

Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council Committee

The two agenda before the Economic and Social Council are: Long Term Sustainable Development Plan for Disaster Risk Countries and Reinvigorating Africa towards Peace-Building and Recovery through Inclusivity and Youth Involvement. The Federal Republic of Germany highlights the significance of the resiliency of all societies, stresses the strengthening of States' capabilities, promotes integration, and further invites international collaborative effort.

I. Long Term Sustainable Development Plan for Disaster Risk Countries

The beginning of the 21st century has seen developments concerning disaster risk management that have augmented state capacity and international cooperation. However, such developments are inadequate for today's challenges. Extreme natural disasters affect those who lack the capacity for self-protection; even industrialised, developed countries could be affected as well—in an economical sense—such as Germany and its floods. The occurrence of disaster often causes further issues to surface, such as poverty, homelessness, malnutrition, epidemics, migration, and armed conflict. The Hyogo Framework for Action of 2005-2015—the fundamental principle of which is to “Build the Resilience of Nations and Communities,”—followed by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, is the basis for Germany's activities and involvement in matters concerning disaster risk reduction. One of the precedence of these frameworks is the necessity to minimize the risk components by creating tangible and long term actions, locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. Germany acknowledges these frameworks and strongly shows its support because the country believes these will strengthen the capacities and partnerships of countries in reducing the adverse effects of natural disasters and bringing importance in helping vulnerable societies to actively participate in the strive against climate change.

Germany has a dynamic role in implementing disaster risk reduction policies and strategies. The challenge of the discussion has continuously been addressed by Germany, where it involves itself in the efforts targeted at improving prevention and creating a transnational system of disaster risk management methods. Germany has since adopted the principles of the UNISDR to form the German Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction (DKKV)—non-governmental organisation centred on national and international disaster risk reduction, covering all fields of disaster risk reduction in Germany. The Committee creates an integrated approach that allows sharing of information between stakeholders in an interdisciplinary basis, in order to find innovative solutions through the multi-angle approach. DKKV believes the new framework should strengthen DRR while focusing on vulnerability, recommend solutions for the integration of local communities into DRR, and make DRR more transparent and well-governed.

Germany emphasises civil protection, the responsibility of protecting a nation's people from perilous damage to its welfare. The country manifests its part of the responsibility through the DKKV, which, at the global level, sees that transboundary DRR is strengthened through cooperation with national platforms around the world, provides support to disaster-prone developing countries' national platforms and implements DRR in less developed countries, acknowledges and promotes existing global policies on disaster risks, such as the Hyogo and Sendai Protocols, the UN climate process, and the Sustainable Development Goals, petitions for an integrated approach to DRR, and participates in the preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016. Germany is also considering new strategies for the widespread flooding in Europe. Expert Symposiums on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Services (MHEWS) are being conducted nationally and internationally in order to educate the people; the country also promotes volunteerism in matters related to DRR. Germany calls upon the international community to jointly cooperate in developing and executing innovative solutions to the growing issue of natural disasters, as together, the resolution of the issue shall be inherently beneficial to the world as a

whole.

II. Reinvigorating Africa Towards Peace-Building and Recovery through Inclusivity and Youth Involvement

The continent of Africa remains lacking in development despite its abundance of natural and human resources and cultural, ecological, and economic diversity. Problems such as corruption, war, civil unrest, underdevelopment, and deep poverty cause suffering in most of its nations. The least developed countries classified by the United Nations contain African nations in its majority. In spite of this, the international community recognises the immense potential in Africa and prioritises the strengthening of its cooperation with other countries.

The Federal Republic of Germany recognises the need for cooperation with Africa for its development, and that such cooperation must be at an equal footing based on human rights and values, and aiming for mutual benefit. Germany has established two pillars as a foundation for its cooperation: (1) Research, through expanding the focus of research to encompass bioeconomies, health, societal development, resource management, transformation, and innovation; and (2) Education, which focuses on tertiary learning and vocational training to support the modernisation of Africa into a knowledge-driven economy. These pillars are the quintessence of Germany's projects in Africa as they are regionally focused as well as address global challenges in science and research; African partners are also showing more interest in science and research, prompting intergovernmental agreements on bilateral collaboration such as and leading toward the societal shift towards democratisation and knowledge-centred development. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) serves as the instrument of the EU in collaborating with Africa, forming a partnership of mutual interests and concerted development. Among its broad range of involvements in EU initiatives is the biennial High Level Policy Dialogue, which focuses on science, technology, and innovation. Education and research are high priorities in the cooperation of Germany and Africa, given by the level of interest of the two countries. Another such initiative is the BMBF's Africa Strategy, establishing cooperation areas in Africa by applying new methods, increasing the acceptance and effect of German collaborative activity on education and research, and allowing transparency and open communication between parties.

Germany and other states have been expanding their range of activities in Africa, providing conditions for successful cooperation and the benefit of all involved. The Federal Republic of Germany encourages the international community to engage in cooperation as well, and recommends to follow the objectives laid out in its action plan for Africa: to find sustainable global solutions with mutual benefit, create high-quality structures for future developments, strengthen regional alliances in Africa, and improve overall economic growth. A strong emphasis must also be placed on the education and involvement of the youth similar to that of Africa's, as it is they who will drive the development of society with the opportunities that they may grasp. Thusly, as a community of nations with mutual interests, the whole world will reap the advantages of development.

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