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(Check against delivery)

Bangladesh intervention on the UPR of Sweden

Sweden is one of a small number of countries that have exceeded the UN target of ODA. We commend the government of Sweden for exceeding the UN target of ODA.

Bangladesh delegation also commends the national report of Sweden that candidly acknowledges the persistence of racial discrimination, xenophobia and islamophobia.

Despite some efforts adopted by Sweden to curb these challenges, treaty bodies and special procedures have raised concerns that require serious reflection.

Despite existing legislation prohibiting all forms of racist expression, including advocating racial discrimination, CERD is concerned that racist and extremist organizations continue to function. CERD expressed concern at increase of racially motivated hate speech against religious minorities, and Afro-Swedes and Roma, particularly, by some far-right politicians and in the media and Internet.

We **recommend** that Sweden, -

1. Continues to maintain its level, framework and channel of official development assistance;
2. amends legislation, in line with CERD recommendations to provide for the possibility of adopting special measures to promote equal opportunities, and address structural discrimination and inequality faced by immigrants, and minority groups, including Afro-Swedes and Muslims
3. adopts effective measures as per CERD recommendation to combat hate speech in the media and on the Internet.
