



Press release

German Sustainable Development Solutions Network calls upon new German Government to step up its commitment to 2030 Agenda

Bonn, 25 September 2017. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany (SDSN Germany) has today published an appeal to the new Bundestag and the next German Government to put the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the heart of domestic and external policy. The 2030 Agenda was adopted by all member states, including Germany, at a United Nations summit in 2015. The appeal from SDSN Germany formulates practical proposals for implementing the Agenda in the new coalition agreement. Dirk Messner and Gesine Schwan, Co-Chairs of SDSN Germany, had already issued the appeal to the parties on election weekend in a letter to the national General Secretaries of the CDU/CSU, SPD, DIE LINKE, BÜNDNIS 90/GRÜNE and FDP.

The appeal stated that: “The SDGs address key issues relating to the future of Germany and to its role in the world”. Speaking on the day of its publication, Gesine Schwan, President of the Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform, said that sustainable development was not some abstract concept. Rather, it concerned very real and practical everyday issues in Germany, such as efforts to combat child and old-age poverty, the creation of affordable accommodation in towns and cities, and sustainable mobility strategies. The appeal recognised Germany’s contributions in recent years to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement, but issued a reminder of the current need for bolder and more effective implementation. It described the achievement of the SDGs as an imperative of economic reason, social justice and environmental responsibility. “It is necessary to set the right course on key issues of sustainable development and climate change mitigation over the next few years,” explained Dirk Messner, Director of the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE). As such, he pointed to the need, for example, to update the Climate Action Plan with new measures on implementing the Paris Climate Agreement. He also said that the 2019 European Parliament elections should be used as an opportunity to significantly ramp up implementation of the SDGs within the European Union.

“SDSN Germany” forms part of the “Sustainable Development Solutions Network”. It pools the knowledge, experience and capacity of more than 30 German organisations from the worlds of research, business and civil-society in order to foster sustainable development in Germany and strengthen German efforts to promote sustainable development globally.

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New Bundestag and next German Government must place focus on 2030 Agenda

The German Government has played a major role internationally over the last four years in the agreement of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs, and of the Paris Climate Agreement. It has ushered in implementation of these accords within Germany with the 2016 German Sustainable Development Strategy and the Climate Action Plan 2050. All political parties that have already had parliamentary representation, either in the Bundestag or the Bundesrat, have committed themselves to implementing the goals of these agreements in domestic and foreign policy at German and EU level. The SDGs address key issues relating to the future of Germany and to its role in the world. Achieving the SDGs is an imperative of economic reason, social justice and environmental responsibility.

We call upon the new Bundestag and the next German Government to take the bold step of placing the SDGs at the heart of their domestic and external policy.

Between 2017 and 2021, it is necessary to set the right course on key issues of sustainable development and climate change mitigation. The German **Sustainable Development Strategy** is due to be amended for the first time in 2018 and the next progress report is due out in 2020. The **UN** will hold a **summit** in 2019 to review implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The German Government's **Climate Action Plan** is due to be updated by 2020 to include new measures on the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement. Efforts should be made to push ahead to a greater extent with **European implementation** of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris agreement, not least under Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union (second half of 2020).

The new coalition agreement should make reference to the 2030 Agenda from the preamble onwards. It is necessary in the individual chapters to agree additional efforts, especially with regard to the SDGs for which the German Sustainable Development Strategy itself or other indicators have identified significant shortcomings for Germany. This concerns, for example, **child and old-age poverty** (SDG 1), the transition to **sustainable agriculture** (SDG 2), the achievement of **gender equality** (SDG 5) and **distributive justice** (SDG 10), **sustainable cities with affordable accommodation and healthy mobility** (SDG 11), ensuring **sustainable consumption and production patterns** (SDG 12), **climate change mitigation** (SDG 13), **marine conservation** (SDG 14) and **protection of terrestrial ecosystems** (SDG 15).



We propose the following fundamental commitments for the coalition agreement:

We will put the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of its 17 SDGs at the heart of our domestic and external policy.

We will ambitiously further develop the German Sustainable Development Strategy, gear it towards global responsibility and furnish it with more effective implementation instruments. We will provide significantly more human and financial resources to this end. Like the budget officers, the ministerial coordinators for sustainable development will be granted a right of objection.

All advisory boards and advisory councils appointed by the German Government will be required in their task areas to gear activities to the 2030 Agenda. We will be more active in incorporating international research partnerships into the transformation processes and provide considerably more substantial financial support for these partnerships. We will further strengthen the Science Platform Sustainability 2030.

We will strongly urge the European Union to significantly step up its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. We will double Germany's voluntary contributions to the United Nations funds and programmes to support the Agenda's implementation at international level.

We will reconvene the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development and make it a permanent fixture in the standing orders of the Bundestag. We will submit to the Bundestag a proposal for enshrining sustainable development and generational justice in Germany's Basic Law.