

Alex HAIDAR

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Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Federal Republic of Germany is firmly committed to establishing world peace and an international order characterized by rule of law. Germany respects the values of democracy, development, and freedom of rights. The country has been a major pioneer of the European integration project.

Democracy has developed dynamically in Germany. German democratic model is an ideal model that the world can emulate. Germany is free of corruption. The government is held accountable for its performance through open parliamentary debates, which are covered widely in the media. Germany was ranked an impressive 13 out of 176 countries surveyed in Transparency International's 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index. The judiciary is independent, and the rule of law prevails.

The situation with regards to freedom of expression in Germany is largely positive. Freedom of expression is protected by the German Constitution and basic laws. The German constitution ensures that the right to freedom of expression is not misused for inciting hatred or racist allegation against a particular ethnic, minority, or religious group. The German constitution makes it illegal to advocate Nazism, deny the Holocaust, or glorify the Nazi ideology. Paragraph 130(3) of the German Criminal Code stipulates that those who 'publicly or in an assembly approve, deny, or trivialize' the Holocaust are liable to up to five years in prison or a monetary fine. Hate speech also extends to insulting segments of the population or a national, racial or religious group, or one characterized by its ethnic customs. The German constitution thus safeguards against the abuses of freedom of expression and safeguards the interests of various communities.

Artists can work relatively freely in Germany. Freedom of expression in arts is protected under the Constitution, and is largely respected, especially for satire or comedy. The German economic development model is a highly successful one. Germany's economy is the biggest in Europe and has been embarking upon a path of sustained growth. German economy is characterized by Low youth unemployment, competitiveness in world markets, economic growth, rising salaries and increased domestic demand. In trade policy and regulation, German activities follow a multi-level approach, focusing primarily on strengthening national and regional negotiating and implementation capacities, and developing and implementing environmental, social and technical standards.

According to news reports in the Merco Press and AFP dated 26th August 2013, Germany's budget surplus rose to 0.6% of the GDP in the first six months of 2013. This is highly commendable since most of the European countries are currently encountering a budgetary deficit. This proves again that Germany is both the growth engine and anchor of stability in Europe.

The principal tenet of Germany's economic system is the way in which capital, labour and the state have organised their relationship. The apprenticeship system for young people aged 15 and over who do not go to university is one example. The employer pays a very moderate wage, usually about €600 (£500) a month, and provides training on the job; the apprentice foregoes a higher income for the duration of his training, and the state continues to provide schooling. All parties benefit from the apprentice's development: If

they perform well, they are all but guaranteed a job in an enterprise he already knows while the employer sees their investment in training pay off eventually through higher added value on the part of their new employee – and the state has gained a young taxpayer. This also accounts for the low rate of youth unemployment in Germany.

Mr. President Women's rights are well protected in Germany. Women are strongly established in politics. In the SPD and CDU, the two main parties, almost every third and fourth member respectively is female. Women account for a very impressive 32 per cent of the total members of German Parliament. Germany boasts of a female literary rate of 99 per cent.

Germany has devised a highly successful social welfare policy. The German health care system ranks as one of the best in the world. A wide range of hospitals, medical practices and institutions guarantees medical care for everybody. With over four million jobs, health care is the largest employment sector in Germany. All in all, 10.4 percent of the country's gross domestic product is spent on health – 1.5 percent more than the average in the OECD member countries. Another major social welfare policy is the provision for compulsory pension insurance

Germany is also a leading international donor in development cooperation. Deutsche Welle, in a news report dated September 3, 2013 quotes the parliamentary state secretary to the federal minister for economic cooperation and development, Gudrun Kopp mentioning that was a increase in government spending on development aid to 1.3 billion Euros between 2009 and 2012, "to the current 10.1 billion Euros .According to a news report in the Cyprus mail dated 7 September 2013, Germany would release a further sum of €10 billion to help Cyprus bailout from the economic crisis.

Thank You all.