Germany’s Presidency of the UN Security Council in July 2020

Staying the Course in Turbulent Times

75 years after the adoption of the UN Charter on 26 June 1945, the UN remains at the heart of multilateralism. Yet, the values and principles enshrined in the Charter are under heavy strain. We need a strong UN and a Security Council that fully assumes its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security – because we are #strongerUNited.

Germany assumes the Presidency of the UN Security Council in July 2020 – for the second time as elected member in 2019/2020. Following the presidencies of fellow EU member states, Germany will continue the “European Spring” in the Security Council based on the deep-rooted belief in the power of multilateralism and the rules-based international order. We will address the most pressing challenges the world faces – from current conflicts and crises to the global COVID-19 pandemic and climate change – by:

- Defending the values enshrined in the United Nations Charter
- Consistently applying and fostering a comprehensive approach to peace and security
- Constructively working to peacefully prevent and resolve conflicts.

Priorities of the German Presidency

Conflict prevention and resolution will be the leitmotif for Germany’s second Council Presidency, just as it was in 2019. This is reflected by open debates examining the links between security and health, climate change or human rights. Our priorities are:

1. Safeguarding the Security Council as the primary forum for resolving international conflicts: In July, important regional political and humanitarian issues will be on the Council’s agenda from Libya to Syria, from Colombia to Yemen, as well as developments in the Middle East and in Western Africa.
2. Working together: The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged global cooperation. Only collectively will we be able to overcome the crisis. The Council is called upon to tackle the pandemics’ effect on international peace and security.
3. Putting the people at the center: We will address the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on humanitarian situations worldwide. The extension of the UN cross-border humanitarian aid mechanism in Syria, due in July, is the lifeline for millions of people.
4. Including human rights in Security Council work: The implementation of the women, peace and security agenda has to be among the priorities of international presence in any country.
5. Enshrining climate and security on the Security Council’s agenda: Almost ten years after the adoption of a presidential statement that Germany introduced in 2011, it is imperative to take the next step in addressing the challenges posed by global warming.
Thursday, 2 July: Open Debate on Pandemics and Peace & Security

Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, UN member states are invited to exchange views on the security implications of health-related security threats and the role of the Security Council. The open debate will focus on prevention, peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts in relation to pandemics.

Tuesday, 7 July: Open Debate on Peacekeeping Operations and Human Rights

The universality of human rights lies at the core of international peace and security. Human rights violations constitute an immediate driver for armed conflicts and are invariably a feature of violent conflict. During this open debate, member states are invited to discuss persistent challenges with regard to promoting and protecting human rights in the context of peace operations.

Friday, 17 July: Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

In this pivotal year for the Women, Peace and Security agenda with the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325 and one year after the adoption of Resolution 2467, this open debate will focus on progress and persisting gaps regarding the implementation of existing commitments, including with respect to a survivor-centered approach and accountability.

Friday, 24 July: Open Debate on Climate & Security

Climate change can potentially exacerbate, prolong or contribute to the risk of conflicts and instability. The effects of climate change thus constitute a key risk to international peace and stability. There is a need and an expectation for the Security Council to address those threats to international peace and security which are driven by climate change. The open debate will provide an opportunity for member states to systematically address key questions, notably how to improve early warning and risk analysis, how to enhance the capacity of the UN system to tackle climate-related security risks and how to improve its operational response.