



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

17

**United Nations Human Rights Council
25th Session of the UPR Working Group
Geneva, 6th May 2016**

**German national statement
Papua New Guinea**

FRANK TARASCH

Mr. President,

Allow me to extend a warm greeting to the delegation of Papua New Guinea and to thank them for their national report.

Germany commends Papua New Guinea's progress on certain achievements in the area of human rights, especially the passing of the Family Protection Act, the abolition of a law against alleged witchcraft in 2013 and the concomitant efforts to prevent violent acts related to allegations of sorcery. We, however, remain concerned about numerous reports of torture incidents and extralegal killings and about the fact that women and children continue to be disproportionately affected by crime and acts of violence. Reports suggest that 70 percent of women in Papua New Guinea experience assault or rape in their lifetime.

Germany therefore offers the following recommendations:

- 1) Take all measures necessary to implement and effectively enforce the Family Protection Act, and strengthen the efforts to protect women and children from violence, in the families as well as when within the hands of the government.
- 2) Investigate all complaints of torture and other ill-treatment, extrajudicial killings, and sexual violence committed by the security forces and bring those responsible to justice.
- 3) Implement the National Action Plan to address violence related to accusations of sorcery, including by ensuring adequate funding.

Thank you, Mr. President.