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Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Denmark

*Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Veronika Bard
Geneva, January 21, 2016 (speaking time 1.25 mins)*

Mr Vice President,

Sweden wishes to welcome Foreign Minister Jensen and the delegation of Denmark. We express our thanks for the information provided in response to our advance questions.

Sweden commends Denmark for its efforts to improve gender equality. Still – and judging from our own national experience in Sweden – there are areas where continuous improvement is needed to achieve equal opportunities for men and women. For instance, Danish fathers only make use of 10 percent of the parental leave. There is also a notable gender pay gap.

While recognizing the challenges of changing societal attitudes, Sweden is concerned about the tendency of public discourse in Denmark to be prejudiced towards migrants, sometimes even amounting to hate speech.

Sweden recommends the Government of Denmark:

First: To take further active steps to create equal opportunities for both men and women in the labour market, and to bridge the gender wage gap.

Second: To intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination based on ethnicity, including by improving access to justice for victims of ethnic discrimination.

We wish Denmark all success in this UPR process.

Thank you Mr. Vice President