



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

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

**Mr President,**

Sweden welcomes the delegation from Panama to the UPR and thank them for the presentation of the national report. We also look forward to responses on our advance questions.

Sweden notes that the Family Code as well as the Civil Code in Panama provides the right to "correct" children by, for instance, using corporal punishment.

Sweden recommends Panama to explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home, and repeal the power to "correct" in the Family Code and the Civil Code.

Child labour is common in Panama and many children end school in advance in order to contribute to the breadwinning of their families. The minimum age for labour is 14, and 15 for children who have not finished school. According to credible reports, 7 percent of all children between the ages of 5 and 14 work, foremost within agriculture and the informal sector in urban areas. Indigenous children are highly overrepresented – around one fourth of all indigenous children between the age of 5 and 17 are estimated to work.

Sweden recommends Panama to take appropriate measures to end illegal child labour, not least concerning indigenous children.