



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Lesotho

*Delivered by Minister-Counsellor Josefin Simonsson Brodén
Geneva, January 21, 2015 (speaking time 2 min)*

Mr President,

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

Following a political stale-mate in Parliament in the end of 2013, Prime Minister Thabane responded to a threat of a no confidence-motion in Parliament, by resolving the Parliament. The situation escalated months later, Parliament still resolved, into an attempt of a *coup d'état* in August 2014, led by the army and an opposition party. Following the active involvement of SADC the situation was eventually stabilized by the Maseru Facilitation Declaration, which stipulates elections to take place in February 2015. In October, the earlier agreement was followed by the Maseru Security Accord, which in practice temporarily sent the chief of the army and the chief of the police out of the country, in order to ease tensions before the elections. It also stipulates that the police and the military leaders have undersigned to actively work against further confrontation and to be governed by civil and democratic rule, and that SADC should continue to support security sector reform in the country and continue to monitor the security situation in the country.

-Sweden recommends Lesotho to implement the Maseru Facilitation Declaration and the Maseru Security Accord, and thereby to reestablish the ground for democratic and civil governance in the country, after elections in February 2015.

Moreover, Lesotho still has the death penalty laws, although no one has been executed since the year 1995.

-Sweden recommends Lesotho to abolish the death penalty.

Thank you, Mr. President