



The
Federal Government



Nachhaltigkeits-
strategie
für Deutschland

German Sustainable Development Strategy

2018 Update



The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 heralded a paradigm shift both in national sustainable development policy and in international cooperation. More and more nations have put measures in place to achieve the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals. After all, in our closely interconnected world, every country shares responsibility for achieving greater sustainability. It is therefore imperative to take steps at all political levels.

Germany is committed to appropriate ways and means to achieve the Agenda's goals both at European level and in the various formats of international cooperation. This is a task that we will also make a priority during Germany's membership of the United Nations Security Council. I am delighted that the European Council also supports a comprehensive strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda at European Union level.

In all national and international endeavours to achieve further progress, all countries must learn from the successful examples set by others and build on their experiences. For this reason, Germany is opening up its Sustainable Development Strategy to the analysis and recommendations of international sustainability experts in a peer review. Moreover, we are maintaining a close dialogue with other countries in Europe and around the world.

If we compare what we have achieved so far with our goals, it is clear that, in the 12 years from now until 2030, we will have to significantly increase the speed of implementation in order to realise the transformation of our world set out by the Agenda. Given the major challenges we are facing, time is growing very short.



Therefore, we in the Federal Government have pledged to continue to develop the German Sustainable Development Strategy adopted at the start of 2017 in a consistent and ambitious manner in line with the 2030 Agenda. Among other things, this update expands and adjusts indicators and introduces redefined principles for sustainable development. Moreover, the Federal Ministries detail how they are contributing to the achievement of the goals of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda.

We will undertake the next comprehensive enhancement of our Sustainable Development Strategy in 2020, for which the Federal Government will again seek the input and support of all sections of society. Sustainability concerns us all, which means that we can only make progress towards a sustainable world if we all work together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Angela Merkel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Introduction

A good life for all within the boundaries of our planet's resources is possible on a permanent basis only if political decisions are geared towards sustainable development. The Federal Government is therefore committed to the guiding principle of sustainability. It is working to achieve ever-greater observance of this principle at all levels and by all stakeholders, nationally and globally.

The Federal Government's sustainable development policy is based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is entitled "Transforming our world". The 2030 Agenda was adopted by the heads of state and government of the 193 member states of the United Nations in New York on 25 September 2015. It comprises 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a total of 169 associated targets, which must be achieved by 2030 and apply universally, i.e. equally for all nations. The Agenda calls for societal stakeholders to be included (multi-stakeholder approach) and stands for global partnership.

The Federal Government adopted the new version of the German Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) on 11 January 2017. This was the first step that provided the framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the coalition agreement of March 2018, the CDU, CSU and SPD committed to the ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 global Sustainable Development Goals and to the promotion of sustainable development as a benchmark for good governance. It is the guiding principle of German policy. It was announced that the GSDS would be enhanced on an ongoing basis and in an ambitious manner.

The Federal Government had already announced the 2018 update of the Strategy in the GSDS. This update was adopted by the Federal Cabinet on

7 November 2018, supplements the GSDS from the start of 2017, and comprises the following aspects in particular:

- A brief analysis of the current conditions internationally and in Europe
- The addition and adjustment of individual indicators and goals on the basis of reviews commissioned by the GSDS and on the basis of the coalition agreement
- Revised principles for sustainable development (previously "management rules")
- A report on amending institutional structures and increasing the involvement of societal stakeholders
- Information on the recommendations of the third peer review by international experts
- Accounts of the ministries' current priorities for the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals and the GSDS

Feedback from a public consultation in June 2018 was taken into account.

Previous experience with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, both nationally and globally, shows that we can achieve progress towards sustainable development. At the same time, it is clear that we have to redouble our efforts in all areas. There is no way around this, especially given the political situation in the world today.

This update of the GSDS is a step towards the full review and enhancement of the GSDS, which – as stipulated in the new version of the GSDS from 2017 – is scheduled for 2020.

I. Sustainability: A key political challenge of our time

By adopting the German Sustainable Development Strategy at the beginning of 2017, the Federal Government took an important first step towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Germany. However, having a good strategy is not enough – sustainability must be taken into account and implemented in all areas of policy. This applies at all levels – internationally, in Europe and nationally.

1. Sustainability at international level

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda at the United Nations (UN) in 2015 showed that it is possible to stand together globally to face key challenges. Its adoption was an expression of the conviction that these challenges can be overcome only as a joint effort and that, for this reason, the guiding principle of sustainable development must be applied consistently to all policy areas and in all countries. With this in mind, the Federal Government is promoting sustainable development within the framework of multilateral cooperation.

a) Significance and challenges of multilateral cooperation

Climate protection

The negative impacts of climate change are a key challenge for sustainable development and one of the causes of population displacement and migration. The Paris Climate Agreement is the successful outcome of cooperation in the international community and lays the groundwork for tangible progress. At the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice (Poland) in December 2018, the priorities will include adopting rules for implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and reaching an agreement on how the climate targets can be achieved.

Displacement and irregular migration

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is also important in light of ongoing refugee and migrant movements. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 68.5 million people are currently displaced (including around 40 million internally displaced persons and around 25.4 million refugees). In the long term, the most effective methods against displacement and irregular migration are respect for human rights, peace and good prospects in the countries of origin.

The Federal Government has further intensified its cooperation with the United Nations with regard to displacement and migration and is actively promoting the preparation of a Global Compact on Refugees and a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Both Compacts are intended to contribute to a more comprehensive response to major movements of refugees and migrants and greater international solidarity.

Sustainable business

Robust economic development can be observed worldwide. The IMF expects global economic output to grow by 3.9% in 2018 and 2019.

However, this growth must be made sustainable. Finite resources, the protection of the natural environment and the 2030 Agenda's call to leave no one behind require us to steady our course towards sustainable and therefore future-proof business activities.

Multilateralism in crisis

The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement are examples of successful cooperation in the international community. However, this success is now threatened by tensions, crises and diverging concepts of international order. Instead of solving complex problems together, simple solutions are

sometimes sought in the form of isolationism and a withdrawal to nationalism.

The Federal Government is underscoring its firm belief that key global challenges and crises can be only be resolved in the long term with a common, cooperative approach by the international community. The Federal Government is therefore strongly in favour of intensifying effective and collaborative multilateralism in a rules-based, peaceful world order with the United Nations at its heart, one that is complemented effectively by institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, development banks and the World Trade Organization.

Strengthening UN institutions

The United Nations plays a central role in helping its member states to implement the 2030 Agenda. This is particularly true of the UN development system. In order to make the system “fit for purpose”, i. e. a strong and well-organised partner for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in June 2018, the UN’s member states set the course for a reform of the UN development system. Its structures are to be made more efficient, Resident Coordinators are to work more effectively and independently with better funding, and the network of UN Country Offices is to be streamlined.

Germany is supporting the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, in his extensive and ambitious reform agenda in order to make the global organisation more efficient and effective.

Germany is willing to take more responsibility and is heavily involved in the United Nations politically and financially, as well as with human resources to an increasing extent. It is the fourth-largest contributor to the regular and the peacekeeping budgets and the second-largest donor of humanitarian aid and official development aid. Germany has more than tripled its budget for crisis prevention, stabilisation and humanitarian aid in recent years – to 2.5 billion euros in 2017. Moreover, Germany is now one of the largest Western providers of troops for United Nations peacekeeping missions.

On 8 June 2018, Germany was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2019–20 term. This is the sixth time that the country has assumed major responsibility

for peace and security in this capacity. Germany will focus its work on four key goals: peace, justice, innovation and partnership. In order to preserve the authority and legitimacy of the Security Council, Germany is committed to reforming this central body of the international community for peacekeeping and conflict management.

Germany’s G20 presidency in 2017

The Federal Government believes that sustainability is both a visionary and a necessary response to the question as to how to ensure that globalisation is fair.

In 2017, Germany adopted “Shaping an interconnected world” as the slogan for its G20 presidency. The overriding goals of the presidency were to build resilience, improve sustainability and assume responsibility. At the summit in Hamburg on 7 and 8 July 2017, nearly all the resolutions touched on the issue of sustainability.

