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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  
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German questions and recommendations to the  
Republic of Latvia

Gudrun Masloch

Mr President,

Vācija sirsnīgi sveic Latvijas Republikas delegāciju un pateicas par sagatavoto ziņojumu, kā arī par Latvijas lielo aktivitāti Apvienoto Nāciju Cilvēktiesību padomē.

*[Germany warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Latvia and thanks for its national report as well as for Latvia's strong engagement in the UN Human Rights Council.]*

We commend Latvia's continuous commitment to further improving its already well developed national human rights record. We are also thankful for Latvia's contributions to advancing international human rights policy.

We note with appreciation important progress achieved since the last UPR, in particular in the fields of citizenship, societal integration or the penal system. We encourage Latvia to continue on this path.

To generate even further advancement, we offer the following recommendations for action:

1. Germany recommends that Latvia further facilitate the granting of citizenship to children of non-citizen parents who do not acquire any other nationality.
2. Germany further recommends verifying the impact of the amendments of the educational law relating to the mandate to "morally educate children in compliance with the values of the constitution" on the realization of human rights, in particular women's rights, rights of LGBTI persons and freedom of expression.
3. Germany recommends that Latvia assess the possibility of lifting its reservations to the Geneva Convention as of 1951 relating to the Status of Refugees.
4. Germany lastly recommends signing and ratifying OP-CAT.

Thank you, Mr President.

**Questions in advance:**

1. The Human Rights Committee was concerned with the application of forced medication in high dosages and the use of isolation wards in State-run social care centers for adults with mental disabilities. It recommended that Latvia devise a proper regulatory framework for mental health and social care institutions, prohibit non-consensual use of psychiatric medication, electroconvulsive therapy and other restrictive and coercive practices and ensure an independent monitoring system for mental and social care institutions. Could the Government of Latvia please inform about the follow-up to this recommendation?
2. Could Latvia please inform about the status of the reform of the penal law, whose overall structure is dating back to the year 1972 according to our information. To which extent does this law ensure full compliance with international human rights obligations, the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights and the Latvian constitutional court? Are there any plans for a comprehensive amendment?
3. Could Latvia please inform to which extent civil society was involved in the process of preparing Latvia's national report for the UPR. Does Latvia see potential to further increase the inclusion of civil society in this process, e.g. with conducting hearings and consultations with civil society organizations or requesting pre-assessments or comments?