



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Angola

*Delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck,
Geneva, October 30, 2014 (speaking time 1 min 10 sec)*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation and express our thanks for the information related to our advance questions.

Sweden welcomes the positive steps taken by Angola of signing several important human rights conventions, such as the Convention of Torture and its optional Protocol. However, the continuation of police and security forces in Angola to carry out arbitrary arrests and detentions as well as acts of torture and ill-treatment against individuals in detention, raises deep concerns. Sweden also notes the authorities' continuation to place restrictions on the freedom of expression and the press.

- Sweden recommends Angola to ensure that prompt, impartial and thorough investigations are carried out into all allegations of human rights violations by security forces and that the perpetrators are brought to justice, as accepted in the previous review.

-Sweden recommends Angola to ensure reparation, including fair and adequate compensation, for victims of human rights violations by the security forces or to their families where the victim has died.

-Sweden recommends Angola to respect, protect and promote freedom of expression of journalists, in particular with regard to the well-established international human rights principle that public officials should tolerate more, rather than less, criticism than private individuals.

-Sweden recommends Angola to repeal criminal defamation laws, particularly those providing special punishment for alleged defamation of the head of state or other public officials.

Thank you, Mr. President