Examples of G20 issues relating to sustainability

Strengthening the resilience of the global economy; creating sustainable supply chains by implementing labour, social and environmental standards, and enforcing human rights in line with internationally recognised frameworks; climate and energy action plan; action plan to combat marine litter; resource efficiency dialogue; principles for fighting corruption, particularly in connection with combating poaching; adopting a partnership with Africa; reducing the root causes of refugee movements; global cooperation in healthcare.

During its G20 presidency, Germany also encouraged leading industrialised and emerging countries to undertake concerted efforts towards implementing the 2030 Agenda. For example, the Hamburg Update of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda adopted under the Chinese G20 presidency in Hangzhou was adopted with an enhanced catalogue of measures.

A new instrument for shared learning among the G20 countries, the Voluntary Peer Learning Mechanism (VPLM), was also introduced. Germany formed the first peer group together with China and Mexico, which from September 2017 to March 2018 discussed the alignment of their sustainable development strategies to the 2030 Agenda and questions of policy coherence. The three partners identified common challenges and

took suggestions arising from a comparison of their various approaches on board. The current Argentinian G20 presidency is expected to continue this communication mechanism.

b) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Multilateralism can no longer be taken for granted today. The international consensus on the 2030 Agenda, which has a key role to play with regarding to resolving global problems, is therefore all the more important. The Agenda’s objective is to enable everyone to lead a life in dignity while conserving our natural resources – including for future generations.

The 2030 Agenda underscores the shared responsibility of all stakeholders – policymakers, industry, academia and civil society. Moreover, it applies universally, i.e. it concerns all states, developing countries and industrialised countries alike. It is also important to consider the global impact of national action, for example with regard to climate change, trade, sustainable consumption and sustainable production.

The 2030 Agenda’s 17 global goals for sustainable development (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs) constitute an indivisible catalogue of closely interlinked goals that must be viewed not in isolation, but as a whole in order to unlock positive synergies and prevent negative interrelationships.

Despite positive trends with regard to the implementation of individual SDGs, the global community is falling well short of expectations in many areas. In order to achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030 and for the necessary promotion of more sustainable, inclusive business and more sustainable lifestyles, the ambition and the pace of implementation must be increased significantly.

An effective review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial in order to ensure its success and to make and constantly adjust the necessary changes in political direction.

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

The central body for reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The HLPF meets annually at ministerial level under the

auspices of the UN’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every four years at the level of heads of state and government under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (for the first time in this form in September 2019).

Voluntary National Reviews

The central pillars of the HLPF include the reports by UN member states, which have submitted a total of 111 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) since 2016. Along with 21 other countries, Germany already submitted its VNR at the first HLPF after the adoption of the SDGs in 2016. The German report was based on the draft of the GSDS at that time. Since then, international interest in reporting has risen sharply: 43 countries submitted VNRs in 2017 and 46 states reported on their national implementation in 2018. The EU is expected to present its implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the first time in 2019. Germany will participate intensively in the preparation of this VNR in the Council Working Party on the 2030 Agenda (see below).

Side events

Each year, the Federal Government also plays an active role in the HLPF’s extensive programme of side events. In 2017, for example, it joined Mexico in organising a panel discussion on strategic questions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, at which it also presented the 2016 German Sustainable Development Strategy. In 2018, the key results of an international peer review of the German Sustainable Development Strategy (see II. 1 below) were presented at a side event.

SDG Summit 2019

At the end of its first four-year “cycle” in 2019, the HLPF is to be evaluated by the member states with regard to issues, format and effectiveness. The Federal Government will speak out in favour of continuing to improve the forum in terms of content and effective organisation.

The first SDG Summit at the level of heads of state and government since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 will take place in September 2019. The Summit, meeting during the UN General Assembly, is intended to send a strong political signal on the part of the heads of state and government for the accelerated implementation of the necessary economic and social transformation. To ensure that the UN Sustainable Development Summit is able to live up to these demands, the Federal Government and its EU partners have pushed for the Summit to be prepared transparently and effectively at the earliest possible stage.

Global indicators and progress reports

The UN presents the global progress of the implementation of the SDGs in annual SDG progress reports. These are based on data supplied to the UN by the member states' statistical authorities on a total of around 240 global indicators. These global indicators were selected by an international expert group (IAEG-SDGs), with the participation of the Federal Statistical Office, to monitor the attainment of the 17 global SDGs and their 169 associated targets at UN level and approved by the UN General Assembly. The Federal Statistical Office publishes and coordinates the data on the global indicators that Germany provides if possible every year ("Data for Germany"; www.destatis.de/SDGDE). This is based primarily on official statistics as well as other data sources.

The current figures show that the global community is falling well short of expectations and its own ambitions in many areas, despite a number of positive trends.

The creation of a comprehensive and high-quality data pool, broken down, for example, by sex, background or age, remains a major challenge internationally. For example, 66 of the roughly 240 indicators still lack data, and another 66 lack the methodological standards to enable uniform data collection. In the UN Statistical Commission, member states and international organisations are therefore working continuously to enhance the indicator system.

Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

In addition to the annual SDG progress reports, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), to be published every four years starting from 2019, has a vital role to play. In Germany's view, the report should play a similarly important role for the topic of sustainable development as the IPCC's world climate report plays for climate change. To this end, the Federal Government is supporting the group of 15 researchers appointed by the UN Secretary-General to draft the GSDR via the Federal Environment Agency and the German Development Institute.

c) Bilateral cooperation

The 2030 Agenda provides the benchmark for the Federal Government's bilateral efforts.

This is particularly true with regard to development policy. The Federal Government's 15th Development Policy Report outlines the role of German development policy in solving future global problems. Since 2015, changes in course have been made, and central processes have been adjusted in order to facilitate development policy cooperation in the interests of sustainable development.

Major challenges in implementation in developing countries

The partner countries involved in German development cooperation have begun implementing the 2030 Agenda at different speeds. After three years, it is becoming apparent that virtually all countries – developing and industrialised countries alike – still have a great deal of work to do to set out on and shape paths of sustainable development.

Global economic, environmental and social challenges are reaching critical dimensions. Around the world, 2.5 billion people live in countries with water shortages, and nine out of ten city dwellers are not breathing clean air. Between 2000 and 2010, the consumption of natural resources rose by 43% worldwide. Although more than a billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty, it is apparent that not all people and countries have benefited from this positive development. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people in extreme poverty has actually increased; in some countries, the poverty rate is still over 70%.

Projections by the OECD show that more than 60% of those in extreme poverty will live in fragile countries dominated by conflict in 2030. The impacts of climate change also have a pronounced effect on poor and vulnerable population groups as they are often highly dependent on natural resources and live in regions at particular risk. Climate change is therefore a threat to successes in the area of development that have already been made. Climate risks are also combining with other trends such as population growth and urbanisation. Unchecked climate change increases the potential for conflict over natural resources such as fertile soil and (drinking) water and can lead people to leave their homes and seek their fortune as migrants.

Another challenge is rising inequality within societies. Discrimination and unequal access to

education, employment, healthcare, etc. are a considerable barrier to sustainable development in many countries.

The five key messages of the 2030 Agenda and the call to leave no one behind

The priorities of the Federal Government’s bilateral cooperation – especially but not exclusively in the field of development policy – reflect the five key messages that preface the 17 SDGs as guiding principles: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership – the 5 Ps.

Priorities of bilateral cooperation

People: A world without hunger and poverty is possible. With its special initiative One World, No Hunger, Germany is joining the fight against hunger and malnutrition and for the protection of natural resources for life and production. The InsuResilience Global Partnership protects poor and vulnerable people in developing countries against climate risks.

Planet: In 2016, public funds totalling 3.4 billion euros were made available for international climate protection funding. The Federal Government is thus supporting projects in almost all partner countries for climate protection and adapting to climate change. By 2021, the Energising Development programme will provide at least 21 million people with access to modern and climate-friendly energy, especially in Africa. This will save more than two million tonnes of CO₂ every year. The Federal Government’s International Climate Initiative also works to protect the climate and natural resources; it is an important component of Germany’s climate protection funding and prioritises climate protection and adaptation as well as the protection of biological diversity.

Prosperity: Globalisation must be fair. One of the Federal Government’s contributions to this is the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights (NAP), in which it formulates its expectation that all businesses respect human rights in their global business activities. It reviews the implementation of the plan in an extensive three-year monitoring cycle. At the same time, the NAP comprises more 50 government measures that support the objectives of the NAP, including in the promotion of foreign trade, in public procurement and in development cooperation. For example, the Federal Government is promoting the improvement of environmental and social standards along the textile supply chain and involving business directly via the Textile Partnership. It is thus working towards achieving fair labour conditions. All 116 members of the Textile Partnership submitted their planned measures in August 2018, detailing which

tangible measures they are pursuing to promote sustainability in textile supply chains.

