



UPR 21st session

Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Turkey

*Delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck,
Geneva, January 27, 2015*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes the Turkish delegation to the UPR working group.

Sweden recognizes steps taken by Turkey to strengthen the protection of freedom of expression, the media and the Internet. However, Turkish media personnel have alleged that Turkish authorities increasingly have resorted to informally contacting media outlets, to downplay coverage, or to fire reporters or columnists and that this practice often results in self-censorship. Sweden recommends Turkey to take measures to further ensure the independence and freedom of the media.

We note that despite several institutional efforts the situation for women lags behind, for example concerning participation in the workforce and gender-related violence. Sweden recommends Turkey to take necessary measures, in putting law into practice, to further ensure the implementation on gender equality.

Despite a national programme against child labour, almost 6 percent of children between the age of 6 and 17 work. Sweden recommends Turkey to take measures in law and in practice to decrease child labour, most notably regarding hazardous work.

20 percent of the girls below the age of 18 are married, whereas the same is true for only 2 percent of the boys. Sweden recommends Turkey to take measures in law and in practice to decrease child marriage, most notably among girls.

Thank you, Mr. President