



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Guinea-Bissau

*Delivered by Minister-Counsellor Josefin Simonsson Brodén
Geneva, January 23, 2015 (speaking time 2 min)*

Mr President,

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

Impunity remains a key structural problem for the State and the Guinean society. With a new government in place the task of tackling impunity is of utmost importance in order to provide lasting solutions to the instability in Guinea-Bissau. The problem has existed for quite some time and efforts to combat this are now important in order to contribute to stability in the Guinean society.

Even though the law allows for sentences of up to 10 years imprisonment for cases of corruption in public office and the administration, it seems that the law has not been effectively implemented and that corruption exists at all levels and branches of government. According to the World Bank's latest study *World Wide Governance Indicators* corruption is a serious problem and the situation has deteriorated over time. *Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index* ranks Guinea-Bissau as no 161 of 174 countries.

Sweden recommends Guinea-Bissau:

- 1) to take concrete steps to ensure the independence of the judiciary,
- 2) to provide adequate resources, including taking capacity building measures, to enable the judiciary and the legal authorities to function properly,
- 3) to create a legal framework that gives sufficient protection for "whistleblowers" testifying in crimes related to corruption,
- 4) to take measures to increase transparency in public administration in order to instill trust among the general public hence contributing to stability in the Guinean society,

5) to provide enough financial and personnel resources to enable the Attorney General's office, as well as law enforcement authorities, to fight corruption in the country.

Thank you, Mr. President