



UPR 23rd session

Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Oman

*Delivered by Minister-Counsellor Josefin Simonsson Brodén  
Geneva, November 5, 2015 (speaking time 1 min 25 sec)*

Mr President,

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

The Omani Citizenship Law allows women married to non-Omani men to transfer citizenship to their children only under strict conditions. The Government of Oman has taken steps to reduce discrimination against women, and has ratified CEDAW, but with a number of reservations relating mainly to personal status rights. Female genital mutilation is prohibited in hospitals and clinics, but is not explicitly forbidden by law, although the Ministry of Social Development claims that the legal prohibition is included in the language of the Child Law. Reports have shown that FGM is broadly accepted and is a common phenomenon throughout rural areas of Oman. Omani law provides for limited freedom of speech. The UN special rapporteur on rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association has described an inhibiting climate.

Sweden recommends to the Government of Oman the following:

- 1) to take further measures to eradicate discrimination against women, as prescribed by Article 17 of the Omani Basic Statute of the State, as well as by the positive remarks made during the previous round of the UPR in 2011, by considering the withdrawal of its reservation to Article 9 of the CEDAW and allowing women to pass on their citizenship to their children in the same manner as men.
- 2) to further ensure, in accordance with the positive stated ambitions of the previous round of the UPR and Omani practice, the well-being of Omani girls by formally and explicitly encode the prohibition against female genital mutilation into the Child Law, accompanied by a public information campaign.
- 3) to safeguard the right to opinion and speech, as prescribed by Article 29 of the Omani Basic Statute of the State, by reviewing current legislation and working towards specifying its limits and boundaries in a clear and consistent manner.