

**Charter for the Future**

ONE WORLD - OUR RESPONSIBILITY



***Charter for the Future***

ONE WORLD - Our Responsibility



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# Foreword to the Charter for the Future



Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and  
Development Gerd Müller  
Thematic Forum, 2 July 2014, Berlin

What is our shared vision for a just, sustainable world? How best can we take responsibility for our own future? How can we forge an effective global partnership? These were the questions that guided us when, on 1 April 2014, we embarked together on the path towards preparing a Charter for the Future.

We are delighted that now, 238 days later, we can hold this Charter for the Future in our hands. The Charter is the culmination of the joint efforts and deliberations of a wide range of different stakeholders. Individual members of the public and experts from government, civil society, including faith-based institutions and foundations, the private sector and academia have all contributed valuable input. Discussions have been conducted both online at [www.zukunftscharta.de](http://www.zukunftscharta.de) and at thematic events held the length and breadth of Germany. Approximately 1,500 online contributions, comments and opinions were submitted. At the same time, dialogue forums organised in every corner of the country, including Augsburg, Berlin, Bonn, Grainau, Hannover, Kiel, Nuremberg, Passau, Potsdam, Quedlinburg, Travemünde and Ulm, have provided thousands more participants with the opportunity to express their views on the Charter for the Future.

This broad-based engagement with the Charter for the Future and the spirit it embraces is proof indeed that development policy begins with us at home in Germany. While it may begin in this country, it does not stop at our borders. That is why we adopted, right from the outset, the motto of 'ONE WORLD – Our Responsibility' for the Charter for the Future. This vision is enshrined in the Charter through themes which allow each and every one of us here in Germany to assume responsibility for our ONE WORLD. However, the Charter for the Future does not stop at the level of individual action. It also sets out clear areas of responsibility for different groups of stakeholders such as government, business and civil society both in Germany and around the globe, with a view to joining forces and achieving sustainable development over the years to come. 2015 has been designated the year for development, new international goals will be agreed for sustainable development, global negotiations will be launched for a new climate protocol and Germany will assume the Presidency of the G7.

I am delighted to invite you to join us on our journey towards sustainable global development. One step on this path is to reflect on how your actions actually affect

the world we live in. Think about the food you eat, the clothes you wear and the technology you use. Where do they come from and how were they made? How many plastic bags might you buy today and no longer need tomorrow? How often do you throw a perfectly serviceable item away? There are countless ways to make a valuable contribution to greater sustainability – yet it will take the efforts of many of us to really drive change. The Charter for the Future has identified a whole range of ways in which you can get involved, both in Germany or anywhere else in our ONE WORLD.

All those who played a part in creating the Charter for the Future brought their knowledge and experience to bear in a consultation that sought to provide answers to the most pressing questions about our future. They may not always have agreed, but their disagreements have proved fertile ground for exploring new solutions. The Charter for the Future is the fruit of the answers, ideas and initiatives that emerged from this process.

Its principal concerns are food security and health; peace and freedom to make choices; the preservation of our environment and climate action; human rights

and human dignity. In short, the Charter addresses all the questions that are fundamental to our lives, on which depends the very survival of humanity.

The Charter for the Future serves as a benchmark against which we can all be held accountable. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development will conduct an annual review of its contribution to implementing the Charter for the Future and we would be delighted if you could join us to take stock of future progress.

Over the course of the next few years, I intend to take a wide range of specific measures to breathe life into the Charter for the Future. I hope that you will join with me and lend your ongoing commitment to this process. We only have ONE WORLD and it is our responsibility to look after it.



**Dr Gerd Müller**

Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

# A civil society perspective on the significance of the Charter for the Future



Chairman VENRO  
Dr Bernd Bornhorst  
24 November 2014, Berlin

‘Is this initiative relevant to us in any way? Or does the government simply want to exploit us for a PR stunt?’ These were VENRO’s initial questions when we were invited to participate in the process of drafting the Charter for the Future. We finally, after much discussion, agreed to participate in the process, partly because of the aims of the project and partly as a bridge towards building trust between VENRO and the new BMZ leadership team.

Looking back, we can now say that this decision was a risk well worth taking. We soon discovered that nobody had any precon-

ceived ideas about the eventual outcome of the cooperation process and that everyone had the opportunity to learn from each other. We were also struck by how diverse the discussions turned out to be. Diverse in terms of the ways in which we could participate – thematic forums, online or through the Coordinating Committee. Diverse also in terms of the topics on the agenda, since these were not exclusively confined to themes narrowly defined as falling under the BMZ’s remit. Finally, diverse in the sense that our work and discussions did not just take place in Berlin but in locations right across Germany. It was not, it appeared, just a case of the usual suspects going back over the same old things. The process may not always have been easy, but it was a huge step forward. We found it an interesting and rewarding experience for everyone involved.

The content of the Charter for the Future reflects this process. The decision to include peace and human security as a separate theme was the result of intense discussions and numerous representations on the part of civil society. Moreover, it was a wide-ranging debate between different social groups that led to the adoption of issues not exclusive to the remit of the BMZ. The task of ensuring a life of dignity for everyone and protecting natural resources

everywhere clearly extends far beyond any narrow definition of development cooperation. While it is important to reflect on what development cooperation actually achieves, we must, at the same time, be prepared to adopt a wider perspective.

The Charter for the Future that emerged from these discussions successfully describes the challenges posed by the task of creating and sustaining a world worth living in for everyone, future generations included. However, the Charter's true value will only become apparent over the course of the months and years to come. A Charter for the Future that merely signalled the end of a process would indeed be a puny document of over-inflated importance. The same Charter could, however, become a document and tool of much greater worth, if properly implemented.

But herein lies its greatest weakness. The Charter lacks clear targets and a practical plan for implementation. This is essentially a matter for policy-makers. Stakeholders from society may indeed have helped to draw up the Charter, but the ultimate political responsibility for its implementation rests with the BMZ.

The top priority, as far as civil society is concerned, is the actual implementation of the Charter. It could potentially serve as a useful tool as a policy driver and lever for delivering the promised change. We shall be giving the BMZ constructive criticism to help it plan implementation and operationalise its targets.

The Charter for the Future, as an instrument, offers us the important opportunity to call for more joined-up thinking throughout Federal Government. We want to see integrated action across all government departments and an overall policy approach to our dealings with the countries and people in the global South that is pro-development and, at the same time, geared towards achieving sustainability. Furthermore, we also need to apply this same joined-up thinking to our chosen lifestyle here in Germany and the example that we set others. We are all 'developing countries' when it comes to the changes we all need to make if we are to move towards a sustainable, post-fossil-fuel lifestyle which offers fair access to opportunities for all. Germany, too, must be prepared to demonstrate its commitment to developing in the right direction.

The Charter for the Future was presented to the Federal Chancellor on 24 November

2014. It would appear to civil society that, by accepting the document, she has committed herself to taking its concerns on board. While it is true that the Charter does not have the same binding force as a cabinet decision, we would expect the Federal Chancellor to use all her authority in determining policy guidelines to ensure that the Charter is implemented across all government departments. We, at VENRO, will certainly use it as a basis for asking follow-up questions, articulating our demands and presenting constructive proposals for its implementation. We hope thereby to drive forward the process for change and achieve actual results such as for example, in the area of corporate responsibility, the creation of specific instruments – perhaps a green tax reform – which could lend substance to the debate on growth and above all the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda in Germany. In this case, the Charter for the Future could rightly claim to have helped us take one small step towards greater justice around the world.

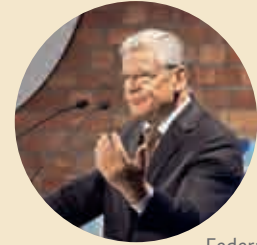
**Dr Bernd Bornhorst**

Chairman

Association of German Development  
Non-Governmental Organisations  
VENRO

# Introduction





Federal President  
Joachim Gauck

*'The future won't  
just happen all  
of its own accord.'*

**If, as a global community, we set ourselves common goals and join forces to pursue them single-mindedly, we can make things happen.** Achievements towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted by the international community at the turn of the millennium to eradicate poverty, hunger and child mortality, combat AIDS and malaria, improve maternal health, education, gender equality and ensure environmental sustainability, are proof indeed that this is possible.

