



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

79

**United Nations Human Rights Council
16th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 29 April 2013

**German questions and recommendations to
Bangladesh**

Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Hanns H. Schumacher

**Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations**

Mr. Brown
Consul

Mister President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Bangladesh and to express our appreciation for the comprehensive report on the human rights situation in the country.

Germany noted and welcomes the steps taken by the Bangladeshi Government since the first cycle of the UPR concerning discrimination and violence against women as well as the misconduct of police authorities and subsequent impunity. We note however little change with regard to the actual situation on the ground.

Germany therefore reiterates its recommendations from the first cycle of the UPR, namely that Bangladesh

- a. continue combating discrimination and violence against women and girls by enacting effective laws and implementing them effectively;**
- b. adopt without delay a uniform Family Code that fully complies with the provisions of CEDAW, and**
- c. fight impunity and hold all officers and persons acting on behalf of the authorities accountable for all acts of torture and harassment of civilians.**

In this last regard Germany would like to further recommend that Bangladesh ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel and Inhumane Treatment or Punishment.

While noting the positive steps undertaken by the Bangladeshi Government in the framework of its Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2010,

Germany would also like to recommend that Bangladesh take concrete legislative measures to improve occupational health and safety, including fire safety and protection against toxic chemicals, and to safeguard the rights of workers, such as the freedom of association and the minimum age of admission to employment as laid out by ILO Convention No. 138, in a comprehensive manner.

I thank you Mister President.

Advance Question

1. What further steps does the Government of Bangladesh undertake in order to provide the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh with full independence and to help the Commission to obtain A-status and to comply fully with the Paris Principles?
2. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) welcomed Bangladesh's willingness to consider withdrawing its reservations to articles 2 and 16.1(c) of the Convention. What is the current state of play in this regard?
3. How does the Government of Bangladesh intend to meet its reporting obligations under international treaty law? In particular, when does Bangladesh intend to submit its long overdue reports to the CERD, the CESCR, the Human Rights Committee, the CAT, the CRPD, and the CMW?
4. Are there any plans by the Government of Bangladesh to extend a standing invitation to United Nations special procedures? If not, what obstacles remain in the way of such an invitation?