



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
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Geneva, 31.01.2014

**German recommendations to
Comoros**

**German National Statement
Delivered by Ambassador T. Fitschen**

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of Comoros for the report presented today.

We welcome the steps undertaken by the government of Comoros to strengthen the human rights situation in the country, including the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms and the setting-up of an Anti-Corruption Commission. We particularly welcome the observation of a de facto moratorium and the intention stated in the national report to formally abolish the death penalty.

Despite the progress achieved, we remain particularly worried by reports of human rights violations occurring in prisons, including excessive length of detention, overcrowding, lack of food, health infrastructure and sanitation facilities.

Germany would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To proceed with the formal abolition of the death penalty and to sign and ratify the 2nd Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
2. To take steps to improve detention conditions of prisoners and strengthen independent control mechanisms. Special emphasis should be put on the identification of alternative approaches to imprisonment, as well as on the societal reintegration of prisoners.
3. To uphold the educational concept for minors sentenced to youth custody and to maintain separate detention facilities for minors.
4. To establish shelters and other facilities for victims of violence, including domestic and sexual violence, and to ensure their adequate medical, psychological, legal and financial support, and to combat domestic and sexual violence through, *inter alia*, public awareness campaigns, education, and the promotion of equal and non-discriminatory access to employment opportunities, health infrastructure, water and sanitation facilities, and justice.

Thank you, Mr. President.