

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**25th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 11 May 2016**

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**German recommendations and**

**questions submitted in advance to**

**Ireland**

Mr. President,

Germany warmly welcomes the delegation of Ireland to the UPR and commends the country for its continuous commitment to the promotion and protection of Human Rights nationally as well as internationally. We particularly welcome the lively public discourse in Ireland on ongoing challenges, including solicitation of active participation of civil society in the UPR process which we consider vital for generating genuine progress.

Germany would like to offer the following recommendations for consideration:

1. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities without further delay.
2. Further strengthen women’s rights and review Articles 40 and 41 of the Irish constitution with a view to abandon formulations that potentially promote gender discrimination and to bring Ireland’s laws on abortion into compliance with international human rights standards in law and in practice.
3. Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

Thank you Mr. President.

**Questions submitted in advance:**

1. What is the current status of the preparations of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities? Which steps does the Government plan to take to promote this objective?
2. Does the Irish Government consider a review of Article 40.3.3 of the Irish constitution in which the biological existence of a foetus is put on an equal basis with the right to life of a pregnant woman?
3. Which measures are envisaged by the Government to improve prison conditions, in particular hygienic conditions including access to sanitary facilities? Are there any plans to address the phenomenon of overcrowding? Will minors continue to be placed in adult detention centers? Does the Government plan to establish an independent national preventive mechanism for prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment?
4. What measures is the Government planning to take to meet the critical need of homeless people and those who are at great risk of becoming homeless?