



**Statement at the first Ministerial meeting of the
Coalition for the Sahel held by videoconference,
12 June 2020**

**Mr. Heiko Maas,
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany**

Dear Ismaïl Ould Cheikh Ahmed,
dear Jean-Yves,
dear Josep,
dear Naledi,
Distinguished colleagues,

The “Coalition for the Sahel” is a milestone in our joint commitment to foster peace, security and development in the Sahel. I commend France for taking leadership in setting up this new international framework.

The Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel – P3S - is a response to the call of the G5 countries for greater support and constitutes a central element of the Coalition. It started as a joint French-German initiative and focuses on *the* essential tool in the fight for more security: well-managed, well-trained and well-equipped national security forces that are able to provide safety for the people.

The Partnership will focus on two central fields of action:

- Firstly, under pillar 2 of the Coalition, the strengthening of the military capacities through infrastructure equipment and training. We want to enable our partners to increase their military personnel and their capabilities in order to deploy them in fragile or formerly neglected areas.
- And secondly, under pillar 3 of the Coalition, we aim at reestablishing state authority and state legitimacy through the strengthening of the internal security capabilities, and further stabilization efforts.

We very much welcome the decision of High Representative Josep Borrell to pave the way for a P3S coordination platform in the European External Action Service.

On the ground, we will establish working groups led by the EU delegations which will bring together all P3S members with a local presence. The aim is to continuously identify needs and omissions in security engagement, to coordinate this information and communicate it to the Secretariat.

Germany will actively contribute to the Partnership by providing additional support to strengthen the national defense and security forces through equipment, infrastructure, advice and training. Our Parliament has just passed the necessary mandates to extend our military presence in the Sahel. Our support to security forces is combined with civilian stabilization efforts, for instance by creating stabilization facilities for joint action in the two main areas of conflict: the Liptako-Gourma region and the Lake Tchad Basin.

Germany stands ready to facilitate and co-host a high-level follow-up P3S meeting in the upcoming months to mobilize contributions.

Distinguished colleagues, I am convinced that we can make a difference for the people in the Sahel - if we join forces and swiftly make this Partnership fully operational. That is why we ask for your support to this new initiative.

Thank you.