**Substantial progress** has been made in a number of the areas addressed by the Millennium Development Goals. Economic growth and political action have freed **millions of people from absolute poverty** (i.e. people living on less than USD 1.25 a day) in many parts of the world. At a global level, extreme poverty has fallen by half since 1990. Many other MDG indicators, developed at the turn of the 21st century, also show that progress has been made in the eradication of poverty and hunger, access to primary education and many other areas, even though much remains to be done.

Nevertheless, a number of these agreed targets have not yet been met. **We have struggled in particular with major global**

**challenges that threaten human existence:** climate change, overexploitation of natural resources, economic and financial crises, violent conflict, human rights abuses, demographic change and global distribution problems affect everyone living in our ONE WORLD as it grows ever closer together.

No longer, in the 21st century, is development policy confined to far-off lands. Globalisation, in the guise, for example, of long supply chains, has created many different kinds of **interconnection** between the living conditions of **people throughout the world**. The raw materials for our mobile phones and computers come in large part from Africa, our clothes often originate from Asia and the soybeans for our animal feed are grown in South America. Consequently, **the things we take for granted in our everyday lives, such as food, clothing and mobile phones, are now clearly linked to the global economy**. This may create significant employment in developing and emerging countries, but yet **we cannot remain indifferent** to conditions in other parts of the world where our food, clothing, cars and mobile phones are produced. Garment workers in Asia are often paid a pittance for working their fingers to the bone, raw materials used to manufacture our mobile phones have already financed

civil wars, and future climate change can only be checked if we protect our forests now.

**We cannot continue to consume and produce at the expense of other human beings and future generations, at the expense of our ONE WORLD.** Environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development can only be achieved if the environment is right. In the long term, our mobile phones, cars, clothes and food as well as the energy we use will have to be produced in a way that preserves the planet's natural assets today and for future generations. Moreover, businesses will need to act responsibly, respect human rights and offer their employees, at the very least, decent working conditions. In short, the global challenges facing us are so great that they can only be met if we work together. **Each and every one of us has a joint responsibility for our ONE WORLD and can**



Professor Ernst Ulrich  
von Weizsäcker,  
Member of the  
Club of Rome

*'It is high time  
to regain a more  
long-term perspective.'*

### **make a small but important contribution.**

Individual members of the public, the Federal Government and the German Bundestag, the federal states and local authorities, the private sector, civil society and the research community have all been called upon to make an effective contribution to sustainable development – in keeping with their different capabilities, expertise and responsibilities – both in Germany and throughout the rest of the world. **Sustainable policies may indeed begin with us at home in Germany, but their impact is felt far beyond our national borders.**

This year, in its final report, a United Nations working group proposed a set of overarching sustainable development goals (SDGs) as targets to be negotiated by the international community in 2015 and to be implemented by different countries in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities. For this agenda to drive transformational change, it will need to be widely accepted by policy-makers, businesses and the public right across the globe. Consequently, **this Charter for the Future** aims to bring together, in Germany, as many stakeholders as possible and make a broad-based country-owned contribution to sustainable development at home and abroad given today's changed reality.

The Charter for the Future is based on the understanding that if we are to meet the most urgent challenges in a changed development policy environment, we must embrace a set of common goals within a new **global partnership**. We must break out of the traditional silo mentalities of donor and recipient countries to forge a global partnership in which each and every country and actor assumes its share of responsibility. This partnership should be founded on the universal goals of sustainable development. **Sustainability must be a core principle that guides all political and**

**social activity. We must, time and again, seek a balance between the environmental, social and economic dimensions of human development in every political, economic or social measure we take. Common values and standards and in particular universal human rights should inspire the vision which guides actions** taken by government, business and civil society.

Policy-makers in Germany also have the duty to create an enabling **environment** to ensure that their actions and decisions at both national and international levels are consistently geared towards the goal of sustainable development across all policy areas. To a large extent, German policy is developed, harmonised and shaped within the wider European context. It falls to Germany therefore to actively promote a coherent sustainable development policy at European level. It should play a similar role within the United Nations, since this organisation plays a fundamental role in resolving international problems and building new partnerships.

At the same time, non-state actors such as business, science and research institutions and civil society must also assume responsibility for sustainable development in their respective sectors. The Charter for the

Future advocates **partnerships between government, civil society, research communities and the private sector** in order to develop sustainable solutions to the major challenges for our future. These bodies are expected to play a key role in bringing the new global partnership alive and delivering its goals. High-income countries, in particular, have a duty to make additional public and private resources available to implement these measures. As the financial resources of emerging economies increase, so too should their responsibility to contribute.

The recent consultation on the Charter for the Future has played a part in the roll-out of Germany's sustainability strategy (National Sustainable Development Strategy) and is, in a sense, a flagship project for its implementation. This strategy has defined sustainable development as a guiding policy principle and identified concrete indicators, targets, institutions and processes to ensure its effective implementation. Furthermore, the Charter for the Future can help to confer a more international perspective on the forthcoming review of this strategy. The Charter for the Future and the National Sustainable Development Strategy attest to the work carried out in Germany to develop sustainable solutions

to the challenges that we face today. This will enhance the credibility of all German actors and increase their influence in European and global negotiations on the new sustainable development goals.

The dialogue process has identified **eight priority areas** for the Charter for the Future. These address the **key future challenges** facing our world. Since **2015** has

been designated the **year for development**, we would like to take this opportunity to present the Charter for the Future to the German public and win their support for it. We also hope to help drive the implementation of the international sustainable development goals by German players both in Germany and abroad. **We only have ONE WORLD and it is our joint responsibility to look after it.**

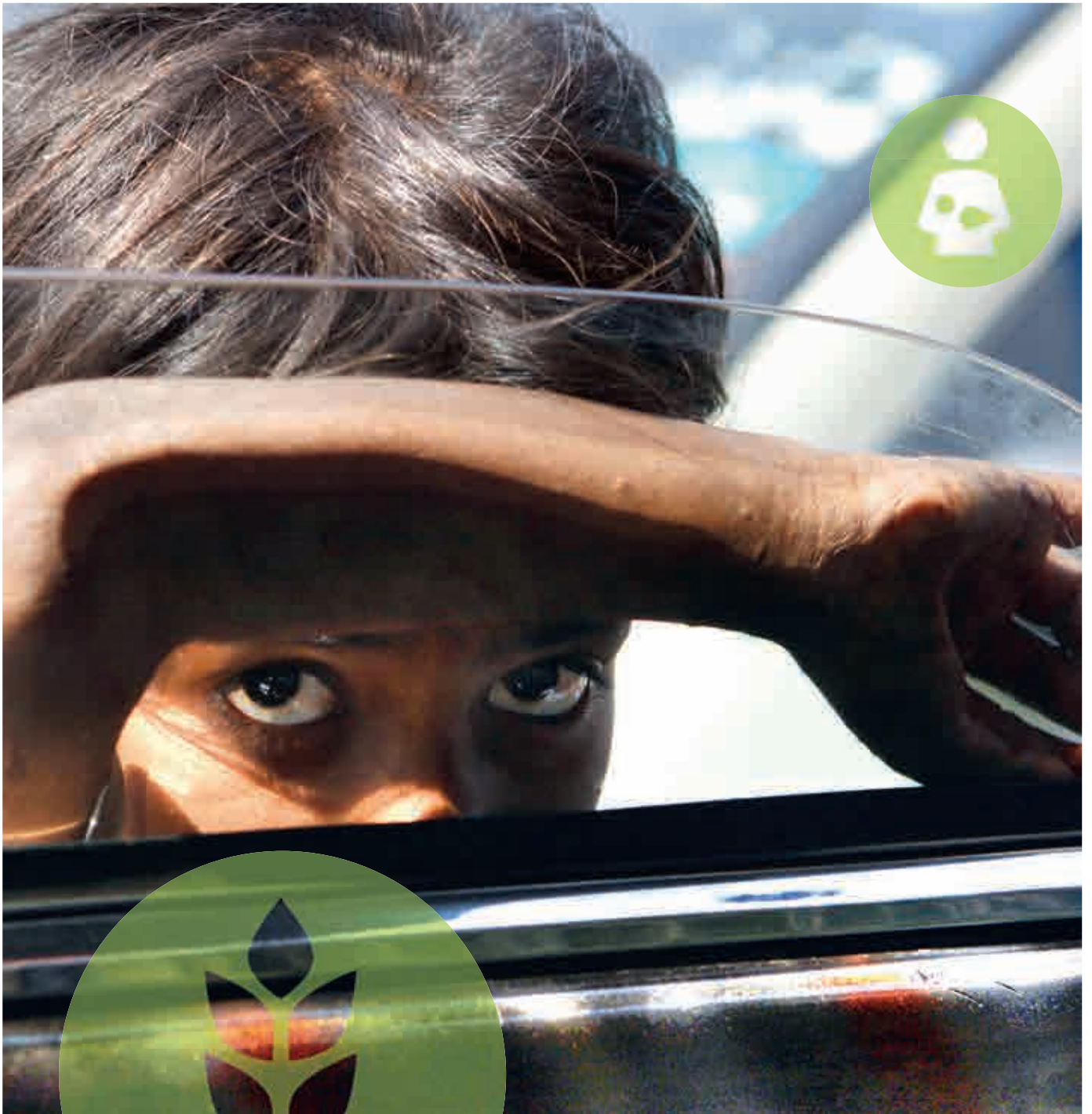
#### The eight priority areas of the Charter for the Future are as follows:

