



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Item 116 (c) of the preliminary list\*

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

### **Note verbale dated 30 May 2019 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 presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to refer to the candidature of Germany for election to the Human Rights Council for the 2020–2022 term, at the elections to be held during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Therefore, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, the Government of Germany has the honour to submit herewith the voluntary pledges of Germany reaffirming its commitment to the promotion of and respect for all human rights and its active engagement in the work of the Human Rights Council (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany would be grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

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\* A/74/50.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 30 May 2019 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, 2020–2022**

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

1. The Federal Republic of Germany has the pleasure to hereby present its candidacy to the Human Rights Council for the period from 2020 to 2022.
2. Having served on the Council in previous terms, most recently from 2015 to 2018, Germany has demonstrated its strong commitment to the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, in particular by assuming the presidency of the Council in 2015 and the vice presidency in 2018. Germany strongly believes in cooperation between States in a rules based, equitable multilateral order in the field of human rights and beyond, supported by strong voices from civil society, including national human rights institutions. We seek a new term on the Human Rights Council to continue to promote human rights in all appropriate international and United Nations forums.
3. Human rights are a cornerstone of Germany's foreign policy and development cooperation. Human dignity and inviolable and inalienable human rights are enshrined in article 1 of Germany's Basic Law "as the basis of every community, of peace and of justice in the world". The Basic Law thereby not only guarantees human rights in Germany, but also obliges the federal Government to work to protect human dignity and fundamental freedoms throughout the world. We firmly believe in the universality of human rights as laid down by the United Nations in 1948 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Germany also firmly believes that peace, security and sustainable development can take root only where human rights are respected and the freedom and dignity of every individual is protected. In addition, Germany's foreign and development policy remains committed to worldwide poverty reduction, sustainable growth and ambitious climate policy through forward looking policies.

**Human rights at home**

4. Protection, promotion and respect for human rights begin in our own country. Germany considers the realization of human rights to be a continuous task. Germany is a party to the fundamental human rights conventions and has incorporated them into national law. Germany has entered into extensive commitments concerning the protection of human rights, and we appreciate our partners' views on how to better respect, protect and fulfil human rights in Germany. In this regard, we highly value the input from the universal periodic review and the human rights treaty bodies, and we have issued standing invitations to the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council to visit our country.
5. Germany regards human rights policy as a cross cutting task affecting all areas of society. The realization of article 3 of the German Basic Law, which commits to gender equality, as well as the development of a national action plan to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, our efforts to attain integration and equal opportunities and participation for refugees and migrants, as well as the implementation of our national action plan to fight racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerance are just a few examples of our ongoing commitment to improving the domestic human rights situation.

