

The Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) in the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN),

mindful that the AGDM has been representing the interests of the German minorities in Europe and Central Asia since 1991;

recognising that the AGDM was founded immediately after the fall of the Iron Curtain to overcome the consequences of the Second World War and to strengthen the human rights and freedom of the German ethnic groups in their home countries;

remembering the upcoming 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in 2025, which also commemorates those who only after the war became victims of deportation, expropriation, discrimination and expulsion – a fate that the Germans in the East in particular had to experience tragically;

concerned about the war in Ukraine that has been ongoing since 2022 and the lack of a just peace perspective;

acknowledging the role that German minorities play in fostering European culture and understanding, especially as bridge-builders between Germany and their home countries;

appeals

- 1. to the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Germany** to adjust the financial support for German minorities, which still relies on mitigating the consequences of wartime, to meet real needs, considering rising costs, inflation, and the necessary professionalisation of minority work. Lack of adjustment must be regarded as de facto cuts.
- 2. to all democratic political parties in Germany** to clearly incorporate the promotion of the German minorities and the safeguarding of their rights in their programmes for the 2025 federal election and in the future government programme/coalition agreement
- 3. to the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Germany** to eliminate the geoblocking of media content online in order to facilitate access to German (public) media for the German minorities in their home countries. This would make a concrete contribution to promoting and strengthening the German language in the areas where the German minorities live.
- 4. to the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Germany** to ensure increased support for the German language in the home countries of the German minorities and to ensure that this also benefits the further development of educational institutions, as well as to provide greater support for the preservation of the German cultural heritage in these regions.
- 5. to the Members of the German Bundestag** to ensure that funds are provided in the 2025 budget for the preservation and protection of German cultural property in the historical settlement areas of German minorities in Eastern Europe, as provided for in the Federal Expellees Act (*Bundesvertriebenengesetz*) (§ 96).
- 6. to the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and all democratic actors in Germany** to continue to advocate for the rights of autochthonous national minorities in all countries of Europe and Central Asia.

Berlin, October 15, 2024