1. **Ensure a life of dignity for all everywhere**
2. **Protect natural resources and manage them sustainably**
3. **Combine economic growth, sustainability and decent work**
4. **Promote and ensure human rights and good governance**
5. **Build peace and strengthen human security**
6. **Respect and protect cultural and religious diversity**
7. **Drive transformational change through innovation, technology and digitalisation**
8. **Forge a new global partnership and develop multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development**

## 01 Ensure a life of dignity for all everywhere

*‘The problem with society today  
is not immorality, it is complacency.’*

Professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber,  
Director of the Potsdam Institute  
for Climate Impact Research (PIK)



# Ensure a life of dignity for all everywhere

## The current situation

There can be no life of dignity without respect for human rights and secure livelihoods. For this to happen, there must be peace and security, the eradication of all forms of hunger and poverty, equal opportunity in education, gender equality, comprehensive health care services and effective participation in society.

Over the past 15 years, the world has made great strides in its bid to eradicate absolute poverty and hunger and improve access to education, health care and safe water:

- the proportion of the global population living in absolute poverty has been halved and the number of people affected by chronic hunger has decreased across the globe;
- the proportion of children enrolled in primary schools has risen from 83 per cent to 90 per cent;
- child mortality has fallen by half, while maternal deaths have dropped by almost 50 per cent;
- since 1990, 2.3 billion people have benefited from improved access to water.





However, despite all this progress, much remains to be done. Even today,

- more than 800 million people suffer from hunger and a further billion from chronic undernourishment;
- 250 million children are unable to read and write because their education is of poor quality or because they have failed to complete primary education;
- around 800 women and girls die every day because of complications during pregnancy or delivery. Progress on child and maternal mortality has fallen far short of its target, much more so than for any other Millennium Development Goal;
- at least 1.8 billion people do not yet have access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion still lack improved sanitation.

This failure to deliver development goals effectively is often attributable to governments and public institutions – both nationally and internationally – which either cannot or will not provide adequate support for disadvantaged social groups. Thus, discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion are frequently the main obstacles to further eradication of poverty. Frequently, authoritarian power and governance structures are to blame for disregarding the concerns, interests and needs of poor and disadvantaged social



groups and in particular the rights of children, adolescents and people with disabilities. Approximately one in seven people around the world suffers from a disability. Most live in developing countries and are particularly susceptible to poverty traps.

It is extremely difficult to ensure that people live in dignity and achieve sustainable development in places where human rights are systematically abused, violent conflicts rage and people are forced to flee their homes. These problems are exacerbated in weak and fragile states and places where children and young people are structurally disadvantaged, gender equality is treated with contempt and people suffer systematic discrimination

based on their origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.



### Our goals for the future

In the future, it should be the responsibility of development policy to focus even more closely on areas of greatest need: the poorest and most vulnerable groups in society. We should show greater awareness of the fact that most poor people now live in middle-income countries and increasingly in cities. It is, however, true to say that many of the poorest and most vulnerable people still inhabit rural environments. These areas, having suffered decades of neglect, now deserve to receive greater attention from their own governments and from the development community. We must step up our efforts to assist these two groups, adapt our cooperation with partner countries to their individual

circumstances and provide them, in particular, with strategic assistance in their fight against poverty. Many countries currently face the new challenge of an ageing population and the concomitant need to combat poverty in old age. Furthermore, a significant proportion of the poorest and most vulnerable people live in fragile states that are especially dependent on assistance through development cooperation and humanitarian aid. In these countries, the role of the development community should be to develop long-term strategies and build partnerships that go beyond the mere provision of emergency aid.

Our overriding goal is to end extreme poverty and hunger by 2030. However, it should be noted that even at USD 1.25 a day, the figure currently set as the absolute poverty threshold by the World Bank, it is still virtually impossible to live with dignity. Not only should poverty, in all its dimensions, be tackled but income inequality, in particular, should be reduced. We vitally need new poverty and inequality indicators to allow us to measure different dimensions such as education and health.



Renate Bähr,  
Executive Director,  
Deutsche Stiftung  
Weltbevölkerung  
(DSW)



People currently suffering from starvation and malnutrition, especially infants and pregnant and nursing women, must have access to adequate, affordable and healthy food supplies, health care services and safe water. We intend to provide encouragement and support to our partner countries and help them implement the right to food. No progress can be made to address these issues in the absence of sustainable natural resource protection and management.

Policies to help people live with dignity must cut across various different policy areas. They must especially include financial, economic, trade, agricultural, education, health care and environmental concerns. Each individual country has primary responsibility for ensuring that this happens. However, in order to support partner countries effectively, German and European development policy must also embrace a more coherent approach to different policy areas. Foreign and security policy is clearly important, but international trade policy must also be a priority – the industrialised nations have to gear their international trade policy towards reducing poverty and environmental damage rather than exacerbating them.

German development policy must step up its investment in implementing the right to education around the world, focusing in particular on the rights of children, young people and women. Moreover, it should target the situation of people with disabilities, insofar as they are the ones with the most limited educational opportunities. There should also be greater promotion of primary and secondary education both in and outside of schools. The promotion of sex education is also vital in preventing, for example, unwanted pregnancies, maternal mortality and high HIV rates.

*‘There can be no sustainable development without access to fundamental human rights – especially food, education and health.’*



## 01 Ensure a life of dignity for all everywhere

Sustainable policies must promote lifelong learning for all and be based on recent research. Our task in Germany is to accept the challenge of providing education for sustainable development in kindergartens, schools, universities and vocational training institutions.

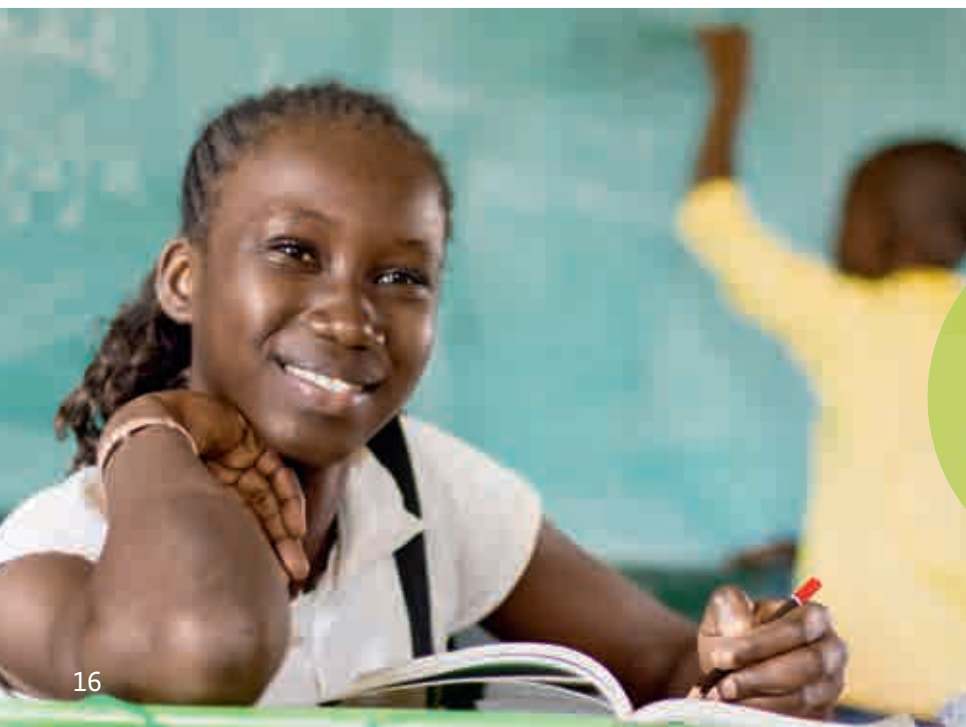
In its fight against infectious diseases, German development cooperation can build on its current successes. The international community is committed to eradicating polio and driving the fight against AIDS,

