



UPR 24th session

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

*Delivered by Minister-Counsellor Josefin Simonsson Brodén*

*Geneva, January 19, 2016 (speaking time 1 min 15 sec)*

Mr President,

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

Mozambique has the 10<sup>th</sup> highest rate of child marriage in the world and 48 percent of marriages involve a person under the age of 18. While marriage before the age of 18 is illegal, early marriage is not punished by law and current legislation allows marriage from the age of 16 with parental consent. Sweden welcomes the Mozambican government's commitment in combating early marriage through the new National Strategy.

Reports of excessive use of force by the police as well as arbitrary detentions were brought forward during the UPR in 2011. New cases as well as the failure to bring perpetrators to justice suggest that the recommendations in this area have not been fully implemented.

The revised penal code which entered into force in June 2015 does not criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults, and removed references to "acts against nature." However, the legislation does not include provisions outlawing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sweden recommends the Government of Mozambique:

- 1) to fully outlaw marriage before the age of 18 without exceptions in accordance with its international obligations,
- 2) to take concrete measures to fulfill its obligations under CAT and to accept the request of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to visit the country,
- 3) to adopt legislation to specifically prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you, Mr. President