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Meeting with Susanne Baumann, Head of the Directorate-General for International Order, the United Nations and Arms Control at the Federal Foreign Office

Gunther Beger, the German Executive Director at the World Bank, met with Susanne Baumann, Head of the Directorate-General for International Order, the United Nations and Arms Control at the Federal Foreign Office, on October 12, 2021. At the center of their discussions stood the current engagement of the World Bank Group in the vaccination production and distribution in developing countries. In the light of the shortcomings of the coordination and cooperation amongst states and global actors during the Covid-19 pandemic, they further discussed possibilities to strengthen the global health architecture. Gunther Beger emphasized that Germany will continue to urge the Bank to further improvements to this end.

A second main topic discussed was Germany's contribution to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund "Cybersecurity" that is administered by the Bank. Gunther Beger and Susanne Baumann agreed that cybersecurity needs more attention, also against the backdrop of the increased digitalization in developing countries. Gunther Beger pointed to the significant threat posed to economies worldwide due to lacking cybersecurity. Susanne Baumann replied that cybersecurity capacity building is therefore needed, which at the same time contributes to strengthening democracies.