

Position on Xinjiang

Berlin, August 2020

German business is following the reports on the Xinjiang Autonomous Region with great concern and takes the allegations mentioned in the reports seriously. Human rights are a universal good and are non-negotiable. German companies are aware of their societal responsibility, and this applies to all company locations worldwide.

Almost all internationally active German companies have globally valid standards of conduct in which they commit themselves and their partners to respecting human rights. Many companies commit themselves to or are guided by international codes of conduct, such as the UN Global Compact. Companies make these commitments in their own interest and follow processes developed for this purpose to monitor compliance.

APA supports a coordinated approach by governments and parliaments in EU member states and EU institutions in order to end forced internment, forced detention and forced labor in factories of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in China. We call on policymakers to clearly address any shortcomings in the protection of human rights in China and worldwide.

Creating transparency is an important confidence-building measure. The Chinese government should therefore grant independent bodies access to all facilities in Xinjiang province that have come under criticism. It should ratify and implement the ILO conventions on forced labor.

German business continues to rely on dialogue with China and the expansion of its presence in the Chinese market. The aim is to play a responsible role in shaping conditions locally, insofar as this is within the scope of the companies' possibilities. This also applies to the involvement of German companies in Xinjiang.

About APA

The Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business is building bridges between German companies doing business in Asia and politics in Germany as well as in our Asian partner countries. The APA pools the economic concerns of German businesses active in the Asia-Pacific region and strives for more intense cooperation with Asia-Pacific and helps promoting trade and investment in both directions. The APA is an initiative of the Federation of German Industries (BDI), the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), the German Asia-Pacific

Business Association (OAV), the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA) and the Association of German Banks (Bankenverband). Since February 2019 it is chaired by Joe Kaeser, President & CEO of Siemens AG.

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