



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, 27 January 2014**

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**German questions and Recommendations to Afghanistan**

**German National Statement**

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan to the UPR and commends the efforts by the government of Afghanistan to improve the human rights situation in the country and the considerable progress made. Germany favourably observes that knowledge and awareness of human rights has risen in Afghanistan and that, in particular, a rising number of women rely on their human rights and actively engage in the society. At the same time, considerable challenges remain, especially with respect to the security situation and the effective implementation of the law. Violence against women and a clear commitment to gender equality by all parts of society remain particular challenges.

Germany would like to address the following recommendations to Afghanistan:

1. To ensure early presentation of the report on the implementation of the Law for the Elimination of Violence against Women, effective and nation-wide implementation of that Law and comprehensive collection of data, monitoring and evaluation to further identify weaknesses in implementation, and to ensure continuing conformity of the Law for the Elimination of Violence against Women with CEDAW;
2. To adequately resource the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and to design the Commissioners nomination process in a way to ensure the A status of the Commission under the Paris Principles;
3. To take effective measures to combat child labour and sexual exploitation of children as well as forced marriages;
4. To energetically drive forward judicial reform, combat corruption and enhance the capacity of the judiciary;
5. To decisively take issue with human rights violations and war crimes of the past decades with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice and ensure recognition and redress for the victims;
6. To continue the efforts to eliminate torture and effectively implement the Convention Against Torture.

Germany has submitted the following advance questions:

1. What measures does the government intend to take in order to ensure that the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission retain its A status under the Paris Principles for National Human Rights Institutions?
2. When does the government of Afghanistan intend to present the report on the implementation of the Law for the Elimination of Violence against Women? Which steps does the government intend to take in order to ensure the effective implementation of that law?
3. Germany notes that the situation of many children in Afghanistan raises human rights concerns, including high child mortality and malnutrition rates, child work, the situation in prisons and in orphanages, access to education, sexual abuse of girls and boys, early and forced marriages and the situation of street children. What does the government of Afghanistan do to improve the human rights situation for children in the country?