Peace: Peace is the fundamental requirement for development – there can be no development without peace, and no peace without development. The 2030 Agenda therefore includes fundamental goals regarding peace, justice and strong institutions. Among other things, they relate to preventing violence, promoting human rights and good governance, and thus counteracting the root causes of displacement and promoting return and reintegration. The Federal Government is bringing its foreign policy, development policy and security policy resources to bear to prevent crises, manage conflicts and promote peace. It is making a considerable contribution to conflict management and the promotion of peace with crisis prevention and stabilisation measures, such as arbitration and mediation, security sector reform and promotion of the rule of law. With the special initiative “Tackling the root causes of displacement, (re)integrating refugees”, the Federal Government is working with the poorest countries to reduce the root causes of displacement and support refugees and host communities.

Partnership: With multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Textile Partnership and the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, the Federal Government is promoting sustainable development together with business and civil society and in cooperation with the partner countries involved in German development cooperation.

The principle enshrined in the 2030 Agenda of “leaving no one behind” (LNOB) codifies the shared obligation to bring all people along on the path towards sustainable development. Putting this principle into practice and reaching the poorest and most disadvantaged people first is a key task, especially for development cooperation.

Cross-sector approaches are needed

Translating the three-pronged approach of poverty eradication strategies, sustainable economic development and the protection of natural resources into core political and strategic processes remains a key challenge for the partner countries.

This makes it necessary to take a holistic view of interrelationships between political measures in various sectors and to promote work across policy areas. German development cooperation promotes these approaches via the NDC partnership initiated by the Federal Government, for example. This helps partner countries link strategies for implementing national climate protection (Nationally Determined

Contributions, NDCs) and for implementing the SDGs.

2030 Agenda Implementation Programme

With the 2030 Agenda Implementation Programme, the Federal Government is providing over 25 partner countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America with targeted assistance in key areas for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Together, political frameworks are created, local resources and private investment mobilised and monitoring and review capacities increased. The programme is in high demand among the partner governments and will be continued in the years to come. The Federal Government, together with its development policy partner countries, is thus making a contribution to greater transformation towards sustainable development.

2030 Agenda Transformation Fund

In 2018, the Federal Government supported more than 20 activities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by funding projects in 18 partner countries with a new fund (more information is available at www.transformationsfund.com/).

New funding models

Although the EU member states and a number of other industrialised nations have again committed to meeting the ODA target of 0.7% of GNI (share of expenditure for official development assistance in gross national income) under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires a broader funding approach. According to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the global agenda for financing the 2030 Agenda, all financial resources have to contribute to achieving the Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes international and national private investment and international and national public funds.

States can effectively advance their sustainable development only if they have sufficient funds of their own and can deploy them in a targeted, effective and efficient manner. Germany has therefore signed up to the Addis Tax Initiative, committing to double its support for partner countries for establishing fair, transparent and efficient public finance systems by 2020. At the same time, more private funds must be mobilised for investment in sustainable development, and the conditions for this improved.

Data, statistics and monitoring

The lack of data in many partner countries makes it more difficult to design policies on the basis of evidence and to measure the progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Major investments in national statistical services and technical expertise are necessary in order to ensure high quality and uniform standards of data collection and interpretation. They are also important for designing government services in accordance with requirements and for ensuring that no one is left behind.

However, it is not just partner countries that have to measure their progress. Development cooperation must demonstrate that it is making an effective and qualitative contribution to achieving the SDGs. The Federal Government therefore sets great store by ensuring impact monitoring in line with the SDGs and disclosing the financial contributions made as part of the development cooperation in accordance with the internationally agreed IATI (International Aid Transparency Initiative) standard. This ensures transparency for partner countries and the German public.

2. Europe

The Federal Government has set itself the goal of making a new start for Europe. Only a strong European Union with the right priorities can ensure a peaceful future, security and long-term prosperity.

Europe is more than just a single market or the euro. It is a community of shared values built on respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the protection of human rights. Only together is it possible to defend these values, ensure prosperity and make Europe's voice heard in the world.

a) European Union, reforms

The European Union faces major challenges, and Europe is particularly exposed to geopolitical change on account of its geographical location. Violence, violations of human rights and infringements of international law are occurring in close proximity. The global economic structure is also changing; today, many of the world's leading companies come from other parts of the world.

The EU is enjoying growth once again after years of economic crisis, but efforts are required to continue to reduce the high level of youth unemployment. Global challenges of migration and displacement are putting EU solidarity to the test.

The consistent implementation of the 2030 Agenda can make a vital contribution to mastering these challenges in the long term. Sustainability is enshrined as a guiding principle in the Treaty on European Union. However, the next step must be to specify what the 2030 Agenda means for EU policy.

Key policy areas for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, e.g. foreign trade and agricultural or environmental policy, are also or exclusively the responsibility of the EU. As the largest common economic area in the world, the EU also has a special responsibility for the global impacts of its action on partner countries.

Germany is therefore committed to the ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda at EU level. The Federal Government's position is supported by the Länder (Bundesrat decision), the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Council and many societal stakeholders in Germany.

b) SDG implementation at EU level

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda at EU level requires a strategic framework. The EU member states unanimously called for such a framework in their Council conclusions (General Affairs) of 20 June 2017. In a resolution of 6 July 2017, the European Parliament also called on the Commission to prepare a comprehensive strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

2017 Council conclusions

The Council conclusions include the European Commission's assignment to prepare an EU implementation strategy by mid-2018 that lays out the timetable, targets and specific measures for achieving the 2030 Agenda in the relevant internal and external EU policy areas. In addition, the Council called for a gap analysis and a review by the European Commission of how the programmes and instruments of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) can be geared towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The Commission has not yet fulfilled the requests of the Council and the European Parliament. For the

end of 2018, it merely announced an additional, sixth Reflection Paper as part of the debate on the future of the EU entitled "Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030". As things stand, this is expected to deal chiefly with progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The next few years will be crucial for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Federal Government will continue pushing for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at EU level to be advanced in an ambitious manner.

Council Working Party on the 2030 Agenda

A new Council Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was set up at the end of 2017 to promote a coherent approach to SDG implementation in the EU – including a better link between internal and external trade. This fulfilled a request that Germany had been making for years for the creation of a platform for dialogue between EU member states specifically on sustainability issues.

The Working Party has met regularly since March 2018. It is intended to supervise the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on behalf of the Council. Its working practices are currently being fleshed out in order to ensure that relevant political issues are dealt with appropriately. In addition, the Council Working Party prepares and coordinates common EU positions for international processes in the area of sustainable development.

Multi-stakeholder platform

In May 2017, the Commission set up a multi-stakeholder platform to provide advice on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the EU. The platform comprises 30 representatives of civil society organisations, academia and industry. It is chaired by the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans.

One of the key outcomes of the platform's work is a position paper formulating its expectations for the implementation of the Agenda at EU level, which the platform adopted on 11 October 2018. The platform also believes that the EU has to take a leading role. It has called for a strategic framework with specific goals and effective monitoring. The Strategy is also to be linked to the discussion on the future of the EU. The European Commission

has announced that it will attach the document as an annex to the aforementioned Reflection Paper. In addition, the platform also advises the European Commission on the planned awarding of a European sustainability prize.

Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

The Federal Government will support efforts to modernise the EU budget and its more consistent focus on European added value. Germany will therefore work to ensure that the EU's next MFF is more clearly aligned to the 2030 Agenda. To this end, there must be an examination of how the principles of the Agenda can be taken into account in the relevant regulations proposed by the European Commission. Negotiations on this began after the European Commission presented the MFF package for 2021–2027 in May and June 2018.

Sustainable finance

Financing questions can make an important contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In light of this, the fact that the European Commission presented an action plan on financing sustainable growth in March 2018 is a positive development.

Aims of the action plan

- *Reorient capital flows towards sustainable investment in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth*
- *Manage financial risks stemming from climate change, scarcity of resources, environmental degradation and social issues*
- *Foster transparency and long-term approach in the financial and economic sphere*

Various legislative proposals were made for implementing the action plan. The Federal Government is supporting the objective, effective and practical implementation of this ambitious action plan.

