

Intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 agenda
Stock-taking, 19-21 January 2015

German statement

on “**Integrating SDGs in the post-2015 agenda**” and “**Follow up and review**”

Mr Co-Facilitator,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Sustainable Development Goals will form the core of the transformative post-2015 agenda. The open working group did an excellent job: the group managed to present a proposal of goals and targets that is balanced in nature and transformative in content and adequately addresses the interlinked challenges the world is facing. In this regard we welcome resolution 68/309 of the General Assembly.

While the **OWG’s proposal** should be the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the agenda, Germany supports the suggestion for a technical proofing of its targets. This technical proofing has to be based on clearly defined criteria to ensure that we do not fall behind or contradict existing agreements. Furthermore technical proofing should improve the coherence of the targets, but must maintain their present level of ambition.

Most importantly, the technical proofing must **not touch any substantial content** of the OWG proposal, as doing so would endanger the sensitive balance of the proposal. If we open any one aspect of the proposal for negotiations, we risk losing the whole ambitious but delicate compromise which the OWG reached in the course of one and a half years of hard work.

To avoid intensive discussions of a “technical” nature between member states, technical experts of the UN System should be given the mandate to carry out the technical proofing and they should subsequently present a proposal to member states for consultation.

Furthermore we welcome the idea of the Secretary General to elaborate “**essential elements**” to frame the SDGs and communicate their political essence worldwide. This communication effort is necessary to generate the political impetus needed for the global transformation to sustainable development. It will be of crucial importance to communicate the set of SDGs as a whole and avoid assigning goals to certain elements to avoid silo-thinking. This would contradict the idea of a holistic and three-dimensional approach.

The session in March should be used to discuss the number and the concrete wording of these elements. We must ensure that the “essential elements” adequately reflect the main requirements of the SDGs: they are to be “people-centered”, “planet-sensitive” and address the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way.

For effective implementation of the post-2015 agenda, an acceptable and efficient **review mechanism** in regular intervals will be essential. The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will play the key role when it comes to the review of the implementation of the global agenda.

The review mechanism for the post-2015 agenda should provide relevant information on where we stand in the implementation and analyze factors of success to serve as an important tool for policy decisions. Therefore it has to go beyond simply monitoring global progress. To reach this, it should be based on the following seven main elements and criteria:

1. The review mechanism should be anchored in strong **national ownership**. The national level would therefore be the starting point for a review mechanism.
2. The review mechanism should be **voluntary and** therefore needs to be **incentive-based**. Possible incentives for countries to participate might be heightened visibility for their progress and efforts, access to means of implementation and further support, and participation in a forum for the establishment of new partnerships, constructive dialogue, peer learning and an exchange of best practices.
3. The review process should be **multi-layered**. Following an initial review at the national level, the regional level could help to prepare countries for their presentation of progress at the global level. The regional level could be useful for peer review and peer learning, given that circumstances and conditions in countries of a given region are most likely to be comparable.
4. It should be based on a **multi-stakeholder approach**, in the sense that **all** stakeholders will have to contribute to the implementation of the agenda.
5. The review mechanism and implementation should be **fact-based**. High quality and real-time data and informative indicators are a prerequisite for monitoring, review and implementation. Low capacity countries will require support in the collection, dissemination and use of data. The UN Statistical commission could coordinate the development of an indicator framework and the collection and aggregation of data for monitoring global progress.
6. It is necessary to establish the review process as far as possible using existing monitoring and review structures for other processes, to avoid overstraining international and national capacity, and to **ensure coherence** and synergies.
7. Last but not least, a compelling and comprehensive **Global Sustainable Development Report**, with input from eminent scientists, will be of key importance for the review. Each report should focus on one or two relevant themes and bring the Forum's attention to new challenges that we aren't even aware of today.

But let us be clear: any monitoring and review mechanism will only be effective and efficient if it is **acceptable for all states**. We look forward to discussing how to achieve this in greater detail when we meet again in May and when we meet during the next ministerial meeting of the HLPF in July.

Thank you very much.