



## Position Paper

# Implementation of the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in and by Germany

*With this position paper, German civil society organisations adopt a joint position regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and by Germany. The paper reflects positions on the SDGs as represented in German civil society. It does not claim to be exhaustive. The co-signatory organisations and associations support the paper or parts of the paper in accordance with their mandates.*

Following a participative and comprehensive process over several years, in September 2015 the United Nations (UN) adopted the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs must now be implemented in and by Germany. It is our opinion that in order to do so, fundamentally different approaches must be taken in areas of political action. Germany must accept its responsibility for sustainable development and implement the 2030 Agenda in accordance with its five principles (people, planet, prosperity, peace, partnership). „Leave no one behind“ needs to be the central guiding principle of activities.

### Comprehensive implementation plan and efficient structures for the 2030 Agenda

We call on the German government to draw up a comprehensive and binding national plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and by Germany. It should include the revised national sustainability strategy, however must not exclusively focus on it, but rather be much more complex. Additionally, this process has to be opened up for discussion with civil society, and debated and agreed upon by the German parliament.

In the future, all judicial intentions and sectoral policies need to be checked for compatibility with the 2030 Agenda and the German implementation plan and where necessary corrected. This also applies to the German government’s

policies at EU level as well as in international and multi-lateral institutions. That kind of ex-ante „SDG-check“ requires assertive structures. Therefore, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda needs institutional reforms: an accordingly upgraded Parliamentary Advisory Council for Sustainable Development (PBNE) could assume a central role in the “SDG-check” as a regular committee of the German parliament. Furthermore, sufficient human and financial resources must be provided at all levels (federal level, federal states, local authority, civil society, specialized agencies such as statistical offices, etc.).

All goals and indicators in the implementation plan must give consideration to human rights and (where possible) social, ecological and economic dimensions, and be regularly readjusted. They have to be oriented not only towards the needs and rights of current generations, but to the same degree to those of future generations as well.

The goals, indicators and strategies of the implementation plan should be presented in three corresponding categories:

1. within Germany,
2. effects outside of Germany,
3. supporting countries in the global South with SDG implementation.

The German government must pledge to regularly report on the status of the national implementation plan as well as on all goals, targets and indicators agreed upon at UN level and advocate at the UN for a globally comparable presentation of the national implementation reports. The reports should be debated in the German parliament. The German government should regularly provide all committees of the German parliament as well as civil society with information regarding the implementation status. Transparent, high-quality, disaggregated data should be collected and information made accessible regarding all implementation measures. Furthermore, all departments should regularly write 2030 Agenda cohesion reports about their policies. Civil society must be provided with all necessary information, as well as the opportunity to comment on the reports and discuss the results with the German parliament and the German government.

## We see particular need for German political action in the following areas:

### SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Poverty risks and social inequality are increasing in Germany and Europe. However, unrestricted access to public goods is the foundation of a socially just, sustainable society. Accordingly, this requires low-threshold access to free and high-quality learning, childcare and educational provisions as well as an improvement in the compatibility of family life and employment. We call for the needs-based calculation of family and socio-political provisions, and the expansion of the child supplement to an income-dependent or medium-term, uniform, guaranteed child allowance. Furthermore, an increase of the pension level, reinforcement of statutory pension schemes and their conversion into employment insurance must also be implemented.

Fighting poverty must be the primary goal of development cooperation and not be subordinate to economic or other political interests. In order to eliminate poverty in the long term, the protection of natural resources and ecosystem services in affected countries needs to be an integral element of combating poverty. EU trade policy must refrain from all demands to open up markets that increase poverty in the global South. We call for a public dialogue about the realignment of EU trade policy with a true focus on sustainability and combating poverty. As a prerequisite for such a dialogue the policy of keeping key EU trade policy documents secret is no longer acceptable. It is indisputable that Germany is to a large extent responsible for the considerable increase in poverty in the so-called EU crisis countries. The austerity policy driven in large part by the German government has led to social upheavals not only in Greece. We call for a fundamental reversal of this policy and a debt relief for over-indebted countries such as Greece as well as countries in the global South.

### SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The goals of German agricultural policy must be socially and ecologically sustainable rural agriculture and regional supply structures as well as the promotion of urban and suburban food production. Such forms of agriculture and nutrition need to be promoted as a priority in Germany and Europe and the subsidy system redesigned accordingly. We need a different policy than the agro-industrial „grow or make way“ ideology and a stop to over-production which leads to price decreases, especially in the meat and dairy sector. Public funds must be reallocated from the first to the second pillar of EU agricultural policy. A uniform instrument for funding services related to environment and nature conservation is needed for the development of rural areas. Speculative land deals must be restricted.

The German government's goal of increasing the share of organic farming in Germany to 20 percent of arable land as stipulated in the sustainability strategy must be given a definitive deadline year and be systematically implemented. The use of harmful pesticides and subsidies for synthetic nitrogen fertilisers has to be stopped. Instead, the cultivation and sale of native protein crops (legumes) should be promoted and intensified. Both in Germany as well as in development cooperation, the focus needs to be on the conservation and improvement of soil fertility, the soil moisture regime and agro-biodiversity in order to secure food production and its natural foundations. In addition, nutrient inputs into groundwater, rivers, seas and terrestrial ecosystems by agriculture must be considerably reduced. Food waste and losses must be significantly decreased throughout the entire chain from production to the end consumers.

The implementation of the right to food must be the guiding principle of German development and foreign economic policy. Rather than the current focus on export, for development and foreign trade policies we need a different agricultural model in Germany and Europe. Protecting farmers in the countries of the global South from dumping exports, creating an action plan to reduce utilisation of arable land in the global South for German animal feed imports and effective, legal safeguards against land grabbing and food speculation, should all be part of the political agenda.

Aid in securing and restoring freshwater ecosystems and in efficient water management in agriculture and other sectors is a prerequisite for permanent supply of domestic foods in countries threatened by famine. Furthermore, fair and sustainable fisheries management that guarantees small-scale fishermen and women access rights to fish resources, and maintains or restores the productivity of fish stocks and intact marine ecosystems, is key to food security in coastal developing countries.

All investments must be in harmony with the Committee on World Food Security's (CFS) voluntary guidelines on land tenure, and must not lead to people being displaced from their land. The German government must ensure that the

CFS guidelines on land tenure also have a binding character for private investors.

### SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Health is a human right. And solidarity in insuring against the general risks to life such as sickness and the need for long-term care are an important prerequisite for the freedom to live one's life as one pleases and enjoy equal social participation. In order to offer the highest standards of health to all people living in Germany, all people must be given access to effective, safe and high-quality health care services and products regardless of their income, age, gender, place of residence, nationality or migration status. To achieve equal and shared financing of health care services, all people must pay into health insurance in accordance with their economic ability. Private health insurance companies must also be included in the health care fund. In order to counter non-transmittable diseases and reduce the number of early deaths caused by them, preventive measures as well as an effective regulation of the food, alcohol and tobacco industries are required to improve people's eating, drinking, smoking and exercise habits.

Increased investments in research and development of improved diagnostics, preventive medicines as well as treatment and rehabilitation methods are needed to combat neglected and poverty-related diseases (incl. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria). The promotion and establishment of alternatives to current, patent-supported research paradigms are important in this regard. We call upon the German government to exert greater pressure on the pharmaceutical and medical industries to become more involved in the Medicines Patent Pool. Moreover, funding must be considerably increased for the product development partnerships that Germany has also been promoting since 2011.

The German government must make an appropriate financial, human and technical contribution to the protection of global health and implementation of the human right to health. To do so, development cooperation partner countries need to be supported in the establishment and expansion of sustainable, effective, local needs-based health systems that are affordable for all as well as inclusive and accessible. Health expenses in conjunction with disabilities must be covered by the health care system. Furthermore, Germany must guarantee substantial funding for an intensified fight against neglected tropical diseases (in accordance with the 2015 G7 decision) and an improvement of infant and maternal health with increased focus on sexual and reproductive health and young people's rights.

