

**Involving all Partners in Implementation and Review Perspectives from
Parliament and Civil Society (Germany)
Side-Event at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
19 July 2016, 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Input by Martin Schröder, Federation Of German Industries - BDI**

- Good evening everybody, I am the policy coordinator for International Sustainability at the Federation of German Industries BDI. Let me first of all thank the German Government for inviting us to this conference and for making it possible for industry to be part of the German Delegation here in New York.
- The German ministries are truly building bridges in this regard, as can be seen by the statement that was given by the NGO representative today in the auditorium. And this statement is supported by environmental NGOs as well as industry and it was made possible by German Government. This is a truly „whole of society approach. I don't think this would have been possible 10 or 15 years ago. So thank you again for this opportunity.
- Let me point to three aspects when we talk about sustainability and Business.
- Firstly, German Industry is committed to Sustainable Development and to the achievement of the SDGs. We know of our responsibility in this regard and we make a lot of contributions to our common goal: achieving the SDGs and keeping the world in balance by bringing together environmental issues as well as social and economic issues.
- For decades, German businesses act according to the principle of sustainable economy. By now following this principle is a reality and a requirement. It is a fact: German Businesses contribute to sustainability by their introduction of innovative technologies and products in order to use natural resources and energy more efficiently and reduce the impacts on the environment.
- In many companies, sustainability is an elementary part of the companies strategy and the cooperation with other stakeholders and NGOs is in many cases implicit. This is why we say self confidently: As a strong industry, we claim to shape the political sustainability agenda until 2030 - which is tomorrow – proactively.
- Secondly, the Agenda 2030 now bears the opportunity to put business dimension equally on the same level as the other dimensions. Without the technological know-how of industry, without technological progress and

free markets, without functioning value chains and sustainable economic growth, it will not be possible to reach the SDGs

- And it will not be convincing to our international partners if we do not allow them to be successful with their economies and make profit. Developing countries have issued a resolution as early as 1972 in the General Assembly claiming the right to development. I am convinced that we have to be prepared for the objective that most developing countries see this right as a right to industrial development. And yesterday on the podium with State Secretary Schwarzelühr Sutter the Finance Minister of Uganda said exactly that. We need industrial development.
- This also connects to the universal applicability of the SDGs which we strongly welcome: Industrialisation and economic growth are SDGs and they should be applied to all countries.
- Thirdly. The latest Document of 2015 says the aim is Transforming Our World. We see it as a change to be better, with many ways of improvement, but we also want Germany to stay an industrialised country. Therefore we like the title of the outcome document of Rio+20 better. This is about the issue of defining what it would be like a future we want
- The governments now have the chance to resolving existing conflicting goals, not only on the international scheme but also within their countries. This is why it is correct to adopt the 17 SDGs also in the German Sustainability Strategy. This is going to be a difficult process but it is worth undergoing this process. We support the German ministries in this endeavour and we are glad that business and industry is seen as one of the main actors in this regard.