



STÄNDIGE VERTRETUNG DEUTSCHLANDS  
BEI DEN VEREINTEN NATIONEN  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GERMANY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations' General Assembly and has, with reference to its Note No. 192/2006 dated 22 March 2006, the honour to communicate a document containing Germany's voluntary pledges and commitments in accordance with Resolution A/RES/60/251 to be published on the United Nations website.

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the President of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations' General Assembly the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 5 April, 2006



His Excellency  
Mr. Jan Eliasson  
President of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly  
New York

## **Germany and the Human Rights Council**

### **Voluntary pledges and commitments in accordance with Resolution A/RES/60/251**

Germany has decided to stand for election to the United Nations Human Rights Council at the elections to be held by the General Assembly on 9 May 2006.

#### **1. Germany's human rights policy**

The duty to respect and protect human rights is enshrined in the German constitution. Germany is strongly committed to multilateral action to advance the cause of human rights. Germany has consistently supported the primary role of the United Nations in the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide and is an active member of the regional frameworks of the Council of Europe and the OSZE.

Germany is party to almost all major United Nations human rights treaties, which according to the German constitution become part of German domestic law by ratification. Germany consistently observes its reporting obligations and ensures a close follow-up of the treaty bodies recommendations and comments within Germany. Germany has strongly supported the establishment of the International Criminal court as well as of the United Nations ad hoc tribunals. Germany has been a main supporter of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from the very start. It is actively participating in the work of the United Nations Human Rights bodies, and has done so as a member of the Commission on Human Rights.

#### **2. Germany's strong support for the Human Rights Council**

From the outset Germany has given its full support to Secretary-General Annan's proposal to further strengthen the United Nations' human rights machinery by establishing a Human Rights Council. Given its experience as a member of the Commission and its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, Germany can make a useful contribution to the work of the new council. This will be of particular importance during the first half of 2007 when Germany will take over the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

#### **3. Germany's commitments to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights**

In order to further promote and protect human rights, Germany commits itself to the following main objectives:

- a) within the **United Nations**, Germany will
  - strive to further increase its support for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
  - continue to work for the universality and indivisibility of all human rights, civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural, including the right to development. Together with Finland, Germany will pursue the joint initiative on the "Right to Adequate Housing". Germany will engage in further implementation

of the "Guidelines on the Right to Food", which were sponsored by Germany and adopted by FAO in 2004. In accordance with its traditional commitment to economic, social and cultural rights, Germany, together with Spain, will introduce a new initiative aimed at strengthening the "Right to Water" in 2006;

- continue to promote dialogue and cooperation as the primary means for protecting and strengthening human rights worldwide. To this effect, Germany intends to further develop and strengthen, together with India, the joint initiative on "Advisory Services and Technical cooperation in the Field of Human Rights";
- strive for the preservation and strengthening of the systems of special procedures, which Germany considers to be one of the major achievements of the Commission on Human Rights. In line with its long-standing policy of unrestricted cooperation with United Nations special procedures, Germany is ready to receive the visits of Mandate Holders whenever and wherever;
- readily submit itself to the universal periodic review of its own human rights obligations and its record of promoting and protecting human rights within Germany, whenever the Council wishes;
- continue to give special emphasis to the strengthening of gender equality, the rights of women and the rights of the child;
- strive for the early approval of the draft "International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance";
- continue to contribute actively to the early successful conclusion of the negotiations on an "International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities";

**b) Domestically, Germany will**

- take steps to ratify still in 2006 the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
- in 2006 complete and submit to the respective Treaty Bodies the next periodic state reports regarding the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- adopt in 2006 a "National Plan of Action " to combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, in implementation of the Declaration and the Plan of Action of the 2001 Durban World Conference;
- during the Soccer World Cup in Germany in summer 2006, implement, in cooperation with FIFA, an anti-racism campaign, as suggested by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.