



UPR 23rd session

Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Lebanon

*Delivered by Minister-Counsellor Josefin Simonsson Brodén
Geneva, November 2, 2015 (speaking time 1 min 25 sec)*

Mr President,

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

The fact that citizenship is transferred from father to child, but not from mother to child, has resulted in some children being born and growing up stateless, and unprotected by some key Lebanese laws. The citizenship law is also a factor in the discrimination of women. The freedom of association is protected by law in Lebanon but is also subject to some conditions. In order for an association to be considered legal, the Interior Ministry must verify it, and the criteria that an association must meet are not applied consistently. Political parties must obtain a license from the cabinet. Trade unions are under an even stricter regime under the 1946 Labour Code, as authorization and supervision hampers both formation and operation. Lebanese LGBT persons face discrimination by both society and law, which prohibits “unnatural sexual intercourse”, punishable by prison but most often resulting in a fine. There are no statistics, and social stigma leads to LGBT persons not reporting incidents of abuse and violence.

Sweden recommends to the Government of Lebanon the following:

- 1) to take further measures to eradicate discrimination against women, as prescribed by Article 3 of the ICCPR, by considering the withdrawal of its reservation to Article 9 of the CEDAW and allowing women to pass on citizenship to their children in the same manner as men.
- 2) to safeguard the democratic nature of Lebanon, as prescribed by Article 25 of the ICCPR, by carrying out local elections as planned, without delay, as well as by urgently facilitating the appointment of a president and the holding of a parliamentary election.
- 3) to ratify ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, and implement it to ensure the right of all workers to freely organize.
- 4) to secure the human rights of LGBT persons by amending Article 534 of the Lebanese Penal Code and by codifying a protection against the discrimination of LGBT persons into law.

Thank you, Mr. President