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**German questions and recommendations to
Uzbekistan**

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

Germany commends Uzbekistan on progress achieved in curbing child labour during the cotton harvest 2012 with evidence suggesting that no organised and systematic involvement of children below the age of 15 years of age took place. Yet the situation remains worrying. Reports about continued wide-spread use of forced labour of children above 15 and of adults are of great concern and Germany would like to be informed about measures taken by the government to address this situation adequately.

Germany is further concerned about the difficulties civil society organizations and NGOs are facing when trying to register with state authorities and in conducting their work.

At the same time, Germany reiterates its concern of the first UPR cycle regarding continuing reports of torture exercised by state agents as well as the holding of political prisoners. In view of the decision of the ICRC to terminate visits to places of detention in Uzbekistan, Germany calls on Uzbekistan to cooperate with the ICRC in order to provide it with working conditions in accordance with international standards and allow unrestricted access to Uzbek detention facilities.

Germany offers the following recommendations to the Government of Uzbekistan:

- 1. Ensure that civil society organisations and NGOs can work freely and unhindered by undue restrictions, including prohibitive**

registrations requirements, burdensome programme approval and authorization regulations as well as censorship of printed materials.

2. Invite a tripartite ILO monitoring mission to monitor the situation during the cotton harvest with regard to its compliance with labour Conventions of which Uzbekistan is party.

3. Take all necessary measures to prevent torture. Accept the longstanding request of Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit Uzbekistan. Allow the ICRC unrestricted access to all penitentiary facilities, including pre-detention facilities, and provide it with appropriate working conditions in order to enable it to resume its visits terminated in April 2013.

4. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture as well as the Convention on Enforced Disappearance.

I thank you Mister President.

Questions in advance:

Germany is interested to know how the government of Uzbekistan plans to further protect and ensure a free working environment for independent civil society organizations and NGOs.

Germany would like to know what measures the government of Uzbekistan foresees to address reports on wide spread forced and child labour during cotton harvest periods.

