



Geneva

**Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with
Slovakia**

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, February 3, 2014*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes Slovakia to the UPR and thanks it for its national report.

Sweden asked about the Roma population in its advance questions, and more specifically on what is being done to ensure Roma children same possibilities to education as other children.

We also asked about the land property issue in relation to Roma settlements and we look forward to receiving your responses to these questions.

Sweden has the following recommendations to make to the government of Slovakia:

1. Focus on education as the most important part of a long term sustainable solution for the Roma population. And have patience and perseverance with this work. Roma children must be given the same opportunities and not put in schools aimed at mentally challenged students. Only by giving Roma children the same possibilities to education will a solution be found to coming generations.
2. Make sure to strike a balance between the needs to give Roma a chance to own their own land and the risk of cemented segregation that might bring. Giving the Roma the chance to buy out the now, sometimes illegal, lands of settlements would create better possibilities also to claim the need for sanitation and municipal services.

I thank you, Mr President.