



DAY OF GERMAN UNITY



Message from Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs



Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt, in which it had proved possible to achieve change through rapprochement despite the great differences between the systems. Germany's endeavours on behalf of European integration, reconciliation with its neighbouring countries and the rejection of nationalistic delusions of power created the framework for German unity.

Following German reunification and the wave of democracy and the rule of law that reached many countries in the world at the time, we now find ourselves in an era in which opposing interests are coming to the fore once again. Global challenges have increased further in recent years. Geopolitical conflicts, terrorism, migration and refugee flows, poverty, hunger, epidemics and advancing climate change pose great tasks for societies worldwide.

We are still seeking what Willy Brandt called "global governance", that is, a policy characterised by global justice, the strength of the law and the overcoming of national borders. In recent decades, the global community has made significant progress. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a milestone for the international community, serving both as a mandate and a promise. Global

challenges, such as climate change with its dramatic consequences including droughts and floods, can only be overcome if we work together and as equal partners. Pacifying regional conflicts and crises is also a global task. Stabilisation and development create opportunities for people's lives.

No country in the world can solve the international problems facing us on its own. None of these problems can be tackled by isolation. Instead, what we need are strong partners. In view of its own history and its experiences as regards overcoming tyranny and establishing and consolidating a democratic state founded on the rule of law, our country is facing up to these challenges. Germany is willing to shoulder international responsibility. That is why it is applying for a non permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2019/20 term. We live in times of great challenges, and solving them will decide the future of humankind and the planet. At the same time, we live in a world of wide-ranging new opportunities, which we should shape actively. The Day of German Unity is a good occasion to remind ourselves of this.

Sigmar Gabriel
Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany

Message from the Ambassador

This year we celebrate the German National Day in Bangladesh against the backdrop of the Rohingya crisis. So far, over half a million Rohingyas were forced to leave their country. The Government of Bangladesh has opened the Bangladeshi border for these people and has given the world an outstanding example of solidarity.

As I could see with my own eyes on a trip organized by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Mahmood Ali, the living conditions for the Rohingyas in and outside the camps are extremely dire. There is a lack of food, water, sanitation, and healthcare. Government and UN-Organizations as well as numerous private organizations and donors work to their limit to cope with this unprecedented challenge. Meanwhile also international help is coming in. This year, my Government has contributed 60 million euro to the Central Relief and Emergency Fund of the UN out of which important activities of the UN in Cox's Bazar are financed. Germany is also contributing 5 million euro to the relief operations of the ICRC.

In addition: The solidarity of the German civil society is tremendous and German NGOs are stepping up their efforts to alleviate the suffering. As the end to the crisis is not foreseen-

able yet, we all need to increase our efforts. I am convinced that the UN are doing a great job and they should be supported by all stakeholders to reach every refugee.

My personal message on this Day of German Unification to the people of Bangladesh: You stand on the right side of history and we will not leave you alone.



Dr. Thomas Prinz
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Bangladesh



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GDR border patrol on top of the Berlin wall on the day the Berlin Wall came down, November 11th, 1989, before political unity ensued on October 3rd, 1990.



The Alexanderplatz in Berlin, former city center of East Berlin.