

PGA Office Memo: Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council for the month of March and April, the Permanent Representatives of France and Germany to the United Nations on 20 February 2019

The President of the General Assembly (PGA), H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, met on 20 February 2019 with the Presidents of the Security Council for the month of March and April, H.E. Mr. François Delattre, Permanent Representative of France and H.E. Mr. Dr. Christoph Heusgen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations. France and Germany will be presiding over the Security Council in the next two months, marking the first time for twin Council presidencies.

The Permanent Representative of France said that the overarching objectives of the twin presidencies are to promote the Franco-German partnership to the United Nations; to have a stronger European Union voice in the UN; and to promote the EU partnership with the UN as a strong alliance of multilateralism. The Permanent Representatives highlighted that they intend to conduct more interactive sessions, as to allow discussion on how to address critical issues concerning international peace and security.

The Permanent Representative of Germany added that Germany would be giving focus on the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law, particularly the international humanitarian law during its presidency. Germany will also hold the annual Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict in April. He also said the German Defence Minister is expected to attend the Open Debate on women peacekeeping operations in April.

The PGA commended the brilliant initiative by France and Germany to link both presidencies for the first time in the history of the Security Council, citing it as an excellent example for much-needed cooperation between member states in working together in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. The PGA stated that the Council's programme of work for March and April is important and in parallel with the priorities of the General Assembly, particularly on gender quality and revitalization of the United Nations.

The PGA invited France and Germany to participate at the highest level in the High-level Plenary Meeting on Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace on 24 April.

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