



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

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Geneva, 18 September 2017

Item 4 – Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Syria

German Statement

Thank you, Mr President,

Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Mr Chairman,

Unspeakable crimes continue to be committed in Syria. Civilians, particularly women and children, suffer most. In your latest report, you document a particularly vicious chemical attack by the Syrian regime that took place in Khan Shaykhun on April 4 and that left more than 80 civilians dead.

Germany condemns this attack in the strongest terms possible. Those who perpetrated it have to be held accountable.

At the same time, we remain concerned by acts of forcible displacements that may change the demographic composition of Syria.

Mr Chairman,

Germany commends the Commission of Inquiry for its work and reiterates its demand that the Commission be granted full and unrestricted access to Syria. Your documentation of human rights violations as well as violations of international humanitarian law will hopefully provide the newly established international, independent investigative mechanism with the information it needs to bring perpetrators to justice.

In the end there can only be a political solution to this conflict. Germany therefore supports the efforts of the United Nations and Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura and calls upon the Syrian regime to eventually enter in serious political talks.

Germany will continue to support the Commission of Inquiry as well as other mechanisms that engage in ensuring accountability and justice. We would like to ask the Commission to elaborate more on possible ways of cooperation with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, in order to effectively contribute to accountability for the crimes committed in Syria.

Thank you Mr President