



Germany, Federal Republic of: Written Commitments on the occasion of the “Summit for Democracy”

Introductory Remarks:

Germany being in a state of political transition, with the incoming government planned to take oath on December 8, the written commitments outlined below should be seen as preliminary. They may be revised, or additional commitments be added, by the second deadline the Summit organizers have set, that is January 7, 2022.

I. Strengthening Democracy and Countering Authoritarianism

1. General remarks

Germany will continue to live up to its responsibility for international peace and security as a member of the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United Nations and numerous international organizations. It pledges to continue to play an active role in international conflict prevention and crisis management, and to defend and strengthen universal human rights, multilateralism, and the rules-based international order.

Germany will take over the G7 Presidency on 1 January 2022 from the United Kingdom. Germany is looking forward to liaise with the United States and its G7 Partners to discuss how the G7 can contribute best to a strengthening of democracies against rising authoritarian trends both at home and abroad.

2. Fighting Antisemitism, Racism, Extremism, Supporting Social Cohesion

- a. Implementing the “Catalogue of Measures for the Fight against Right-Wing Extremism and Racism” (1 billion Euros, 2021-24)**

The “Cabinet Committee for the Fight Against Right-Wing Extremism and Racism” was set up in 2020, after the far-right extremist murders in Hanau. The Chancellor as well as several other cabinet members were part of the Committee. In late 2020, the Committee adopted the “Catalogue of Measures for the Fight against Right-Wing Extremism and Racism”, which consists of 89 measures. The catalogue was developed in close cooperation with the federal states, the civil society and scientists. These 89 measures are currently being implemented by all federal ministries. The Federal Government will provide a total of more than 1 billion Euros between 2021 and 2024 for the fight against right-wing extremism and racism. In its coalition agreement, the incoming German government has agreed to continue and to further develop the measures of the catalogue, and to provide sufficient sustainable funding.

Germany has also put the issue on the agenda of different multilateral organizations (e.g. EU, UNODC) and plans to make the fight against far-right wing violent extremism and terrorism a priority of its G7-presidency in the “Roma-Lyon-Group.”

b. Continued funding of the Research Institute Social Cohesion (RISC) (“Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt” – FGZ)

The German Government (through the Federal Ministry of Education and Research) will continue funding the Research Institute Social Cohesion (RISC) with 40 million Euros until mid-2024, with an optional extension period until 2029. RISC is a collaborative interdisciplinary research facility of 11 universities and research institutes from different parts of Germany, founded at the end of 2018 and fully established in 2020. RISC conducts democracy research with a strong focus on societal cohesion; it also examines conflicts between opposing groups of society and increasing radicalization of societal subgroups. The research is based on extensive empirical data, e.g. public opinion surveys, field studies, and comparative studies. RISC aims for a strong societal impact of its scientific findings via policy advice, knowledge transfer, and citizen science projects.

c. Strengthening research on Extremism

The German Government (through the Federal Ministry of Education and Research) will provide funding to strengthen the research on extremism in a long-term perspective. Funding initiatives to strengthen academic research on antisemitism and radical Islam have already been implemented. In addition, the Ministry will foster the academic research on Right-Wing Extremism and Racism, e.g. to gain a deeper knowledge of the historical roots and current

threats. Two “Scientific Networks” will enable the projects to connect a) the scientific communities and b) science with stakeholders in politics, the civil society, education, media/press and National Security Agencies. Moreover, scientific research groups on the above topics will be promoted. The groups include young researchers such as doctoral researchers and will be led by Post-Doc-Researchers who qualify for a full professorship. (total volume of all three research strands: up to 60 million Euros until 2025, 2027 respectively)

d. Federal Program “Live Democracy!”

