

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

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

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**German questions and recommendations to**

**Somalia**

**22 January 2016**

**German National Statement**

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Somalia to the UPR and thanks for the report provided to the working group. Germany acknowledges the difficult situation in Somalia and commends the Federal Government for its engagement with international human rights mechanisms and its willingness to improve the human rights situation in the country. Although some progress has been achieved in this regard, more needs to be done.

Germany therefore wishes to offer the following recommendations:

* Lift reservations to the articles 14, 20 and 21 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as these are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.
* Deposit ratification instruments of the Kampala Convention on the Protection and Assistance of IDPs with the African Union and initiate a profiling exercise of the IDPs in Mogadishu to assess protection needs and define "durable solutions".
* Establish clear vetting procedures to identify and prosecute individuals responsible for serious abuses of human rights such as torture, extrajudicial killings, recruitment of children and sexual violence--including during recruitment and integration of new forces into the SNAF.
* Adopt clear by-laws and regulations to the new Media Law clarifying the general clauses for the benefit of the journalists instead of further reducing the space of free media.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**Questions submitted in advance with regard to the UPR of Somalia – 20 January 2016 / UPR24**

1. IDPs risk being forcibly evicted in Mogadishu and other cities. How will the Federal Government of Somalia stop forced evictions and what measures is it going to take order to ensure assistance to and protection of IDPs?
2. Is the Federal Government of Somalia considering ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and its optional protocol and the three additional protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
3. Journalists are often victims of attacks and of mistreatment by the National Intelligence and Security Agency without fair process being adhered to. In this regard, Germany welcomes the recent dialogue efforts of Information Ministers with media representatives to better guarantee freedom of the press, to ensure review of draft media laws and to prevent unlawful threats, arrests and killings. What concrete measures is the Federal Government of Somalia going to take to tackle abuses of security forces towards journalists and to hold them accountable for the violations of the freedom of press? What concrete measures is the Federal Government of Somalia taking to ensure that new laws on the media across Somalia protect and promote free expression?