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Sample Position Paper

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Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council of the UN

Increase of natural disasters due to climate change

The relevance of the climate change always has been very high for the German government. Germany is one of the biggest proponents of an environment- friendly policy. Germany also supports quick reactions to natural catastrophes. We hope to convince other countries to do more against the climate change and for the help of countries which are affected by natural catastrophes.

Germany decided on many measures to fight climate change, which is responsible for the increasing number of natural catastrophes in the last decades. Germany tries to reduce the emissions, which intensify the greenhouse-effect by 40% in 2020 compared to the emissions of 1995. Experts think that Germany is going to reach an emission reduction of 35%. Germany decided among other things on a special fond of 400 Mi. Euros, to support climate protection projects in Germany and other developments.

Furthermore Germany has taken a pioneer role in the engineering of wind turbines and photovoltaic-systems. Germany is very interested in the fast expansion of renewable energies and will reach a quota of 19,7 % of renewable energies in 2020 instead of a quota of 18% which is demanded for Germany by the EU in the renewable energies directive (2009/28/EG).

Happily Germany did not have problems with natural disasters in larger quantities recently. Nevertheless Germany tries to prevent natural disasters with an advanced coastal management system and other measures.

The German government is supporting a lot of international agreements to stop climate change. The Kyoto protocol of 1997 and many other contracts regarding climate change were signed by Germany. Germany always has been one of the states which tried to convince the international community of ambitious aims to solve the climate problems of this world.

One important step to reach this aim was the agreement of Durban 2011, because the international community decided that all states should be committed to changing their emissions of heat-trapping gases. On an international level Germany supports the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) in Geneva. German development policy brings its diverse experience in the development strategy of the United Nations.

Also UN-Conventions, which are closely related to the natural disaster provision, like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Anti-desertification convention, are supported by Germany.

A great majority of German politicians recognize climate change as a severe world problem. Angela Merkel stated: "It is increasingly apparent that we must act now, as climate change is accelerating. Climate change threatens both our security and our economic development. Failure to take decisive action will have a dramatic impact." This point of view is shared by the whole German government.

There also is a large consent about the benefits and importance of quick reactions to natural catastrophes and sustainable reconstruction aid. There are only a few disputes about their right use.

Before we come to our conclusion we would like to recall the influence climate change has on our world.

1. The last decade was the warmest one ever noted, followed by the decade before.
2. The amount of natural catastrophes increases heavily (average 1990-1996: 250; average 2000-2008: 392)
3. The concentration of CO₂ increases from 280 ppm (preindustrial) to 390 ppm.

Because of these alarming facts, Germany suggests to enforce the decision of Durban as quickly as possible. Additionally the solidarity between the states has to be very high in times of natural disasters. Quick help and sustainable reconstruction aid should be self-evident. Every country needing help to overcome the ramifications of a natural disaster should get all the support they need.