Explanation of Vote by Germany Against the U.N. Human Rights Council Durban Resolution “From rhetoric to reality: A global for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,” A/HRC/RES L.3/Rev.1

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Madame President, we would like to reiterate, racism threatens the cohesion of societies all over the world. It is on every state to take a self-critical look and fight racism and hatred at its root causes. Racism and xenophobia are global problems. They require global collective action. We all must do more to combat xenophobia and racism, as the international community, as states, and as individuals. Therefore we are addressing shortcomings in our own countries, we have stepped up efforts to counter racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia and all other forms of intolerance. With a view to the rise of rightwing extremism, racism, and antisemitism, we set up a cabinet committee to fight racism and rightwing extremism last year. Moreover, the German government intends to allocate a total of more than 1 billion euro between 2021 and 2024 for the fight against rightwing extremism, racism, antisemitism, and other forms of group hatred. We changed our penal code in order to better tackle the hate speech in the digital world. Measures like the federal program life democracy aims specifically at working against political, religious extremism, racism, antisemitism, and other forms of group-focused enmity. By taking preventive action, we must make clear that discrimination, due to hatred, intolerance, or simply ignorance, has no place in our societies. We furthermore would like to stress that there is an urgent need to reveiw and streamline the different mechanisms that work on the fight against racism and racial discrimination in order to ensure that they have a real impact on the ground. We have to find ways to enhance the synergy of existing mechanisms and must give priority to the full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. We would like to reiterate our firm commitment to fight antisemitism, racism, related intolerance and hate speech. While we welcome that language on the urgent need to combat antisemitism has been taken on board as a constructive approach by the pen-holder, we remain concerned by the highly problematic context of the Durban process and the repeated misuse of the platform for antisemitic views. We would like to underline that not all of the resolutions referred to in the text enjoy consensus. For those reasons, Germany will vote no on this resolution. Thank you, Madame President.