



United Nations Human Rights Council

Geneva, March 12, 2012

**Interactive Dialogue with the
Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, Mr Tomás Ojea Quintana**

**Statement by
German Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and
Humanitarian Aid**

H.E. Mr Markus Löning

Madam President,
Mr Quintana,

Germany would like to thank you for your excellent report. We fully associate ourselves with the EU statement. We agree with your assessment regarding positive changes in the country over the last months. We commend the attitude of the Government of Myanmar towards the cooperation with the UN Special rapporteur and the special advisor of the UN Secretary General. We would also like to highlight the positive developments in Myanmar regarding the freedom of the press.

Germany would like to underline the importance of justice and accountability for human rights abuses of the past. In that respect, the National Human Rights Commission and other non-governmental human rights institutions will have a key role to play. Germany is prepared to support the Government of Myanmar and non-governmental mechanisms in this important task and to assist in building up necessary capacities, including in the judicial sector. Could you comment on the methods you consider most appropriate to address accountability?

Germany agrees that reconciliation with ethnic minorities will be essential for a sustainable political change. To this end, we commend the steps taken by the government to conduct talks and conclude first ceasefire agreements with ethnic armed groups. The government should continue on this path to reconciliation with all parts of the population. In addition to the inclusion of the minorities in the future democratic development of the country, it is important to focus also on the social-economic development in minority territories. What measures could the government take in that respect and how could the international community support those steps?

Thank you for your attention.