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Candidate for the United Nations Security Council

Martin Christmann, Deputy Permanent Representative
and Ambassador

Germany is deeply committed to the successful implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As indigenous peoples are often particularly disadvantaged and victims of human rights violations, the German Government attaches great importance to seeking respect for and compliance with the human rights of indigenous peoples and to consider in particular the special needs of indigenous women.

Ninth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The importance of the guiding principle of German foreign policy as well as economic and development cooperation: German development cooperation also aims at strengthening equal access to basic services and resources in order to improve the living conditions of indigenous peoples.

Statement by Ambassador Dr. Martin Ney

**Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations**

I am pleased to announce that Germany has provided an amount of 50,000 USD. This reflects our commitment to promote the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in meetings such as the Permanent Indigenous Forum and our support of the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Martin Christmann

A new paradigm within development – development with dignity – has recently been developed by several UN agencies. It refers to a process that involves strengthening of

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Germany is currently implementing a number of projects by providing skills or technical assistance to facilitate economic and social development of indigenous communities in the regions of the Great Lakes, Indonesia, Peru, etc.

Madame Chairperson, Excellencies, Representatives of Indigenous Populations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany remains deeply committed to the successful implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As indigenous peoples are often particularly disadvantaged and victims of human rights violations, the German government attaches great importance to ensure respect for and compliance with the human rights of indigenous peoples and to consider in particular the special needs of indigenous women.

This major objective is the guiding principle both of German foreign as well as economic and development cooperation. German development cooperation also aims at strengthening equal access to basic services and resources in order to improve the living conditions of indigenous people as well as to reinforce the networks of indigenous organizations at national and cross-border level.

I am particularly pleased to announce that Germany will again contribute this year to the "Indigenous Trust Fund" with an amount of 50.000 USD. This reaffirms our commitment to promote the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in important events like the Permanent Indigenous Forum and our support of the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Madam Chairperson,

A new paradigm within development – "development with identity" - has recently been promoted by several UN agencies. It refers to a process that includes strengthening of indigenous peoples, their sustained interaction with the environment and their management of natural resources and territories in accordance with their own worldview and governance. The challenge for the strategy lies in supporting and promoting development initiatives unique to indigenous peoples in order to improve their living conditions through their own leadership and in a manner consistent with each community's specific cultural situation and vision. In line with this new paradigm Germany is currently implementing a new type of project by reviving cultural traditions as a means to facilitate common vision and actions of indigenous communities in the Highlands of the heart of Borneo, Indonesia.

Let me also mention that since 2006, the rights and needs of indigenous peoples in Latin America are mainstreamed in all German development cooperation activities in the region. In 2009 about 40 projects, with a total volume of around 41 million EURO were implemented.

Madam Chairperson,

In accordance with this year's special theme "Indigenous Peoples: development with culture and identity; articles 3 and 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", please allow me to mention a few examples of how Germany supports indigenous peoples'.

(1) Let me start with the self-determined development or use of indigenous peoples' lands or traditional occupied territories, which relates to article 32 of the UN Declaration. Germany strongly supported the participation of indigenous political organizations from Latin America in the international negotiations on biodiversity, protected areas and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. In 2010, Germany will continue its support and assist these organizations with the preparation for and participation in the forthcoming negotiations on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In Brazil, Germany supports the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) in the demarcation of Indian territories in the Brazilian Amazon and the promotion of small pilot projects in the demarcated areas. These programmes form part of a large multilateral pilot programme to preserve the Brazilian rain forest and allowed for 115 Indian lands to be legally titled and regularized during the last years, covering a total area of 10% of the Brazilian Amazon.

In Ecuador, Germany funds a programme for the protection of tropical forests in Morona-Pastaza, which is implemented by staff of the Achuar nation.

(2) With regard to direct political participation and independent administration of resources, let me mention our regional programmes in Bolivia, Ecuador and Guatemala. These programmes aim at promoting indigenous organizations' abilities to influence political decision-making directly, on both the national and the international level. In Bolivia, for example, indigenous municipalities have been supported in administering their own resources. In Ecuador, the national umbrella organization CONAIE developed law proposals following the introduction of the new Constitution. The indigenous

women's organizations MOLOJ and CONAVIGUA in Guatemala worked out and presented a proposal for the national policy on women.

(3) Education is another vital factor for self-determined development. Germany supports the establishment of a network of universities throughout Latin America that train highly qualified personnel for indigenous organizations and Latin American governments on indigenous and intercultural issues. Since 2005, 26 universities from 11 countries have joined the network and so far, 292 students completed the post-graduate courses. Some of them now occupy key positions in policy-making in Latin America.

Madam Chairperson,

Let me conclude by reiterating Germany's support to indigenous peoples and to the successful implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you.

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