

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**29th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 24 January 2018**

**German recommendations and questions**

**to Serbia**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Germany welcomes the delegation of Serbia to the UPR. We commend Serbia for the improvements it has achieved since the last UPR in 2013. These include improvements to the situation of LGBTI persons as well as Roma. We welcome Serbia’s collaboration with civil society in the preparation of this UPR review.

However, there remains a need to strengthen the rule of law. Also, legislation in order to improve the situation of migrants, refugees and minorities should be effectively implemented. Moreover, a backlog regarding the prosecution of crimes under international law remains. In this line, we would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Strengthen an independent judiciary that guarantees the rule of law and tackles corruption by implementing EU recommendations.
2. Establish an efficient and coordinated system for the integration of refugees into society;
3. Support independence and pluralism of the media, including by creating transparency regarding the financing of media and media ownership, and by a comprehensive implementation of the law on the privatization of media;
4. Conduct impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation against journalists and human rights defenders, and bring perpetrators of such offences to justice;
5. Ensure the effective integration of Roma people into the Serbian society.

Thank you, Mr. President.

GERMAN ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SERBIA:

1. Several draft laws concerning the rule of law or fundamental rights have been waiting for their adoption for a long time, among them the “Free Legal Aid” law as well as for the law on asylum and migrants. Does Serbia have a concrete time line for the adoption of these laws?
2. Serbia has made impressive improvements regarding the safeguarding of rights of members of the LGBTI community. However, discrimination of them still occurs on a daily basis. Which measures does Serbia plan to apply in order to further reduce everyday discrimination?
3. Various laws have been adopted to improve the legal situation of the Roma population. However, problems remain regarding registration, housing and education of this vulnerable group. How does Serbia plan to effectively implement the existing legal framework?
4. Many alleged perpetrators who committed crimes under international law have not been persecuted yet. How will Serbia improve the national prosecution and work off the backlog of cases?