



**Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on
Equatorial Guinea**

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, May 5, 2014*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to thank the delegation for taking an active part in the UPR and for the information related to the advance questions we made.

Sweden is concerned that little progress can be observed with regard to the majority of the 11 recommendations that Equatorial Guinea accepted in 2009. We do recognize some progress on justice reform but are concerned that torture persists, political freedoms are curtailed and the constitution and national legislation contains several shortcomings on human rights. Recommendations for ratification of several international human rights treaties have yet to materialize.

Sweden recommends Equatorial Guinea to urgently implement all accepted recommendations from 2009 that remain outstanding.

The per capita income of Equatorial Guinea is among the highest in Africa and on par with many developed and industrialized countries globally. Still, the poverty levels and human development indicators place Equatorial Guinea in the group of least developed countries. The widespread poverty, and the limited access to basic services, is an impediment to ensuring and protecting social and economic rights. A more transparent budget process, could pave the way for a better human rights situation.

Sweden therefore recommends Equatorial Guinea to make appropriate, and transparent, budget allocations for poverty alleviation, primary education, basic health care and sanitation, to realize fundamental economic and social rights, particularly in respect of the poorest, and fully account for all social spending.

Finally, Sweden recommends the government to establish, in consultation with civil society, a clear and transparent fiscal policy to manage revenues, combat corruption and account for the use of public funds. (This should include publishing all government revenues, budgets, and spending; conducting and publishing annual audits of all government accounts, including those held abroad; and enforcing a requirement that public officials declare their assets).

Thank you, Mr. President