EU development policy

The new European Consensus on Development of May 2017 is already based entirely on the 2030 Agenda. The MFF is also relevant to the development consensus with a view to the 2030 Agenda. For example, it must be ensured that the 2030 Agenda is enshrined as a guideline in the new

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) proposed by the Commission.

European development policy has traditionally prioritised cooperation with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (the ACP countries). The partnership agreement (Post-Cotonou Agreement) has been under renegotiation since August 2018. Germany is working to ensure that the successor agreement takes the 2030 Agenda into account.

c) European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)

The Federal Government cooperates closely with the governments of other European countries on sustainable development. It is a member of the Steering Group of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN). The Network held a meeting in Rome in June 2018 at which representatives from European countries discussed success factors and challenges for implementing the 2030 Agenda at both national and regional levels. The ESDN annual conference at the beginning of October 2018 addressed the issue of stakeholder involvement.

European Sustainable Development Week

Every year, the events of European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW, see esdw.eu) demonstrate that many people in Europe are concerned about sustainable development. The initiative was originally launched by France, Austria and Germany. In Germany, participation in the ESDW is organised by the Sustainable Development Council (via the website www.tatenfuermorgen.de). This is supported by the Federal Government, which is calling for wide-scale participation among all stakeholders at both national and European levels. The activities during the ESDW show that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is a task for everyone, one that involves all levels and all stakeholders. In 2018, the number of events all over Europe increased from 4000 a year previously to 6500 events and initiatives; never before have so many people been involved in these events. An estimated three million people in Europe thus took part in the ESDW events. In Germany, there were 2500 activities – likewise a record high, which is also attributable to the

activities of the Regional Hubs for Sustainability Strategies (RENNs, see II. 3 c below).

3. National challenges

Sustainable development poses challenges for a large number of policy areas, including in Germany. Three examples of such topics are detailed below.

“Sustainability must be borne in mind in all policy areas and the diverse interrelationships taken into account.”

Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel, 4 June 2018, Annual Conference of the Sustainable Development Council

a) Strengthening social cohesion – leaving no one behind

We will only achieve a sustainable Germany by ensuring that no one is left behind. “Leave no one behind” is a key element of the 2030 Agenda. It is the promise that the job will be finished only when all the goals of the 2030 Agenda have been achieved for all population groups – i. e. especially those who are left furthest behind. Equal rights and non-discrimination are fundamental principles here. For Germany, leaving no one behind means, for example, that even those who cannot achieve the minimum sociocultural subsistence level by themselves must be able to share in the wealth generated in society as a whole. This requires society to provide security against particular risks in the welfare state. In addition, the welfare state must be geared towards (re-)enabling people to live self-determined lives while helping to create equal opportunities for all. Achievements and individual skills should determine a person’s future, not social background. Education is therefore key to participation.

The development of the German economy also depends to a great extent on the available human resources. In order to meet the demand for qualified, skilled workers on a permanent basis, high-quality education must be available for all. Vocational training requires flexible opportunities for adapting to individual needs in order to improve employability.

b) Climate policy

Climate protection, which is crucial to the future of humanity, and adapting to the impacts of

climate change that have already occurred and are expected in the future are and will remain key challenges for sustainable development.

All countries must work resolutely towards the target agreed in Paris to achieve greenhouse gas emissions neutrality in the second half of the century. At the same time, global warming must be kept well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and further efforts must be made to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees.

Although there is a clear difference between “weather” and “climate”, the long, extremely dry and hot summer of 2018 was a tangible reminder to us all of the possible effects of climate change. Climate protection and adaptation to climate change remain important and urgent goals of the Federal Government. The efforts to adapt must be intensified, as the consequences of climate change are already having an impact on the economy and society (crop failures, interruption of national and global supply chains due to extreme weather, damage to private property and production facilities).

The Federal Government is committed to the climate targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050 agreed at the national, European and international level. To that end, it will fully implement the Climate Action Programme 2020 and the Climate Action Plan 2050 with the goals agreed for all sectors.

In accordance with the stipulations of the coalition agreement, the Growth, Structural Change and Employment Commission was swiftly appointed with the involvement of various stakeholders from politics, industry, environmental associations, trade unions and affected Länder and regions. By the end of 2018, it is set to come up with an action programme for closing the gap to the national climate protection target for 2020 (40% GHG reduction compared to 1990) by as much as possible and for achieving the 2030 energy sector target. This includes a plan for incrementally reducing and phasing out coal-fired power generation with a deadline and the necessary legal, economic, social and structural support measures.

In addition, the Federal Government will prepare a programme of measures for 2030, based among other things on the Growth, Structural Change and Employment Commission’s recommendations and proposals to be developed from the concurrent

processes for the building and transport sectors. We also intend to pass a law in 2019 that will ensure compliance with the 2030 climate protection targets. On the basis of the German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (DAS) from 2015, the consequences of climate change are regularly ascertained and action plans drawn up with measures to tackle them. Accordingly, the coalition agreement provides for an update to the German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change by 2020 and the provision of the necessary resources. If successfully implemented, ambitious climate policy offers significant opportunities for prosperity, growth and sustainable business.

c) Innovation and digitisation

Many innovation processes, such as digitisation (see also II. 6 – Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and Federal Ministry of Education and Research contributions below), have considerable potential for supporting the goals of the Sustainable Development Strategy. This potential must be exploited.

Big data, the internet of things, robotics and industry 4.0 all facilitate more efficient economic activity and resource conservation in diverse ways. Telemedicine can benefit rural areas, networked mobility can make transport more efficient and prevent congestion, and mobile working can reduce traffic volumes. A promising potential benefit of digitisation is the dematerialisation of products and the increase in the efficiency of their production and use. It also offers numerous opportunities for sustainable consumption.

Digital Council

The Federal Government has implemented an announcement in the coalition agreement by appointing a Digital Council. Its ten members from Germany and other countries come from the fields of science and research, as well as the private sector. The Digital Council's task is to advise the Federal Government with its technical expertise.

Minister of State for Digital Affairs/Federal Chancellery role

Since March 2018, Dorothee Bär has been the Federal Government Commissioner for Digital Affairs as Minister of State at the Federal Chancellery. Tasks for digital policy and strategic IT management have been pooled at the Federal Chancellery.

Artificial intelligence

In data-driven processes, artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to create added value for the benefit of business and society.

The issue of who will lead the development and design of this technology is currently a matter of debate. Germany, with its significant industrial sector and excellent research institutions, is very well positioned in this regard.

In light of the increasing pace of developments internationally in this area, the Federal Government will pool all its measures in this regard and combine them to form a national AI strategy. The Federal Government is determined to bring both research and development and the use of AI in Germany and Europe to a globally leading level and to keep them there. Germany is poised to become the world's leading location for AI, due in particular to the extensive and swift translation of research findings into applications. "Artificial intelligence (AI) made in Germany" is to become a globally recognised seal of quality.

Technological development also raises ethical questions that are discussed in a social dialogue and potentially require general conditions to be enhanced.

Sustainable approach

With regard to the 2030 Agenda, technical and scientific advancements must be used to overcome environmental and social challenges. Sustainability and digitisation require and bring about the transformation of society, business and lifestyles. A societal transformation that creates acceptance for technology can benefit social advancement. Digitisation also has great potential for promoting sustainable development. At the same time, the digital transformation itself must be made sustainable, i.e. its economic, environmental and social impacts must be examined and, where necessary, political conditions must be adapted. It will also be important to consider long-term effects with a detailed technology impact assessment in order to harness the positive potential of the digital transformation for people. Especially with regard to artificial intelligence, this is a cornerstone of the Federal Government's strategy and is also being addressed in the Plattform Lernende Systeme and the Study Commission on Artificial Intelligence.

II. Implementation status of the German Sustainable Development Strategy

1. Peer review

As announced in the German Sustainable Development Strategy at the start of 2017, the Federal Government tasked the German Sustainable Development Council with conducting an international peer review of German sustainable development policy. The participating experts came from Mexico, Belgium, Switzerland, China, South Africa, the Netherlands, France, Norway, the UK and Canada.

International peer reviews had already been carried out in 2009 and 2013. However, the latest expert report is the first to take the 2030 Agenda into account.

