



**Statement by Sweden in the
interactive dialogue on Uruguay**

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, January 29, 2014*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to thank H.E. Mr. Homero Guerrero and his delegation for taking an active part in the UPR.

All children in Uruguay are obliged to complete nine years of compulsory school education, provided for free by the State. While an estimated 95 % of children graduate from school, the drop-out rates for high school pupils are high. In spite of great efforts by the Institute for Children and Adolescents of Uruguay (Instituto del Niño y Adolescente de Uruguay – INAU), some children and adolescents end up being exploited economically and/or sexually in trafficking.

After a visit to Uruguay 2010, the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, observed lack of actions against children's vulnerability and insufficient coordination of efforts against trafficking. Sweden would like to kindly ask the delegation to elaborate on how Uruguay has been able to respond to this comment.

Sweden recommends the Government of Uruguay to continue taking strong measures with a view to fully combating sexual exploitation of children and ensure that the law is strengthened to tackle impunity for these crimes.

The Uruguayan judicial and penitential system has been under strenuous pressure for years. After a visit to Uruguay in 2012 the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment published a rapport in February 2013 that took note of the Government's efforts to improve the situation in the prisons. However, it also pointed out that many problems remain and that these require profound judicial and institutional reforms. One problem in particular regards long periods of custody before proper accusations are presented.

Sweden recommends the Government of Uruguay to continue to reform the prison system and look further into ways of reforming the Penal Code to ensure adequate prison conditions and treatment of prisoners.

Thank you, Mr. President