



UPR 18th session

Statement by Sweden in the
interactive dialogue on
Afghanistan

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, January 27, 2014*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to thank H.E. Mohammad Qasim Hashimzai and his delegation for taking an active part in the UPR.

1. During the last UPR, Sweden raised discrimination and violence against women. We welcome the enactment of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women. We take note of the recent UNAMA study showing encouraging increases in reporting and registration of incidents of violence against women. Despite safeguards such as this law and other improvements, Afghan women continue to suffer from discrimination and abuse.

Consequently, Sweden recommends the Government of Afghanistan to reinforce the efforts to implement the EVAW law; to support the establishment of specialized police and prosecution units; to track the number of cases brought under the Law; and to investigate provinces or districts with low numbers of prosecutions. We also recommend initiatives to improve recruitment and retention of female police officers.

2. In the area of transitional justice, Sweden recommends the Government of Afghanistan to amend the National Reconciliation, General Amnesty and National Stability Law to allow for prosecutions of certain crimes, such as genocide, war crimes and torture.

3. It is of concern to Sweden that the ongoing conflict severely affects children's rights. Thus, Sweden recommends the Government of Afghanistan to enact and implement legislation that protects children, and set the minimum age for marriage at 18 for both girls and boys.

4. Finally, Sweden recommends the Government of Afghanistan to reintroduce the moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you, Mr. President