



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
16th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 30 April 2013

**German questions and recommendations to
Azerbaijan**

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

Mister President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Azerbaijan to the second cycle of the UPR and thanks Azerbaijan for its national report.

Germany appreciates the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2009.

However, Germany remains strongly concerned about reports on violations of the freedom of association and peaceful assembly, intimidations of journalists and media workers as well as harsh restrictions for NGOs and civil society organizations.

According to Resolution 1917 of January 2013 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Azerbaijan has taken over the responsibility to “find a compromise solution to allow protest actions in some areas of Baku city centre, complying with security requirements and acceptable for both the organizers and the authorities”. We would like to ask the Delegation of Azerbaijan how this compromise solution is going to look like and when it will be implemented.

According to the same resolution, Azerbaijan has taken over the responsibility to improve and facilitate the registration procedures for international NGOs. We would be interested to learn more about concrete steps that are planned in order to facilitate the registration procedure.

Germany would like to offer the following recommendations:

- 1. Allow protest actions in Baku city in accordance with the aforementioned resolution and replace the pre-approval requirement with a notification requirement for these protest actions.**
- 2. Eliminate the practice of unlawful postponement and of refusal to register NGOs, including international NGOs and those critical to the government and defending human rights.**
- 3. Ensure that journalists and media workers are able to work freely and without governmental intimidations.**

I thank you Mister President