Joint international funding to supply people with essential medication and vaccinations must be ensured. In doing so, the pharmaceutical industry's influence in development cooperation has to be effectively curtailed. Greater efforts must be made to help people help themselves through technology transfer, the establishment of local production, and investments in education and training.

### SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Access to education must be guaranteed for all people in Germany irrespective of their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, language or other capabilities, and irrespective of income, age, gender, disability, place of residence, nationality and migration status. The school system must focus on every pupil's individual personal development and prevent marginalisation.

Lack of access to education is a major cause of unemployment. In order to enable unemployed persons to achieve a long-term perspective for (re-)entry into and continued presence on, the labour market, job centres must enable unemployed persons to attain subsequent qualifications up to and including a vocational degree. Moreover, there is still great need for action in the support of young people's transition from school to work. In this context, the „training guarantee“ as pledged in the coalition agreement must be implemented quickly. Furthermore, young people who are receiving benefits in accordance with Social Security Code II must be supported in the form of an expansion and higher-quality orientation of the support offers.

Education for sustainable development must be established in society in a stronger, more inclusive and broader way (e.g. global learning, lifelong learning, adult education, civil society education). In doing so, the responsibility of the federal states (horizontal integration) must be strengthened and the principle of subsidiarity ensured during implementation. The consistent participation of civil society stakeholders and educational institutions in the conceptual design is key. In accordance with the all-party parliamentary resolution of March 2015 (printed paper 18/4188), education and learning must trigger activities that promote sustainable development. The UNESCO world action programme 2015-2019 „Education for Sustainable Development“, a follow-up process to the UN Decade, must be promoted politically, financially and structurally, along with human rights and peace education. Efforts must be intensified at all levels, and they must become an explicit component of the implementation strategy of the 2030 Agenda.

In the framework of development cooperation, the German government must promote public and inclusive education systems that address particularly marginalised groups such as children with disabilities, children in poor rural areas and conflict zones, girls, as well as underage refugees. Access to comprehensive and high-quality (including infant) primary and secondary education that leads to measurable successes must be better supported, while also promoting equality in schooling for girls and boys as well as children and young people with disabilities.

Multilateral development cooperation in education must be intensified. Similarly, a focus must be placed on further education, vocational training and career advancement. Education for adults and illiterate people must be guaranteed.

## SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

All forms of discrimination against women and girls must end. Women in particular are affected by direct, and especially by indirect disadvantages in all forms of discrimination, for instance on the grounds of social and ethnic background, religion, disability, age and sexual identity. Numerous women experience violence in their social environment despite legally enforced protective regulations. These women require protection and a broad, target group-specific range of support offers. Sexual self-determination in Germany must be protected unconditionally and the criteria that constitute the offence of sexual assault must be urgently reformed.

Formal law and political willingness must finally be turned into social reality. That includes equal opportunities and equal recognition for women and men in career and family matters, in society, politics, business and culture. Women and men are still paid differently, and Germany has been amongst the worst performers in the EU for decades with a wage gap of over 20 percent. This gap must finally be closed. Germany also shapes up poorly regarding the number of women in leadership positions. Ambitious legal provisions in the form of quotas are required to achieve the goal of gender equality. With a family and labour market policy oriented towards equality, the poverty of single-parents and their children must be combated in all phases of life.

As part of their development cooperation, the German government needs to invest more in tackling the structural causes of gender-based discrimination, particularly multiple discrimination, and in the promotion of women and girls. The enforcement of legal equality, women's rights, and political and economic participation must be ensured by development cooperation in order to make an appropriate contribution to the implementation of women's and girls' human rights. Over 20 years after the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women, the agreements made there must finally be implemented completely.

Germany must promote the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 (protection of rights and equality for women in peace negotiations, conflict mediation and reconstruction), its subsequent resolutions and the national action plan for better implementation of the UN resolution both domestically and abroad.

## SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Water is the basis of life for humans, nature and the environment. Access to water resources, drinking water and sanitation is a human right. Maintaining water quality is of fundamental importance when using the water cycle. Bodies of water and groundwater reserves must not be overused; a good ecological and structural state in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive must be achieved. The protection and restoration of wetlands and water-dependent ecosystems as well as the protection of water resources must be guaranteed - within Germany and in development cooperation. That also entails the acknowledgement of

water as a public good, including banning its privatisation and commercialisation. The German government must not exert any pressure on governments in Southern Europe or other countries to privatise water supply.

„Virtual water imports“ from water-poor regions in the form of water-intensive agricultural products have to be reduced. Resource and energy efficient technologies for waste water management that allow for the comprehensive recovery of nutrients and a sustainable use of waste water must be promoted.

Both domestically as well as in development cooperation projects, the right to water must be guaranteed, especially for marginalised groups. The number of people who suffer from water poverty must be reduced to zero through the sustainably organised extraction and provision of water and increased efficiency in water usage. The improvement of drinking water and sanitation provisions is an important prerequisite in the fight against poverty and in preventive health policy.

## SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

In order to keep global climate change below 1.5°C, global fossil fuel reserves must remain underground and moors and forests be maintained as carbon reservoirs. Energy consumption must be drastically reduced in all sectors. Furthermore, the potential for rehydrating drained moors, increasing living and perished biomass in commercial forests, and reforestation measures should be exploited in order to reduce carbon dioxide.

Germany is at risk of falling short of its 2020 climate goal. That is predominantly due to the continuing high percentage of harmful lignite in the German electricity mix and the lack of significant emission reductions in the building and transport sector. In addition to the nuclear phase-out, Germany needs the fastest possible, binding fossil fuel phaseout. This has to be accompanied by a socially fair economic transformation. With immediate effect, subsidies for fossil fuels must be consistently abolished. In addition, emissions of short lived climate pollutants not covered by the Kyoto Protocol must be reduced.

Moreover, fossil fuel divestment must be reached in all financial institutions, i.e. financial institutions must relinquish their fossil fuel investment assets, e.g. in the form of stocks, bonds and other capital. Germany and the EU also need to take serious measures regarding the announced decarbonisation of industry. That includes refraining from mining and importing other, more hazardous fossil fuels such as hydrocarbons gained through conventional and unconventional fracking. The decarbonisation of the transport sector and the phaseout of promoting modes of transport harmful to the climate have to be initiated politically. Furthermore, Germany must correctly implement the EU Energy Efficiency Directive and make up for delays in refurbishment of buildings.

At a global level, an energy transition that is socially and ecologically viable and which promotes development is also needed. The EU's CO2 reduction goal of 40 percent by 2030 does not equate to Europe's fair share of global efforts in achieving the 1.5°C limit. Germany must commit itself to improving the EU climate goal and push for an energy transition at the European level. Increased cooperation (technical and financial) with the global South is required to promote renewable energies. This includes above all decentralised solutions in rural areas in order to achieve access to energy for all. In order to achieve global climate goals and not to contradict these efforts, Germany must immediately end those development cooperation and foreign trade promotion projects abroad which promote fossil energy.

Internationally, Germany must contribute to ensuring that commitments regarding climate adaptation, climate funding and the limitation of damages and losses are specified, adhered to and extended. In climate adaptation projects, priority must be given to the prevention of negative effects on poor sectors of the population and indigenous communities. In the area of strengthening climate resilience and disaster reduction, the German government has to act in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and give special attention to disadvantaged population groups such as women and girls and disabled persons. By 2020, the German government must invest the pledged 10 billion euro per year for climate protection in developing countries, and present an appropriate expansion path for the years following 2020.

### SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and protective employment and decent work for all

With our current lifestyle and economic model, we in Germany are living at the expense of other people and future generations. We therefore require an „ecological debt ceiling“ that is implemented with at least the same ambition as the fiscal one. This means an economic and financial policy that pushes the comprehensive transformation towards a sustainable and fair economic model. For that purpose, we need a step-by-step plan for the abolition of subsidies harmful to the environment, and development and a continuation of the ecological tax reform towards a higher taxation of resource consumption. That requires many laws, tax regulations and incentive systems to be altered.