tuberculosis, malaria and other neglected tropical diseases. It aims, in particular, to help achieve a 90 per cent reduction in the number of new HIV infections by 2030. We now know that it is possible to end AIDS by 2030 and German development policy is committed to helping make this happen. If we are to prevent epidemics such as the current Ebola crisis, we must focus on the problematic relationship between health care services and social security systems in fragile states, and on reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of violent conflicts.



Michael Windfuhr,  
Deputy Director,  
German Institute for  
Human Rights

*'Dignity essentially  
means having the freedom  
to make your own choices.'*





Further falls in maternal and child mortality are needed and German development policy should continue to prioritise sexual and reproductive health rights. We must help the poorest developing countries to expand and strengthen their health care systems so that they too can meet relevant health targets. Our goal is to ensure good health care for all. This means we must put an end to discrimination in access to health care based on origin, age, gender, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

German development policy is committed to promoting social justice and reducing inequality in general. It aims to help implement the human right to social security around the world by supporting the devel-

opment of inclusive social security systems with, for example, pensions, health and occupational disability insurance schemes.

More than 50 million people worldwide have been displaced by war, violence, political and religious persecution and environmental disasters. This is the highest figure recorded since the end of the Second World War. Many are internally displaced persons who have fled their homes but remain within their own national borders. The vast majority have been displaced either within or between German development cooperation partner countries.

It is important in these countries to combat systematically the causes of displacement. Furthermore, host countries in the world's major refugee regions need support to help them provide safe and decent conditions for their refugee populations. Germany should also actively contribute to helping refugees in Germany and elsewhere in Europe enjoy a safe and productive stay in decent conditions, and assist with their reintegration. We must adopt a European migration policy that promotes development and allows people to live with dignity if we are to address the unacceptable refugee situation on Europe's southern border.

## 02 Protect natural resources and manage them sustainably

*'How can we make humankind  
finally wake up to the fact  
that it is part of nature?'*

Marie Kühn, schoolgirl



# Protect natural resources and manage them sustainably

## The current situation

We are living beyond our environmental means in our ONE WORLD. Nothing could be truer in our industrialised nations and among the burgeoning upper and middle classes in many emerging countries. In Germany too, our current production and consumption patterns are based on an overexploitation of natural resources which has particularly detrimental effects on the global climate and biodiversity. Globally, the conversion of forests and grassland into arable land and pasture, inefficient water use and the pollution and overex-

ploitation of our rivers and oceans are just some examples of processes that lead to biodiversity loss and the disturbance of ecosystems, water stress, the degradation of coastal areas, soil fertility decline and ocean acidification. Furthermore, global fossil fuel consumption and continuing deforestation have a critical impact on climate change, accelerating it ever more rapidly.

The challenges associated with climate change, dwindling natural resources and declining biodiversity affect us all and can only be successfully tackled through the concerted action of all nations and societies worldwide. The latest Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme's reports on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity have clearly shown that, to date, efforts to protect ecosystems have failed to deliver the results that are so urgently needed.





Professor Joachim von Braun,  
Director, Center for  
Development Research  
at the University of Bonn

*‘How can we restore the balance between humankind and nature? This is a question we need to address now rather than wait until there are 9 billion of us.’*

Economic growth has brought huge progress and social prosperity to recent generations in Germany and in many other countries around the world. However, it is evident that this rise in prosperity has occurred at the expense of our natural resources and the global climate and we are now reaching planetary boundaries. At current levels of growth, we would require several planet Earths to enable everyone in the world to enjoy the type of lifestyle we now expect in Germany. However, we only have ONE WORLD.

In low- and middle-income countries, economic growth is needed to improve the living conditions of the majority of the population. This places even greater pressure on the wealthy nations to accelerate progress towards greening their economies. However, even countries that are still poor today will need to ensure that prosperity gains are achieved in a way that is environmentally sustainable.

Resource use and its associated impacts are very unevenly distributed across different countries and demographic groups. The survival of poor and marginalised groups in rural areas depends crucially on access to arable land, pristine forests and clean water. Meanwhile, poor and marginalised people in urban settings often live and work in extremely unhealthy conditions. In both instances, these situations severely constrain the development prospects of children and young people in particular.

### **Our goals for the future**

German development policy should be guided by the principle whereby those who are alive today and future generations should have the opportunity to live a ‘good life’. Germany must therefore meet its international environmental and climate commitments and steer a new course, both nationally and in Europe, to make sure that we do not exceed our planetary boundaries. Cooperation with industrialised, developing and emerging nations in the fields of environmental protection, resource conservation, energy and climate





*‘Nature does not need us to survive, and yet we have the capacity to cause it more damage than any other living creature. Respect for those who are weaker than us and for all living things are basic values that should be taught to all without exception.’*



Dr Imme Scholz,  
Deputy Director,  
German Development Institute

policy will now be a key policy strategy for sustainability. By greening production and consumption, Germany will be in a position to further advance global justice.

Both the public and private sectors must commit to reducing Germany and Europe’s contribution to global land and soil degradation, the pollution and overexploitation of surface waters and groundwater, overfishing and biodiversity loss in general, and to minimising the impact of persistent pollutants such as mercury and plastics. Furthermore, the protection of our soil, coastal areas and oceans is important not only to preserve the environment, but to enable the human population to continue to feed itself.

Policy-makers both in Germany and at EU and international levels must endeavour to encourage society to move towards sustainable production and consumption patterns. All segments of the population should have access to sustainable consumption. A smart mix of statutory regulations and economic incentives can generate a more efficient use of energy, resources and environmental space and reduce overall consumption. Germany’s federal Government, federal states, municipalities and public institutions should lead by example – by progressively introducing a binding commitment to procure environmentally sustainable and fair trade products, they can build significant economic momentum. The public sector, business, civil society and each and every one of us must curtail our wasteful lifestyles if we are to improve food security worldwide. Sustainable food production should be pushed more vigorously both in Germany and in our partner countries. Greater attention should also be paid to the role of rural women in improving food security.





As it has in the past, Germany must continue to lead the way internationally in terms of signing up to binding commitments to mitigate climate change. It must consolidate its role through its implementation of these targets and pledges in ways that are credible, including signing up to ambitious and binding goals for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Germany should also play its part in limiting average global warming to no more than two degrees Celsius, and should also meet its existing financial commitments to, for example, climate finance in the context of international climate policy. At the same time, Germany should support its partner countries in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and managing risks associated with climate change. The transfer of modern, low-emission technology on fair terms can make a significant contribution to this process. Throughout it, attention will have to be paid to the rights of and threats to the poorest and most vulnerable groups in society.

A successful rollout of Germany's transition to green energy is critical, if Germany wishes to consolidate its already considerable international influence in the field of climate change mitigation and environmental protection. We need all stakeholders in Germany to join forces and help us achieve a successful energy transformation. This is how we can send a clear message to the rest of the world that a sustainable energy supply is a real possibility. Any lessons we learn from this can then be used to inform international cooperation and create a more sustainable global energy and climate policy.

Sustainable urban development is particularly important given current global trends towards urbanisation and the growth of the urban middle classes. In this context, cross-cutting issues relating to individual policy areas such as food, energy, environment and water policy become ever more important.