The Federal Government's aim with this latest peer review was to obtain a neutral overview of the strengths and weaknesses of its own activities. Because of the timing – it was published a few weeks after the government was formed – the peer review served as a kind of initial stocktake for German sustainable development policy in the new legislative period.

Procedure

In May 2017, the then Head of the Federal Chancellery, Peter Altmaier, charged the former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme Helen Clark with chairing the peer review group. Subsequently, she selected the other ten members of the expert group together with the Sustainable Development Council and the Federal Chancellery. The group's work was assisted in technical and organisational terms by the office of the Sustainable Development Council.

Members of the expert group

Helen Clark, head of the international peer group, former New Zealand Prime Minister and until April 2017 Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Chair).

Adolfo Ayuso-Audry, Director-General in the Office of the President of Mexico responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Karl Falkenberg, former Director-General for Environment at the European Commission and until June 2017 Special Representative of European Commission President Juncker for Sustainable Development.

Julie Gelfand, Canada's Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development since 2014.

Virginie Helias, Vice President, Global Sustainability at Procter & Gamble.

Lailai Li, China, Director of the World Resources Institute.

Namhla Mniki-Mangaliso, Director of African Monitor, a regional civil-society network.

Joost Oorthuizen, Director of the Sustainable Trade Initiative based in the Netherlands.

Teresa Ribera, Director of the IDDRI, institute for sustainable development and international relations in Paris.

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, independent expert with more than 40 years' experience in UN sustainable development policy in cooperation with civil society and governments.

Farooq Ullah, Co-President of UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development and one of the Directors of Stakeholder Forum.

At a meeting in Frankfurt in September 2017, the peers decided on the priorities for their review. A six-week stakeholder survey was then carried out from mid-October 2017. All input was made available to the expert group. A working week was held in Berlin in February 2018, during which the peers held talks with participants and stakeholders of German sustainable development policy. Over the course of the week, the experts spoke to nearly 100 representatives from the private sector, civil

society, academia, the Länder, local authorities and the Bundestag and gained important insights for their further discussions.

On the basis of the consultations and the peer week in Berlin, the peers, chaired by Helen Clark, drew up their final report, which was presented to the Federal Chancellor at the Annual Conference of the Sustainable Development Council on 4 June 2018. On the following day, Helen Clark and other peers presented the report at a meeting of the State Secretaries' Committee.

Main recommendations

The peers' report emphasises the political importance of sustainable development policy and Germany's key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It states that the German Sustainable Development Strategy is held in high regard internationally and that Germany is well positioned for its ambitious implementation: "If Germany can't pull out all the stops, who could?"

Nevertheless, the experts believe that further action is still needed. Given the experts' positive overall assessment, the recommendations in 11 areas with a total of 66 sub-items are primarily geared towards strengthening the implementation of the existing Strategy and increasing the level of ambition and towards individual political issues deemed to be particularly important. The necessary processes of transformation towards greater sustainability have been limited so far, according to the report. The peers highlight critical areas where further action is needed, e.g. climate change, biodiversity loss and nitrate pollution.

The report proposes a range of procedural improvements in sustainable development policy, e.g. to strengthen the roles of the State Secretaries' Committee and the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development. It also proposes enshrining the principle of sustainable development in Germany's Basic Law; the peer review thus builds on a proposal by the German Sustainable Development Council and discussions of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development from the previous legislative period.

Particular attention is also drawn to the need for action in Sustainable Development Strategy policy areas whose targets are being missed ("off-track

indicators"). Action here must be swifter and more decisive and action plans should be drawn up at ministerial level.

Due to Germany's special responsibility for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the expert group also believes that, in some cases, even more ambitious goals should be formulated, for example with regard to land degradation, transitions in agriculture, more sustainable production and consumption behaviour and the accelerated phase-out of fossil fuel.

The international experts' recommendations

1. *Keep what works, elevate what is good, and change what has failed to deliver.*
2. *Make the institutional architecture charged with implementing the GSDS more effective.*
3. *Raise the level of ambition for what Germany can achieve.*
4. *Foster a more conducive enabling environment for Leaving No One Behind.*
5. *The Federal Government should strengthen the executive's central coordination capacities and address off-track indicators promptly.*
6. *Parliament: there needs to be more powerful parliamentary scrutiny.*
7. *The Sustainable Development Council's independent role should be strengthened.*
8. *Revamp communications.*
9. *Enhance both capacity for systems thinking and education for sustainability.*
10. *Indicators: expand budgets for and activity on tracking progress.*
11. *Deal with emerging issues and apply the principles of the German Sustainable Development Strategy to Germany's global interactions.*

The report is available at www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de and www.dialog-nachhaltigkeit.de.

Implementation

The Federal Government views the report as an encouragement to make further progress in the implementation of sustainable development in all policy areas.

The political importance of the issue was emphasised at a high level by the Federal Chancellor in her speech to the Annual Conference of the German Sustainable Development Council on 4 June 2018. The initiation of the update of the

Sustainable Development Strategy resolved on 5 June 2018 is also in line with a suggestion by the peers.

As recommended by the experts in the peer review, the report was presented by the chair of the expert group and other peers at a side event at this year's HLPF (July 2018) in New York with representatives of the Federal Government and the Sustainable Development Council. Germany's experiences of the independent peer review of the Sustainable Development Strategy were the subject of great interest.

"We commend Germany for its preparedness to open up this core government strategy to independent international review and recommend this practice to all countries as a way of helping to strengthen implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and national sustainability strategies."

Helen Clark, 12 July 2018, New York

Adopting one of the experts' recommendations, the Federal Government will intensify its communication activities on sustainable development. In particular, a separate communication budget for sustainability has now been enshrined in the Federal Budget. On this basis, a communication strategy is currently being drawn up on behalf of the Federal Press Office in order to better communicate the objectives, measures and necessities of sustainable development policy to experts and the general public.

The challenge of raising awareness

Regularly collected representative data on environmental awareness in Germany shows that there is a high level of awareness of issues relevant to sustainability, although only around 10% of people in Germany are currently aware of the SDGs. We need to behave in a sustainable manner ourselves and to take responsibility for the global impact of our behaviour in order to continue to reduce Germany's negative ecological footprint – especially in developing countries.

In addition, more resources have been made available for the Regional Hubs for Sustainability Strategies (RENNs) – in line with the peer review's emphasis on the regional level.

The implementation of the peers' recommendations is also being reviewed for the enhancement of the GSDS in 2020.

As part of the spending review process, it has already been determined that, starting with the preparation process for the 2019 Federal Budget, information on the Federal Government's national subsidy programmes in the areas of climate change and the energy transition that contribute directly or indirectly to the attainment of national CO₂ reduction targets will be retrieved directly from the ministries.

2. Strengthening policy coherence

At the start of 2017, the GSDS highlighted strengthening policy coherence as a particular challenge for sustainable development. This requires the coherent, coordinated deployment of all policy instruments in order to help implement the 2030 Agenda both nationally and internationally.

Ministry Coordinators

In order to improve interministerial activity with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it was announced in the GSDS at the start of 2017 that each ministry would appoint a Ministry Coordinator for Sustainable Development, preferably at Director-General level. All ministries accomplished this within the first half of 2017.

Tasks of the Ministry Coordinator for Sustainable Development

- *Is the central point of contact for issues relating to sustainable development;*
- *is involved at interdepartmental level in the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda in the policy of their ministry;*
- *is involved in the legislative and regulatory process at interdepartmental level to promote the consideration of sustainability aspects in the legislative and regulatory process (sustainability impact assessment according to Art. 44 (1), fourth sentence of the GGO), as well as in ministry strategies.*

A list of Ministry Coordinators and ministry contacts is published on the Federal Government's website.

The peer review and the dialogue on updating the GSDS have drawn attention to the importance of

the Ministry Coordinators and their appropriate equipment with resources. At the invitation of the responsible Director-General at the Federal Chancellery, the coordinators will meet regularly to share their experiences.

Sustainability impact assessment

As announced in the GSDS, the sustainability impact assessment was also improved within the framework of the regulatory impact assessment, for which purpose an IT-supported assessment tool was developed. The sustainability impact assessment is mandatory for all of the Federal Government's proposals for new laws and regulations. The assessment is measured against the goals and indicators and the management rules of the Strategy (in future: principles for sustainable development).

