

## **Delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany**

### **Position Paper for the United Nation Security Council**

The topics being discussed in the United Nations Security Council are Environmental Migration as a Concern for Peace and Security; Preventing Violence towards Refugees and IDPs, and Partnerships between the United Nations and Relevant Regional Organisations in Peacekeeping Operations. The Federal Republic of Germany looks forward to working with our fellow member states and to make progress towards finding a potential solution in the upcoming conference.

#### **I. Environmental Migration as a Concern for Peace and Security**

The growth in environmental migration and the deteriorating environmental conditions have exacerbated the impact of natural disasters and armed conflict on the level of migration throughout the world. There are multiple reasons for the increase in migration, but the impact of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation have led to a decrease in peace and security in critical regions. A recent report published by the Migration Data Portal found that 18.8 million people had migrated or relocated from their own country due to sudden-onset disasters in 2017 (Migration Data Portal, 2017). The growth of environmental migration, combined with the precarious security position of certain member states e.g. Chad, creates a situation that jeopardises the security situation in critical regions. This puts a strain on countries, especially conflict affected countries, and may lead to security concerns and the jeopardy of peace. While the effects of climate change tend to rest within the realm of the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change, Germany would point out that it is within the role of the Security Council to address or prevent potential security issues.

The international framework regarding the impact of environmental migration as a potential issue for the peace has been limited. Environmental migration in resolutions and reports e.g. UN Resolution 2013/1 (New trends in migration: demographic aspects) has only played a small part in the overall discussion of migration. This was noted by the President (German representative) of the 6587<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Security Council regarding the maintenance of international peace and security. The permanent representative of Germany Peter Wittig argues that a number of conflicts around the world are driven by “environmental degradation and climate change” and the growth of conflict and the effects of environmental issues may lead to “the destabilisation of whole regions”. There has been a lack of focus on the security aspects of environmental degradation and climate change within the Security Council, but other UN organisations have engaged with this issue further. A report from the former Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon for the UN General Assembly report on ‘Climate change and its possible security implications’ (UN A/64/350) recommends that member states utilise threat minimising approaches e.g. mitigation, sustainable development and fostering international cooperation to limit the impact the impact of environmental degradation on security. UN Resolution 2013/1 (New trends in migration: demographic aspects) regarding the involvement of the international community, the adoption of threat minimisation strategies supports this report and the approach of threat minimisation from environmental migration and degradation as a way to limit the security concerns.

Germany supports the recommendations proposed by Ban Ki Moon, especially regarding threat minimisation and threat limitation measures regarding environmental issues and climate change. In a joint statement with the foreign ministers of the G7 supported the recommendations provided by the G7 report “A New Climate for Peace: Taking Action on Climate and Fragility Risks”. The focus on a multi-faceted approach to addressing the security issues of environmental degradation and environmental migration which combines more environment-minded policies, sustainable development and peacebuilding and conflict resolution as a way to address the security and peace concerns regarding environmental migration and degradation. Moreover, Germany has placed more emphasis on the security issues of environmental migration and climate change as a whole with the creation of “climate diplomacy” within the EU Foreign Affairs Council which called for systemic risk reduction to prevent crises, including potential security aspects of environmental migration.

The Federal Republic of Germany supports the recommendation proposed by the IOM to introduce a clear legal definition for “environmental migration” to provide better legal and international protection for environmental migrants. It also supports the creation of a UN commission which focuses on the impact

of the environment migration and climate change on security. Moreover, this delegation recommends that the IOM should work with the UN High Commissioner on Refugees, UN Security Council, UN Development Programme and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to address and progress towards a more multi-faceted approach towards addressing environmental migration's impact on security within affected regions. Based on the recommendations suggested by the G7 report, the cooperation between these organisations should help to address the multiple factors that exacerbate the impact of environmental migration on peacebuilding and security concerns e.g. environmental degradation, limited food security and regional impact of conflicts. The cooperation between these organisations allows multiple avenues of action and recommendations to address the challenges that environmental migration, degradation and environmental disasters play in destabilising countries/regions and potential solutions.

## **II. Preventing Violence towards Refugees and IDPs**

Refugees and internally displaced people have experienced heightened levels of violence and conflict in recent times. Oxfam found that in 2015, 66.6 million people had either fled their country or are internally displaced. Moreover, the ever-changing Rohingya crisis as well as large numbers of Syrians and South Sudanese refugees has highlighted the importance of protecting these people groups against violence. The lack of protection for these refugees and internally displaced peoples has created humanitarian crises and the need for protection and prevention of violence towards refugees and internally displaced peoples (IDPs). However, the growth of violence towards refugees and IDPs have become an increased concern for Germany in recent times, especially with the higher level so of refugees that Germany has taken in recent times with Germany having 1.4 million refugees. Moreover, as Germany is the only nation to not border a conflict in the 10 largest refugee populations, this puts it in a unique position. Therefore, Germany puts particular importance into supporting nations who have large numbers of refugees from conflicts as well as providing institutional and financial support for states with high number of refugees.