The aim of the federal program "Live Democracy!" is to strengthen civic engagement, democratic action and preventive educational work against attacks on democracy and the rule of law; in particular against right-wing extremism, islamist and left-wing extremism as well as other phenomena of group-focused enmity. "Live Democracy!" facilitates projects all over Germany which develop and trial new ideas and innovative approaches in promoting democracy, shaping diversity and preventing extremism - at the municipal level, at the level of the federal states and at the level of the Federal Government. (Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, support volume: 150.5 million Euros in 2021)

3. Supporting the Rule of Law and democratic governance (internal and external projects)

a. Expanding the „Pact for the Rule of Law“

The „Pact for the Rule of Law“, which was implemented by the previous federal and *Laender* governments from 2018 to 2021, will be continued under the incoming government and expanded to include a „Digital Pact“ for the legislative branch. The aim is to strengthen the rule of law in the long term, especially in the areas of justice and police. Inter alia, more personnel were hired, rules were implemented to speed up court proceedings, and citizen participation was made possible through the "Stiftung Forum Recht" (Legal Forum Foundation).

b. Promoting international legal cooperation in order to strengthen the rule of law

The Federal Government (through the Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection) supports partner countries through the work of its implementing organization, the Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (“Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Rechtliche Zusammenarbeit e.V.”, IRZ). In

particular, the IRZ provides assistance in the creation and further development of structures that promote the rule of law and a market economy. The main objective is to establish an independent, well-functioning justice system that is fully underpinned by procedural law – for example by providing international advice on legal assistance in civil and criminal matters, particularly in the fight against organized crime and corruption. The fight against corruption will continue to be one of the most important cross-cutting issues of Germany’s international legal cooperation, most notably with regard to the EU candidate countries in the Western Balkans, and to the Maghreb states. Status: Ongoing, volume: approx. 500,000 Euros per year.

c. Enhancing European and multilateral cooperation for promoting democracy and rule of law

As a member of the “Team Europe” Democracy Initiative, Germany is committed to promoting democracy and human rights worldwide. Together with the EU Commission and its EU partners, Germany will strengthen networks and increase the availability of expertise and data on democratic backsliding and effective democracy support activities in the coming years.

Furthermore, Germany commits to enhance its cooperation with multilateral organizations in the area of promotion of democracy and rule of law, such as the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

d. Continuing democracy support as part of conflict prevention and peace building

Germany supports the strengthening of democratic political structures and the rule of law in conflict regions and fragile contexts worldwide as an integrated element of crisis prevention, stabilization and peacebuilding. Germany places particular relevance on cooperation with international organizations like UNDP, UNDEF and institutions like the European Endowment for Democracy. Together with its partners, Germany is committed to fostering resilient democracies worldwide in the coming years, with a particular emphasis on supporting civil society actors, inclusive electoral processes and capacity building for parliaments. This support, implemented by the Federal Foreign Office, will amount to at least 17 million Euros for projects worldwide and about 16 million Euros for additional projects in the MENA region.

4. Supporting Media Freedom and Diversity (internal and external)

a. Promote free and transparent media in times of crises

German development cooperation is launching a global initiative to promote "Transparency and Media Freedom - Crisis Resilience in the Global Pandemic". It aims to strengthen the resilience of local media, media NGOs and international media development networks so that they can guarantee the supply of, access to and flow of information even in times of crises, and also to be prepared for further possible crises in the future.

b. "Strengthening Journalism"

With a new programme for the structural strengthening of journalism set up in October 2021, the Federal Government now funds projects that support independent and autonomous journalism. Funding is provided for nationally significant model projects that address as many different social groups as possible and strengthen journalism in its structures. This includes for example, projects that convey the value and importance of quality journalism for democracy and strengthen its diversity, or projects to strengthen exile programmes for foreign journalists in Germany.

c. Safeguarding Media Freedom and Diversity: Continued funding for Deutsche Welle and its "Global Media Forum"

As an independent broadcaster, Germany's international broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) makes an important contribution to upholding the values of free journalism. It delivers the latest insights and analysis with regional television lineups in English, German, Spanish and Arabic, as well as radio and online content available in 32 different languages.

The German Government will also continue to provide funding for the "Global Media Forum", an annual media conference hosted by Deutsche Welle in Bonn, Germany. Up to 2.500 media professionals and decision-makers from politics, culture, education, business and science discuss the latest socio-political issues of our time and, in particular, how they are dealt with by the media. Since 2012, the Global Media Forum has been able to organize an annual fellowship program, welcoming media professionals from developing and transition countries with the help of a special grant from the Federal Foreign Office. (volume: 600.000 Euros)

d. Increased funding for the "Deutscher Kulturrat" ("German Cultural Council") to promote gender equality in culture and media

The “Deutscher Kulturrat” is the umbrella organization of the German cultural associations. Its purpose is to bring cross-sectoral issues into cultural policy discussions at all government levels.

