



Staff Members and Activities

With a total of 11 staff members, flexibility and multitasking are the order of the day, since all elements of the translation supply chain are undertaken within the Section:

- Computer-assisted pre-translation
- Translation/ revision
- Proofreading
- Terminology work
- Production of translation memories
- Desktop publishing
- Posting on the Internet
- Electronic distribution to users

All translators must have passed the competitive examination for German translators. They must have a perfect command of German as mother tongue and excellent knowledge of English and another official language. All members of the Section are United Nations staff members.

The German Translation Section is a firmly established language service within the Secretariat and, through its work at United Nations Headquarters, it has become a beacon for the German language in the international arena.

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**The German Translation
Section of the
United Nations**

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It is generally known that the official languages of the United Nations are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Less widely known is the fact that German is also represented at the Organization. The German Translation Section, financed by contributions from the German-speaking countries, has been active at United Nations Headquarters in New York since 1975 and produces major United Nations documents in a standard German-language version.

Terms of Reference

The Section was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3355 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974. The core of its translation mandate encompasses the following:

- The resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly
- The resolutions and decisions of the Security Council
- The annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

In addition, the Section has been producing the annual Millennium Development Goals report in German since 2007. Generally speaking, all United Nations documents of wide public or governmental interest may be translated, notably documents of bodies in which German-speaking countries are members or for which they are host.

For a document outside the core mandate to be included in the programme of work, an official request is generally required. Owing to the small number of staff, the Section is able to translate only a small portion of the broad range of documents relating to the Organization's activities. Duplication of work is avoided through coordination and exchanges with national and European Union language services and the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Europe.



Focal Point for Documents in German

The German Section is the first stop for users who need to know whether a document is available in German or whether it is being translated. A brief look at the Section's website is usually all it takes. There, conveniently arranged by issuing body and subject, nearly all translated documents are available for downloading.

Terminology

For those looking for the designation in German of a specific United Nations body or international treaty, for example, the Section's website is the place to go. The publicly available DETERM terminology database contains more than 11,000 records in English and German, as well as French and Spanish in most cases. Should a search of the database prove unsuccessful, queries may be addressed to the Section.

Presence on the Internet

While the United Nations website provides a great deal of information in the official languages, the German Section has had to create its own Internet presence to ensure efficient dissemination of its products. Its website serves as a one-stop shop for United Nations documents and terminology in German as well as basic resources, such as the Charter of the United Nations, an organizational chart and a list of conventions, declarations and other instruments.