We need to break away from the dogma of quantitative economic growth. Alternative measuring instruments for wealth and development beyond gross domestic product (GDP) must be created which also internalise the global ecological and social costs in economic and business balances sheets. Germany must revise its export surplus policy. We reject both the „regulatory cooperation“ in the planned TTIP agreement as well as the European Commission's „Better Regulation“ initiative. At the core they are deregulatory policies aiming at the subordination of social and ecological regulation to the pursuit of private profit.

Action is also needed with respect to the promotion of employment. Publicly promoted employment must be expanded. Unemployed persons with multiple placement obstacles must be integrated into the labour market. In order to ensure participation in labour, employment contracts covered by social security and work opportunities close to the labour market must be promoted. Cuts to social services and wage dumping in social professions as well as the increase of unstable employment in all parts of society must be stopped. That also includes the structural discrimination of people with a migrant background on the labour market.

Decent working conditions must be promoted at a national and international level. Human rights due diligence regulations for business have to be legally guaranteed in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. There must be legal sanctions against companies which are based or have a main operation in Germany and who are involved in breaches of human rights.

### SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Large parts of Germany's infrastructure are deteriorating due to inadequate maintenance, especially in the case of the rail and road networks. We call for a fundamentally new allocation of all finances for transportation, moving away from airport expansions, new roads and river dredging, and towards the preservation, modernisation and expansion of both the public transport as well as the cycling infrastructure, along with traffic reduction thanks to more regionally-oriented economic cycles. In future infrastructure plans, consistent emphasis must be placed on compact residential structures as well as on the recovery, reuse and recycling of waste in order to considerably and absolutely reduce per capita consumption of natural resources.

The German government has to ensure that infrastructure projects promoted in international financial institutions such as the World Bank and regional development banks fulfil ecological, social and human rights criteria. Forced displacement and the destruction of valuable natural spaces for infrastructure projects such as large dams are not acceptable. In the future, accessibility must be considered and implemented accordingly in all developmental infrastructure plans.

### SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and between countries

Growing social, political and economic inequality is not sustainable and a cause of poverty and violence. We call for measures with which the gap between rich and poor can be noticeably reduced in Germany and Europe. That not only includes the (re)introduction of progressive and socially fair tax systems and higher actual taxation of multinational corporations in particular, but also more transparency regarding wealth and poverty in Germany and the EU. Furthermore, Germany's political activities must not contribute to an increase in global inequality.

Social polarisation is continuing. For that reason, the focus must be placed on dialogue, education and communication and respective initiatives need to be intensified. Germany and the EU require a humane refugee and migration policy and must create legal migration routes. Migrants' and refugees' human rights must be guaranteed, asylum procedures be carried out fairly and quickly without undermining asylum seekers' legal guarantees, and integration and participatory offers be considerably extended. It is a social and political responsibility to take active and judicial steps to tackle xenophobia and racism in all its manifestations.

Development cooperation must be consistently and thoroughly oriented towards the equal participation of all population groups in social, economic and political life in German development cooperation partner countries. That includes measures for the targeted promotion of political participation, social security, public services, equal pay and the elimination of discriminatory policies and practices.

### SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Despite partly diminishing population figures in some German cities, suburban residential, commercial and transport areas are expanding in conurbations at the expense of living space and arable land. In order to achieve sustainable, compact city development, incentive programmes (such as commuter travel allowances and local authority tax advantages for business parks) that contribute to urban sprawl have to be abandoned and residential building promotion be effectively oriented towards concentration and construction in existing housing stock. Better use of available building land and protecting buildings from being demolished or misused can preserve urban green spaces, parks and ecological compensation areas despite compact urban development.

Urban rented residential space must be effectively protected from excessive rent increases and change of use so that attractive districts near the inner city are also available to lower income groups. The stock of publicly or community-owned rental housing must be increased and promoted. The selling-off of housing stock on international finance markets and the allocation of valuable urban building land to investors seeking short-term returns are incompatible with the sustainable development of liveable cities and must be curbed. Construction legislation has to stipulate that rebuilds of existing housing stock and necessary new-builds for residential and commercial purposes must be resource efficient, to scale, and fulfil requirements. Inclusive and safe living spaces must be guaranteed by transparent and open participation and mediation procedures and by local conflict management structures. The German government must support local authorities, for example by expanding the „social city“ programme.

