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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

17th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's recommendations to Saudi Arabia

21 October 2013

Mr President,

Finland wishes to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the national report and its presentation today.

Finland takes note of the steps taken with regard to women's rights, including the efforts to integrate women into the labour market, their participation in the *Shura Council* and their right to vote and be elected in the next municipal elections.

Finland welcomes the new law against domestic abuse. The effective implementation is key and we would like to hear about possible further measures being taken to advance the status and rights of women and girls.

Finland recommends that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- 1) Ensure the victims of domestic abuse immediate access to mechanisms of protection and redress, *inter alia*, by providing the victims with shelters and ensuring prompt investigation of abuses, and by training law enforcement officials.**
- 2) Continue implementing the 2008 recommendations by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on remaining issues, in particular the withdrawal of the general reservation to the Convention.**

Thank you.