



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

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Note Verbale

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and – referring to the latter’s Note Verbale GVA-0720, dated 22 November 2011 - has the honour to transmit as follows the Reply of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to the questionnaire referring to resolution 18/2 entitled “Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights” adopted by the Human Rights Council on 28 September 2011:

In Germany a very well established health care system with high quality medical services is existing. Medical care during pregnancy and after birth is intended to avert possible risks to the life and health of the mother or child and to assure timely recognition and treatment for health problems. The primary aim of medical preventive care in pregnancy is the early recognition of high-risk pregnancies and births.

Therefore there is a well adopted preventive health care programme for pregnant women established (Schwangerschaftsvorsorgeuntersuchungen). The contents of the programme are layed down within the Maternity Directives (Mutterschafts-Richtlinien) by the Federal Joint Committee (Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss), a decision-making body of the self-government of physicians, dentists, hospitals and health insurance funds and with the participation of organisations of patients. Although the legislator provides the framework in the Social Code Book V (SGB V), it is the duty of the self-government to fill out this framework and to ensure that the legal instructions are implemented practically in everyday work.

To the
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
P a l a i s W i l s o n
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The Maternity Directives serve to ensure adequate, expedient and economic medical care of the insured person during pregnancy and after birth, to ensure that this medical care is in accordance with the rules of medical technology and that it is adequate, expedient and effective in the context of commonly accepted medical knowledge.

For children there is a special programme of medical check-ups established – also defined by the Federal Joint Committee within the Paediatric Directives. It contains 10 examinations starting with a newborn born screening. Additionally, quality assurance measures in perinatal medicine are laid down by the Federal Joint Committee as defined in § 137 SGB V (Vereinbarung des Gemeinsamen Bundesausschusses über Maßnahmen zur Qualitätssicherung der Versorgung von Früh- und Neugeborenen).

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 13 January 2012