City planning measures must be oriented towards the real deconstruction of disadvantages in certain districts and quarters. „Cities with districts in particular need of regeneration“ require funding to overcome structural injustice and to effectively protect against gentrification.

Sustainable municipalities require financial room for manoeuvre. The German government and the federal states are called upon to initiate a fundamental reform of local authority finances to reallocate public income between the federal, state and local level more sustainably on the one hand, and between rich and poor local authorities on the other, giving back room to manoeuvre to local authorities.

The precondition for ecological priority for existing housing stock is the careful treatment of building heritage in historical city and town centres as well as world heritage sites by intensifying the protection of urban listed buildings. Internationally, Germany should contribute to the implementation of the „Global Strategy for a Balanced World Heritage“ by imposing a moratorium for its own nominations, supporting the development of management capacities and advocating for civil society's rights of access to information and collaboration in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The key role of growing cities and urbanisation must be represented more strongly in German development cooperation. The focus there must be on sustainability, participation and social justice. That particularly includes improving urban shanty towns and protecting them from demolition in accordance with the inhabitants' needs, promoting the building of communal social housing, resource-efficient construction methods with local materials, and treating building heritage carefully.

### SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Consumption and production in Germany must become fundamentally more sustainable and opting for sustainable products has to be made economically worthwhile, considerably easier and more transparent for consumers. Companies ought to be obliged to make product data available that is relevant to purchasing decisions. In many areas it must first be ensured that socially and ecologically sustainable products free of hazardous materials, durable, repairable and recyclable are even available at all. Furthermore, public procurement must be aligned with ecological and social sustainability criteria. This must apply to all contract amounts without a minimum threshold.

Germany must reduce its ecological footprint and consumption of natural resources in such a way that we remain within our planetary boundaries. Secondary raw material use must be prioritised over primary raw material procurement. In line with a sufficiency policy, increased resource efficiency must also lead to an absolute reduction of our resource consumption. Target levels for the reduction of industry-specific raw material consumption must be set by policies. The use of problematic chemicals in production must be reduced in such a way that a recycling economy is not hindered and impacts on health and the environment are minimized along the entire value added chain of products. The import of raw materials, extraction of which can fund or cause conflicts, destroy fragile ecosystems and habitats or infringe on human rights must be prohibited.

We call for binding transparency and due diligence for transnational corporations, adherence to social and environmental standards along the entire value added chain, and the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights with the assistance of an ambitious national action plan amongst other things. Germany should support the initiative of 85 states in the UN to negotiate a Treaty on Business and Human Rights for multinational corporations. Privileged special jurisdictions for corporations and investors such as the „investor-state dispute settlements“ in numerous investment protection agreements must be abolished.

#### SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Effective measures must be taken to secure marine biodiversity, clean, healthy, productive seas and to achieve a good environmental standard in all marine habitats. The implementation of the Nagoya target to conserve 10 percent of the oceans by 2020 has to be part of this. Conservation areas and their management must be defined transparently on the basis of the requirements of nature conservation. They have to have adequately financed and participatory management plans which respect the rights of the local population and involve them in defining conservation goals for specific areas. Maritime spatial planning as well as a sustainable use of marine resources must be performed coherently with the inclusion of all relevant policy areas and using procedures which contain environmental impact assessments, respect the precautionary principle and rule out negative effects on conservation areas and marine biodiversity. Germany's protected areas network Natura 2000 in the North Sea and Baltic Sea has to contribute to this. Nature-oriented protection of the Wadden Sea and the coastal landscape have to comply with the commitments to the Council Directive on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, the Birds Directive, as well as Germany's international commitments concerning regional marine conventions. For this, it is key to achieve a good environmental status according to the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive by 2020 and to operationalize an effective national action plan in 2016.