The "electronic sustainability impact assessment" (eNAP) was launched on 1 March 2018 and is now used for sustainability impact assessments in the ministries.

The new programme is intended to help improve the quality of the sustainability impact assessment while making it easier to perform. The user is systematically guided through the content of the Sustainable Development Strategy relevant to the assessment. All indicators, goals and management rules are queried, which means that no area is overlooked. Other connections to the individual SDGs are also assessed. The application is freely available to all societal stakeholders at www.enap.bund.de.

Flagship projects

Since 2012, the State Secretaries' Committee has chosen a flagship project for every year. It honours innovative, exemplary projects, e.g. for cooperation between ministries (horizontal integration) and involvement of various levels (vertical integration).

2017 flagship project: IMA Stadt

In 2017, the Interministerial Working Group on Sustainable Urban Development from a National and International Perspective (IMA Stadt) was designated a flagship project. IMA Stadt pools and links the ministries' work and gets municipal, scientific and civil society stakeholders and the Länder involved.

The starting point for the launch of IMA Stadt was the fact that the success of sustainable development must prove itself in the tangible local environment and that local authorities are increasingly garnering national and international recognition in their practical and politically significant role. This development is articulated by SDG 11, although – as IMA Stadt's work shows – all SDGs are relevant to local authorities. IMA Stadt is arranged into four working groups (WGs) – WG I "Implementation of the SDGs at local level, local sustainability management"; WG II "International urbanisation"; WG III "Research and innovation" and WG IV "Smart cities and sustainable development" – and presented a report with specific recommendations for action in mid-2017.

2018 flagship project: Global-Lokal: Agenda 2030 VerOrten

The project Global-Lokal: Agenda 2030 VerOrten [Global-Local: Locating the 2030 Agenda] was designated the flagship project for 2018. This comprises the Global Nachhaltige Kommune [Globally Sustainable Municipalities] project funded by the BMZ, which supports efforts to enshrine and implement the 2030 Agenda at local level. Municipalities are thus provided with advice and assistance for strategy development in a coherent multi-level approach (Federal Government, Länder, municipalities).

The flagship project links global challenges with local action and strengthens relevant stakeholders. The project aims to help municipalities implement the 2030 Agenda locally. BMZ adopts a methodical approach to helping municipalities come up with tailored sustainable development strategies. German municipalities share their experiences with municipalities from the Global South so that both partners can learn from each other. A particular feature of the project is the fact that local authorities, the Länder and the Federal Government cooperate across the board.

3. Strengthening the involvement of societal stakeholders

The 2030 Agenda, with its principle of a new global partnership and the multi-stakeholder approach enshrined therein, requires new forms of cooperation.

A broad social consensus on the importance of the global Sustainable Development Goals is necessary for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

a) Sustainability Forum

As provided for in the 2016 GSDS, a new, regular dialogue format was therefore established in the form of the Sustainability Forum at the Federal Chancellery. It is held annually and helps the Federal Government communicate with key stakeholders about the status and future of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda.

Tasks of the Sustainability Forum

- *The Federal Government presents the status of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda/work programme.*
- *Social organisations report on the steps they have taken to implement the 2030 Agenda, comment on the implementation by the Federal Government and propose improvements.*
- *Linking with specific ways for civil society, business and academia to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as part of the Sustainable Development Strategy.*

At the first Sustainability Forum on 13 June 2017, discussions were held by around 100 experts from civil society, business, academia, churches, the Länder and local authorities. They praised the 2016 Strategy with its significant innovations as a big step in the right direction, but called for its rigorous implementation. The experts presented their organisations' and institutions' efforts to promote sustainability and were, for their part, briefed about the Federal Government's activities, e.g. the BMZ and BMU's Dialogue Forum on the 2030 Agenda and the Science Platform Sustainability 2030.

The second Sustainability Forum on 18 June 2018 was attended by more than 120 representatives from a good 60 organisations. They presented their activities and priorities for sustainable development, in some cases again, and talked to representatives of the Federal Government about where the German Sustainable Development Strategy should be updated this year and what should be included in the comprehensive enhancement by 2020. Ministry Coordinators from eight Federal Ministries related the key aspects of their work and individual topics were addressed in greater detail in workshops led by representatives of societal stakeholders.

The next Sustainability Forum at the Federal Chancellery is scheduled for summer 2019.

b) Science Platform Sustainability 2030

The newly established Science Platform Sustainability 2030 has also got to work. It was conceived by the BMBF, BMU and BMZ in 2016 and officially launched in May 2017.

The platform is intended to act as an interface between academia, society and policy in order to support the implementation of the GSDS and the SDGs with scientific expertise. Firstly, its task is to collate the latest scientific evidence and deploy it in a targeted manner in GSDS implementation processes. Secondly, it addresses any issues raised in practice and feeds them back into the scientific discourse.

In order to ensure that the platform has a broad and independent base, ownership of the platform was transferred to three scientific organisations: the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam (IASS), the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Germany and German Committee Future Earth. The substance of the platform's work is coordinated by a 26-member steering committee, which was appointed for a three-year term in consultation with the sponsors from the ministries responsible. The steering committee comprises representatives from academia, civil society and business. The responsible and other relevant Federal Ministries and the Federal Chancellery also contribute to the work of the steering committee as permanent guests.

Shortly after the platform was established, it published its first position paper, "What the Science Platform Sustainability 2030 wants to achieve", in which it highlighted the current challenges and its own objectives and called for efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda to be stepped up. At the same time, it selected its first four thematic priorities (sustainable consumption, the future of work, global commons and mobility), which are now being successively expanded upon in working groups in order ultimately to arrive at specific recommendations for action.

As an additional dialogue format for the platform, a workshop with members of scientific advisory boards to the Federal Government was hosted together with SDSN Germany in May 2018. It provided an opportunity to discuss how current thematic priorities of scientific policy consultation

can be placed in an overall context with the help of the SDGs. The dialogue is to be continued beyond the workshop. Similar dialogue formats are planned in the future with other stakeholder groups and on selected topics – especially the platform’s current priorities.

Further information on the platform is available at www.wpn2030.de

c) Dialogue on the update/consultation paper

The Federal Government set great store by dialogue and transparency when compiling this updated paper.

In addition to the discussion with organisations and institutions at the meeting of the Sustainability Forum in June 2018 (see above), all members of the public, associations and organisations were again – as was the case when the 2016 German Sustainable Development Strategy was drafted – invited to contribute their own ideas. This public consultation was publicised in a press release, in the Sustainability Newsletter and at www.bundesregierung.de.

Three-week consultation in June 2018

The Federal Government advertised this campaign at www.dialog-nachhaltigkeit.de for three weeks in June 2018. It was based on a consultation paper adopted by the State Secretaries’ Committee on Sustainable Development, which gave an account of the current status of the discussion surrounding the update of the Sustainable Development Strategy and listed its key questions. The feedback from the public, institutions and organisations was published with their consent (www.deutsche-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie.de).

The feedback painted a mixed picture. On the one hand, many stakeholders praised the progress made by the GSDS – especially the Strategy’s focus on the SDGs. At the same time, it was emphasised that Germany is still far from achieving sustainable development in many areas. There was a call to make the implementation of the SDGs and the German Sustainable Development Strategy a priority of the government’s work in every ministry. The Strategy’s existing goals and indicators are – according to one assessment in the dialogue – not a critical weakness. Instead, the Strategy must now be implemented effectively.

Many of the responses deal with the Federal Government’s proposed new indicators. In addition to clear criticism, especially of the proposed indicator

regarding research investments, alternative or supplementary proposals were also made in many cases, for example with regard to sustainable public procurement and soil protection. Numerous responses also encouraged more new indicators in addition to the proposals made for the consultation.

The draft of the new management rules (in future: principles for sustainable development) was overwhelmingly welcomed – in some cases with detailed suggestions. It was emphasised that their actual applicability in practice should be improved.

Proposals were also made regarding the work of the sustainable development institutions, for example on the State Secretaries’ Committee on Sustainable Development and the inclusion of the new dialogue group, the role of the Ministry Coordinators and the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development. There were calls for, among other things, a boost in capacities for sustainable development in the Federal Ministries and the Federal Statistical Office, the drafting of an effective communication strategy and improved cooperation between the Federal Government, Länder and local authorities. A number of references were also made to the importance of an ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda at European level.

