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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
19th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 7 May 2014

**German questions and recommendations to
Nicaragua**

**National Statement
by
Germany**

Mr. President,

Germany notes that Nicaragua has taken efforts to implement a number of recommendations made during the country's first periodic review, in particular changes in the penal code with regard to violence against children, improvements in medical care and access to public education.

Germany is concerned, however, about some developments that may undermine Nicaragua's ICCPR obligations.

We also deplore lack of progress with regard to decriminalization of abortion.

Therefore, we address the following recommendations to the Government of Nicaragua:

First, we recommend once again revising legislation to decriminalize abortion in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest and in cases where the life or health of the mother is at risk.

Second, we recommend that the Government of Nicaragua ensure that members of the political opposition, civil society organizations as well as journalists are free to express their views and opinions, including guarantees for their rights to freedom of assembly.

Thirdly, we recommend steps to strengthen the judiciary, by increasing its independence and ensuring compliance with selection and appointment

procedures in competitive examinations and working with the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Questions in advance:

- 1) Germany is closely following the constitutional reform adopted in February 2014. What is the Government's assessment of the impact of the constitutional changes not only in regard to the separation of powers, but also on the enjoyment of human rights, such as freedom of assembly and expression?
- 2) How is the Government of Nicaragua addressing rape and sexual abuse of girls and what steps is it taking to prevent such crimes occurring and how is it protecting survivors and bringing perpetrators to justice? What services does it provide to ensure physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of survivors?

