



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

Delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck

Geneva, April 28, 2014

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the Albanian delegation to the 19th UPR Working Group session and for the presentation of your national report.

The on-going presence of the blood feud phenomenon in Albania remains an issue of great concern for Sweden. Although mainly concentrated in some parts of Albania, it continues to violate, among other rights, the basic human right to life. The extent of the phenomenon is however not yet fully known due to lack of accurate data, which in turn results in lack of concrete strategies and measures in its prevention.

In accordance with the recommendation of the People's Advocate, Sweden therefore recommends Albania to collect and administer accurate data and statistics regarding the blood feud phenomenon.

Sweden welcomes the efforts made by Albania in strengthening women's rights. However, despite the 30 percent gender quota in place and revisions of the law before the June 2013 elections, regrettably the placement of women in the candidate list failed to achieve the critical mass of women representation in the Parliament. Also, women still continue to be underrepresented when it comes to public offices. This has also been underlined in the European Commission's 2013 Progress Report on Albania.

Sweden congratulates the government for fulfilling the 30 percent quota for women representation in the Council of Ministers – a first-ever achievement. At the same time Sweden recommends the Parliament, the government, and all political parties to take concrete steps in creating a more enabling environment for Albanian women to advance in political and public positions.