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**24th Session of the UPR working group**

**Recommendations by Finland to Somalia**

**22 January 2016**

Mr. President,

Finland wishes to thank Somalia for its national report as well as for the efforts made to improve the country's human rights situation.

We would like to commend Somalia for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and we encourage Somalia to remove all reservations made upon ratification.

Finland presents the following two recommendations:

**First, Finland recommends Somalia to ensure the right to freedom of expression in the soon to be reviewed provisional constitution and in its federal and regional media legislation.**

**Second, Finland recommends Somalia to take concrete measures to end violence against women by implementing the National Action Plan to end sexual violence and by investigating and prosecuting alleged violations, including when perpetrated by military and security personnel, in accordance with international law.**

In addition to the recommendations, Finland acknowledges Somalia's intention to establish a National Human Rights Commission. We want to encourage Somalia to establish this Commission and to ensure that the institution becomes robust and truly independent, so that it could play a crucial role in the protection and promotion of human rights of the Somali people.

Finally, Finland opposes death penalty in any circumstances. We call upon the authorities to halt executions and apply a moratorium of the death penalty.

Thank you.