The German Government has increased the funding for the coming three years in order to promote gender equality in culture and media. The increased funding will allow the “Deutscher Kulturrat” to publish further studies and analyze social issues paying particular attention to gender equality. These studies will help to improve the data basis, so that structural disadvantages can be identified and targeted measures can be taken. The “Deutscher Kulturrat” will also provide specific training opportunities for women aspiring to management positions and launch a new web-platform to strengthen co-operation and awareness on gender-related issues.

5. Chances and Challenges of Digitalization

a. Digitalization: Increasing funding for the “Digital Policy Lab” (DPL)

Germany (through the Federal Foreign Office) will expand funding for the Digital Policy Lab (DPL) organized by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) as a means to optimize policy making and consensus around the digital regulatory challenge, with an initial focus on Europe. The DPL is an inter-governmental working group focused on charting the regulatory and policy path forward to prevent and counter disinformation, hate speech, extremism and terrorism online, within the context of a wider liberal democratic vision for the internet. It is comprised of a core group of national-level representatives of the United States, Germany and other key liberal democracies. The DPL will provide expertise on a range of online security threats and harms, technological expertise and digital research where needed, and a forum to develop shared objectives on digital policy and regulation.

b. Examples of projects to combat discrimination and hate online

“Firewall – Countering Hate Online” focusses on prevention, and provides tools to counter hate speech, anti-semitism, right-wing extremism, conspiracy theories and disinformation on various social-media platforms. Timeframe: 2020-2023, volume: approx. 740.000 euros.

The idea of the Project HateAid is “Countering hate as a comprehensive threat: counselling for affected persons at the interface between offline and online violence”

Counselling for victims of cyber hate and violence, particular focus on countering racism, antisemitism, misogyny and LGBTIQ discrimination. Duration: 2020-2022, volume: approx. 1 million Euros.

6. Involving sub-national governments

a. Leveraging the strengths of local and sub-national governments: Co-hosting the Summit-branded side event „Mayors Delivering Democracy Daily“(December 6, 2021)

The German Federal Foreign Office is co-hosting this Summit-branded side event on the role of cities in fostering and fortifying democracy worldwide on December 6, 2021, with a German government representative providing introductory remarks.

b. Funding the GMF project „Cities Fortifying Democracy“

In this project funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Marshall Fund (GMF) identifies and explores some of the best local innovations to empower stakeholders around the world to further and fortify democracy through agency and action at the city level. Built around the four pillars “Voting and Elections”, “Governing”, “Public Safety and Justice”, and “Local Media” and based on an extensive network of cross-sector city leaders across 12 North American and European cities (including Frankfurt), this project brings together stakeholders and engaged citizens in a series of workshops on salient topics. Accompanying these activities and in the run-up to the “Summit for Democracy”, GMF is organizing the publication of case studies, best practices, and social media commentary.

7. Civic Education

a. Funding the research project “Democracy Education in Germany – Challenges and Potential”

The project aims at a comprehensive, systematic stocktaking of democracy education in Germany as a topic, objective, and practice of political education in the school context. In addition, the project examines how democracy education is implemented in child day care settings. (Federal Ministry of Research and Education, duration: 2019-2022, volume: 2 million Euros)

b. National competition “Demokratisch Handeln”(“Act Democratically”)

The competition “Demokratisch Handeln” calls on children and young people to get involved in democracy. The competition is looking for projects in which children and young people use their own ideas to promote democratic processes in the community, at school, in youth facilities or in other places – wherever they act democratically. (Federal Ministry of Research and Education, ongoing, volume: 430,000 Euros per year)

c. Showcase: The Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale fuer politische Bildung, BpB): Supporting the Fight against Antisemitism

The Federal Agency for Civic Education (BpB) has the task of promoting the understanding of political issues and processes, strengthening democratic awareness, and encouraging political engagement. It is an executive agency of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community.

