



Time to take the SDGs into our own hands

Statement by SDSN Germany at the beginning of the coalition negotiations¹

Berlin/Bonn, 20 October 2017. Germany is at the start of unusual and what might also be difficult coalition negotiations. [As a network of knowledge organisations](#) with a wide range of structures and orientations, we are making a joint appeal for the potential of the **2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to be recognised and leveraged as the overarching framework for specific political projects. We are offering our support and input to this end.

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, ratified by all the world's countries at a UN summit in September 2015, was the end result of a complex process of opinion-shaping and negotiation. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda marks the starting point of a results-oriented, yet open-ended process. Its implementation is not a foregone conclusion. The last few years have revolved around defining the SDGs and now it is time to negotiate. The relevance of the 2030 Agenda depends on whether and to what extent citizens, companies, civil society and governments take ownership of and actively support it in their day-to-day work.

The newly forming German Government has considerable responsibility for and influence on this process across its ministries. The process could be brought to a standstill through passivity, diverted by embargoes or actively and courageously developed. During election weekend, we issued an [appeal to the new Bundestag and the next German Government](#) containing proposals on ways to institutionally mainstream the 2030 Agenda to a greater extent in the legislature and the executive. As the coalition negotiations are now getting under way, we would like to draw particular attention to the following opportunities to shape a new policy:

1. Bold policy-making in line with the 2030 Agenda relates goals such as an efficient economy and the rule of law to social and environmental goals and challenges. The 2030 Agenda brings together a wide variety of solutions on the way to achieving social cohesion, inter-generational justice and sustainability.
2. Bold policy-making in line with the 2030 Agenda can be viewed as an innovation and transformation project and seize the opportunity to address technological change (especially digitalisation) and social and environmental change jointly as a cross-cutting issue. Assessments of innovation deficits should be institutionalised and support legislative processes and investment decisions in the interests of a more forward-looking approach.
3. Bold policy-making in line with the 2030 Agenda places Germany and Europe in a global context. In a European and global context, clear definition of Germany's priorities and responsibilities can help us to see the inner cohesion of our country and its global responsibility as two sides of the same coin.

Bold policy-making is long-term in focus. It takes on today's challenges and tackles them from tomorrow's perspective. **The coalition partners could establish a Germany 2030 project to make the 2030 Agenda their common cause.**

¹ Decision by the Leadership Council of 20 October 2017