



Securing the United Nations' ability to act and its legitimacy in the 21st century

The UN Reforms must be swiftly continued Recommendations and demands for German UN policy

Adopted by the members of UNA-Germany on the occasion of their 28th Regular General Assembly on the 3rd December 2005 in Bonn

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UNA-Germany, which regards itself as an organisation of people with cosmopolitan engagement, urges the global challenges to be surmounted and to give the United Nations, as the core of world society's political system and the manifestation of multilateralism, a greater ability to act. All peoples must put pressure on their governments to engage in constructive cooperation in the sense of the Preamble of the United Nations Charter. This is why UNA-Germany calls on the German Government to consistently continue the pursuit of existing global policy approaches and launch initiatives of its own to thus also make a step towards attaining its own objective of credible and effective multilateralism.

In this context, UNA-Germany addresses German UN policy with the following 30 recommendations and demands:

- Working towards more effective protection of human rights
- Promoting democracy as a key value of the states and of world society
- Recognising democracy as a precondition for combating corruption
- Continuing with the development of the "UN Norms" for transnational corporations
- Ratifying the international treaties
- Extending international criminal jurisdiction
- Developing innovative peace and security concepts and strategies
- Preventing conflicts and ensuring the responsibility to protect
- Prevention and punishment of actors of international terrorism in the framework of democratic order and on the basis of law
- More support for UN-led peace missions
- Setting up a Peacebuilding Commission that is able to act
- Pursuing effective disarmament strategies
- Taking the Millennium Development Goals seriously, implementing the 0.7 % ODA target
- Extending multilateral development cooperation
- Strengthening global environmental protection and measures to combat global warming
- Shaping migration in a positive manner
- Setting up a support fund for disaster relief
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- Enlarging the Security Council
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- Setting up a Parliamentary Assembly of the United Nations
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- Working towards a successful coordination of UN policies at national and EU level
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- Increasing the number of German staff in the UN system
- Jointly strengthening the UN internally and

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The UN Reforms must be swiftly continued

Following on from the UNA-Germany's board declarations "Für eine internationale 'Kultur der Prävention' und eine Politik des globalen Gemeinwohls" (For an international 'Culture of Prevention' and a policy of global public welfare - 2002) and "Prioritäten für die künftige deutsche UN-Politik" (Priorities for a future German UN policy - 1999), the members of UNA-Germany resolve, on the occasion of their 28th Regular General Assembly on the 3rd December 2005 in Bonn, at the beginning of the 16th Parliamentary Term of the German Parliament, the following recommendations and demands for German UN policy.

Sixty years after the founding of the United Nations, the world is facing major challenges. The world organisation's ability to act and as well as its legitimacy is of crucial importance to coping with these challenges. The members of UNA-Germany shared the hopes placed on the New York World Summit in September 2005. This applied to sticking to the successful implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, it applied to a viable reform of the world organisation. These expectations were supported during the preparation of the World Summit by reports of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change as well as the UN Secretary-General. In spite of a number of important stipulations, the negotiations and the Summit document fell behind these expectations. Pressure for reform and the challenges remain. It is disappointing that too little concrete progress has been made to

- contain wars, especially in the poor countries;
- reduce the excess of weapons;
- eliminate poverty and hunger;
- solve the problems of ever increasing injustice in the distribution of income and wealth and
- halt environmental degradation.

These aspects continue to constitute global problems that global society – currently constituted as a community of states – has so far failed to find sufficient answers to. This above all applies to the non-proliferation and disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, measures to combat global warming and the institutional reform of the United Nations. Together with many other people and organisations throughout the world, UNA-Germany, which regards itself as an organisation of people with cosmopolitan engagement, urges that the global challenges be addressed and coped with and the United Nations, as the core of the political system of world society, be ensured a greater ability to act. Only through more engagement worldwide can the blockades that have been persisting for years be overcome so that the world organisation can be strengthened as a central location and manifestation of multilateralism. All peoples have to exert pressure on their governments to engage in constructive cooperation in the sense of the Preamble to the United Nations Charter.

UNA-Germany calls on the German Government to consistently pursue existing global policy approaches and to engage in initiatives to also take steps towards its own objective of credible and effective multilateralism.

To this end, UNA-Germany addresses German UN policy with 30 recommendations and demands relating to

- strengthening human rights and democracy and compliance with international law;
- human security, peace and the prevention of war;
- fair global development, environmental protection and disaster prevention and control;
- the United Nations in the 21st century and
- the next steps in German UN policy.

