



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Côte d'Ivoire

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

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to thank the delegation from Côte d'Ivoire for its presentation and for the information related to the advance questions we made.

Sexual violence against women was brought up at the previous UPR. Sweden welcomes a positive development during 2013 with several cases of prosecution where some of them led to prison sentences. We remain concerned, however, of the serious problems caused by female genital mutilation, even though Ivorian law prohibits it. Although the government has provided assistance to victims of rape and domestic violence, impunity remains a concern.

Sweden reiterates recommendations from 2009 to continue ongoing efforts and adopt effective measures and policies to stop and prevent sexual violence against women and girls, as well as to thoroughly investigate all allegations of sexual violence and bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice, in accordance with international standards.

After the end of the major hostilities during the post electoral crisis in early 2011 the restoration of rule of law as well as fight against impunity has been made difficult by a complicated security situation and a challenging disarmament of former fighters. The government's efforts to pursue reconciliation and carry out disarmament are welcome, although much remains to be done in these areas.

Sweden therefore recommends Côte d'Ivoire to continue to fight impunity by pursuing crimes that occurred during or in conjunction with the post-electoral conflict and previous conflicts in the country, regardless of which side in the conflicts the perpetrators belonged to. This includes continuing cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

Thank you