In addition, most of the input dealt with individual topics that were ascribed particular importance in the spectrum of sustainable development. These included marine pollution, calls for transport and agriculture reforms and a rapid structural entrenchment of education for sustainable development, as well as an emphasis on the concept of sufficiency with a call for the development of a sufficiency strategy.

4. Work of the institutions

Tried and tested institutions for sustainable development such as the State Secretaries’ Committee on Sustainable Development (StA NHK), the Sustainable Development Council (RNE) and – in the Bundestag – the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (PBnE) will continue in the 19th legislative period. Primary responsibility for the German Sustainable Development Strategy continues to lie with the Federal Chancellery.

a) State Secretaries’ Committee (StA NHK)

The State Secretaries’ Committee on Sustainable Development recommenced its work on 5 June 2018. Its meetings continue to be attended by the responsible State Secretaries of all ministries

under the aegis of the Head of the Federal Chancellery. The chairs of the RNE and the PBnE are also invited to each meeting.

The aim of the StA NHK is to focus the cooperation between the ministries' various policy areas on common sustainable development through the implementation of the GSDS and the SDGs.

Off-track indicators

In the peer review report, the international experts highlight the need for action on the 29 national sustainable development indicators (see Indicators) whose targets are not expected to be met (off-track indicators).

As suggested in the dialogue on updating the Strategy, in 2019 the StA NHK is to identify additional measures for all the indicators labelled with a cloud (expected target shortfall of more than 20%) or a storm (increase in the target shortfall) in the Federal Statistical Office's Indicator Report scheduled for release at the end of 2018. The measures will be developed by the responsible ministries together with the other ministries concerned with the involvement of the Sustainable Development Council and relevant societal stakeholders. Contributions from societal stakeholders are also to be included if possible.

Ministry reports

In order to promote the implementation of the GSDS and the SDGs, two ministries at each future meeting of the StA NHK will present how they are contributing to the implementation of the GSDS and SDGs in all aspects of their ministerial policy. They will, in particular, consider conflicts and reciprocity with other goals. The ministry reports will be published after the StA NHK meeting and sent to the PBnE. This will likewise help to promote the systematic implementation of the goals (as suggested in the international peer review and the dialogue).

Work programme

The work of the State Secretaries' Committee is based on a work programme adopted on 5 June 2018, the topics of which were then published in the consultation paper. At this meeting, the Committee also dealt with the findings of the international peer review (see above). Topics for

meetings up to the end of 2019 were determined on the basis of a work programme.

Topics up to the end of 2019

- *Global health care policy*
- *Cooperation between the Federal Government and the Länder on sustainable development, climate-neutral administration*
- *Sustainable finance*
- *Sustainable development policy at global and European levels*
- *Digitisation and sustainability/digital policy for sustainable economic activity*
- *Sustainable mobility*

The meetings of the StA NHK continue to be prepared by a working group of the Directors responsible for sustainable development in ministries (UAL-AG).

Preparation of meetings in dialogue

As announced in the GSDS from the start of 2017, a group of societal stakeholders was involved in the preparation of the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development.

In June 2018, 15 institutions/organisations from the fields of business, environment, society and development/international affairs were identified for this dialogue group – initially for the 2018/2019 period. The selection was based on applications by the organisations/institutions at the meeting of the Sustainability Forum in 2017. The ministry responsible for preparing each meeting topic will invite these 15 permanent members and five other organisations/institutions with a particular connection to the topic to a preparatory meeting for the StA NHK.

b) Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (PBnE)

The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (PBnE) plays an important role at the interface between society and politics. It monitors the Federal Government's sustainable development policy in the German Bundestag. On 31 March 2017, a floor debate with a speech by the Federal Minister and Head of the Federal Chancellery Peter Altmaier on the German Sustainable Development Strategy – New Version 2016 took place on its initiative. In June 2017, it presented an opinion on the GSDS.

On 25 April 2018, the Advisory Council was reconstituted for the 19th legislative period. The PBN has 17 ordinary and 17 deputy members, with six of each coming from the CDU/CSU, six from the SPD, three from the AfD and two each from the FDP, DIE LINKE and Alliance 90/The Greens. It is chaired by Andreas Lenz, Member of the German Bundestag, CDU, and the Deputy Chair is Nina Scheer, Member of the German Bundestag, SPD (see <https://www.bundestag.de/nachhaltigkeit>).

The PBN continues to oversee the Federal Government's sustainability impact assessments for laws and regulations.

An enhancement of the PBN was suggested in both the dialogue and the international peer review; a decision on this is to be made by the German Bundestag.

c) Sustainable Development Council (RNE)

The Sustainable Development Council (current appointment period 2016–2019) has a dual function. It is a stakeholder in the social dialogue on sustainability and also an advisor to the Federal Government.

Examples of the Council's current activities

German Sustainability Code (GSC)

The GSC, developed by the RNE together with the business community, supports reporting on sustainability by companies and organisations. It is currently attracting particular interest as a framework for reporting on non-financial performance. The GSC can be used worldwide; the company's place of business is not relevant for the application of the GSC. Over 400 companies have already submitted more than 700 declarations of conformity in accordance with the GSC, which refer to 20 predefined indicators. The GSC is increasingly being used as a sustainability code in the European context (e.g. Greece).

Regional Hubs for Sustainability Strategies (RENNs)

The RENNs, with 20 partners from all 16 Länder, form a regional network for sustainable action and social transformation. They have received funding from the Federal Government of 2 million euros per year for five years in total to date; they are directed via a coordination centre of the RNE. The budget will be increased – as suggested in the peer review – to 3 million euros per year from 2018 and 3.5 million euros from 2019. The RENNs are intended to help link and thus continue to expand sustainability activities and stakeholders in the regions and Länder.

The RNE has carried out the Project Sustainability (formerly Workshop N) competition since 2011. Under this name, the RNE has recognised initiatives and projects that work to promote sustainable development across society. In so doing, it has established a quality seal via which projects and initiatives for sustainable development in all its diverse forms are honoured and given an enhanced profile. In 2018, the RNE has carried out Project Sustainability by involving and cooperating with the four RENNs. The number of submissions so far has therefore nearly doubled to 450.

Sustainability Culture Fund

The Sustainability Culture Fund (7.5 million euros for three years), which is based on an initiative of the German Bundestag, is geared towards societal stakeholders. It strives to promote approaches that enshrine sustainability in society and change lifestyles, e.g. with regard to food culture and mobility. Initial projects are up and running and displaying the strength and creativity of civic engagement in the service of sustainability.

Hub for Sustainable Finance (H4SF)

The H4SF is an open network comprising financial market players and other stakeholders contributing to developing a sustainable financial system in Germany. The network was founded by the RNE and Deutsche Börse AG in the summer of 2017 in order to coordinate and promote sustainability activities in the German financial sector. The platform enables all stakeholders to publicise and better coordinate their contributions relating to the topic of sustainability. In order to further promote networking, the H4SF organised a German Sustainable Finance Summit last autumn. The second summit was held in Frankfurt on 25 September 2018 under the aegis of the BMF and BMU.

5. Cooperation between the Federal Government and the Länder

The Länder play a crucial role in the implementation of the German sustainability targets and the 2030 Agenda, as in Germany's federal structure they have legislative and administrative powers in important areas of sustainable development.

On 12 May 2017, the Bundesrat passed a ten-point resolution on the German Sustainable Development Strategy, New Version 2016 (Bundesrat Reference No 15/17). In it, the Bundesrat welcomed the New Version for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the inclusion of the Länder's contributions. It argued that, together with the Länder strategies,

Germany could therefore fulfil its international responsibility, and that achieving the goals would require significant efforts as well as close coordination and structured dialogue between the Federal Government and the Länder.

The Länder also expressed their desire to be involved in the enhancement of the goals and indicators, as well as the update of the GSDS in 2018. The resolution specified topics that were not yet or not sufficiently dealt with in the GSDS, including the energy-saving renovation of buildings, adaptation to climate and demographic change, and fair trade. Communication was seen as a shared challenge for the Federal Government, Länder and local authorities. The Länder also emphasised their willingness to continue pushing together with the Federal Government for an EU strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In a resolution dated 25 January 2018, the Head of the Federal Chancellery and the Heads of the State and Senate Chancelleries of the Länder requested the Federal-Länder Experience Exchange to report on the status of cooperation between the Federal Government and the Länder and the enhancement of the goals and indicators and to put forward a proposal for adopting a common, public position on sustainable development during the course of 2018. The report is being prepared. A draft was discussed at a meeting of the Federal-Länder Experience Exchange in Berlin on 13 September 2018.