I. Strengthening human rights, democracy and compliance with international law

1. Effective protection of human rights

The dignity of human beings and the protection of their unalienable rights form the centre and the foundations of any rule-based and democratically legitimized political order. This is why UNA-

Germany explicitly welcomes agreement on a UN Human Rights Council. Such a council can represent progress compared to the former UN Human Rights Commission provided that its mandate, working methods, size and composition are designed with a view to strengthening the protection of human rights. The German Government is called upon to actively engage in the negotiations on the development of this Human Rights Council and the international protection of human rights. Here, the German Government ought to pursue the following:

Locating the Council in Geneva, defining thematic mechanisms and retaining of Special Rapporteurs, involvement of non-governmental organisations, members selected via open ballot with two-thirds majority of General Assembly, monitoring of their human rights policy during membership, competencies to deal with specific country situations. Furthermore, the German Government is called upon to urge a reform of the human rights treaty bodies and contribute to strengthening the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It ought to campaign for better funding of the UN human rights bodies.

2. Democracy as a core value of the states and world society

Democratic structures and procedures are closely linked to sustainable global peacekeeping and compliance with human rights. This is why the peaceful promotion of democracy and good governance in all states is among the central tasks of a community of states that endeavours to be democratic. UNA-Germany welcomes that the establishment and implementation of democratic principles is at the centre of the German Government's foreign and development policy.

3. Democracy as a prerequisite for combating corruption

Worldwide democratic structures are also an important prerequisite for preventing and combating corruption. In this context, UNA-Germany stresses that over the past years, corruption in member states has been the chief cause of corruption being suspected in the UN system. It welcomes the entering into force of the UN Convention against Corruption. The German Government is therefore called upon to initiate the ratification process as quickly as possible and thus additionally contribute to the outlawing and prosecution of corruption.

4. Continuing with the development of the "UN Norms" for transnational corporations

Over the past years, transnational corporations have significantly extended their power and influence. They have become especially powerful in the developing countries, where their corporate strategies influence the lives of many people. The responsibility of transnational corporations in the area of protecting human rights, complying with social and environmental minimum standards and their role in the prevention of conflicts have thus become global political challenges. The aim is to achieve an effective worldwide framework for corporations that obligates them to comply with human rights standards. While approaches applied so far to integrate corporations at global level, such as the Global Compact or the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises, open up very promising cooperation strategies and have indeed scored many a positive impact, their lack of control results in significant legitimacy gaps. This is why the debate on the "UN Norms on Responsibility of Transnational Corporations" that has been started in the UN Human Rights Commission should be continued in an open and transparent manner. UNA-Germany calls upon the German Government to assess to what extent such norms could become internationally coordinated national or international law within the UN framework.

5. Ratifying international treaties

Credible multilateralism is also expressed in the clear support of international treaties that have been adopted within the United Nations framework. This is why the German Government is called upon to initiate ratification procedures as quickly as possible for all international treaties that have been signed by Germany but have not yet been ratified and present a report on all internationally negotiated agreements that are ready for signing or ratifying or have been ratified with reservations over the last few years.

6. Extending international criminal jurisdiction

UNA-Germany explicitly welcomes Germany's engagement in setting up and developing the International Criminal Court and the "Justice Rapid Response Initiative". The German Government is called upon to maintain this determined engagement and thus contribute to helping the pioneering

notion of international criminal jurisdiction to gain, step by step, universal support in the community of nations. This above all applies because the International Criminal Court is not mentioned in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit. Furthermore, the German Government is called upon to present a report on experience with applying the International Criminal Code.

II. Human security, peace and preventing war

7. Developing innovative peace and security concepts and strategies

Key progress made in the Report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change includes an assessment of the new threats that world society is currently facing and a demand deduced from this for the equal treatment of “soft” and “hard” threats to international security. UNA-Germany welcomes initial specifications of this new situation, such as the 2005 Report on Human Security compiled by the Human Security Centre in Vancouver. The German Government is called upon to assume a leading role in the conceptual development and practical implementation of the concept of human security.

