



Geneva

## Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with Cambodia

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck  
Geneva, January 28, 2014*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes Cambodia to the UPR.

Sweden has noted with serious concern the shootings on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and deplore the excessive use of force. We request that a credible investigation be undertaken of the shootings. Further, we would like to see the ban on assemblies removed.

Cambodia's approach to freedom of expression on the internet is well in line with Sweden's. However, in May 2012 it was announced that a draft Cyber Law was under preparation. The Cyber Law could potentially unravel freedom of expression on the internet.

The parliamentary elections last year were partly an example of a technically well managed exercise. However, criticism from civil society and opposition afterwards were ripe with allegations of fraud. There are clearly parts of the electoral system and voting procedures that need adjustments and reforms.

In 2009 Sweden raised a concern for the need of legal reforms to protect human rights in Cambodia. Largely these concerns remain. The Cambodian constitution guarantees an independent judiciary, but recurring deficiencies have been reported in practice.

- Sweden would like to recommend Cambodia to approach the issue of regulating freedom of expression on the internet through consultations with all stakeholders.