

UN Human Rights Council

39th Session, 10 – 28 September 2018

Agenda item 6:

Consideration of UPR reports

GERMANY

Mr. President,

Today, the German Government has made political commitments to ensure the human rights of all in our country. Now, it is important to prioritize and to identify concrete implementation measures.

We consider the following areas to be priorities:

Racism: Public speech that promotes racism and hatred remains widespread, and acts of racist violence remain a matter of high concern. Therefore, the Government's commitment to combat racism is welcome. We see an urgent need that all responsible political actors take clear positions against racist hatred and violence and that they refrain from downplaying racism. We also call upon the Government to take care that its politics concerning asylum-seekers does not feed racist stereotypes.

Gender-based violence: We commend Germany's commitments to combat gender-based violence. We now expect a comprehensive national action plan to effectively implement the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention.

Inclusive education: We welcome Germany's commitment to phase out the system of segregated schools. This commitment needs to be honored urgently, as we are witnessing retrogressive policies and measures in various states of the federation.

We note with concern the Government's denial of structural discrimination against students with a migration background in the German school system, thus ignoring empirical evidence. Without facing the facts, measures will miss their target.

In the field of security legislation, we deplore that the Government rejects the call for independent evaluation of recent legislation. Supporting this recommendation should be a matter of course for a state under the rule of law.

Mr President,

we expect the German Government to engage with the Federal Parliament to ensure the full implementation of the commitments made today. We further expect it to engage with the states of the federation on all recommendations that fall within their jurisdiction. And lastly, we challenge the Government to present, within a year, an implementation plan with specific measures, consulted with civil society.

Thank you.