



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
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to the other International Organizations
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
19th Session of the UPR Working Group**

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**German questions and recommendations to
Portugal**

German National Statement

By

H.E. Mr. Hanns H. Schumacher

Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mister President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Portugal and commends Portugal's efforts to address challenges that were highlighted during the first UPR cycle. Germany further recognizes the very good human rights situation in the country and particularly welcomes the recently initiated judicial reform that aims to enhance the efficiency of the justice system.

Germany would like to ask Portugal the following questions:

1. Does the judicial reform also entail concrete measures that aim to reduce pretrial detention time as suggested by the Human Rights Committee?
2. Which steps has Portugal undertaken to combat trafficking in persons more effectively and to ensure that offenders are held accountable?
3. And lastly, Germany would be interested to learn more about the impact of Portugal's strategy for the inclusion of Roma communities that was launched in 2011. In which way living conditions and access to social services have improved since then? What are the main challenges ahead?

Thank you.

Please find attached the advance questions for the UPR of Portugal submitted by Germany.

1. In light of concerns that Portugal is a destination, transit and source country for human trafficking, which steps have been taken to combat trafficking in persons more effectively? As noted by the Committee against Torture, there have been very few prosecutions of offenders. Does Portugal plan to allocate more resources to the active investigation and prosecution of this kind of criminal act?
2. In 2011, Portugal launched a strategy for the inclusion of Roma communities. Was there a notable reduction in discrimination and stigma as a result of the strategy? How have living conditions and access to social services, particularly to education and adequate housing, improved since then?
3. With regard to the judicial reform recently initiated by Portugal, does the reform also aim at reducing pretrial detention time as recommended by the Human Rights Committee? Which other measures is Portugal proposing to improve judicial efficiency and until when does Portugal intend to implement these measures?

