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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  
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**United Nations Human Rights Council  
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**Geneva, 07 May 2014**

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**German recommendations to  
Qatar**

**Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Schumacher**

Mister President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Qatar and acknowledges first steps taken to heed the recommendations of the last cycle, most notably the recent adoption of labor welfare standards that aim to protect workers' rights.

We would like to thank the delegation for the information provided in its opening statement, including regarding the questions submitted by Germany in advance.

Germany wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Germany recommends that Qatar accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).
2. Germany recommends that Qatar take effective action to ensure full protection of women from discrimination and gender-based violence, including by criminalizing domestic violence against women. Germany also recommends the adoption of legal measures to guarantee full gender equality and recommends in this context that Qatar consider withdrawing its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
3. Germany recommends that Qatar respect the right to freedom of opinion and expression as accepted during the previous UPR cycle, and that the state refrain from any undue restrictions to this right, including with regard to the new draft media law.

I thank you Mr. President.

Questions submitted in advance:

1. During the first UPR cycle, Qatar accepted the recommendation to protect migrant workers from exploitation and to ensure they enjoy freedom of movement as well as an adequate standard of living. How does the state intend to ensure that the newly adopted welfare standards will be comprehensively and effectively implemented? How will non-compliance by employers and contractors be sanctioned? Is Qatar also planning to conduct an awareness campaign among foreign workers in order to make sure they are informed about their rights?
2. Given the fact that Qatari labor laws do not apply to domestic workers, is the state planning to take legal action that would protect domestic workers from exploitation and abuse? If not, how does the state intend to ensure that its labor laws are in line with international law and with widely accepted minimum standards?
3. After her visit to Doha in January 2014, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers pointed out that a considerable number of judges do not hold Qatari citizenship and are thus susceptible to influence by the authorities who decide on their residency status. Which measures is Qatar taking in order to ensure and safeguard the independence of the judiciary?

