



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

**United Nations Human Rights Council
22nd Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 6th May 2015

**German questions and recommendations to
Maldives**

Mr. President,

We thank the Government of Maldives for its national report.

Germany welcomes the progress made by the Government since the last UPR, in particular the passage of the Anti-Torture Act and the Anti-Human Trafficking Act into law in 2013. However, we are deeply concerned by Maldives' current human rights situation. We are especially worried about recent reports of attacks, intimidations and death threats faced by journalists, politicians, human rights defenders and representatives of civil society, and by the mounting gang related violence and signs of increasing religious intolerance, which are all contributing to a climate of growing fear in the Maldives and reducing the space for public discussion.

We wish to make the following recommendations:

1. To revive the former six-decade-old moratorium on the death penalty with the clear objective of complete abolition;
2. As already recommended during the first UPR cycle, we would like to reiterate our recommendation to ratify the Geneva Convention on Refugees and the 1967 Protocol;
3. To adopt additional measures to completely implement the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVB Act), with reference to the expired 12-month term following its adoption in 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Questions submitted in advance:

1. Germany is concerned about the recent reports of fair trial violations and would like to know about possible long-term solutions the Government of Maldives plans to implement in order to safeguard the judicial independence and the right of fair trial.
2. In light of its recommendation in 2011 and the latest attempts at intimidation, Germany wishes to enquire about the steps taken or planned by the Government to secure the work and independence of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) as guaranteed in the HRCM 2006, in line with the Paris Principles.

3. The implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act is hindered by a lack of resources and capacity. Germany would appreciate additional information about the current status of funding of anti-trafficking mechanisms and planned or developed systematic procedures to identify victims and refer them to protective services.