomes that Nigeria has ratified the OPCAT and established a National Preventive Mechanism. We recommend that future measures addressing torture and ill-treatment of detainees, include rehabilitation of victims and a revision of the mental health laws, to ensure full compliance with international standards.

Sweden further recommends the Government of Nigeria to ensure the universality of human rights, safeguarding and protecting human rights of all Nigerians irrespective of gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or religious affiliation.

The execution of four prisoners in Edo state this year represents a break of Nigeria's seven-year de facto moratorium on the death penalty. Could the delegation please elaborate on how you interpret the break of the de facto moratorium and the prospects of re-establishing it?

Thank you, Mr President