



Permanent Mission
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**German questions and recommendations to
Marshall Islands**

German National Statement

Ms. SARAH KÖLTZOW

Mr. President,

Germany thanks the Government of the Marshall Islands for its efforts to be with us today and for the presentation of its national report. We are aware of the challenges you are facing, especially the resource constraints but also the consequences of climate change. In this light, we especially welcome the steps taken since the last UPR, such as the development of a National Strategic Plan and the formulation of a disability and youth policy. Also, the revision of the Criminal Code, criminalizing all forms of domestic violence, and the draft gender policy has increased the legal protection for women and children.

Despite these improvements, some gaps remain in the enjoyment of all human rights, especially for vulnerable groups. Therefore, Germany makes the following recommendations to the Government of the Marshall Islands:

1. Continue efforts to establish a national human rights institution that is in line with the Paris Principles and allocate adequate resources.
2. Adopt and implement the Child Protection Bill, preventing children from becoming victims of child abuse and raising awareness for their rights publicly.
3. Ensure that all forms of discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation are fully prohibited; implement the legal protection foreseen and provide assistance for victims of gender-based, sexual or domestic violence.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Question in advance:

1. At the last UPR cycle in 2010, the Marshall Islands received several recommendations to accede to and ratify outstanding international human rights treaties and conventions and their optional protocols. Could you provide an update on measures taken in this regard, and elaborate on planned ratifications?