



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
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United Nations Human Rights Council

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German questions and recommendations to

Belarus

German National Statement

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Belarus to the UPR. We note with appreciation recent positive signals sent out by the Government of Belarus in the field of human rights. However, we are concerned about the overall human rights situation in the country remaining dire due to the persistence of torture, the continued use of the death penalty and the enduring imprisonment of political opponents to the Government. Germany stands ready to support Belarus in taking advantage of the second cycle of the UPR mechanism to fundamentally improve the human rights situation in the country. In this context, we would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, create a national preventive mechanism in line with the Optional Protocol and acknowledge the competence of the Committee against Torture to consider allegations of breach of obligations under article 21 and 22 of the Convention against Torture.
2. Bring the mass event legislation into accord with the international standards on freedom of assembly, including by abolishing the licensing principle of the conduct of events and by abolishing the requirement for the applicants of the event to pay for maintenance of public order, for cleaning of the territory and for providing medical service as an indispensable condition for carrying out the event;
3. Simplify the registration procedure for political parties and other public associations and foundations;

Thank you, Mr. President.