



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

## **36<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Geneva, 21 September 2017**

**Item 6 – UPR outcomes - Ecuador**

**German Statement**

Mr President,

We would like to reiterate our strong support for the UPR, a truly universal mechanism, and thank Ecuador for the cooperation with the UPR process.

We regret that our recommendations to Ecuador have not been accepted. Our recommendations focused on ending discrimination and the criminalization of human rights defenders and the media; guaranteeing full independence of the judiciary and implementing the rights of indigenous people. However, we appreciate positive signals of an improving human-right situation in Ecuador.

Germany welcomes the clear commitment of president Moreno and his government to guarantee freedom of the media and the independence of the judiciary, including through legal and institutional reforms. This new stance has already brought about a notable improvement of the freedom of press in Ecuador: The government has dropped its political guidance to the state media and has initiated a nationwide dialogue on a wide range of issues including with the indigenous population.

We encourage Ecuador to continue the path of reforms and to fully implement this policy through concrete measures.

Thank you.