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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
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
22nd Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 6 May 2015

**German questions and recommendations to
Panama**

German National Statement

Ms. Gudrun MASLOCH

Mr President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Panama to the UPR. We note with appreciation that the overall standard of human rights protection in Panama is considerably high, with further positive developments having taken place recently, in particular in the fields of rule of law, fight against corruption, media freedom, privacy, and torture prevention.

However, Germany remains concerned about persistent human rights violations in other areas. We would like to encourage further efforts particularly with regard to the situation in detention facilities, domestic violence and the rights of marginalized groups.

In this context, we would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Take steps to put an end to overcrowding in detention facilities, including by ensuring compliance with the requirements established in article 10 of the ICCPR and application of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
2. Increase protection for women victims of domestic violence by implementing the existing legislation, investigating and punishing the perpetrators, creating a sufficient number of shelters and providing police protection.
3. Increase efforts to protect rights of indigenous people and persons of African descent, including by adopting and strengthening tailored programs to reduce poverty and discrimination of these groups.

Thank you, Mr President.

Questions submitted in advance

1. The rising sea level is a grave threat to indigenous communities living in Caribbean islands in Guna Yala. Through which measures does the Government intend to protect and – if necessary – resettle these communities?
2. Is there any progress with regard to prosecution of members of security forces that have committed human rights violations, e.g. at demonstrations in Colón 2012 or in Chirquí/Bocas del Toro? Have victims been compensated?
3. By when will the criminal proceedings reform be presumably implemented in all 10 provinces? What are the Government's plans with regard to upgrading detention facilities?

