



**52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**  
**Geneva, 23 March 2023**  
**Item 4 – General Debate**  
**German Statement**

Mister President,

Germany aligns itself with the EU statement.

Germany condemns **Russia's** unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and the massive human rights violations perpetrated by Russia in Ukraine, in conjunction with soaring repression in Russia itself, where the government is silencing dissenting voices. Inter alia, we call for the investigation of the abductions of Ukrainian children to Russia.

We call on **Iran** to end the systematic and brutal repression of civil society, in particular of women, minorities and critical voices. We urge Iran to respect the right to peaceful assembly and expression, and to immediately suspend the pronouncement and execution of the death penalty. We also call on Iran to cooperate with and grant access to the Fact Finding Mission and to the Special Rapporteur, both mandated by the Human Rights Council.

In **Afghanistan**, Germany condemns the violations of human rights by the Taliban, especially the systematic violations of women's and girls' rights. We call on the Taliban to reverse course.

Germany reiterates deep concern about the human rights situation in **China**, in particular in Xinjiang and Tibet. We once again commend the OHCHR for publishing its substantive report on the human rights situation in Xinjiang and support the High Commissioner for Human Rights in his call for a concrete follow-up to the report.

In **North Korea**, systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations persist. We call on the government to engage with the international community and to end the suffering of its people.

In **Egypt**, the implementation report on the National Human Rights Strategy cannot blind us to the fact that human rights, including full guarantees of freedom of the press, assembly and expression, have stagnated since COP27.

In **Venezuela**, we call on the government to reverse the course of systematic human rights violations and to embark on a path towards democracy.

We express our deep concerns regarding the most serious human rights situations in **Belarus**, **Myanmar**, **Nicaragua**, **Syria** and **South Sudan** on separate occasions at the 52th Human Rights Council.

Thank you, Mister President.