



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Egypt

*Delivered by Minister-Counsellor, Josefin Simonsson Brodén,
Geneva, November 5, 2014 (speaking time 1 min)*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes that Egypt's new Constitution enshrines human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as expression, association and assembly. However, Sweden is deeply concerned about legislation that at the same time curtails these rights, targeting NGOs, human rights activists and journalists. Sweden also remains concerned about the precarious situation of women in Egypt.

-Sweden recommends Egypt to review the Law on Associations (NGO-law) and the Protest Law, in order to comply with the Constitution (Article 75 for the NGO-law and Article 73 for the Protest Law), as well as international law, and immediately release persons detained or imprisoned for exercising their freedom of expression through participating in peaceful protests.

-Sweden recommends Egypt to review the personal status legislation and the Penal Code in order to modify or delete articles that discriminate against women, to comply with the Constitution (Article 11), as well as international law, and work to lift the reservation on article 16 of CEDAW.

-Sweden recommends Egypt to further intensify efforts to promote gender equality, to combat sexual harassment and gender-based violence through a comprehensive legislative reform and the adoption of a national strategy, and recognize the important work and competence of NGOs in this field.

Thank you, Mr. President