



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  
17th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 28 October 2013**

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**German questions and recommendations to  
Belize**

**Statement  
by  
Germany**

Mister President,

Germany welcomes the National Report prepared by Belize in advance of its UPR. My government recognizes many of the challenges and resource constraints that you face. We are, however, truly concerned that you have not implemented many recommendations that you accepted in 2009.

Following through on such accepted recommendations will ultimately strengthen our work here in the Human Rights Council. That is why Germany expects that the Government of Belize will continue to be sincere in its intention to implement its accepted first cycle recommendations.

We would like to seize this opportunity to make two recommendations to the Government of Belize:

First, we recommend that the Government of Belize review and adapt its Constitution and laws to ensure that discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited.

Second, we recommend that a National Human Rights Institution be established in line with the Paris Principles and that the Government of Belize set out a detailed roadmap to this effect so that the Institute may commence its work at the earliest possible opportunity.

Thank you, Mister President.

**Question in advance:**

1. Germany is concerned by the failure of the Government of Belize to submit its initial reports to the CERD and the Human Rights Committee. While the Government of Belize accepted our recommendation on this very same point in the Universal Periodic Review of 2009, no reports have been forthcoming. Is the Government of Belize planning to submit any such reports in the future? In what areas can the Government of Belize identify the need for technical assistance in order to produce such reports?
2. Germany is concerned that the Human Rights Committee noted that Belize has no constitutional or statutory provision that expressly forbids discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. Moreover, we are concerned that not only does the Criminal Code penalize same-sex relations but that homosexuality is also a ground for refusing entry to the country. Does the Government of Belize believe its laws are in line with its obligations under international human rights instruments? Is the Government of Belize taking any steps to review its constitution and legislation to ensure that discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited?