8. Preventing conflicts and ensuring the responsibility to protect

The community of states must counter new threats to international security posed by global terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and organised crime as well as the regimes involved in them by determined measures of conflict prevention. If peaceful prevention proves insufficient, it has to apply sanctions as a last resort. However, the need for prevention cannot be invoked to turn the right of self-defence, a defensive strategy pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter, into an offensive means of pre-emptive self-help. On this point, the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change clearly stated that there is no need for an extension or limitation of the scope of Article 51 of the Charter; this assessment is to be fully endorsed. Under the Charter system, the Security Council alone has the authority and legitimacy to initiate military prevention if milder measures fail and proportionality is ensured. It is regrettable that the key statements of the Report of the High-Level Panel in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit should have been sacrificed and replaced by vague formula compromises. In contrast, it is to be welcomed that the Outcome Document enshrines the international community’s commitment to intervene in cases of genocide, ethnic cleansing and other serious crimes against the civilian population if the national authorities do not live up to their responsibility to protect.

If military sanctions are to be taken as a last resort outside the area of application of Article 51, the Security Council alone is authorised to make the decisions required to this end, based on Chapter VII of the Charter.

9. Prevention and unishment of terrorism in the framework of democratic order and on the basis of the law

Preventing and punishing the actors of international terrorism is to be carried out in the framework of democratic and rule-based order. To this end, in combating international terrorism, the increasing law-making role that the Security Council has assumed needs to be made more transparent. The Outcome Document of the World Summit fails to adopt a definition of terrorism resembling that proposed in the report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.

UNA-Germany calls on the German Government to campaign internationally for this definition.

10. More support for UN-led peacekeeping missions

Germany is heavily involved in the area of peacekeeping missions *mandated* by the UN. UNA-Germany explicitly welcomes this commitment and calls on the German Government to attach more significance to supporting UN-led peacekeeping operations in addition to taking part in UN-mandated missions. Acceptance of the extended range of threats that world society faces today and tomorrow is reflected in involvement in resolving regional conflicts that do not appear to have a direct impact on Germany’s security interests. For the wealthier regions of the world, and hence also for Germany, this does not result in an immediate commitment to provide more troops for UN-led peacekeeping missions, but it does at least mean bearing the responsibility to contribute to logistic and financial support for them.

11. Setting up a Peacebuilding Commission that is able to act

The Peacebuilding Commission adopted in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit is to make the community of nations more able to take action in order to initiate a sustainable post-conflict peace and development process. However, this will only succeed if the Commission is equipped with the necessary resources and has a mandate sufficient to intervene effectively and sustainably in post-conflict situations. The principle of equal representation of men and women has to be observed in the composition of the Commission, and the participation of non-governmental organisations has to be enabled. The German Government is called upon to actively engage in the forthcoming negotiations on the design of this Commission and participate in its establishment, making specific material and staffing commitments. Here, it has to be borne in mind that peacebuilding and conflict prevention are intrinsically linked.

12. Effective disarmament strategies

There are still too many troops and weapons throughout the world – small arms, land mines, nuclear warheads and other weapons of mass destruction. All this is sufficient to exterminate humankind several times over. The proliferation of weapons to state and non-state actors poses a very serious threat that can be coped with most effectively in the United Nations framework. UNA-Germany calls on the German Government to continue to actively campaign against the undermining of the non-proliferation regime for nuclear arms and urge the development of effective strategies to prevent proliferation. UNA-Germany calls on the German Government to take up initiatives to check and control arms exports worldwide, including those of small arms, and strictly observe German elements of an offence contravening regulations and underline EU-wide and international elements of any offence contravening such regulations. This includes the outlawing of land mines. Germany has to play an exemplary role in all these contexts. Disarmament has to go hand in hand with a reduction of the number of troops worldwide.

III. Fair global development, environmental protection and disaster prevention

13. Taking the Millennium Development Goals seriously, implementing the 0.7% ODA target

In his report submitted in mid-March 2005, the UN Secretary-General reminded the heads of states and governments of the developed countries of their duty to fix schedules to achieve the provision of 0.7 % of their gross national income for Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2015. Accordingly, by 2006 at the latest, they are to commence with significant increases and reach at least 0.5 % by 2009. Germany currently spends around 0.29 % percent of its gross national income on development aid but has pledged to raise this amount to 0.51 % by 2010 and 0.7 % by 2015. The German Government is called upon to implement what it has pledged and undertake a substantial increase in development aid. Independently of this, the German Government ought to additionally participate in designing and developing new tools to finance development, such as an international finance facility, an air ticket or the Tobin Tax, in order to achieve the Millennium Goals by 2015, as agreed. The goals can only be realised if the world trade regime is changed in favour of the developing countries. Realising the Millennium Goals belongs to the larger context of global commitments to the results of the world conferences on sustainable development, global and social issues, population and women's rights.

