



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
15th Session of the UPR Working Group
Geneva, 28 January 2013**

**German questions and recommendations to the
United Arab Emirates**

Statement

by

**H.E. Ambassador Hanns H. Schumacher
Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations**

Mister President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and express our appreciation for the comprehensive report on the human rights situation in your country.

Germany would like to ask the following questions:

- 1.) Concerning the United Arab Emirates' ratification of international conventions, Germany noted with satisfaction that the United Arab Emirates have acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Germany would like to know how far the process of accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict has already advanced and within what timeframe the UAE intend to ratify the aforementioned protocols.

- 2.) Germany welcomes the steps undertaken by the UAE with regard to the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles. **What is the current state of play?**
- 3.) Finally, with regard to recent legislation concerning combating information technology crimes, **does the legislation contain safeguards against undue infringements on freedom of expression?**

Germany welcomes recent steps taken by the UAE Government concerning the strengthening of the legal and social status of women, especially the modifications to national laws on citizenship that enable female citizens married to non-citizens in principle to pass on their nationality to their children.

- 1.) Germany encourages the UAE to take further steps in that direction and recommends that the UAE Government take decisive action to promote the rights of female citizens in order to achieve legal equality between men and women in terms of marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody.
- 2.) In addition, Germany would like to recommend amending the Penal Code in order to repeal the right of a husband to punish his wife and the right of parents or custodians to punish their minor children by means of physical violence or coercion.

I thank you Mister President.