There are a number of resolutions, conventions and organisations which tackle the issue of protection for refugees and internally displaced peoples. Multiple peacekeeping operations are taking place (in which Germany participates in 8 of 14 operations). Moreover, Germany has supported UN Initiatives e.g. 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Global Compact for Refugees (both of which promote the prevention of violence towards refugees and IDPs) and has adopted their recommendations and policy suggestions regarding the protection of refugees. Moreover, UN Resolution A/71/L.1 (New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants) also place a key emphasis on the legal, political and physical protection of refugees and IDPs as well as the legal definition of both refugees and migrants. Our government has put a large emphasis on the protection of refugees and the prevention of violence towards refugees. It has provided financial and logistical support to nations experiencing large influxes of refugees e.g. €50 million to assist the Ugandan government in their efforts to protect South Sudanese refugees. Germany supports the key recommendations proposed by UN Resolution A/72/152 and as adopted these recommendations e.g. integration and reintegration schemes for refugees in more stable countries/regions (whereby Germany cooperates with the IOM to reintegrate refugees in the Sahel and North Africa). It also is involved in a draft resolution proposed to the UNCHR and supported 53 other countries which puts emphasis on the protection of displaced persons, the long-term security changes needed to protect displaced persons and the importance of registration of refugees (UN Draft Resolution A/C.3/73/L.59). Moreover, Germany supports and has adopted all the proposals in the Global Compact for Refugees which enhances the legal framework for refugees and migrants as well as providing the UNHCR \$250 million for the protection and support for refugees in Syria and Libya.

Therefore, the Federal Republic of Germany has three proposals. Firstly, Germany proposes that a joint commission between the UN Security Council and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to address the security issues and protection of refugees and IDPs in vulnerable positions. This allows a more security-focused approach to the protection and prevention of violence towards refugees and IDPs. This also allows the establishment of a cohesive and well-informed international approach to addressing violence towards refugees and IDPS. Moreover, it provides a collective legal framework for the protection of IDPs (which aren't recognised under the same legal framework as refugees).

Moreover, Germany encourages the support for countries experiencing large numbers of refugees and internally displaced people to enhance their capability in dealing with large numbers of displaced peoples. This links to UN Resolution A/72/152 which emphasises that states are the key primary response to people displacement. Increased financial support from the international community will allow states who lack the financial and institutional capabilities to support and protect refugees and IDPs. Thirdly, Germany proposes the use of UN Peacekeeping forces in countries where refugees are particularly vulnerable to violence. This is to firstly, to bolster security forces protecting refugees, and secondly, to help increase the quality of security forces within the country. While there are currently 14 peacekeeping operations (whereby Germany contributes to 8 of these) the use of UN Peacekeeping troops as well as cooperation with national and supranational organisation (e.g. the AU) would allow the UN to expand its peacekeeping operations to involve the protection of refugees, IDPs and the prevention of violence.

### **III. Partnerships between the United Nations and Relevant Regional Organisations in Peacekeeping Operations**

Partnerships between the UN and regional organisations (ROs) have played a key role in peace building, conflict resolution and peacekeeping operations since its inception. Joint peacekeeping operations since the end of the cold war was promoted through the 'Agenda for Peace' proposed by the UN in 1992. The emphasis and focusing on crisis and conflict prevention (through preventative diplomacy, peace-making and peace-keeping). The cooperation between the UN and ROs in a post-Cold War environment played a key role in peacekeeping operations in Somalia, Sudan and other areas of the world. However, some would argue that due to key failings in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina have brought the UN Peacekeeping operations into question. However, our delegation feels that regional cooperation with the UN regarding peacekeeping operations is key to a long-term solution to

In relation to the international framework for cooperation between the UN and ROs, there are reports and resolutions that affirm the commitment to cooperation between the UN and ROs in peacekeeping operations. The UN Security Council adopted a resolution which affirmed the critical role of regional cooperation in international security and peacekeeping (SC/11497, 2014). It also called for further cooperation and innovation to boost the synergy and capabilities of both the UN and ROs to bolster their peacekeeping ability. Moreover, other Security Council resolutions e.g. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security: The situation in Nicaragua (S/PV.8340) and Strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union and (S/2018/678) further emphasise the importance of the partnership between the UN and ROs for peacekeeping. Germany has made strong commitments to peacekeeping organisations and supports the cooperation between the EU and the UN in military and peacekeeping operations. Germany's role in the joint EU-UN operation in Kosovo (KFOR) as well as making financial and personnel contributions to UN Peacekeeping forces (\$457 million and 3,500 Bundeswehr personnel). Moreover, our delegation places great importance in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations as well as the involvement of ROs. Our delegation feels that the inclusion of relevant ROs in peacekeeping operations provides a more long-term approach to peacekeeping as regions would not be as dependent on UN troops and can solve regional issues at the supranational level. Moreover, joint EU-UN training missions or AU-UN training missions allows states to better maintain peace and allows Africa or Central America to be more self-sufficient in their peacekeeping efforts.

Our delegation therefore provides the following recommendations. Firstly, our delegation proposes that there should be increased cooperation between regional organisations and the UN regarding peacekeeping organisations. It allows ROs to develop their own capabilities in peacekeeping operations and develop less dependency on the UN for interventions. Secondly, it bolsters the capability of both sides to act within peacekeeping organisations through resource sharing and collective intelligence. Another key aspect that Harald Braun argues (Non-permanent member of Security Council for Germany) is that it allows the UN to learn how to conduct itself within different cultural, political and ethic conditions that regional organisations can augment in their exchange. Secondly, Germany encourages the expansion of joint training missions for vulnerable countries e.g. Somalia or Mali. This

would allow these countries to better preserve peace and maintain security in the absence of regional or international support. The support for these countries' militaries (post conflict) would help to aid peacekeeping within the region in the future (due to bolstered capabilities of states).