



Bundesministerium
der Verteidigung

**Draft Speech for
Federal Minister of Defence
Dr Ursula von der Leyen
at the
Observer Research Foundation
New Delhi, 27 May 2015**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Namasté!

I am delighted to be your guest in New Delhi and to get a first impression of India's fascinating diversity. We Germans have long been fascinated by your country, a country of snow-covered mountain peaks and tropical rain forests, with 17 languages and almost 22,000 different dialects and a population of more than 1.2 billion.

The enthusiasm for the "*land of fascination and sensations*", as the German philosopher Hegel put it, is a long-standing cultural tradition. The peacock, your national bird, was known to be the favorite animal of Ludwig II, the Bavarian "fairy tale king" and builder of Neuschwanstein Castle. And the Prussian kings introduced the peacock as an exotic animal to one of their retreats: There, on the so-called *Pfaueninsel – Peacock Island* – at the gates of Berlin, they are bringing us a touch of *Incredible and Vibrant India* even today.

Another animal from India also did not fail to make an impression in Germany most recently: The lion dominated this year's Hanover Fair as the logo of the "*Make in India*" campaign. Presented by Prime Minister Modi as the "*symbol of new India*", the old heraldic animal with its new cloak of cogwheels and binary codes stands for India's awakening, growth and prospects for the future. With India being the official partner country, Prime Minister Modi made the case for international enterprises to set up shop in India and for closer collaboration with the German economy. But our focus today is not only on economic collaboration – today it is also on security policy.

The uncertainty in the international system is greater than it has been in a long time. Both Europe and India need to react to that. We are both facing major challenges. There are some keywords I would like to mention in this context from our European point of view: The issues at hand are hybrid warfare, transnational terrorism, cyber attacks, migration... and the list could certainly be extended.

Due to their economic structure and international network, Europe and Germany are particularly dependent on secure trade routes, access to the markets and a stable international order.

The Indian Ocean between the Suez Canal, the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Malacca is one of the key highways of globalization. That maritime trade route, however, is used for trading TV sets, oil and gas as well as for trafficking in humans, drugs and terrorist know-how. This highlights both sides of global networking like a magnifying glass. In short: The Indian Ocean is becoming more and more crucial for our security policy. This remains true even though crises and conflicts in Europe's immediate neighborhood require much attention and energy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would now like to outline to you the principles of German security policy. Our security policy must always be seen and understood as embedded in a specifically European context. So what are these principles:

First, the German President said in 2014 that we "*now have the best Germany we have ever had – free and peaceful, prosperous and open.*" But ladies and gentlemen: Freedom, peace and prosperity are not only nice to have - it's also an obligation to take over responsibility. Not only because Germany's level of globalization is above average and its prosperity is founded on stability and free trade. We also have a particular history, leading to a particular responsibility.

In 2015 we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. And thus the victory of humanity, law and freedom. A victory for which also millions of Indians fought and brought sacrifices in the largest volunteer army in world history. Our painful historical experience reminds us Germans to stand up for peace, freedom and human rights with all our might. Looking the other way: indifference towards universal values is not an option for Germany. On the contrary: Combining interests and fundamental values, the commitment to an open and peaceful world order is a major concern of German security policy.

Second, as crisis are complex there is never one simple solution. There are different tools: Political negotiations, Economic development or economic sanctions - and sometimes military means have to be applied. We are convinced that a certain military strength has to be established, not to be vulnerable. But we are fully aware that military

means by themselves can never provide a sustainable peaceful solution. The military has to be embedded in a political and economic framework. Crisis and conflicts can only be solved with a so called comprehensive approach. It's the networking of all governmental resources and instruments that is needed.

Third, Germany's security policy is embedded in alliances and partnerships. A country that - until its moral and political collapse 70 years ago - believed to be superior to all other peoples, cannot act otherwise. That's why we are highly committed to NATO and the European Union and the United Nations.

We have learned that our security concerns are identical with our partner's concerns. And therefore the stronger the Alliance is, the stronger we are. That's why we are heavily investing in strengthening both: The European Union and NATO.

Although we have got much in common, here lies a difference between India and Germany. India comes from strategic autonomy, but as I understand India sees more and more the necessity of strategic alliances – I'm interested in your views on that.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

India and Germany share fundamental values and interests: India is the world's largest democracy. With 819 million voters, the 2014 parliamentary elections were the largest elections ever held in the world. In a country like yours, which has been shaped by all world religions and which has been influenced by many immigrants, conquerors and visitors, diversity is part of the national DNA.

India needs high economic growth, also against the background of its rapid population increase. Growth is also necessary in Germany – but just for the opposite reason, because of an aging society. Necessary preconditions are internal, regional, and global stability. Europe, Germany, and India are acting as one on this matter.

We are fighting piracy: be it at the Horn of Africa or in the vastness of the Indian Ocean. We fight together for peace and stability in the UN be it South Sudan or the Lebanon. We fight transnational terrorism. We share the interest for a stable Afghanistan: The

symbolic power of the parliament building, constructed as a gift to the Afghan people by India is beyond compare. Germany has more than 15 years of engagement in Afghanistan. And there is a good collaboration within the security industry.

As you can see, Europe, Germany and India are first-choice partners, face the same risks and take on responsibility.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

But our cooperation has even greater potential.

Germany is working on our basic strategic document: the new White Paper. E.P. Thompson, the British historian and expert on India, once said: "*There is not a thought that is being thought in the West or East that is not active in some Indian mind.*" I therefore would like to invite you to join the White Paper process and contribute your thoughts, perspectives and conclusions.

Second, there is a strategic challenge that I think requires an enhanced dialogue between our nations: Cyber. Whenever topics related to IT and cyber are discussed in Germany, the name India sooner or later comes up. During my tenure as Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, I made it one of my priorities to promote the recruitment of Indian IT specialists into the German labour market, because we needed the brightest and best. Your country is rightly considered a giant in this critical issue for the future.

While cyber holds great promises for the future, it also constitutes one of the most significant security challenges for the decades ahead. According to reports by *Computer Emergency Response Team India*, the number of identified cyber attacks against India is now five times that of four years ago. In 2013, cyber attacks caused a loss of approximately 4 billion dollars to the Indian economy. Due to cyber's high complexity and dynamic nature, the availability of trained personnel is *the* critical factor for success in mitigating risks and leveraging potential. I see various opportunities for cooperation in those fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Integrated Industry – Join the Network” was the motto of this year’s HANOVER FAIR. Economic development requires regional and global security. Both are closely connected in our globalized world. The four lions of Ashoka representing the national emblem of India are *standing back to back*. They are looking in all four directions with vigilance, valor and confidence.

Let us do the same and stand together shoulder to shoulder to foster economic growth and security. Europe and Germany need India with its young and dynamic population, its embrace of technology and modern life and as a strong partner.

Only together will we be able to make this world a safer and hopefully a better place.
