



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

*Delivered by H E Excellency Veronika Bard Bringeus  
Geneva, January 22, 2016 (speaking time 1 min 20 sec)*

Mr President,

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

Sweden would like to give the following recommendations to the Federal Government of Somalia:

- 1) to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),
- 2) to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and to enact and enforce laws and regulations that prohibit all forms of violence against women,
- 3) to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of senior political and military leaders with command responsibility for violations of international human rights law and ensure civilian oversight of the Federal Government of Somalia security forces,
- 4) to ensure that the establishment of the Independent Human Rights Commission Bill is Paris Principle compliant and that the establishment is in line with a transparent and inclusive nomination and appointment process.

There has been little change in the pattern and scale of allegations of sexual and gender based violence in Somalia and armed actors remain the main perpetrators of rape by a stranger. While the full scope of sexual violence in Somalia remains unknown, it is clear that internally displaced women and girls are particularly vulnerable. The right to remedy is rarely fulfilled.

Sweden welcomes steps taken towards improving the national framework of prevention and redress for sexual and gender based violence crimes. Sexual Offences Bills are under development at different stages at the federal level, and regionally in Somaliland, Puntland and the IJA. However, The National Action Plan for Sexual