## 03 Combine economic growth, sustainability and decent work

*‘Living sustainably means living  
off your income and not your assets.  
As soon as you start using up your  
assets, you have a problem.’*

Dr André Reichel,  
Professor of Critical Management and Sustainable Development,  
Karlshochschule International University



# Combine economic growth, sustainability and decent work

## The current situation

Economic growth has increased social prosperity across the globe and lifted countless people out of absolute poverty. Nevertheless, over recent decades, it has become apparent that the primarily growth-oriented production and consumption patterns of both industrialised and developing nations are clearly unsustainable, insofar as they take little account of the social or environmental impacts they cause. It is also the case that, in the absence of suitably targeted national economic and financial policies, income disparities have risen in many parts of the world, causing the gap between rich and poor to grow wider. If we are to achieve sustainable development, not only do we need an appropriate policy framework but we also need to be prepared to make specific changes to the way we live our lives and do business.

Today, we should no longer simply equate economic development with the growth of a country's gross domestic product. Clearly, we should recognise that economic growth – along with higher employment – is still a key goal, especially in developing and emerging countries. That is why there is so much debate over





the most effective way to transform all our economies and ensure that equal weight is given to economic, social and environmental goals. We need a new global consensus over the best possible combination of business, growth and prosperity, to ensure the sustainable, long-term well-being of humankind and of the environment.



We are seeing ever more encouraging signs that we are indeed changing the ways we think and act in economic and social terms. We are making efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by switching to renewable energy. We are adopting business models based on 'sharing instead of owning' and sustainability labelling of food and clothing which provide information about the conditions in which products are made and encourage sustainable consumption. Greater responsibility in production and consumption is by no means

confined to the wealthy industrialised nations and is ever more common in the German development cooperation partner countries. Many are increasingly espousing a pattern of inclusive economic growth that alleviates poverty, protects natural resources and enhances the quality of life of people by, for example, creating decent jobs. However, such developments will not happen of their own accord and require government to step in and lend a hand. One useful intervention could be to tackle

the plight of many agricultural and textile workers who earn a pittance and work in appalling conditions.

There can be no sustainable development without decent work and this is no less true of the economically important 'informal sector'. Decent jobs and fair wages can help to eradicate poverty and remove social inequality.



Professor Gerhard Prätorius,  
Head of CSR and Sustainability,  
Volkswagen AG

*'Social sustainability means that people should be given the opportunity to participate in economic development. People should also have access to education and suitable jobs with acceptable social standards and fair pay. The synergy created by all these factors is essential to any successful sustainability agenda.'*

#### Our goals for the future

Our aim is to help advance transformational shifts towards sustainable economic development at home in Germany and, at the same time, bring about a globalised economy that meets all human needs, whilst preserving natural resources on the planet as a whole. Our task is therefore to promote, nationally and internationally, a vision of a type of economic development, prosperity and 'good life' that takes into consideration social, economic and environmental imperatives. New indicators, rather than simply the gross domestic product, should henceforth

be used to measure economic development and prosperity. These can serve as valuable benchmarks and incentives and help us move towards more sustainable economies. Germany must also work both at home and abroad to achieve global compliance with social and environmental standards, human rights enforcement and respect for environmental legislation and international labour standards. At national and international levels, the public sector should engage with the private to ensure compliance with applicable rules, regulations and standards across all production facilities and entire value chains. We would also like to see entrepreneurs

and consumers launching ambitious initiatives to foster sustainable economic development.

This new spirit behind economic development should drive the promotion of gender equality, children's rights and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups. It should foster greater recognition of the largely unpaid care work performed for families and communities all over the world mainly by women. Traditional attitudes cannot be allowed to stand in the way of women's empowerment. Women must be able to participate in economic development under decent conditions on the same terms as men. Germany must pledge to abolish child labour in countries where it still exists by adopting appropriate educational, social and regulatory measures. Germany will also work at European level to raise awareness and foster a sense of responsibility among producers and consumers worldwide – greater economic power should always bring with it more responsibility.

The principles of a social and ecological market economy should be clearly endorsed on the global stage by a credible German policy. Low- and middle-income countries need higher levels of invest-





ment if they are to enjoy secure economic growth. Germany, as a trading nation, should promote all trade and foreign direct investment regulations that support sustainable growth, respect human rights and protect the environment. Bilateral and multilateral economic and investment agreements, not least at European level, can be used to further this policy. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2011, can provide a suitable framework for interactions between government, business and civil society. Germany should now prepare a national action plan to ensure their immediate implementation.

As part of a global partnership, you must be prepared to learn lessons from other countries and at the same time share your own experience, as we can do in areas such as the social and ecological market economy, small and medium-sized enterprises in general, cooperatives, vocational

training and open, rule-based trading. We have also much to offer in the areas of hosting research and providing technological leadership in a variety of different industries. Germany can also bring to the table strategic success and valuable experience in the design and implementation of regulatory, social and income distribution policies to help promote sustainable, pro-poor management in our partner countries. Cooperation between the public sector, civil society and German, local and international companies is essential if we are to achieve a shift towards a particular kind of economic growth compatible with sustainability and decent employment.

*'Sustainability means asking whether we are able to keep on doing what we are doing today, in the long term. If we can't, we are not being sustainable.'*



Dr Anselm Görres,  
Chair, Green Budget Germany

## 04 Promote and ensure human rights and good governance

*'If people have rights but no corresponding responsibilities, such rights are of no practical use.'*

Dr Martin Bauschke, Global Ethic Foundation





# Promote and ensure human rights and good governance



## The current situation

The principle that all humans are born equal in dignity is the most fundamental of our human rights. Respect for this basic tenet is the cornerstone to all development. People can only demand, exercise and realise their rights when they enjoy better living conditions and institutions based on the rule of law. Most of the world's nations are now signatories to a range of international human rights conventions, and yet massive human rights abuses are still perpetrated all over the world. Successful development depends on people being free to make their own choices and live in freedom.

The State is the guarantor of human rights, and can only play this vital role when fully functioning public institutions based on the democratic rule of law exist. Sustainable development cannot be achieved in countries where citizens are denied their basic rights, be it with regard to freedom of speech or access to health care. Nor can it prosper in places with arbitrary legal systems and poor governance or where corruption is rife, media freedom curtailed, civil society prevented from participating in public life and people are discriminated against on the



Selmin Caliskan,  
Secretary General,  
Amnesty International,  
German section



*‘Speaking globally and also in my own very personal opinion, sustainability depends on respect for human rights. I feel terrible when I learn of people suffering from torture and discrimination. You must feel the same as I do or we wouldn’t all be sitting here.’*

grounds of social status, age, ethnicity, religion, belief, gender or sexual orientation. Human rights are central to sustainability in all its dimensions. It is as much the role of the State to respect and protect these rights and facilitate their implementation, as it is to provide basic services such as water, food, shelter, education and health care and act as guarantor in areas such as the economy, trade, the environment and climate protection.

Recent decades have seen the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These international instruments acknowledge and describe the particular challenges involved in implementing human rights for these segments of the population. Special measures must be taken to ensure that the rights of particularly vulnerable individuals and groups are observed,

protected and realised in our endeavour to recognise the human dignity of all members of society.

Although people in increasing numbers of countries can now ‘choose’ their own government, their voice in actual decision-making is often quite limited. In more than half of the world’s nations, people still lack reliable public institutions, are unable to express their views freely, and are persecuted for their political opinions or for some other reason. Many countries of late have imposed severe restrictions on civil society engagement in political activity. Indeed, individuals who stand up for human rights are frequently the ones most often subjected to undue pressure and persecution.

Human rights and development depend crucially on peace and security. Yet, in many countries people are still deprived of the foundations for a decent life and forced to abandon their homes in the wake

of wars and violent conflict. Women and girls in conflict zones often become victims of sexualised violence, and children and adolescents might also find they are particularly vulnerable if, for example, they lose their parents or contact person, are recruited as child soldiers, have to live on their own as refugees or are denied their basic needs such as food, water and health care.

The primary causes of conflict and displacement, in addition to political and economic power struggles, increasingly include disputes over natural resources and local impacts of climate change.

Sustainable development presupposes that people must be able to do more than merely survive, be free to make their own choices and unlock their full potential in life. Yet violent conflict, weak public institutions and a lack of political will are still obstacles to the realisation of human rights.