14. Extending multilateral development cooperation

In the area of development, the effectiveness of multilateral cooperation is of crucial importance. The rigid 30-percent ceiling on German Budget funds for multilateral cooperation introduced by the German Parliament's Budget Committee has, in the past years, resulted in drastic funding cuts for the UN system since the German contributions to other multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, regional development banks or the European Union are based on commitments covering several years. This is why the German Government should lift current rigid restrictions on budget means for multilateral cooperation so that German development policy can be made more credible in the UN multilateral framework. The contributions for UN funds and programmes ought to be raised to the level that was commonplace just a few years ago. In future, binding multi-year commitments ought to be made to the UN system as well.

15. Strengthening global environmental protection and measures to combat global warming

The environmental disasters of the recent and very recent past make a more intensive and anticipatory environmental policy more and more urgent. UNA-Germany explicitly welcomes the greater significance that this global challenge has been given in the context of the United Nations over the last few years. With the Kyoto Protocol, binding targets for the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases damaging the climate were agreed for the first time by the industrialised nations involved. However, the future of international measures to combat global warming is uncertain, for a number of countries, including the USA as the greatest source of emissions damaging the climate so far, reject the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the measures agreed initially only apply up to 2012. The German Government is called upon to fulfil its own commitments in this respect, call on other governments and, should the need arise, assist them in doing the same and further engage in the ongoing Kyoto II Process. The institutional establishment of global environmental policy has resulted in a fragmentation of a diversity of UN bodies and a large number of intergovernmental committees and panels with overlapping mandates and losses of synergy. The German Government is called upon to continue to support the creation of a UN Specialized Agency for the cross-sectoral task of "Global Environmental Policy" (United Nations Environmental Organisation – UNEO) that could replace the existing UN Environmental Programme (UNEP).

16. Strengthening the positive aspects of migration

The report of the World Commission on International Migration was presented on the 5th October 2005. For the first time, comprehensive principles of action are now on hand to shape migration with a view to its positive global impact on development. The German Government is called upon to urge that the report's recommendations be turned into global policy measures.

17. Setting up a support fund for disaster relief

The latest earthquake disaster in Pakistan did not trigger anything near what a world society acting in solidarity would provide in assistance. Now, the comprehensive assistance measures in the wake of the Tsunami disaster at the end of 2004 are contrasted with flagging readiness to help. This is why the German Government is called upon to actively campaign for the setting up of an assistance fund at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The financial means for the fund are immediately available, and it would also improve OCHA's crisis response. The German Government is further called upon to participate in financing this fund to an appropriate extent and set up scientific capacities in Germany for disaster medicine.

IV. The United Nations in the 21st century

18. Developing the United Nations Charter

As up-to-date as the founding document of the United Nations with its claim to world society engagement laid down in its preamble ("We, the peoples") may be, the Charter nevertheless remains a product of post-World War II times that urgently needs to be adjusted to the governmental and societal conditions of the 21st century in terms of its institutional and procedural stipulations. This above all applies to a reform of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Furthermore, the rights of civil society organisations ought to be strengthened, the rights and obligations of the private sector referred to and a parliamentary dimension of the United Nations be made possible. A consensus has already been reached in the Outcome Document of the World Summit on the elimination of obsolete provisions, particularly the reference to "enemy states" in Articles 53, 77 and 107 and the Trusteeship Council, which has been rendered devoid of any function. UNA-Germany acknowledges that the member states could not reach agreement at the World Summit on adopting the further reaching amendments to the Charter listed here and calls on the German Government to urge this to happen.

19. Enlarging the Security Council

Enlarging the Security Council with new permanent and non-permanent seats is among the central reform tasks in the system of the United Nations. With Africa and Latin America, entire continents and with India the world's democratic state with the largest population are not represented with permanent seats in the United Nations' central decision-making body. This no longer gives the latter's resolutions

the legitimacy that would be appropriate for a world organisation with authority to decide on peace and war in global responsibility for sustainable development. An enlargement of the Security Council has been debated for more than ten years. The German Government is called upon to make further steps to arrive at a result that would incorporate a better integration of Africa, Latin America and Asia in the Security Council. In the context of such an extension, a permanent German seat could also be legitimised. A common EU seat ought to be the goal of a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) that has been developed beyond inter-governmental coordination. In this context, the abolition of the ban on re-electing or extending the period of office of non-permanent members is possible. In parallel to the debate on the extension of the Security Council, its working methods could be improved. Tried-and-trusted informal procedures ought to be established. The German Government is called upon to support the draft resolution for more transparency which was submitted by several states on the 3rd November 2005.

