

## **Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany** **Position Paper for the Security Council**

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) are: *Strengthening Peacebuilding to Mitigate Conflict* and *The Impact of Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security*. The Federal Republic of Germany is deeply committed to the primary goals of the UN Charter, including maintaining international peace and security. Germany is dedicated to finding sustainable, long-term solutions to the challenges and difficult changes of both of the topics.

### **I. Strengthening Peacebuilding to Mitigate Conflict**

The crises of our time have many causes and characteristics. They go hand in hand with a profound change in the international order. Above all, this is dominated by globalization, which has increased significantly in recent decades and marked the beginning of this century like no other phenomenon. Against the background of our historical experience, the promotion of peace in the world is one of the central objectives of the Federal Republic of Germany, which has been laid down by the German Constitution. It is also our ethical duty and our own interest to work globally to prevent crises, manage conflicts and promote peace.

In the first half of 2016, nearly 66 million people worldwide were fleeing war and violence. Around 24 million people were forced to seek protection elsewhere. In 2015, some 1.3 million asylum seekers came to Europe, showing us the dramatic consequences of violent conflicts outside the gates of Europe and beyond. The attacks of recent years in European cities - including in Germany - have once again shown that these threats do not stop at the borders of our continent. The Federal Republic of Germany highly recognizes the partnership-based implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained in the 2030 Agenda that creates the conditions for sustainable peace. The German government welcomes UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) „*Women, Peace and Security*“, which addresses the importance of women's participation in conflict resolution, post-conflict political processes and post-conflict recovery, and the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and girls. To strengthen kids and adolescents as „*agents of crime*“ with regard to long-term crisis prevention approaches and non-violent conflict management the Federal Republic of Germany supports the UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) „*Increase Representation of Youth in Decision-Making at All Levels*“. Therefore Germany is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the G8, the G20, the WorldBank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It has played an influential role in the European Union since its inception and has maintained a strong alliance with France and all neighbouring countries since 1990. In recent years, Germany has increasingly taken responsibility for crisis prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding in Europe and other parts of the world. Germany's role in the Western Balkans, in Afghanistan and in the support of the African Union (AU) exemplifies the possibilities, but also the limits of long-term commitment. Since 2013, the Federal Armed Forces and police forces of the federal and state governments have participated in *Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation au Mali* (MINUSMA). In addition, since the end of 2015, Germany has been providing a specialized training team in the police component of the mission at the National Police Academy in Bamako, where Mali policemen are continuing their training in the areas of criminalistics and border management. As part of the EU's *Common Security and Defence Policy* (CSDP), Germany is also involved together with Italy and France in the *European Union Training Mission* (EUTM) and the *EU Capacity Building Mission in Mali* (EUCAP Sahel Mali). Furthermore, the Federal Government has marked financial support for bilateral projects to strengthen Ukrainian civil society and reconstruction in eastern Ukraine. By sending police officers and customs officers, the Federal Government makes a significant contribution to strengthening security structures in fragile contexts, both bilaterally and multilaterally (in police missions by the UN, EU and OSCE as well as in the operations of the European Border and Coast Guard FRONTEX).

The Federal Government will continue to develop its commitment in the security sector by setting up a working group to develop a cross-departmental strategy. As part of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Goal 5), the specific needs and interests of women and girls should be taken into account more vigorously and more actively. The Federal Government also supports the United Nations reform efforts to make the system of peace missions and special political missions even more effective. We will continue to promote the establishment of African peace and security structures. We will also reinforce our arms control and disarmament measures, and in particular will further develop mine and ordnance clearance programs

in stabilization contexts. The Federal Government will campaign for improved small arms control. It aims for a permanently strong and qualified support of international missions.

## II. The Impact of Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security

The effects of the climate crisis are already threatening the lives of millions of people worldwide. Natural disasters and the consequences of climate change are exacerbating these developments. Global warming is causing scarcity of water resources and permanent loss of crops and pastures in many parts of the world. The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods, hurricanes and droughts can further reduce existing resources, trigger new distributional conflicts within societies, provoke food shortages and, in extreme cases, famine and significantly increase the risk of civil unrest, violence and destabilization of entire social systems.

10 years ago there were 606 extreme weather conditions that caused \$ 69.4 billion in economic damage. In 2017, 797 events caused \$ 129.4 billion worth of damage. The average damage per event in that year was \$ 162.4 million. To work against these developments, The Federal Republic of Germany has joined numerous climate agreements such as The *Conference of Parties (COP)*, a yearly conference organized in the framework of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*, which has been held since 1995 and for the fifth time in Germany in 2019. The Federal Republic also accepted the Paris Agreement (2015) which main goal is to prohibit global temperature rise exceeding 2 degrees Celsius with an additional goal of preventing global temperature rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. At the *United Nations Climate Change Summit (2016)* in New York, Germany pledged to pursue greenhouse gas neutrality as a long-term goal by 2050. The Federal Republic of Germany particularly recognizes UNSC Resolution 2349 (2017) which established that „*climate change and ecological change affect regional stability and impact the recognized factors of food insecurity, water scarcity, desertification, depletion of land, and drought*“. At the initiative of the Federal Republic of Germany, 46 UN Member States joined together to form the *UN Group of Friends on Climate and Security (2018)* which aims to develop solutions for the impact of climate change on security policy, raise public awareness and boost the involvement of the UN in this topic. Furthermore The Federal Government supports the newly created pilot initiative *Climate Security Mechanism (2019)* housed in the Department for Political and Peacebuilding affairs as well as *The Hague Declaration on Planetary Security (2019)*. It is already pursuing a coherent approach in the area of humanitarian aid and development policy in the sense of a holistic implementation of the *2030 Agenda* and the international climate goals and commitments of the *Humanitarian World Summit 2016*. The Federal Government supports crisis prevention measures to minimize risks resulting from the climate crisis such as the *Water Initiative Central Asia* ("Berlin Process"), which promotes cooperation in the field of transboundary water management. In addition, the Federal Government is cooperating with the World Bank to improve an analytical tool for estimating climate-induced internal migration in western and eastern Africa. It also supports regional organizations and governments in improving the data base on climate-related migration. In addition, the Federal Government is helping the partner regions of Eastern Caribbean, the Pacific and the Philippines to improve their policy requirements in order to better capture existing data and address data gaps. As part of its commitment within the "Platform on Disaster Displacement" (PDD), the German government is committed to improving the global data situation and analysis in this area. German development policy provides technical and financial means to create a perspective for population groups affected by climate risks. Basically, an ambitious climate protection policy must prevent the worst consequences of climate change and support developing countries, including the small island states particularly affected by climate change, in dealing with climate risks. We support 15 states in the Pacific Island region and promotes adaptation measures and risk prevention such as climate-resilient agriculture, infrastructure as well as risk analyzes and climate risk insurance. At the European level too, the Federal Government is in regular contact with all EU member states on climate policy issues. We are also exchanging views on climate policy issues with *Meseberger Klima-AG* in France.

The Federal Republic of Germany is committed to building expertise together with its partners in other areas of the UN system as well, with the aim of more systematically taking into account climate change and its security implications. It is in the interest of the German state to enable the United Nations Security Council to better understand how the impacts of climate change are fueling conflict. Wherever climate change threatens people's livelihoods, the international community must start before conflicts break out. The Federal Republic of Germany remains supportive towards our partners in dealing with the consequences of climate change and we are looking forward to new innovative approaches to effectively address the issues of Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security.