



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Paraguay

*Delivered by Dr Jannie Lilja, First Secretary
Geneva, January 20, 2016 (speaking time 1.35 mins)*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation of Paraguay and express our thanks for the information provided in response to our advance questions.

Sweden recommends the Government of Paraguay:

1. To adopt a law against all forms of discrimination, including sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. To ensure the protection of human rights defenders in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
3. To adopt a national action plan to combat gender based and sexual violence, which includes raising general awareness through education and training, developing official and credible statistics and ensuring access to justice for victims.

Sweden is deeply concerned about the situation in Paraguay when it comes to gender based and sexual violence. We note that an alarmingly high rate of the victims of sexual violence are young girls and boys under the age of 18.

In the previous review, Sweden and others made recommendations on the rights of LGBTI persons. Paraguay accepted these. However, recent reports describe an almost worsening situation with widespread discrimination and little efforts undertaken to address the human rights violations that LGBTI persons are subjected to.

Thank you Mr. President