20. More options to act in global economic, social and environmental politics

In its present form, mode of operating and options to act, ECOSOC does not do justice to the global economic, and social goals in accordance with Chapter IX of the Charter. The desired “state of stability and affluence” that is supposed to create “friendly and friendship relations between the nations” has by no means been secured. On the contrary, it has been threatened by imbalances in the world economy. The existing international economic and financial order has to be accordingly developed and made more coherent. In the short term, this requires the implementation of the ECOSOC Reform adopted at the Millennium Summit as well as increased cooperation between the G8/G20 and the UN. Concrete proposals on cooperation ought to be made in a Multi-Stakeholder working group of the international institutions concerned. The German Government ought to coordinate steps to this end within the EU. Germany’s G8 Presidency in 2007 offers an opportunity to give clear impulses. In the long term, ECOSOC needs to be developed into a “second Security Council” that would be responsible for economic, social and environmental issues. Networking this second security council with the UN Specialized Agencies and other international organisations in the financial, social and environmental areas, above all the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and the International Labour Organisation, is to be established in the Charter and specified in the statutes of the individual organisations. Its composition has to be globally representative, with the number of inhabitants and the economic power of the states and regions involved being weighted.

21. Greater integration of non-governmental actors

Non-governmental actors in global policy are organisations of civil society and the private sector. All citizens of democratic societies have a right to political ownership. It is constitutionally guaranteed in democratic states. One of the aspects it is realised under the freedom to form organisations. At global level, non-governmental organisations have achieved a lot to assume this right, and this is clearly reflected in the increase in the number of non-governmental organisations accredited with an observer status at the UN. They ought to be integrated on the basis of the Cardoso Report on UN-Civil Society Relations. Commercial enterprises of the private sector also enjoy global entrepreneurial freedom. This requires transparency and effective structures in the global economy. However, enterprises have to be integrated in commitments to human rights and environmental protection as well as a rejection of war. The Global Compact, an idea of the Secretary-General, has set important guidelines in this respect.

22. For a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations

In democratic societies, the separation of powers and legitimacy indispensably includes parliamentary representation of the population. This is why UNA-Germany welcomes and supports the German Parliament’s resolution on a parliamentary dimension in the United Nations system of 16th June 2005. However, it maintains that cooperation between the Inter-parliamentary Union and the United Nations in its present form is not sufficient. In this respect, UNA-Germany welcomes and supports the European Parliament’s resolution on a reform of the United Nations of the 9th June 2005 in which the European Parliament called for the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly within the UN structures. UNA-Germany holds the view that in the medium term, the parliamentary participation and control at the level of the United Nations ought to be institutionalised in the shape of a Parliamentary Assembly within the United Nations. It calls on the German Parliament and the German Government to thoroughly assess the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations.

V. German UN policy: the next steps

23. Compulsory jurisdiction must be recognised

A peaceful world order has to be based on law; first and foremost this requires compliance with rules of international law. This is why UNA-Germany continues to call on the German Government to submit to the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. According to the optional clause of Article 36 paragraph 2 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, Contracting States can declare at any time that they recognise the Court's role in international relations and strengthen the UN's principal judicial organ. Among the 65 states that have so far made such a declaration are Egypt, Denmark, the United Kingdom, India, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Switzerland and Spain. By making an optional clause declaration, Germany would set an example for other UN member states that so far have been equally unwilling to accept the Court's jurisdiction in a general way. The German Government ought to initiate the steps required for this as swiftly as possible.

24. Orderly payment of membership contributions

In accordance with the financial regulations of the United Nations, the member states have to pay their assessed contributions to the regular UN budget on time and in total by the 30th January of a calendar year. In 2005, 34 states did this, including Denmark, France, Canada, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland. The German Government pays in two instalments at the beginning and in the middle of the year and is called upon to abandon this mode of payment in the future. Instead, it ought to fulfil the UN budget regulations and pay the annual contribution in total at the Secretary-General's request. This would set a further example with a model character for other UN member states to strengthen the United Nations. In addition, the German Government and the German Parliament are called upon to urge defaulting member states to fulfil their duty to pay their contributions, which is binding under international law.

