



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

Ref.: (please quote when answering): Pol 381.70/12
Note No.: 292/2011

Note Verbale

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to its Verbal Note dated September 29, 2011 concerning the questionnaire of the Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights.

Germany would like to answer the below mentioned question as follows:

What legal, administrative, policy or other measures have been adopted / are under consideration to eliminate barriers to scientific communication and collaboration such as censorship, restrictions on access to Internet or on free availability of scientific literature and journals?

“The German Constitution (Grundgesetz) guarantees the freedom of science and research, and also does not allow censorship. There are additional measures to ensure good scientific communication and access to information. Access to Internet is commonplace in research institutions as well as in private households. A multitude of libraries in universities and research or other institutions offer broad access to scientific literature and journals. Beyond that scientists and researchers are encouraged to make their publications available on the internet (open access).”

Please acknowledge receipt of this Verbal Note at the earliest convenience.

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, November 25, 2011



To the
Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10

by email: ieulturalrights@ohchr.org