Thank you, Mr. President,

Germany has thoroughly considered the resolution before us today, the adoption of which changes decades of uncontested and established practice within the United Nations. The raising of flags at UN headquarters has always been associated with full membership in the United Nations in accordance with the Secretary General’s UN Flag Code of 1952 and regulations of 1967. Germany is unaware of any compelling reason which might justify changing the established practice.

For these reasons, Germany will abstain on this resolution.

Our abstention should in no way give rise to any interpretation on the state of the relations between Germany and the Holy See and Palestine. Germany is aware that the Holy See does not co-sponsor the resolution.

Germany firmly believes in a negotiated two-state solution and strongly supports the aim of an independent State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel. We have actively worked towards this end for years and contributed to the development of governmental institutions and state infrastructure in the Palestinian territories.
However, a two-state-solution which is not based on a comprehensive final status agreement that ends all claims and that fulfils the aspirations of both sides will not be sustainable.

We call on both sides to engage in serious negotiations without conditions and further delay. Germany stands ready to support all efforts towards re-launching a substantial negotiation process and underlines the importance of renewed engagement by the International Community, including the Quartet and regional actors.