Michael Windfuhr,  
Deputy Director,  
German Institute  
for Human Rights

*‘Human rights are the universal minimum standard for government action and serve as a compass for basic rights and values throughout the world.’*

### Our goals for the future

We are committed to working ever harder to respect, protect and promote civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights in a comprehensive way. We, in Germany, recognise the impact of our own actions on human rights – consumption patterns, the behaviour of German companies in developing countries and policy decisions with knock-on effects for developing nations in, for example, trade, fiscal and agricultural policy. We are therefore determined to strengthen and deepen a human rights-based approach across all of Germany’s international development cooperation actors to energise sustainable development worldwide. We believe that the overarching goal of German policy should be one

Tobias Kahler,  
Director,  
ONE Germany

of guaranteeing respect for human rights, particularly of disadvantaged groups. Development policy must crucially maximise human rights benefits for disadvantaged groups while avoiding causing any harm. Development policy programmes must be accessible to disabled people. Germany will work to ensure that improvements to the situation of these people are explicitly included in the global development agenda. Major efforts also need to be made to mainstream gender equality. The absence of equal opportunities in many parts of the world is still responsible for high levels of inequality and dependency and is a major contributor to poverty.

German development cooperation can only foster the basic conditions required for good governance and respect for human rights if it provides its partner countries with even more effective support to help them build functioning, transparent and inclusive public institutions, fight corruption and promote media freedom and an independent civil society. International policy at German and European levels must embrace more fully the promotion of democracy and the rule of law, crisis prevention, civil conflict management and peacebuilding. German foreign and security policy should further actively seek to prevent violent conflict and war.

*'Transparency allows the poor to be actors rather than recipients. There must be greater transparency worldwide if we want the vision of eradicating extreme poverty to guide policy.'*



## 05 Build peace and strengthen human security

*‘There must be peace with justice  
if we want to overcome violence,  
poverty, inequality and social misery.’*

Bread for the World, MISEREOR



# Build peace and strengthen human security

## The current situation

Without peace, there can be no sustainable development. War and violence end lives and drive people from their homes. Not only do they destroy the infrastructure of the countries they ravage, but also the fundamental values of the communities affected. Former neighbours become enemies, and everyday experience is tainted with fear, distrust, insecurity, poverty and a lack of economic and political participation. Neither sustainable development nor creative potential can blossom in circumstances such as these. Several generations may pass before trust

is restored in fellow human beings and government institutions, and the root causes and consequences of the violence are successfully addressed. It is thus vital for international cooperation to seek to preserve and restore human security and build lasting peace and human liberty for the future.

Fragile states trapped in violent conflict have lagged most behind in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They are currently home to some 1.5 billion people. Researchers working in peace and conflict studies predict that, in 2025, about 80 per cent of those con-

*'Religions, in themselves, cause neither peace nor war.'*

Dr Martin Bauschke,  
Global Ethic Foundation





demned to live in extreme poverty will be found in these countries.

We can only build an enduring peace when we are able to change structures, values, attitudes and behaviours. Such a shift will require social and political learning processes that may be prolonged and challenging. Development does not automatically engender peace, insofar as social and political transformation seldom occurs without conflict or setbacks. Elites controlling the levers of power, for instance, are afraid of losing their privileges; certain stakeholder groups feel, rightly or wrongly, excluded from participation in the political process; and access to good quality resources and services, along with user rights, are unequally distributed. The major challenge in crisis prevention and the promotion of peace is to balance interests and respect and protect the human rights of the entire population. Sustainability, in these circumstances, depends on the ability of societies to resolve conflicts peacefully while tackling structural disadvantages.



The underlying causes of violence, fragility and insecurity are seldom confined to a single state. No country in the world can combat, by national measures alone, people trafficking and the illegal trade in arms, raw materials or drugs. Global factors should increasingly enter into the equation when it comes to the resolution of violent local conflicts.



## Our goals for the future

Germany's international policy must focus more sharply on crisis prevention, civil conflict management and the promotion of peace. It must develop flexible courses of action and instruments to fund peace-building measures to address dynamic conflict situations. Steps must be taken to boost the broad commitment of the German government and other German stakeholders both to early, peaceful resolution of the causes of conflict and to the transformation of violent conflicts. The issue of child soldiers is particularly important here, and we urgently need measures to avoid recruitment along with the introduction of special reintegration programmes.

Changes in Germany itself and our engagement in a framework of global action can also help prevent violent conflict and wars. The German government should, for instance, promote an extremely restrictive policy on arms exports to third and developing countries, with export of weapons of war and small arms only being approved in exceptional cases; ensure that unlawfully accumulated wealth cannot find a haven; work towards a German and European policy on migration and refugees that takes due account of human rights and fosters development; and seek to limit the adverse effects of people trafficking and the global illegal trade in arms, drugs and raw materials. Existing mechanisms of interagency cooperation must be extended and we should work

towards a more coherent Federal policy overall. The Federal Government has already submitted proposals on this very issue in its Fourth Implementation Report on the interministerial Action Plan 'Civilian Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Peace-Building'.

Over recent years, we have witnessed the emergence of a diverse range of players offering effective approaches to intervention before, during and after violent conflict. Faith-based and civil-society organisations, in particular, have made a significant contribution to the promotion of peace and to crisis prevention. In Germany, we wish to build on these foundations.

Development policy work can help strengthen trust in state-based activity in the countries in which it operates. German development cooperation supports partner countries in building effective, transparent institutions to provide basic social services with equal rights of access for all sectors of the population. It can also encourage reconciliation processes and seek to create conditions in society to guarantee the recognition of human dignity and address past injustices. These are essentially long-term goals; they require much patience and significantly increased funding for a conflict-aware approach to development cooperation. Violent conflict impedes the work of development cooperation and may often substantially restrict its scope. In response, development cooperation needs a risk management system to link together all actors present on the ground (for example, in Syria).



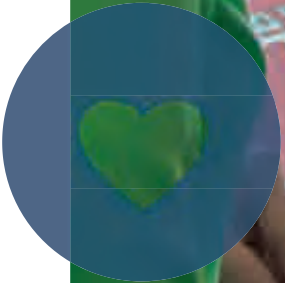
Germany must envisage peace and human security both as goals in their own right and as cross-cutting issues when it comes to implementing the Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Not only is peace the sine qua non of development, it is also a stand-alone goal which should inform all efforts in this field.

Societies must be given support to help them build resilience not only to violent conflict, but also in their struggle against climate change, natural disasters, economic crises, threats from organised crime and epidemics.

## 06 Respect and protect cultural and religious diversity

*‘We must respect religion and use it as a force for peace and prosperity, and not, for example, view Islam purely in terms of security policy. We must remember that people of faith are not only a valuable resource for social cohesion but also an integral part of our society.’*

Central Council of Muslims in Germany



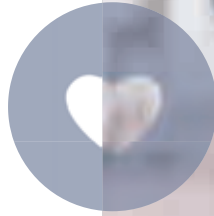
## Respect and protect cultural and religious diversity

### The current situation

A person-centred development agenda must be sensitive to culture, religion and people's different worldviews. Culture and religion lie at the heart of every society. In today's interconnected world, most people live surrounded by cultural and religious diversity. Culture and religion can and should help to foster mutual respect and tolerance.

Every individual should have the freedom to choose his or her religion freely, to change from one faith to another or to leave a particular religious community. Freedom of religion also includes the right to defend and profess one's faith. In appropriate circumstances, culture and religion can foster mutual understanding, promote acceptance of other points of view and transform living conditions. Religious and cultural traditions offer a wealth of ideas that can help to connect people by harnessing the forces of morality and politics. Religion and culture impact on many worldviews, lifestyles and types of commitment, and exercise a powerful





*‘The West’s economic and political model is in crisis, providing the world’s great religions with an opportunity to play a more influential role in shaping necessary change processes. Their foundations are entirely different, as are their perspectives.’*

Dr Martin Bröckelmann-Simon,  
MISEREOR, the German Catholic  
Bishops’ Organisation  
for Development Cooperation



formative influence on politics and society with implications, both positive and negative, for human rights and sustainable development. We must therefore work hand in hand with processes of cultural change and the support of faith communities to lay robust social foundations that can support sustainable lifestyles.

