



**Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on the
Maldives**

*Delivered by Counsellor Ms Anna Jakenberg Brinck,
Geneva, May 6, 2015*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes the delegation from the Maldives to the UPR and thank them for the presentation of the national report.

In its latest consideration of the Maldives in March 2015, the CEDAW-committee noted positive steps taken in the legislative and the institutional field to combat discrimination and violence against women. However CEDAW also expressed that the Convention has yet to be incorporated into the domestic legal system and therefore cannot be applied by the courts.

Sweden recommends the Maldives to take all necessary measures to ensure the elimination of violence and discrimination against women, and take steps to ensure the full incorporation of the Convention into its legal system.

The principles of fair trial and due process are cornerstones of human rights and the rule of law. The UN Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers in March 2015 warned of a seriously deteriorating situation in the independence of the justice system in the Maldives. She furthermore urged the authorities to consider the recommendations put forward in her 2013 report (A/HRC/23/43/Add.3).

Sweden recommends the Maldives to take all necessary measures to ensure the rule of law and the right to due process as enshrined in article 14 of the ICCPR.