

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**24th Session of the UPR Working Group**

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**German questions and recommendations to**

**Seychelles**

**25 January 2016**

**German National Statement**

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of the Seychelles to the UPR and thanks it for the report provided to the working group. Germany commends the Government for its engagement with international human rights mechanisms and its willingness to further improve the legislative framework for securing the human rights situation in the country.

Germany therefore wishes to offer the following recommendations:

* Ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as soon as possible.
* Take necessary legal and institutional steps to reform the National Human Rights Commission so that it will meet the Paris Principles.
* Repeal national provisions that discriminate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same gender.
* Establish clear processes and procedures for the selection of independent and impartial citizens as members of the National Media Commission.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**Questions submitted in advance with regard to the UPR of Seychelles – 25 January 2016 / UPR24**

1. Germany acknowledges the extensive improvements to prison infrastructure in the last years but remains concerned about the extensive length of pre-trial detention. We would therefore like to ask what concrete measures the Government of Seychelles is taking to shorten the time of pretrial detention?
2. We have noted reports that, despite the existence of criminal provisions for rape and domestic abuse, many victims would not report their cases due to fear of reprisal or social stigma. Could the Government of Seychelles specify in what ways Seychelles enforces existing laws to protect women and children from domestic violence and abuse?
3. What concrete measures is the Government of Seychelles taking to enhance the plurality in the media?