Religious and cultural institutions also have a long tradition of helping to provide basic social services. According to World Bank estimates, for instance, about half of all education and health care provision in sub-Saharan Africa has been contributed by religious or religiously motivated organisations. Yet religious arguments are often used to deny people access to these very services. In developing countries, religious leaders frequently figure amongst the prime movers in civil society, and head up networks that influence social trends at local, national and global levels.

Religion and culture may either inhibit or facilitate development and are therefore of critical importance in the struggle to achieve sustainable development.

The cultural challenges inherent in this endeavour have so far largely been overlooked. Governmental and non-governmental development cooperation often focuses on technical and structural matters. Issues such as the role of values, religion and culture tend to be relegated to the background despite the essential role they play in offering a holistic understanding of development. We must reach a consensus on the kind of world we wish to live in and the values that should guide our actions and those of others. This is no marginal issue, but one that is central to any debate on global sustainable development.



*I would like to see elements of personal encounter in the Charter for the Future, even for people who may not be of a religious persuasion, people who have chosen development cooperation because they are searching for meaning in life, people who have become weary of living a “life of plenty” and long to live “the good life”.*

Ulrich Weinhold,  
Christian Services International (CFI)

### Our goals for the future

We must, more than ever before, harness the potential of culture and religion to facilitate sustainable development and a respect for human rights, both now and in the future. If we are to witness a paradigm shift towards sustainability, we need a new mindset at individual, political and social levels. Development cooperation must therefore join forces with all stakeholders in society who can help to bring about this change. We are currently reviewing our engagement in our partner

countries to try to identify specific opportunities for cooperation with religious organisations to help us achieve our development goals. This kind of cooperation critically depends on the respect for and protection of universal human rights. Should individual actors stand in the way of the enjoyment of human rights, we shall endeavour to strengthen the exchange with local human rights organisations.

We also need to be ever more attentive to the potential of our projects to reduce re-







religious hatred and prejudice. We shall join forces with cultural and religious leaders and engage in explicit dialogue on common values and the means for achieving our shared goals. We wish to encourage and, where possible and necessary, help create platforms for dialogue between religions – in our partner countries, here in Germany and also within international organisations. This is the only way to ensure that religion, in the long term, stops being a part of the problem and becomes a part of the solution.

We want to harness the power of religions to achieve peaceful coexistence. Our development cooperation, in fragile states in particular, will aim to seek to strengthen the forces of moderation and allow their voices to be heard while working towards calming inflamed situations and preventing conflict.

## 07 Drive transformational change through innovation, technology and digitalisation

*‘Young people with innovative ideas need access to sponsors, professionals with technical expertise and opportunities for vocational training and further education.’*

AMPION



# Drive transformational change through innovation, technology and digitalisation

## The current situation

Throughout the course of human history, technical innovation has been one of the principal drivers of far-reaching social change. Today's digital revolution offers an unparalleled opportunity to accelerate and streamline the change we need and to ensure that it benefits all sectors of society. However, it also has the potential to drive high levels of consumption and a profligate use of resources, thereby standing in the way of sustainable development.

Here, in Germany, technical innovation has helped, for instance, to shape our new energy policy and promote a more efficient use of scarce resources. It is vital to sustainable development. The widespread adoption of mobile telephones, especially in countries with a relatively undeveloped communications infrastructure, has, for example, facilitated money transfers and helped to provide weather forecasts for agriculture, thereby improving disaster preparedness. Notwithstanding, a 'digital divide' still exists within and between societies, especially in low-income rural environments and between genders. Differential access to modern means of communication has now become a sig-



nifier of unequal participation in society and inequality of development prospects. Cost (for example, of internet access) is an obstacle to the universal dissemination of information and communications technology (ICT) in developing countries.

ICT has, in recent decades, generated radical change in the lives and work situations of people in virtually all societies worldwide. The rapid rollout of this technology and dynamic growth of its applications are evidence indeed that, at global level too, technical innovation can drive profound socio-economic change in a relatively short period of time. Across the world, ICT has the potential to facilitate networking between civil society organisations and enable greater participation in political decision-making, enhanced transparency, dissemination of educational opportunities, funds transfers, health care provision monitoring, and much, much more. There are countless contributions that technological innovation and digitalisation can make to sustainable global development in all sectors. However, very often technical innovations designed specifically with sustainability in mind fail to gain acceptance in the marketplace in the face of competition from cheaper conventional alternatives. We now



Julia Manske,  
Stiftung Neue Verantwortung

*'Digital technology has changed our lives not only here in Germany but has also transformed the lives of many people in the global South. This has far-reaching implications for the way we shape international development cooperation.'*

need state incentives not just to drive research, but also to promote the use of technology.

Technical innovation, notwithstanding its potential value to sustainable development, does not automatically resolve social and political problems. The availability of energy-efficient appliances does not, for example, necessarily lead to energy-aware attitudes, nor does access to Facebook or Twitter generate of itself greater participation in society. Furthermore, digital technology, with its associated data protection issues, offers a salutary example of the risks inherent in and the limitations of technical innovation: one particular use of social media has been to propagate hateful information and to fuel violence.





*'E-learning must not just be the privilege of an educated few but should help us to strengthen marginalised groups in society.'*

Uli Schwarz, up4change.tv

## **Our goals for the future**

We must, more than ever before, exploit the potential offered by technology and innovation to benefit sustainable development worldwide, and to improve our chances of success in tackling the major challenges of the future. Technology makes an important contribution to all spheres of human development by combating poverty and hunger, promoting improved health and medical services, managing climate change and its impact, and placing the world economy on a more sustainable footing. Consequently, Germany must promote research and science

in the field of sustainability and seek to align domestic collaborative research projects with development cooperation more effectively.

Many partner countries are particularly interested in strengthening their innovation systems, building long-term research partnerships and creating a research infrastructure. Germany, as a prime research location, should therefore commit itself to fostering the establishment of new research partnerships. Research into the protection of global public goods or the control of infectious diseases will only succeed when conducted in

collaboration with our partner countries. Research institutions should now seek to work towards this goal across national boundaries.

Research and innovation should be closely coordinated with development policy in relevant key fields, as is the case with the innovation centre for the agricultural sector promoted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation. German development cooperation can also offer support to partner countries in developing their research capabilities and finding partnerships that dovetail with their specific needs. Many

partner countries have, for example, prioritised research into technologies in the fields of mobility, infrastructure and the sustainable use of resources. Other significant innovations belong to the social sphere – health insurance and pension systems, and research into good governance, particularly in institutions which embody the rule of law and state services.

Germany's research landscape, with its universities, funding bodies and other institutions, already has a global reach. Initiatives in the field of sustainable development figure prominently amongst its remit.

However, not all that is technically feasible is necessary, appropriate or even sustainable. Any realistic assessment of the prospects and risks attached to technological innovation requires open debate. Only this will help us come to clear, well-founded decisions about which technologies we should deploy and fund. The needs of the people who are expected to use and benefit from the new technology in question should clearly be central to this debate. Germany's prior experience in assessing the impact of technology must be made available to research partnerships and development cooperation.



If innovative technologies and digitalisation are to make a transformative contribution to development, there must be a comprehensive assessment of their impacts, focusing particularly on data protection and privacy issues. The full exploitation of the transformative potential of technical innovation and ICT will have to be underpinned by research into sustainability, and we must also facilitate the dissemination of innovation. We should, for example, favour approaches that save resources and minimise waste. We need innovation geared towards development which can be readily implemented in the field, and we also need to foster closer contacts between development experts

and representatives from the worlds of science, business, and government. We seek to promote this kind of networking through national innovation strategies set up to resolve urgent problems and drive transformation for sustainable development. In the sphere of international cooperation, we will also support our partner countries by placing innovative technologies at their service that are geared towards benefitting broad sectors of the population, particularly in rural areas.

