



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-seventh session

Item 118 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

### **Note verbale dated 17 August 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Federal Republic of Germany for election to the Human Rights Council for the term 2023–2025, at the elections to be held during the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission has the further honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, reaffirming its commitments to the promotion and protection of human rights (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany would be grateful to the President of the General Assembly if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 118 (c) of the provisional agenda.

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\* [A/77/150](#).



**Annex to the note verbale dated 17 August 2022 from the  
Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed  
to the President of the General Assembly**

**Candidature of Germany to the Human Rights Council, 2023–2025**

**Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly  
resolution 60/251**

1. The Federal Republic of Germany has the pleasure to hereby present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2023–2025, with elections scheduled to be held in New York in October 2022.
2. Serving on the Human Rights Council since 2020, Germany has demonstrated its strong commitment to the Council and its mechanisms and the purposes that they serve. Germany is proud to be serving as Vice-President of the Council in its Bureau. Germany strongly believes in values-based foreign policy and the universality of human rights as a guiding principle for cooperation between States in a rules-based, equitable multilateral order, supported by strong voices from civil society and national human rights institutions. Germany seeks immediate re-election to the Human Rights Council to continue to promote universal human rights for all.
3. Germany pursues a human rights-based approach in its foreign policy. It has committed itself to a feminist foreign policy, strengthening the rights, resources and representation of women and promoting diversity. Gender equality and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls are fundamental requirements for sustainable peace and security.
4. The promotion and protection of human rights are currently facing major challenges. Armed conflicts and repressive regimes are threatening fundamental human rights. Climate change is affecting people's living conditions and the realization of their human rights worldwide. Germany is committed to the universality of human rights as laid down by the United Nations in 1948 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the applicable international human rights treaties and the *acquis* of human rights guarantees under customary international law. Against this backdrop, Germany will continue to protect human rights, *inter alia*, by working together with its partners in the Human Rights Council and by furthering these rights in the fields of climate policy, the digital transformation, gender equality and accountability.

**Human rights at home**

5. The protection and promotion of, as well as respect for, human rights begins at home. Germany considers the realization of human rights to be an ongoing task. It is a party to the fundamental human rights covenants and conventions and has incorporated them into national law. Germany has entered into extensive commitments concerning the protection of human rights, and it appreciates its partners' views on how to better respect, protect and fulfil human rights in Germany. In this regard, Germany highly values the input from the universal periodic review and the human rights treaty bodies, and it has issued standing invitations to the special procedure mandate holders of the United Nations.
6. Germany regards human rights policy as a cross-cutting task affecting all areas of society. Implementing the country's national action plan to commit to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its efforts to achieve integration and equal opportunities and participation for refugees and migrants and to adjust and to develop its National Action Plan to Fight Racism, Xenophobia,

Anti-Semitism and Related Intolerance are just a few examples of the ongoing commitment of Germany to improving the domestic human rights situation.

7. The German Institute for Human Rights, established in March 2001, is Germany's independent national human rights institution and adheres to the Paris Principles ("A" status). It monitors the Government's human rights activities closely and critically, for example by publishing an annual report on the domestic human rights situation that is submitted to the German Bundestag.

#### **International commitment of Germany to human rights**

8. Germany strives to protect and foster respect for human rights throughout the world by addressing human rights issues in its bilateral political dialogues and consultations, by providing support and technical cooperation for projects aimed at improving human rights situations and by systematically taking human rights into account in its development cooperation policy programmes, humanitarian aid projects and conflict prevention activities. Germany focuses, inter alia, on human rights and climate change, on the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in all their diversity and on human rights online.

9. As part of its commitment, Germany has strengthened the Office of the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance. The Commissioner is the point of contact in Germany for all human rights issues, travels the world to engage in human rights dialogues and liaises closely with civil society representatives and the Bundestag.

10. Furthermore, Germany is seizing the opportunity presented by its presidency of the Group of Seven in 2022 to strengthen the multilateral order and bring human rights into focus in all global policy dossiers.

11. At its sixty-sixth session, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted concrete measures for the first time to strengthen women's rights in tackling climate change and reached agreement on approaches for the participation of women and girls in all areas for tackling the climate crisis. Germany played a leading role in facilitating these negotiations and will actively promote the implementation of the conclusions.

12. Germany is a staunch supporter of the International Criminal Court and will continue to do its utmost to ensure that it can work as effectively as possible and that it receives broad support from the international community.