For many years, the BpB has been using a variety of different formats to specifically address antisemitism. The BpB works against antisemitism through a broad range of measures and offerings such as print and online publications as well as guidelines, events and study trips to Israel. In keeping with this, the BpB promotes measures to strengthen local and regional civil society structures in the fight against antisemitism. Along with measures dealing specifically with antisemitism, it also includes antisemitism in various projects as a facet of group-focused enmity. Additionally, in parallel to tackling antisemitic positions through both argumentation and self-reflection, the BpB pursues the approach of emphasising the inclusive aspects of the history of Judaism in Germany and Europe. The BpB’s measures are designed for multipliers in the field of civic education, who use them in venues including schools.

d. BpB funding instruments

The BpB uses two different types of funding – institutional and project funding – to support civic education measures, projects and events, among other things, in order to counter antisemitism. These are aimed both at raising awareness of antisemitic structures, stereotypes and attitudes and at pursuing a broad-based approach to antisemitism prevention. In 2022, additional funding provided by the “Cabinet Committee to fight right-wing extremism and racism” (cf. above) will create incentives for civic education providers recognized by the BpB to develop new educational offerings, including those focused on antisemitism. Institutional funding provides support for educational offerings from a nationwide network currently comprising 109 adult education providers recognized by the BpB as meeting

its guidelines for funding. Project funding provides support for model projects and measures, including those by providers that do not belong to this network, to further develop and test new approaches to civic education.

e. Example: The “Zusammenhalt durch Teilhabe” federal program: Support for projects to foster democratic participation and counter extremism

Through the federal program “Zusammenhalt durch Teilhabe” (Cohesion through participation), the BpB has since 2010 provided support for the projects of associations and organisations that are active in rural and underdeveloped regions. The organisations are charged with developing skills of engaging in democratic practices – that is, enabling participation and actively countering undemocratic, hostile and discriminatory behaviours and incidents within their structures. To this end, both staff and volunteers within these organisations receive training and advice which takes into account all areas of group-focused enmity. Twelve million Euros per year are earmarked for this ongoing program.

II. Fighting Corruption

1. Promoting Beneficial Ownership Transparency internationally, especially through advocating for efficient central registries

Transparency of Beneficial Ownership of legal persons is an essential tool in the fight against corruption targeting illicit financial flows, including money laundering and tax evasion. The German Government will continue to advocate for the highest standards with regard to the efficient access to adequate, accurate and up-to-date beneficial ownership information and to promote Beneficial Ownership Transparency internationally by putting it on the agenda in relevant international fora, including the FATF, the G7 and G20. In this regard, the German Government works towards international commitments to establish central and public beneficial ownership registries. The German Government stands ready to provide technical assistance with regard to such registries.

2. Fight corruption and illicit financial flows by systematic mainstreaming of anticorruption measures in development cooperation

Germany will enhance its support to efforts in fighting corruption and illicit financial flows - major obstacles to sustainable development in many

countries. Therefore, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will launch and implement a new guiding concept aimed at a comprehensive, systematic and rigorously monitored mainstreaming of anticorruption measures in its co-operation with partner countries.

3. TruBudget: increasing transparency through blockchain technology

To further increase transparency and accountability on development funds in the public budget, Germany offers partner countries the use of open source tools like “TruBudget” to track and monitor financial assistance and to facilitate the use of partner-oriented funding instruments.

4. Continued support for, and cooperation in, international anti-corruption fora and activities

Germany will take part in the UNCAC (United Nations Convention against Corruption) COSP (convention of State Parties) held in Sharm-El-Sheik in December 2021 and will actively be involved in the follow-up of the COSP. UNCAC’s important verification mechanism was co-funded by Germany.

Germany actively takes part in the international anti-corruption cooperation in the G20 and in several other fora, like the Roma Lyon cooperation of the G7. In 2022, Germany will use the G7 Presidency to further advance the work of the Roma Lyon Group.

5. Continued support for UNODC

The German Government (through the Federal Foreign Office) plans to continue supporting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which delivers technical assistance in various corruption-related thematic areas. This support includes not only project funding, but independent funding for general purposes (administration, salaries), too.

6. Continued support for FATF

The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) is the international community’s most valuable tool against money laundering, which is intricately linked to corruption. Germany continues to actively support this important organization. Germany continues to actively support this important organization. The current German two-year FATF presidency will end in June 2022.