## 08 Forge a new global partnership and develop multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development

*‘The next generation of multi-stakeholder partnerships must effectively embrace the values of the new global partnership and spearhead a new approach to sustainable development.’*

Dr Marianne Beisheim, Senior Research Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)





# Forge a new global partnership and develop multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development

*‘The search for future models of coexistence in our global society is not just a political question but a matter of ethics.’*

Professor Michael Reder, Jesuit Munich School of Philosophy



## The current situation

We envision a new global partnership for the ‘post-2015’ process, one that lies at the heart of the debate over a global agenda for sustainable development for the years beyond 2015. This partnership will set an overarching goal and guide the international community’s aspirations to meet new sustainable development targets at both national and global levels in the future. As we share many challenges globally, our new sustainable development goals will form the cornerstones of a single, universal agenda. Governmental and non-governmental players in the North as well as the

South must therefore all accept their proper share of responsibility. We will further need robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms so that we can assess the efforts and outcomes of the various actors involved and communicate them widely.

Governments and United Nations agencies, civil-society organisations, faith-based institutions, foundations, business associations, commercial and industrial undertakings and academic communities have all developed many different types of collaboration in their pursuit of development, environmental protection, human rights and social policy goals. These range from worldwide initiatives to regional and local multi-stakeholder partnerships. Virtually every development issue in this field has generated a partnership of this nature, especially at times when there has been complete or partial government or market failure. However, these partnerships have enjoyed mixed results. Over recent years, some have been extraordinarily successful in advancing development, while others have gone no further than the design phase, have only partially achieved their declared goals or indeed have failed completely.



*Mama Joanne has had her youngest daughter vaccinated and hopes that this will allow her to enjoy a healthy life. She was given this opportunity by Gavi, a public-private partnership between development organisations and the private sector that has immunised more than 440 million children around the world since 2000.*

While it is clearly possible for partnerships to make an impressive contribution, we should not entertain inflated expectations of their problem-solving capabilities. Governments and the community of states are the bodies primarily responsible for creating living conditions compatible with human dignity and the protection of our global public goods. Partnerships cannot and should not replace the work of governments, but may complement their activities significantly. However, we must be careful to avoid inefficient duplication of effort. Furthermore, given that divergent opinions and opportunities for self-organisation are clearly core elements of democratic societies, German development policy will also seek to strengthen the rules for peaceful collective conflict management.

### Our goals for the future

German policy is prepared to take its share of responsibility within the **new global partnership** and expects others to do likewise. If we are to implement potential solutions and courses of action in our bid to address the goals for the future as outlined in our eight priority areas, we need both political will and the broad-based support of society. We must also be able to call on additional funding to achieve our sustainable development goals. The German government will have to step up its efforts significantly if it is to meet its target of allocating, as a matter of urgency, not less than 0.7 per cent of gross national income to development cooperation. Germany will abide by its funding commitments to climate and biodiversity protection. Together we shall do our utmost to ensure that a substantial share of the additional revenue from the European financial transactions tax is channelled into development cooperation and international

climate protection. We shall also increase our efforts in the fields of technology transfer and provision of additional capacity for sustainable development.

It is also our ambition to inspire a new generation of target-oriented **multi-stakeholder partnerships**. We shall strengthen successful existing partnerships and, at the same time, smooth the way for initiatives to create new ones. We shall work to embed them in society and increase their effectiveness. Examples of successful partnerships deserving of continued support include Gavi (a global vaccine alliance), Cotton made in Africa and municipal climate programmes. Sustainable Energy for All and the Round Table on Textiles could, if reformed, become successful partnerships.



## 08 Forge a new global partnership and develop multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development

*In 2012, the German city of Bonn entered into a climate partnership with the Chilean city of Linares. This partnership is helping to promote long-term systematic cooperation between the two cities in the fields of climate protection and adaptation to climate change.*



We would like to drive the creation of new partnerships in fields where no such partnerships exist at present but where they could or should play a role in alleviating social problems. We wish to promote comprehensive alliances and maximise the mobilisation of know-how, resources and support from a variety of social sectors. However, efforts such as these will not always be crowned with success. Pressing global challenges – such as climate change – will not wait until the last player

has come on board. We are therefore relying on ‘spearhead alliances’ of stakeholders who, in their respective fields, can act as catalysts for the social change required both in ideas and practice. Partnerships do not always need to have a global reach. Smaller alliances, such as town twinning partnerships, can also make an important contribution to sustainable development and merit our support.

German development cooperation, drawing on a broad base of relevant stakeholders, is seeking to identify a set of criteria for the development and implementation of partnerships. A matrix like this could be used to guide the work of existing partnerships and design new alliances. We want to see why some partnerships have succeeded while others have failed. When we review our idea of what a partnership should be, we shall bear in mind the criticisms that have been levelled against existing partnerships. A prominent cause of failed partnerships, however well-meaning the project, would appear to be the adoption of a top-down approach, which fails sufficiently to involve the people concerned. They are also occasionally criticised for their lack of transparency. We shall review previous experience and current studies and try to analyse in depth the prerequisites, enabling conditions and criteria essential for a partnership to be successful. During the process of preparing the Charter for the Future, we have already identified some criteria for ensuring that partnerships are tailored to meeting the challenges of the future.

*'When you work in networks and partnerships, you often have to relinquish some of your own autonomy. Successful partnerships depend on a willingness to do precisely this.'*



Ulrich Post,  
Head of Policy and External Relations,  
Welthungerhilfe

Under these criteria, partnerships should:

- be ambitious, identify concrete objectives and address transformational change in the spirit of the post-2015 agenda;
- pursue clear and measurable goals, while integrating all dimensions of sustainability as much as possible;
- be organised on a bottom-up basis, and actively involve local populations or the bodies that represent them (e.g. parliaments or trade unions) right from the planning stage, so as to identify appropriate solutions, build local capacities and offer lasting incentives on the ground (such as employment);
- be run by a recognised project management team in possession of adequate powers and have sufficient institutional capacity;
- work on a transparent basis, giving all stakeholders and target groups a seat, voice and a decision-making role in committees and other bodies, and ensuring a fair balance;
- have a sustainable budget for the entire duration of the project;
- ensure a regular, independent review of outcomes.

German development cooperation will work together with interested parties to build a national platform for the targeted development of and support for partnerships. It will base its work on these criteria, which are subject to ongoing review.

The United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development has made provision for a review mechanism to enable member states from 2016 to report to each other voluntarily on their national

implementation of the global sustainable development goals. This monitoring and accountability mechanism will be a cornerstone of the new global partnership. It will also provide a platform for partnerships. German policy should comply with this review in terms of its sustainability strategy, which is to be revised by 2016, and also with other national goals and commitments, including its contributions to multi-stakeholder partnerships.

*Cotton made in Africa is an initiative founded by entrepreneur Dr Michael Otto in 2005. It seeks to promote sustainable cotton production and improve the living conditions of African cotton farmers.*



# Thematic ambassadors

Thematic ambassadors are distinguished development experts who have supported the 'Charter for the Future ONE WORLD – Our Responsibility' dialogue process right from the outset. They were tasked with stimulating debate, pooling ideas from the wider expert community and bringing together the main threads of the online consultation to provide input for the thematic forums. They have also contributed their own professional expertise to the preparation of the Charter for the Future.



**Renate Bähr**

Executive Director, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)

**Thematic ambassador for the social dimension of sustainability**



**Professor Joachim von Braun**

Director, Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn

**Thematic ambassador for the economic dimension of sustainability**



**Dr Imme Scholz**

Deputy Director, German Development Institute (DIE)

**Thematic ambassador for the environmental dimension of sustainability**



**Michael Windfuhr**

Deputy Director, German Institute for Human Rights

**Thematic ambassador for the political and cultural dimension of sustainability**



**Dr Marianne Beisheim**

Senior Research Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

**Thematic ambassador for global partnerships**

The following organisations and initiatives participated in the dialogue process for the ‘Charter for the Future ONE WORLD – Our Responsibility’:



## Participating organisations and initiatives

**Karlsruhochschule**  
International University



**BeN**  
Bremer  
entwicklungspolitisches  
Netzwerk e.V.



**MISEREOR**  
IHR HILFSWERK



**nes**  
Netzwerk Entwicklungspolitik  
im Saarland e.V.



**zfd** Ziviler Friedensdienst



**agl** arbeitsgemeinschaft der  
eine welt landesnetzwerke  
in deutschland e.v.

**DenkwerkZUKUNFT**  
Stiftung kulturelle Erneuerung

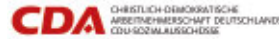




Participating organisations and initiatives



Participating organisations and initiatives



..... and many more experts and citizens



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