

Candidature of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations Human Rights Council (2027-2029)

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/251

As a candidate for the Human Rights Council, the Federal Republic of Germany is fully committed to the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of human rights enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We reaffirm our support for the full implementation of all human rights.

Germany is a resolute multilateralist and staunch supporter of the international human rights architecture. In the face of geopolitical headwinds, conflicts and transnational threats, closer, more efficient and effective cooperation among States is essential. Cross-regional cooperation at the global level is the only way to respond to attacks against the international human rights architecture. It is this architecture that protects the weak from the strong and puts rights before power.

That is why we commit to supporting the Human Rights Council in fully exercising its mandated functions – across all of its areas of work, including the Universal Periodic Review.

Germany has been a member of the Human Rights Council five times since its founding. As a current observer, Germany actively contributes to the proceedings of the Council, inter alia through an active engagement in a number of core groups.

Germany continues to contribute financially to the Council's mechanisms and procedures as well as to the activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with voluntary contributions. We are currently a top donor to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

If elected, through our work in the Human Rights Council, we will help to ensure that the valuable work of the High Commissioner continues to translate into tangible improvements in the lives of people worldwide.

Protecting and Promoting Human Rights at Home

Germany is convinced that human rights protection starts at home. We are party to core international human rights treaties. As the protection and promotion of human rights is always work in progress, we participated in the Universal Periodic Review in 2023 and accepted the large majority of the recommendations received and are working on their implementation. We maintain a standing invitation to Special Procedures of the Council.

National implementation is further guaranteed by our voluntary submission to the European Convention on Human Rights and our commitment to implementing judgments by its court.

Germany's independent National Human Rights Institution monitors and evaluates our government's human rights policy.

While this policy is mainstreamed across federal and state level, the Federal Government has additionally committed to a National Action Plan for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Related Intolerance, as well as a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The German Federal Government reports biennially to the Federal Parliament on all aspects of national human rights implementation.

In international rankings, Germany scores highly in terms of freedom of the press, democracy as well as governance. Freedom of expression and opinion as well as freedom of assembly is guaranteed by the Constitution as well as the European Convention on Human Rights. So is freedom from discrimination, including gender equality. There are no active State complaints against the Federal Republic in the framework of the human rights treaty system.

Protecting and Promoting Human Rights Internationally

Germany promotes human rights worldwide through bilateral and multi-stakeholder dialogue, technical cooperation, development programmes, support for monitoring and accountability mechanisms as well as humanitarian assistance. Germany is the second-largest donor to the United Nations system. Our support for civil society worldwide is robust, including financial support as well as protection to human rights defenders.

Two Federal Government Commissioners – on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid as well as Freedom of Religion or Belief – seek dialogue with our partners in order to foster common ground.

In line with our commitment to universal human rights, we have been keen to take the initiative on economic, social and cultural rights. In the Human Rights Council, we are leading, together with partners, on the human rights to safe water and sanitation as well as the right to adequate housing. In the context of civil and political rights, we have, together with partners, actively contributed to interpreting the right to privacy in the digital age.

Germany supports international justice mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, and will continue to actively defend the independence and effectiveness of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as United Nations human rights mechanisms. We have consistently criticized any measures that threaten or undermine the independence of these crucial international instruments. We are also working to prevent and address reprisals against human rights defenders at all levels.

Pledges by the Federal Republic of Germany

We will

- Promote the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of human rights.
- Contribute to the Human Rights Council's reform efforts to ensure that its mechanisms are more effective, inclusive, and results-oriented.
- Maintain strong political and substantial financial support for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures.

- Actively engage in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process cooperating fully when Germany is under review as well as in our own follow-up, as well as providing constructive recommendations to other states. We are ready to work towards strengthening the UPR as it enters the fifth cycle.
- Promote and implement reforms to strengthen UN Treaty Bodies, ensuring the efficiency, and effectiveness of the international human rights architecture.
- Support the International Criminal Court and other mechanisms to prevent impunity for human rights violations.
- Advocate for freedom of expression, press freedom, digital rights, and civic space globally, ensuring the protection of journalists and human rights defenders. This includes strengthening programmes to protect human rights defenders worldwide against reprisals.
- Safeguard the critical role of civil society and human rights defenders in the work of the Human Rights Council. We will keep the Council inclusive and promote the active participation of those affected by human rights violations.
- Promote the right to freedom of religion or belief and integrating considerations of this right in the debates of the Human Rights Council.
- Participate actively in the Human Rights Council inter alia through membership in core groups. We will engage on economic, social and cultural rights like the rights to water and sanitation and to affordable housing, as well as the right to privacy and on country-specific resolutions.
- Uphold the rights of women and girls, including through implementation of international commitments and active involvement in dialogues in the Human Rights Council.