



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

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Geneva, 20.01.2015

German questions and recommendations to

Lao People's Democratic Republic

German National Statement

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Laos to the UPR and would like to thank the delegation for the information provided in its opening remarks, in particular in relations to questions that we submitted in advance.

Germany would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Conclude the process of ratification of the Convention on Enforced Disappearances shortly, and investigate vigorously all cases of enforced disappearances, including the case of civil society activist Sombath Somphone, and inform the public transparently about the results of such investigation, as far as feasible without endangering the investigation, and bring perpetrators to justice;
2. Ensure in the elaboration and implementation of the national land policy that economic, social and cultural as well as civil and political rights of all affected persons are fully respected, including by applying international standards such as the FAO Guidelines on Land Tenure and on Responsible Investment in Agriculture, in particular by providing full, adequate and effective compensation for expropriations and by recognizing and protecting customary land rights;
3. Formally abolish the death penalty in law;
4. Continue efforts to improve and facilitate access to the internet and refrain from any restrictions on content other than permitted under international human rights law, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

5. Refrain from undue restrictions, such as the prohibition to engage in the promotion and protection of human rights, in the elaboration of legislation on civil society organisations, and facilitate the registration of international non-governmental organisations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Questions submitted in advance by Germany:

1. Which steps have been taken to ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances?
2. What progress has been made in the protection of the Right to Housing in connection with agricultural investments? What is the further process for the adoption of the National Land Policy?
3. How does the government ensure that in the pursuit of its land and relocation policy no ethnic group is discriminated against and that areas of traditional settlement are protected?
4. How does the Decree on Internet of 2014 regulate freedom of opinion on the internet? Does it provide for the control of and blocking of access to content?
5. What has the government done to clear up the disappearance of the civil society activist Sombath Somphone?

