

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**33rd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 13 May 2019**

**Recommendations and advance questions to**

**Equatorial Guinea**

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Equatorial Guinea to the UPR.

Germany commends the government of Equatorial Guinea for having introduced a moratorium on the death penalty in 2015.

However, Germany remains concerned by the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea, especially with regard to ill-treatment of human rights defenders – as witnessed for example in the case of Alfredo Okenve, recipient of the Franco-German-Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law in 2018.

The continuing restrictions of fundamental political rights and of the activities of non-governmental organisations and political parties remain causes for concern and constitute obstacles to the democratic and pluralistic development of Equatorial Guinea.

Germany would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take effective measures to better protect the rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association in accordance with international standards, and investigate and prosecute all threats and attacks against human rights defenders.
2. Ratify and implement the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of the death penalty.
3. Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture and fully implement Law 6/2006 prohibiting torture and guaranteeing reparation, including compensation.
4. Take further steps towards the accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
5. Ensure the separation of powers, especially the full independence of the judiciary.
6. Ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**GERMAN ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA:**

1. What measures will Equatorial Guinea take in order to end domestic violence?
2. Does the government of Equatorial Guinea intend to introduce legislation in order to make sexual harassment punishable?