



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

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16th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 24 April 2013

**German questions and recommendations to
Tuvalu**

Marc Helwig

Madam

~~Minister~~ President,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the delegation of Tuvalu and to express our appreciation for the extraordinary efforts made by the delegation to come to Geneva and present Tuvalu's comprehensive national report to the Working Group.

Germany welcomes the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation to Tuvalu and is looking forward to her report.

In 2010, the Parliament of Tuvalu passed the Constitution Amendment Act on Recognition of Traditional Standards, Values and Practices. The purpose of the Act is, amongst others, to "protect the island communities of Tuvalu from the spread of religious beliefs which threaten the cohesiveness of island communities".

Germany would like to know how the Government of Tuvalu intends to guarantee the right of every person to freedom of religion or belief in the application of the aforementioned law.

Germany noted and welcomes the recent steps by the Tuvaluan Government concerning the strengthening of the legal and social status of women, especially through the Tuvalu National Women's Policy. We note however with great concern, that still neither the Tuvaluan Constitution nor other legislation embodies the principle of equality between women and men nor contains a definition of discrimination against women, as also pointed out by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Germany therefore recommends that the Tuvaluan Government amend section 27 paragraph 1 of the Constitution, incorporate into the legislation the principle of equality between women and men and a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex as well as enact legislation to enforce the prohibition of discrimination.

Germany would like to recommend further that Tuvalu step up its recent efforts and ratify the core human rights treaties and other main relevant international instruments.

Madam

I thank you ~~Minister~~ President.

Advance Questions

1. Has the office of the Ombudsman or a national commission for human rights and a human rights office been established? What is the current state of play?
2. What has been done to improve public awareness of human rights?
3. Has there been a change in the criminal law in order to increase the threat of punishment in the case of sexual abuse of male children?
4. What measures have been undertaken in order to educate the Tuvaluan people about their rights to receive and communicate information?

