



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**  
**26th Session of the UPR Working Group**  
**Geneva, 1st November 2016**

**German national statement**  
**Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the UPR. We appreciate that Venezuela has ratified the convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Venezuelans have been suffering from a serious lack of food and medical goods, thus curtailing their economic, social and cultural rights.

Reports about intimidation, harassment against or imprisonment of political opponents raise the question if freedom of opinion and speech are at stake.

Germany recommends:

1. Urgently address the shortage of medical services and satisfy people's basic necessities in the spirit of the 2015 recommendations by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
2. Restore the rule of law and the independence and impartiality of the judicial system.
3. Safeguard the right of freedom of opinion and expression and the freedom of movement for political opponents and journalists.

We encourage Venezuela to use the mediation efforts of the Holy See for progress in the above mentioned areas.

We wish the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**Questions submitted in advance:**

- Venezuela still is one of the most violent countries in Latin America. What steps does the government take to reduce the homicide rate in your country? What is the government doing to prevent violent attacks by security forces such as during the demonstrations in spring 2014 or by OLP ("operation for the liberation of the people") and what measures does your government foresee to ensure that police and security forces comply fully and at all times with international human rights standards?
- For the last year, the Venezuelan people have been seriously affected by shortage of food and medical goods. What measures does the government take in order to address shortages of food, water, electricity supply and basic necessities as well as medicines and surgical and medical equipment in order to improve living conditions without delay, ensuring the full implementation of the 2015 recommendations by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?
- What are Venezuela's plans to reduce child and maternal mortality?
- Germany notes with concern that, raising serious questions about the separation of constitutional power, the Supreme Court's judgments are exclusively in favor of the government. What is Venezuela doing to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judicial system?
- In 2015 Venezuela recorded the greatest decline in the World Press Freedom Index (by Reporters without borders). How does Venezuela intend to improve media legislation and the working conditions of journalists in order to guarantee freedom of expression in your country and to protect representatives of the media from legal harassment, unlawful detention and intimidation?