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oral statement on UPR outcome Germany, September 20, 2018

Thank you Mr. President!

This is a joint statement on behalf of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (WCC-CCIA) together with the German Forum Human Rights, a network of currently 50 non-governmental organisations dealing with human rights in- and outside Germany.

We appreciate the efforts made by the German government to improve the participation of civil society in preparing and conducting the UPR process. In particular, we welcome the opportunity to discuss the draft of the state report and the main aspects for NGOs with regard to the government's replies to the recommendations by other states according to document A/HRC/39/9. We also appreciate the self-critical approach by the German delegation in its oral presentation during the 10th meeting of the Working Group on UPR held on 11 May 2018.

We note the high interest of other states and international actors reflected in 109 statements by delegations and 259 recommendations to the German government.

We especially appreciate the preparedness of the German government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as ILO Convention 169.

However, we remain critical with regard to some other matters of concern.

The German government has accepted 209 out of the 259 recommendations, while recommendations on the protection of migrant workers via the relevant international

convention, on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and on transparency in the selection process for national candidates for UN Treaty Body elections are simply “noted”.

Germany’s commitment to human rights standard setting and implementation is doubtless high, but could still be better.

We regret the position of the German government on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and Germany’s failure to sign and ratify this convention. In our view, Germany is simply failing to recognize and implement a core human rights standard, and missing an opportunity to move forward with a human rights based immigration policy.

WCC-CCIA, in coordination with the network of Forum Human Rights, will continue to seek dialogue with the government of German on these matters, both directly and in the context of follow-up of the UPR recommendations.

Thank you Mr. President!