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**German questions and recommendations to
Cuba**

Statement

by

**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 Cuba to the second cycle of the UPR and thanks Cuba for its national report.

Germany appreciates the efforts taken by the Cuban Government concerning the rights of LGBT people, in particular the implementation of an educational strategy on respect for freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity led by the National Sex Education Centre (CENESEX).

Germany remains deeply concerned about ongoing restrictions that hinder citizens from accessing the internet, including censorship of critical websites.

Germany takes note of the legalization of a number of business activities in Cuba. However, we are worried about continuing reports of deficits in implementing the Right to Adequate Housing. We would be interested to learn more about concrete steps envisaged to improve the housing situation of the citizens of Cuba.

Germany would also appreciate further information on the Cuban efforts to promote civil and political rights for the benefit of all Cubans. In this respect, we would be in particular interested in the ratification and envisaged implementation process of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), that was signed by the Cuban government in 2008.

Germany offers the following recommendations to the Government of Cuba:

1. **Take measures to promote the freedom of press and the freedom of opinion and expression, including by putting an end to online censorship.**
2. **Take further steps to ensure the establishment of a general, unrestricted and affordable access to the internet for all citizens, including by making use of the existing underwater high speed broadband cable.**
3. **Ratify the ICCPR and the ICESCR and implement their provisions.**
4. **Refrain from the harassment, intimidation and arbitrary detention of human rights activists. Strengthen the independence of the judicial system and guarantee due process rights of detainees and the right to a fair trial.**

I thank you Mister President.

Question in advance:

1. Does the Government of Cuba plan to extend a standing invitation to UN Human Rights special procedures? If not, what obstacles remain in the way for such an invitation?

