



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
20th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 28.10.2014

**German recommendations to
The Gambia**

German National Statement

Thank you, Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the delegation and thanks his Excellency for the presentation of the national report this morning.

Germany remains deeply concerned about the overall human rights situation in the Gambia and urges the government to improve its cooperation with the UN human rights system, as well as with regional human rights institutions. We further urge the government to implement all recommendations still outstanding from the 1st UPR cycle.

Germany also noted with great concern the amendments to the Criminal Code and the Information and Communication Act in 2013, further restricting freedom of expression and free access to information. We consider those rights to be essential for democracy and call upon the government to respect, protect and promote those rights.

Germany **recommends** the Gambia:

1. to comply with its existing international and regional human rights obligations, and to sign and ratify the 2nd optional protocol of the ICCPR;
2. to abolish all legal provisions limiting the freedom of expression and freedom of the press, and to take all necessary measures to facilitate the work of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society;
3. to refrain from introducing and/or to repeal any legislation that criminalizes sexual activities between consenting adults and to take all necessary measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression;
4. to enact and enforce effective legislation prohibiting the practice of FGM.

Germany hopes that the suggested recommendations will be taken into account sincerely.

Thank you, Mr. President.