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**United Nations Human Rights Council
15th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 23 January 2013

**German questions and recommendations to
Bahamas**

Mister President,

We commend the government of the Bahamas for its commitment to improving the human rights situation in the Bahamas.

Germany welcomes the introduction into Parliament of a bill to amend the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act in July 2009 which criminalizes rape within marriage. However, there is cause for concern because the bill has not been debated in Parliament since then and **Germany would like to know when the Government of the Bahamas expects the bill to enter into force and which further steps the government will take to tackle marital rape.**

Germany is equally concerned over allegations of excessive use of force by the security forces in the Bahamas during arrests and detentions as well as the lack of an independent body to investigate allegations of ill-treatment involving police officers. **Germany therefore would like to ask what measures the Government of the Bahamas is planning take to ensure that all complaints of excessive use of force by the security forces are investigated immediately and independently and, if state agents are charged with misconduct, that their cases are brought to a fair trial in line with international standards.**

Germany would like to make the following recommendations to the Bahamas:

- 1. Germany recommends to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.**
- 2. Germany recommends to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol.**

I thank you Mister President.