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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  
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**Geneva, 29 April 2013**

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**German questions and recommendations to the  
Russian Federation**

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

Germany welcomes the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012. We would like to encourage the Russian Federation to continue this path by fully implementing the resolution and taking the necessary measures to tackle the continuing stigmatization of persons with disabilities.

Germany is profoundly concerned by the recent large-scale actions against civil society and non-governmental organizations in Russia, including the raids of offices of German political foundations. Concerted campaigns that limit the ability of NGOs and civil society to fulfill their important role are unacceptable. Instead of intimidating these organizations, they should be engaged with in a constructive dialogue. We would like to ask the Russian Delegation what measures are in place - or might be foreseen - to support and facilitate the work of NGOs in Russia, including with regard to the international cooperation of civil society.

Germany is of the view that an efficient, functioning and independent judicial system is indispensable to guarantee the protection of Human Rights. In this context, an effective action against procedural breaches that undermine the right to a fair trial would be a key achievement. We would be interested to learn more from the Russian Delegation how the independence of investigating authorities and judges in the Russian Federation can be further strengthened.

In addition, we would be interested to learn what mechanisms are in place to assure that security forces act in compliance with their human rights obligations,

especially in Northern Caucasus, and what measures are undertaken to raise awareness in the society about these obligations.

Germany is also worried by regional legislation that aims to ban so called "homosexual propaganda" and by reports about widespread discrimination of LGBT people.

**Germany offers the following recommendations to the Russian Federation:**

- 1. Review legislation according to which NGOs that accept foreign funding must register and identify themselves as "foreign agents" and simplify NGO registration. Reduce state control of NGOs and political foundations and facilitate a free working environment for them.**
- 2. Establish an independent body responsible for the appointment, promotion, transfer and discharge of judges.**
- 3. Sign and ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT).**
- 4. Refrain from adopting legislation that contribute to discrimination of people on grounds of their sexual orientation. Instead, adopt legislation assuring that LGBT people can freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.**
- 5. Develop, in close cooperation with civil society, a concept to increase the knowledge and awareness in society, and particular within state institutions, about human rights obligations of the state and rights of the people.**

I thank you Mister President.

**Questions in advance:**

1. What concrete measures are foreseen by the Russian Federation to improve the protection of journalists, media workers and human rights defenders that report about the violation of human rights, especially in Northern Caucasus.
2. How does Russia prevent constraints on the freedom of speech in the internet through a restrictive use of youth protection provisions?