

**Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Agenda
Goals and Targets session - 23-27 March 2015, New York**

**German Statement on
“Approaches to implement SDGs at national level”
by
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Mr. Co-Chair,

Honourable delegates,

If we, the international community, want the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development to come to life, every country's contribution is needed: all of us will have to implement the SDGs at the national level. Germany stands ready to do its part!

Please allow me to expand on the following three points:

First: how are we preparing for national implementation in Germany?

Second: what institutions and instruments are in place in Germany to ensure effective national implementation?

And **additionally:** what will be important areas for national activities to implement the post 2015-Agenda, in Germany and globally?

Regarding the first question of how we are preparing for national

implementation: In line with our understanding of the new Global Partnership and its principles of universality and shared responsibility, our cabinet decided that our National Sustainable Development Strategy provides an essential framework for the national implementation of the post-2015 agenda. The German Sustainable Development Strategy was presented in 2002 to the United Nations Conference in Johannesburg and has been followed up since then by changing governments. As part of the upcoming task to update this strategy by 2016, we are in the process of further developing and adjusting its concrete goals and indicators in order to incorporate the goals and the transformative character of the post-2015 agenda.

The national implementation of the post-2015 agenda will require contributions from all actors. We believe that we are in a good starting position to do so. Sustainability is

becoming increasingly relevant for German enterprises, many of which are known for their sustainable products and ways of producing. Furthermore two thirds of the German federal states have their own sustainable development strategies in place or are in a process of developing them. And our civil society is very interested too and is constantly lobbying for additional activities with proposals of concrete action.

In order to have all actors on board from the very beginning, they contribute to the process of up-dating our Sustainable Development Strategy, which has started at the beginning of this year. We will ensure the involvement of all stakeholders by, for example, engaging with them in the context of specifically designed national and regional dialogue conferences.

Regarding my second point on existing institutions and instruments: Within the framework of our Sustainable Development Strategy, we have set up different institutions and instruments that will ensure that the goals and indicators of our Strategy will be effectively implemented:

- The State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development, which is composed of all ministries' State Secretaries and chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery, has to ensure that sustainable development is a guiding principle of any policy of the German government. In this regard it oversees the updating and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- The German Sustainable Development Council, consisting of outstanding personalities from science, business and civil society which are appointed by the Federal Chancellor, advises the government on sustainable development questions and contributes to improving the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development provides parliamentary advisory support, and evaluates the sustainability impact assessment of the Federal Government. Sustainability impact assessment of laws and decrees is a prerequisite for their consideration by the cabinet. The basis for the impact assessment are the targets, indicators and so called management rules of the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- Every four years, the Federal Government publishes a Progress Report on the National Sustainable Development Strategy.

- The Federal Statistical Office monitors the progress made in achieving the specific goals every two years.
- To enhance our system we submit the Sustainable Development Strategy to a critical analysis from time to time to an international peer-review. The last review took place 2014 with experts from Sweden, India, the Netherlands, Finland, South Africa, the US, Great Britain and South Korea and we were happy to receive good feedback.

Finally, regarding important areas for national activities to implement the post-2015 agenda in Germany and globally: Our cabinet has decided on a set of possible German contributions towards the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. Recognizing the international impact of national actions, we have identified contributions towards:

- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, strengthening food security and nutrition
- Preserving the natural resource base worldwide
- Establishing sustainable consumption and production patterns worldwide, including a circular economy and resource efficiency
- Transforming sustainable economies and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Promoting education and ITC
- Strengthening health systems worldwide
- Achieve gender equality and realize sustainable and equal opportunities for women and men, girls and boys
- Strengthening the private sector in its ability to innovate and compete
- Sustainable and integrated urban development.

Of course, this list is not comprehensive. However, it illustrates that we are taking the principle of universality seriously.

Let me conclude with the following remark: Germany has important elements of the machinery in place, which will be needed to nationally implement the SDGs. We have begun at high level of government to define how we are going to implement the post-2015 agenda with its SDGs at the national level. Germany is very interested to share its long lasting experience with other member states, and to learn from their experiences as well.

Thank you very much.