As part of the European fishing industry, the world's largest market in international fish trade, Germany bears responsibility for fishery policy beyond its own waters and fishing fleets. Adherence to the limits for sustainable fishing above the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), the promotion of selective, environmentally compatible fishing methods to reduce by-catch and environmental destruction and the depletion of fishery capacities must be enforced. The amount of fish from illegal, non-registered and unregulated fishing on the German market must be reduced to zero and this status be maintained in following years – through international collaboration and a stringent monitoring network with sufficient technical and human resources in Germany.

Germany should make an ambitious commitment to the further development of international regulation for marine protection, especially also outside of those

areas under national jurisdiction (high seas). A special implementing agreement pertaining to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea which provides for adequate marine conservation areas must be passed to protect biodiversity in the high seas and the ecosystems of its water bodies. Furthermore, legislative measures to enforce more effective waste prevention and waste disposal practices, a ban on microplastics in cosmetics and a cessation of the addition of other sources of nanoparticles into nature, as well as the implementation of a comprehensive circular economy in Germany and corresponding support in development cooperation are needed.

Moreover, a comprehensive moratorium must be declared for deep sea mining so long as participation and human rights are not implemented, the scientific basis for informative and verifiable environmental compatibility inspections is not provided, a reduction of resource consumption has not been achieved and alternative concepts for demonstrably environmentally friendly raw material extraction have not been put in place. The German government is called upon to revise its current funding practice for maritime research and technology as well as its international cooperation plans and legislation for maritime mining, and to integrate them in a sustainable resource strategy which, given this background, rules out the extraction of deep sea raw materials until further notice.

#### SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

We call for the effective and timely implementation of the catalogue of measures of the EU and national biodiversity strategies by 2020. In doing so, the complete national biodiversity strategy should be integrated into the new national sustainability strategy with a high degree of political commitment and contain concrete measures because so far the largest deficits have been suffered here. A special emphasis over coming years must be the effective protection of the Natura 2000 areas and species in accordance with the EU nature conservation directives and ambitious flood protection that is as nature-oriented as possible.

We call for existing habitat fragmentations and the resulting negative effects to be reduced and subsequently prevented, the 30ha goal in the sustainability strategy to be implemented by 2020, and furthermore for the medium-term attainment of a zero balance for land use. That also entails prioritising the conservation of fertile soils and implementing measures for the restoration of degraded soils. Natural soils should only be used for building when demonstrably required, and when already occupied land has been fully exploited. We need incentive-based measures which prevent soil contamination and land use. Germany must give up its resistance to an EU Soil Framework Directive and constructively collaborate in the corresponding goals of the 7th EU Environment Action Programme.

Germany must consistently maintain its high level of commitment to the implementation of a system for

representative, effective, participative, fairly managed and well networked conservation areas on 17 percent of land area and 10 percent of marine area. This is in order to reduce global biodiversity loss and continue its financial pledge of at least 500 million Euro p.a. for international nature conservation in order to achieve the international goals set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by 2020. Germany's efforts to curb illegal wildlife trade must be intensified both in the EU and globally. The German government must also fulfil its obligations to combat bio-piracy resulting from becoming party to the Nagoya Protocol.

We call for Germany to make a significant contribution to the reduction of the rate of worldwide forest loss to zero by 2020 in accordance with the provisions of the CBD, an international initiative for the renaturation of destroyed and degraded forests, and to make a consistent commitment to fighting illegal timber trade. Commercial forests must be systematically managed in a sustainable and nature-friendly way on the basis of improved certification standards. Sectoral policies – above all the EU's Common Agricultural Policy – create false incentives and massively damage nature in Europe and worldwide. They must be reformed in such a way that they no longer lead to biologically impoverished landscapes but rather to biodiverse agricultural ecosystems. Environmentally harmful subsidies must be withdrawn and replaced by effective incentive instruments for environmentally compatible land use.

### SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The causes and dynamics of local violent conflicts are increasingly determined by global factors. All policies must be assessed for their impacts on conflicts and the "do no harm" principle. The German government must develop a guiding peace policy approach and promote the human and financial expansion of the civil conflict management infrastructure. The focus of German policy in the fight against terrorism and crime must be on prevention and combating the causes. The reaction to terror cannot be war or the expansion of the surveillance state. Germany must influence the OSCE to acclimatise to changed conflict situations.