25. Strengthening the German Parliament's Sub-committee on the United Nations

Again and again, the United Nations has been accused of ineffectiveness and a lack of transparency. This is why, in addition to a wide range of reform steps, the Secretary-General has called on the member states to also make a contribution to system-wide coherence and transparency by coordinating their UN policies. One of the ways in which Germany has responded to this demand is via the work of the German Parliament's Sub-committee on the United Nations, whose task is to provide parliamentary assistance to the German Government's UN policies and to maintain a direct dialogue with representatives of the UN system. UNA-Germany has always followed this parliamentary support of German UN policies with considerable interest. Through its work, the Sub-committee has managed to lay important foundations for a parliamentary processing of multilateral negotiation processes. UNA-Germany regards a continuation of providing an institutional framework for the assistance of UN policies as appropriate. Only in this way can the German Parliament pursue its tasks in the cross-departmental field of multilateral foreign policy, which is difficult to access for parliamentary control. In order to help gain more response among the public to the work of the Sub-committee and further boost the transparency of German UN policies, the Sub-committee is called upon to generally hold its sessions in public in future and run hearings more frequently. The German Parliament ought to deal with United Nations issues in plenary sessions on a regular basis.

26. Successful coordination of UN policies at national and UN level

The German Government's UN policies have to be coordinated at Cabinet level. This will ensure that German UN policies are free of contradictions. The responsibility, preparation and overall control of German UN policies as well as heading delegations at international conferences lies with the Foreign Office. This improved coordination should also be made use of to boost the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy in the area of the United Nations.

27. Extending UN institutions in Germany, and, especially, strengthening Bonn as a UN City

The German Government should actively campaign for a strengthening of all UN locations, especially for the UN City of Bonn. A host country agreement for international institutions that are already

working in Bonn ought to have a positive effect on Germany's applying for the locating of further UN institutions. In this context, the German Government is also called upon to implement the German Parliament resolution to set up an international agency for renewable energies in the foreseeable future. Furthermore, UNA-Germany is in favour of extending the representation of the UN Information Centre at the locations of Bonn and Berlin.

28. Raising the number of German staff in the UN system

UNA-Germany is campaigning for an appropriate official representation of Germany among higher-level positions in the UN organisations and simultaneously regards this as a way of strengthening the ideals of the UN throughout Germany and promoting cosmopolitan engagement. The German Government's attempts to remedy under-representation of the past are already bearing fruit, although they should be conducted more effectively and systematically in the future. This includes better coordination of German staff policy in international organisations by the local German embassies. Existing career obstacles to moving from national civil servant positions to service in international organisations and vice-versa are to be eliminated.

29. Another Secretary-General worthy of such a position

UNA-Germany appreciates the achievements of the United Nations' seventh Secretary-General. In difficult times, through the contents and the style of his tenure of office, Secretary-General Kofi Annan has rendered outstanding services to the world organisation. These include opening up the UN to the challenge of globalisation, realising reforms within the Secretariat, his courageous outspokenness against the United Nations being marginalised and harnessed for certain policies as well as his exemplary campaigning for the rights of the world's weakest, especially in Africa. The German Government is called upon to engage in the debate over Annan's successor and thus urge the election of a successor worthy of such a position. A decision on Annan's successor should be arrived at three months before the expiry of the Secretary-General's term of office and thus be practised according to the same procedure that has been applied for the election of the President of the General Assembly since 2003. UNA-Germany calls on the German Government to enter the debate with an appropriate proposal regarding procedures.

30. A common effort to strengthen the UN internally and externally

UNA-Germany calls upon and supports the German Parliament and the German Government to make relentless efforts strengthen the United Nations at all levels, internally and externally, as the one and only international law institution befitted to resolve international challenges and prevent wars. The UN is needed today more than ever. Contributions to improving it are worthwhile in the well-understood self-interest of each member state. Especially nowadays, multilateral commitment is needed instead of the marginalisation of the United Nations and its being harnessed for particular political purposes. Engaging for the goals of the United Nations does not allow for any standstill. In the year of Dag Hammarskjöld's hundredth birthday (2005), UNA-Germany points out the second Secretary-General's words from his last annual report presented to the General Assembly: "With support of the United Nations the step by step effort of finding a way to a state of coordinated international cooperation within the frame of the charter will either increase or degenerate."

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an organisation lobbying for support for the goals of the United Nations, founding member of the “FORUM MENSCHENRECHTE” (human rights forum) and one of the two organisers of the project “Jugenddelegierte zur UN-Generalversammlung” (Youth delegates for the UN General Assembly) (www.jugenddelegierte.de).

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