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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  
18th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 5.02.2014**

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**German questions and recommendations to  
Vietnam**

**German National Statement**

Mr. President,

Germany commends Vietnam for the considerable progress made, in particular its achievements in the fight against poverty, the construction of schools and hospitals. Germany welcomes Vietnam's signing of the Convention against Torture in November 2013 and encourages Vietnam to work towards a rapid national implementation. Germany also commends Vietnam's recent decision to decriminalize homosexual partnerships and would like to enquire what further steps are planned to combat discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in practice.

Germany congratulates Vietnam for having been elected member of the Human Rights Council and recalls that membership goes along with an increased responsibility for respecting and defending human rights in one's own country. We trust that Vietnam is willing to accept this challenge.

We remain deeply concerned in a number of areas and would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Further reduce the number of crimes carrying the death penalty, publish figures on death verdicts and executions and initiate a public debate with a view to a moratorium and eventual abolition;
2. Immediately release all prisoners held in arbitrary detention and recompense them as requested by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.
3. Restricting civil society from participating in the UPR preparatory process is not acceptable. We urge Vietnam to fulfill its obligations from the ICCPR and fully guarantee the freedom of assembly and freedom of expression on the internet as well as offline to all of its citizens.
4. Finally, we recommend that Vietnam extends a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders.

Thank you, Mr. President.