Topic: Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development Committee: United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Indigenous Affairs Delegation: The Federal Republic of Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany is proud to say that the nation is one of the world’s 70 plus countries that currently has indigenous populations. We currently hold about 60,000 Sorbs, 300,000 Swabians, and a population of Frisians. Germany is proud of the way in which these groups are treated and inhabit our nation. Members of these groups hold the same rights as non-indigenous Germans, and are always considered as citizens when born into our nation. These peoples are understood to be Germans and our governance of them is not affected by their ancestry. Our indigenous populations, once again, bear every right any other member of the German population would. We are proud of the fact that in 2011, a group of Sorbs were looking to rally support to form a Sorbian Parliament within the Legal Framework of Germany. Germany is very dedicated to addressing the issues of indigenous people’s poverty and development, and understand that indigenous peoples are more subject to poverty and lack of development. While Germany doesn’t 100 percent accept the data and statistics provided by Hall and Patrinos that was published by the World Bank as we recognize the significant amount of data missing, and the many assumptions the data had to make. Germany will not support any data as 100 percent and finalized until data is acquired for all indigenous hosting regions, and until regions are not based off data from several countries and include data from all countries, much of the data is assumed based off these statistics. Germany, once again, believes that the first step to solving the problem is understanding the problem. Currently we only have vague ideas of what contributes primarily to issues of poverty and lack of development, Germany believes that we must conduct more research on the topic, in more region. Regional evaluations need more data and depth, once again it is imperative we conduct more research to gain more data. Germany is proud of the current economic and development situations within our nations indigenous populations. There are many cases of indigenous populations being successful within our nation and we are proud of our successes. Germany is proud of our inclusions of indigenous peoples within our society, as well as our contributions to their infrastructure and education, which increases chances of employment and decreases in poverty.

Topic: Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources Committee: United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Indigenous Affairs Delegation: The Federal Republic of Germany

Germany is a committed nation to opposing climate but does not see nuclear power as the solution. As exemplified by the Fukushima disaster in March 2011, nuclear energy is much too dangerous of a source and we have looked to shut down all sixteen of the of the nuclear reactor within our nation. Currently, eight of these nuclear reactors have been closed, and the other nine facilities will be closed by 2022. This has led to the misconception that Germany has had rising emissions which is not true. Germany reduced its carbon emissions by about 2% the first year of the reactor shut downs. This is because of our nations push to renewable energies and the workings of the EU to cap emissions from the power sector. With the shutting down of eight nuclear reactors, our nations solar output has increased by 60 percent and by the end of 2011, renewable energies accounted for 20 percent of all electricity. Germany is a proud signatory and ratifying nation of the 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which was signed on the 22nd of April and was effective and a part of international law as of November 4th, 2016. Germany supports many of the efforts of struggling indigenous peoples to find strategies to cope with the changes induced by climate change. Our nation emphasizes with the indigenous populations near the Himalayas, who suffer on account of flooding due to the melting of the glaciers. We emphasize with the millions of indigenous peoples throughout the world in hotter climates, dealing with dune expansion, desertification, and droughts. We believe that while there are temporary fixes to many of the problems to cope with the issue, this is not good enough and there needs to be a change in our global response to address this issue completely.

Topic: Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness Committee: United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Indigenous Affairs Delegation: The Federal Republic of Germany

On the topic of health, Germany is a proud supporter of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is also proud to note that our great nation has supported this declaration since its inception in 2007. We are pleased that nations such as Canada and Australia who initially voted against and opposed the resolution have now expressed their support for the declaration. We hope that the 11 countries who abstained from voting on the declaration, should they have an opposing view on the resolution, overcome those views and work to express support of the declaration. Germany understands that insufficient and non-applicable data and lack of data in general are major issues regarding the topic and expresses and urges nations to fund and work towards creating and funding programmes that conduct research on the current health statuses on indigenous peoples throughout the world and not just within the Americas. Germany also greatly condemns any nation, such as Myanmar, who either wrongly labels specific peoples as indigenous or does not provide an indigenous person with their fundamental human rights out of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, or a mix of all three.

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