13. In addition, Germany strongly supports mechanisms of the Human Rights Council that contribute to ending impunity, such as the commission of inquiry to investigate all alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the context of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine and the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

14. Germany has been a committed supporter of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms since its establishment. In 2021, for example, Germany strongly supported the recognition by the Human Rights Council of the right to a healthy, clean and sustainable environment as a human right, derived from and inherent in pre-existing international human rights obligations, and will continue to promote its implementation.

15. Germany pledges to:

- Continue to work to promote the universality and indivisibility of human rights

- Continue its support for the independence and autonomous capacity to act of all national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles
- Bring its presidency of the Group of Seven in 2022 to bear to strengthen multilateralism and to dovetail economic, climate, environmental and sociopolitical issues with the protection of human rights
- Support and strengthen the framework of the Human Rights Council as the primary United Nations forum for human rights and actively participate in discussions on the efficiency and the institutional status of the Human Rights Council
- Continue its support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the independence of her mandate
- Continue its close cooperation with OHCHR by, inter alia, providing substantial political and financial support for its work
- Closely cooperate with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, in particular by upholding its standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders to visit Germany
- Continue to work towards a greater number of ratifications of international human rights treaties
- Continue to work actively on the universal periodic review by offering recommendations to States and by cooperating with the review, with Germany itself under review in 2023
- Actively support the United Nations treaty body reform process with a view to furthering its effectiveness and efficiency while securing the independence of the treaty bodies and their experts
- Continue to promote the crucial role of civil society in the Human Rights Council and to actively support human rights defenders worldwide, including through the relocation and protection programme for human rights defenders, the Elisabeth Selbert Initiative
- Continue its commitment to end impunity for human rights violations and crimes under international law worldwide by supporting, for example, the OHCHR human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine, the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria, the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and other mechanisms, as well as the International Criminal Court
- Continue to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and to pursue a rights-based approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Continue to strengthen the link between climate change and human rights and to support a rights-based approach to guide global climate change policies and actions
- Continue its efforts to implement a common and consistent climate diplomacy and to achieve climate justice in line with the European Green Deal, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement in view of the impact of climate change on human rights
- Continue to lead the engagement on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation as well as on adequate housing and on the human rights of victims and survivors of trafficking in persons

- Use its membership in the Human Rights Council and in the Commission on the Status of Women and other international forums to promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women and girls, to support norm-setting and the implementation of the rights of women and girls with, inter alia, its candidature in 2022 for a seat on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and to promote women's economic empowerment
- Actively engage in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes" adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2022
- Fulfil its third action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, for the period 2021–2024, and develop a fourth national action plan on women and peace and security
- Continue its engagement in fighting conflict-related sexual violence, including by implementing the international architecture and supporting the monitoring efforts of OHCHR and of the International Criminal Court, inter alia, in Ukraine
- Strengthen the rights, resources and representation of women and girls worldwide and promote social diversity with a feminist foreign policy in mind
- As a member of the Equal Rights Coalition, tackle violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons and support the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, inter alia, through the Federal Commissioner for the Acceptance of Sexual and Gender Diversity, and counter all forms of discrimination
- Remain committed to the right to freedom of expression and fight for press freedom and the protection of journalists, including through programmes offering scholarships and temporary stays in Germany, as well as to tackle hate speech
- Continue to advocate the freedom of religion and belief and to advocate interfaith dialogue, inter alia, as promoted by the Federal Commissioner for Freedom of Religion or Belief
- Continue to protect and promote children's rights, in particular those affected by armed conflict
- Continue to advocate a European Union action plan on business and human rights based on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights of the United Nations and to enhance the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights in line with the new national Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations for the Prevention of Human Rights Violations in Supply Chains
- Advocate and strengthen human rights both offline and online, including by promoting the resolution on privacy in the digital age and by broadening its scope to also consider the impact of artificial intelligence
- Actively promote the recognition of the right to a healthy, clean and sustainable environment as a human right, derived from and inherent in pre-existing international human rights obligations, by the General Assembly of the United Nations and to advocate its concretization and enforcement
- Continue efforts to put human rights at the heart of the coronavirus disease (COVID) recovery and promote international solidarity and cooperation
- Continue to present the Federal Government's comprehensive human rights report, including a plan of action for human rights, to the Bundestag every two years.