



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

**1st Conference of the States parties to the International Convention for
the Protection of all from Enforced Disappearance**

Geneva, 19th December 2016

German Statement

Mr Chairperson,

Germany ratified the Convention in 2009 and presented its State Report to the Committee in 2014.

We see the Convention and indeed the recognition of competence under Article 31 and 32 as an important piece of the global response to enforced disappearances.

Such disappearances merit their own Convention and they merit the continuation of the work by the Committee. Enforced disappearances affect not only the victims themselves but also place a significant psychological toll on families, relatives and friends.

Not knowing where a person is, wondering whether they are dead or alive, and if they are alive, whether they are suffering, pushes those close to them into a continuous cycle of false hope and despair.

Germany would therefore like to thank the Committee for its excellent work so far.

Not only has the Committee managed to analyze the State Reports, conduct constructive dialogues with State Parties and deliver the respective Concluding Observations, it has also tackled a significant and increasing number of urgent actions as well as its first individual complaints. For urgent actions, in particular, the Committee has acquired in-depth competence. And it is this range of responsibilities, which for Germany sets the Committee apart from the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances. This is why in our opinion the work of the Committee – in collaboration with the Working Group – adds real value to our joint efforts in combatting enforced disappearances.

Germany therefore believes that the Committee needs to continue to do its good work, and that we, as State Parties, should provide it with the resources to do so.

We call on all States who have not ratified the Convention to do so at the earliest opportunity. When doing so, Germany expressly encourages others to also recognize the Committee's competence under Articles 31 and 32.

Thank you.