

**SDSN-Germany on the new SDG Index:
G20-states impose a burden on other countries and the planet**



SDSN Germany Press release from July 6th 2017

Bonn, 06.07.2017. The *Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany* welcomes the second edition of the global *SDG index and dashboard* by the global SDSN and the Bertelsmann Foundation that was released today. The *Index* documents the implementation of the universal Agenda 2030, adopted by the world's leaders in 2015, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Gesine Schwan and Dirk Messner, the two co-chairs of SDSN Germany, acknowledged the further development of the index. Just ahead of the G20 summit in Hamburg, the report makes it clear that the G20 countries are still clearly remote from the 2030 targets in many areas, with regards to their own population, as well as their responsibility for others and the planet. The G20 countries are spread between ranks 6 and 116 over almost the entire range of the ascertained 157 countries. Many of the richer G20 countries are located in the upper third, while the emerging market countries of the G20 are mainly in the midfield. "We know, that a whole series of good economic and social SDG scores of the richer countries have been achieved at the considerable cost of other countries and the global environment," said Dirk Messner on the occasion of the publication of the index. It is therefore particularly important that this year's edition of the report places a strong emphasis on these negative spillover effects and global responsibilities. Messner further explained: "Pioneering work has been carried out for this new report. In many areas, however, good and comparable data is still lacking". These new indicators, which have been taken into account for the first time, range from environmental aspects, such as virtual water, to economic issues such as tax havens, as well as arms exports. Nearly half of the G20 countries are among the ten tailights in at least one of these nine indicators.

The SDG Index is a practical tool to mobilize governments, academia, civil society and the business sector for the implementation of Agenda 2030. The index can be used to document progress, promote accountability and as a management tool. "Without transparent and comprehensible data it is hardly possible to create a public and international debate on how to achieve the 2030-goals", underlined Gesine Schwan the day before the G20 summit. Some G20 countries still deny internationally recognized scientific facts, and other countries prevent the collection and publication of data on the situation of people, economy and environment. According to Schwan, international statistics also suffer from this: "I explicitly welcome the fact that the SDG-Index also takes into account indicators and data provided by civil society organizations and independent scientific institutions."

Gesine Schwan and Dirk Messner called on the G20 to take forward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which has been started with the Action Plan under the Chinese G20 presidency in 2016. In that regard, the G20 is challenged to find ways for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda or the Paris Climate Agreement, even if not all member countries commit themselves to these agreements.