Furthermore, the German government must actively advance the reform process of the UN peace building architecture and advocate for an EU policy oriented towards development and peace. Civil society should be involved in peace negotiations. Because German weapon exports to war and conflict zones remain commonplace, we call for a swift implementation of the small arms conventions as well as a step-by-step reduction of armaments exports to third party countries and effective end use controls. Decisions regarding applications for arms exports must be made transparently in the German parliament, not in a secret government committee.

Germany must commit to its extra-territorial human rights obligations and sign outstanding human rights treaties. That includes the ratification of the additional protocol to

the UN Social Covenant to enable individual complaints regarding breaches of social, economic and cultural rights in Germany, as well as ILO Convention 169. Substantive as well as procedural obstacles to accessing the German legal system for victims of human rights violations abroad must be removed, for example by introducing collective claims, reversal of the burden of proof and corporate criminal law. At the same time, legal protection must be given to whistleblowers who help to uncover illegal practices.

The UN Convention against Corruption must be implemented with more conviction and companies need to be obliged to disclose their beneficial ownerships. The system of "revolving doors" needs to be regulated. Members of Cabinet and parliamentary state secretaries should be subject to a waiting period of three years if there is a connection between the position held thus far and the activity intended to be performed upon leaving office. A legal sanction option must also be created. A tighter legal framework is required in the new regulation of bribery of elected representatives because in practice it is difficult to prove a contractual or instructional relationship between the benefactor and the beneficiary.

Necessary measures to increase transparency in politics include: the introduction of a binding lobby register, the „legislative footprint“, increased transparency of party donations, tightening of disclosure obligations for elected representatives and holders of political office, increased transparency of public contracting in cooperation with the Open Contracting Initiative, improved implementation of the Freedom of Information Act at national and federal states level, and a significantly more ambitious implementation of the G8 Open Data Charter at all levels.

We expect the German government to make concrete steps and to engage in a broad public dialogue about reducing the democratic deficits of the EU where in recent decades, aside from the positive strengthening of the EU Parliament, more and more political competences have been delegated to unelected or insufficiently accountable committees (such as the European Commission, European Council, European Central Bank, Troika, European System of Financial Supervision/ESFS, Eurogroup, etc.). The German government must advocate for more good governance and rule of law, including access to justice, in international cooperation.

### SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

We call for initiatives for a fair global economic and financial system. This encompasses the creation of transparency on and the control of international financial markets as well as the restriction of harmful speculation, tax evasion and avoidance, and the suppression of the illegal flow of capital and harmful tax competition. To do so, improved regulation of conduit banks and derivatives is needed. The transparency of the German financial market must also be increased. We demand the overdue introduction of the financial transaction tax (FTT). Furthermore, the



German government must renounce its resistance to the establishment of an intergovernmental tax committee at UN level and to the creation of an independent and transparent insolvency law for states.

The global implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires adequate financing and the mobilisation of additional national and international funding. With appropriate funding and through capacity building, the German government must support countries in the global South to implement the 2030 Agenda in its entirety and to measure the accomplishment of its goals. The German government must state if and how it will make good on its broken promise of providing at least 0.7 percent of GDP for development financing by 2015 as soon as possible and publish a step-by-step plan for achieving the 2030 Agenda. In return, savings can be made in the fulfilment of the NATO quota which demands 2.0 percent of GDP for military expenses. ODA expenses must not be reallocated for military involvement or the expansion of military structures. The effectiveness of German development cooperation must be further increased based on the agreements of the OECD High Level Forums in Paris, Accra and Busan. Accountability obligations, transparency and effectiveness must be guaranteed where private finance sources are involved in the 2030 Agenda.

The German government also has to help to strengthen civil society stakeholders on a global level who are also involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and consider their relevant expertise.

Within the „Global Partnership“ framework, all international organisations and associations must also be made responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They must not implement any more programmes or policies which hinder goals being achieved. Furthermore, they must be obliged to account for their efforts.

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