III. Promoting Respect for Human Rights

1. Reaffirming Internet Freedom, Raising Political Awareness, Strengthening Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Human Rights on the Internet: Co-Chairing the FOC's "Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights"

The Freedom Online Coalition (FOC) is an important platform to advance human rights online and Germany's multi-stakeholder platform of choice to take this relevant agenda forward. We highly appreciate that this coalition brings together the knowledge and expertise from governments, civil society, academia and industry. Germany is about to take up co-chairing the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights in 2022. Artificial intelligence is affecting more and more spheres of private and public life, including democratic processes and the dynamics of social media platforms. Its impact on human rights and democracy issues and options for regulation are currently being discussed in various multilateral fora. With its focus on human rights, we consider the FOC as an important voice contributing to multilateral processes.

2. Safeguarding the right to privacy in the digital age

Germany remains committed to safeguarding the right to privacy in the digital age. It will continue to spearhead international norm setting on human rights online and offline, inter alia by elaborating the resolutions on this topic introduced by Germany in the United Nations with regard to issues like new technologies, e.g. artificial intelligence.

3. Business and Human Rights: Support for due diligence regulation at EU level

The protection of human rights in value chains is of increasing importance in the national and international debate. Germany started implementation of the UN "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights" with a National Action Plan in 2016. With the "Supply Chain Due Diligence Law" passed in July 2021, Germany has created one of the most stringent binding regulations worldwide.

On this basis, Germany supports the initiative towards due diligence regulation at the European level. We actively support the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the promotion of human rights due diligence standards with broad international support at the UN level.

4. Support developing countries in the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Germany will also support developing countries in strengthening their capacities and regulatory frameworks for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) which serve as the authoritative global framework to promote responsible business conduct and to prevent, address and remedy human rights abuses committed in business operations. To this end, Germany will, amongst others, contribute to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) “Business and Human Rights in Africa” programme.

5. Support indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ (IPLCs) tenure rights in partner countries

Germany is committed to support indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ (IPLCs) tenure rights in partner countries and promote their contributions to climate action, forest conservation and biodiversity conservation. To this purpose, Germany refers to its commitment to substantially contribute to an initial, collective pledge made by several donors in November 2021 ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference, of USD 1.7 billion, from 2021 to 2025, to support the advancement of Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities’ forest tenure rights and greater recognition and rewards for their role as guardians of forests and nature.

6. Promoting Accountability for human rights violations (including conflict-related gender-based violence)

Germany commits to explore options for a new “Standing International Investigative Mechanism” (SIIM) for human rights violations, including under its G7 Presidency in 2022.

7. Promoting Gender Equality

Germany will continue its long-standing commitment to promote gender equality, expressed inter alia by its membership in both the Istanbul Convention and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Germany is committed to advancing these goals and is considering a candidature for CEDAW in 2022.

8. Supporting human rights institutionally

Germany has had a Federal Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid since 1998. Germany remains committed to providing the institutional support necessary to ensure that human rights are a central pillar of our international engagement.

Germany has consistently supported the establishment and the adequate funding of human rights components in UN peacekeeping missions, and pledges to continue to do so.

9. Defending Freedom of Assembly and cooperation with United Nations

Germany is fully committed to upholding the right to non-violent demonstration. For example, it responded comprehensively to information requests by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, when allegations against German police came up regarding certain measures imposed during “Anti-Covid demonstrations”. Germany commits to continuing its full cooperation approach with UN Special Procedures, including a standing invitation to mandate holders to visit Germany.

10. Strengthening the Women, Peace and Security agenda

Germany pledges to remain committed to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as a political priority. Germany adopted its Third National Action Plan on WPS in February 2021 and actively pushes for the continued implementation of the agenda at home, in bilateral settings and multilateral fora alike. In this context, Germany is interested in direct cooperation with other states who are interested in championing the WPS agenda, or are already doing so.

11. Fighting the Death Penalty

Germany is a staunch opponent of the cruel and inhuman practice of the death penalty. Germany remains committed to promoting its abolition. Underscoring this commitment, Germany is pleased to host the 8th World Congress against the Death Penalty in Berlin from 16 to 18 November 2022.