



Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations
New York

Statement

by

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to the United Nations**

on the occasion of the

**Concluding Session of the High Level Review of UN Sanctions
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(check against delivery)

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to join my distinguished colleagues in expressing how pleased Germany is to host this concluding session of the High Level Review (HLR) of UN sanctions as a co-sponsor of this important initiative.

I am delighted to co-present the *Compendium of the High Level Review*. Germany believes the results have exceeded our initial goal to propose ways to enhance the effectiveness of UN sanctions in addressing threats to international peace and security. The 150 recommendations across a range of topics provide important suggestions for practical actions that can be undertaken by all stakeholders to improve the implementation of UN sanctions.

I would like to highlight a couple of issues of particular interest to Germany throughout the HLR process.

National Implementation

As part of our contribution to Working Group 2, chaired by Sweden, we hosted a workshop addressing the challenges faced by practitioners implementing UN sanctions at the national level. Participants expressed the need for improved communication between those tasked with carrying out sanctions and those designing UN measures.

We continually emphasize practical implementation issues in Germany's annual "Wiesbaden Conference" bringing together industry representatives with UN and national officials as part of the implementation of the resolution 1540 mechanism. This year's meeting will take place in late November, titled "*Private Sector Engagement in Strategic Controls: Recommendations for Effective Approaches on UNSC Resolution 1540 Implementation*". It builds on HLR recommendations to invigorate outreach to the private sector and promote discussion of sanctions and export control issues.

Humanitarian Issues

Germany also contributed to Working Group 3, chaired by Greece, with a focus on two topics: minimizing the humanitarian consequences of sanctions, and enhancing collaboration between sanctions monitoring and UN humanitarian actors.

The Security Council has taken important steps in the past several years to address humanitarian concerns regarding the listing and delisting of persons, but unintended humanitarian consequences still exist. Vague financial sanctions in particular, if insufficiently defined, can affect innocent individuals and entities, or cause problems for humanitarian actors. Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to the phenomenon of “over-compliance”. This refers to private sector actors who close off legitimate financial channels, including to humanitarian organizations because they fear the risks of non-compliance, or lack sufficient information about the actual sanctions provisions. The more information and guidance is available, the less likely private sector actors are to “over-comply”.

Another issue concerns the mediation of tensions between UN actors with different mandates - specifically, ways to enhance information-sharing between sanctions monitoring groups, humanitarian investigators and service providers. HLR recommendations in this regard focus on fostering greater understanding and trust.

Lastly, I would like to address the issue of due process.

The Compendium presents recommendations to improve the fairness and transparency of sanctions procedures to address human rights and due process issues, in particular with a view to the Ombudsperson in the Al-Qaida-Sanctions Regime. Germany – together with our partners of the Like-Minded Group on Targeted Sanctions - supports these reforms, including further institutionalization of the Ombudsperson. The upcoming review of the Security Council Resolution 2161 (2014) later this year will provide a key opportunity to identify, discuss and implement adequate changes to the Office of the Ombudsperson. We will present the Like-Minded Group’s ideas and proposals shortly for discussion among all stakeholders.

Dear colleagues, we trust that the High Level Review Compendium and its recommendations will be useful to the Security Council and the Member States and a helpful contribution to the further discussion and improvement of UN Sanctions.