At its meeting on 10 December 2018, the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development will discuss the steps for further cooperation on sustainable development and the topic of climate-neutral administration with the Länder. The steps for formulating the Federal Government and the Länder's public position are also to be defined at the meeting.

6. Ministries' priorities for the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the SDGs and the BPA's contribution

In line with the German Sustainable Development Strategy, the ministries are helping to implement the Strategy with their activities. The measures include activities with impacts in Germany, measures by Germany with a global impact (especially activities promoting global public goods) and concrete support for other countries (joint implementation with Germany, especially in international bilateral cooperation). Public budgets are not prejudiced by this update of the GSDS. Any additional requirements due to the measures specified must be covered by the relevant individual plans within the valid budget estimates in the formulation of the respective federal budget.

Examples of the ministries' and the Federal Press Office's (BPA) priorities for implementation are detailed below.

Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF)

Sustainable public finances

Demographic change will have a palpable impact on the future development of public finances. Against this backdrop, the BMF is creating a viable and sustainable financial policy and thus securing the Federal Government's financial capacity to act now and in the future. In order to ensure a fair balancing of interests within societal groups and considering subsequent generations, it is particularly important to keep a close eye on the financial policy challenges arising from demographic change and to be able to counter them as early as possible. For this reason, the BMF compiles a report on the sustainability of public finances once per legislative period, which functions as a kind of early warning system. The next report is being compiled on the basis of the new, coordinated population projection.

In addition, the BMF supports the corresponding financial policy coordination processes at EU level by collaborating on the Ageing Report to be prepared by the EU every three years. On 22 June 2018, the international Fiscal Sustainability and Social Systems – Challenges and Policy Options for the Next Decades conference was held in Berlin. It focused on the EU's

2018 Ageing Report. At the invitation of the BMF, experts discussed the challenges of demographic change for the sustainability of public finances and for social security systems. Details on this as well as the latest information and major publications on the topic of sustainability can be found on the BMF's dedicated website www.tragfaehigkeit.de.

The demographic challenges for soundly financed public budgets and sustainable social systems can be addressed primarily by strengthening productive labour force participation, long-term growth potential and old-age security schemes. See also the individual priorities of the respective ministries for more information on these linking factors. In order to improve old-age provision, especially for people on low and medium incomes, the BMF and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) have jointly created new opportunities for fostering company pension schemes with the Act to Promote Company Pensions, which came into force on 1 January 2018. It is also important for citizens to be able to identify and address potential pension requirements at an early stage. For this reason, citizens are to be better informed about their old-age pension status, taking all three pillars of old-age provision into account.

Consideration of sustainability aspects in the financial market

The enhanced integration of sustainability criteria in the financial system (sustainable finance) is crucial for stable and efficient financial markets with their central importance for a sustainable economy. For financial market participants, it is important to manage sustainability risks and consider opportunities. In addition, the improved integration of sustainability aspects in the financial system can help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Policy options must be elaborated in this regard at national, European and global levels that support the realisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and financial market stability.

At national level, the Federal Government is heavily involved via the KfW banking group. For example, KfW is now one of the biggest issuers of green bonds worldwide; through its national promotional business via corporate and commercial banks, KfW integrates sustainability aspects (including environmental, social and governance-related criteria) throughout the banking system. The financial regulator has begun to take greater account of risks related to sustainability in its supervisory activities.

Due to the global interconnectedness of financial markets, national efforts alone are not enough. The Federal Government is therefore working to ensure that sustainability aspects are taken into account in the international financial system. For example, KfW

Development Bank finances and supports programmes and projects in developing and emerging countries on behalf of the Federal Government in order to promote the sustainable development of the financial systems there. In addition, the Federal Government supports the G20's work on green/sustainable finance, as well as the European Commission's plans to this end at European level. It supports the objective, effective and practical implementation of the European Commission's ambitious action plan on financing sustainable growth of 8 March 2018.

Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI)

For the implementation of the GSDS, the BMI is focusing primarily on the topics of corruption prevention (SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and sustainable public procurement (SDG 12 – Sustainable Consumption). With the expansion of the BMI's remit, building and regional and urban development (SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities) will also be a priority in the future.

The creation and protection of affordable housing is one of the Federal Government's key aims. Supporting housing construction, including social housing construction, and promoting owner-occupied housing are therefore among the ministry's priorities. The Alliance for Affordable Housing and Construction is being continued to this end; an expert commission has been established for sustainable land development. The Federal Government will provide the Länder with 5 billion euros (including compensation) from 2018 to 2021 to promote social housing.

The Federal Government's urban development assistance is also helping to promote sustainable urban development with its various programmes and funds of around 1 billion euros in 2018. Targets for support include the preservation and enhancement of social infrastructure facilities in the residential environment and the protection of green and open spaces in urban areas. Support for the preservation of vibrant town centres, the revitalisation of inner-cities and the invigoration of small and medium-sized towns in rural areas supports the goal of brownfield development and thus an economical use of space. As the largest public builder in Germany, the Federal Government will also continue to set an example as a role model for sustainable construction with its own constructions. The aim is for sustainable construction to become the norm also outside federal construction. This will include making the building stock virtually climate-neutral by the middle of the century.

The central concept of spatial planning is sustainable spatial development that brings social and economic spatial requirements into line with space's environmental functions and fosters a permanent,

balanced order over a wide area with equal living standards. The latter objective is the task of the Equal Living Standards Commission, which receives specialist support from the BMI. The principles of spatial planning include the spatial concentration of residential development and the restriction of land use.

In the field of sustainable public procurement, the BMI will continue to support the work of the Competence Centre for Sustainable Procurement (KNB) as the Federal Government's central point of contact and advice centre. The task of the KNB is to help the Federal Government, Länder and local authorities to continue to gear their procurement to sustainability criteria. For this purpose, the KNB offers specific advice by telephone and email, subject-specific training and its own events, and operates the website www.nachhaltige-beschaffung.info as a central portal regarding sustainable procurement in Germany. In addition, the KNB is negotiating the industry agreement on social sustainability in the public procurement of IT drawn up with BITKOM.

Federal Foreign Office (FFO)

Foreign policy plays a crucial role for the achievement of the SDGs. To live up to this role, it must incorporate related topics to a much greater extent than before and underpin them or promote them in a targeted manner with foreign policy. It must therefore develop diplomacy for sustainability. The 2030 Agenda is thus also a global agenda for sustainable foreign policy that we create together with our partners.

The FFO has traditionally cooperated with its international partners to implement and achieve shared goals with a robust multilateral approach. In addition, cooperation with business, academia and civil society has increased in connection with the 2030 Agenda. The role played by German external action in the promotion of peace and security therefore lays a crucial foundation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The FFO's fields for action are chiefly energy, climate and environmental foreign policy, crisis prevention, stabilisation and peacebuilding, the promotion of human rights and foreign education and migration policy. With its political activities and concrete measures, the FFO contributes to the implementation of various SDGs, especially SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), as well as SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals) as cross-cutting issues.

Peace is the guiding principle of the Federal Government's foreign policy action and one of the five key messages of the 2030 Agenda. SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) is therefore of central importance for the Federal Foreign Office's work. Under the direction of the FFO, the Federal Government adopted its guidelines on Preventing Crises, Managing Conflicts, Building Peace in June 2017. They form the basis for Germany's peace policy activities together with the 2016 White Paper on German Security Policy and the Future of the Bundeswehr and the Federal Government's 2017 Development Policy Report. As part of its guiding role, the FFO directs the ministries' joint promotion of the rule of law and security sector reform strategy processes, which relate directly to SDG 16, and is committed to a coherent approach within the Federal Government and intensive cooperation with international organisations.

In order to improve and enhance global small arms control, the FFO is helping to implement target 16.4 ("reduce illicit financial and arms flows") by supporting regional processes (e.g. within the framework of a Franco-German initiative for comprehensive small arms control with six Western Balkan countries and in a G7 initiative to support the African Union's Silencing the Guns action plan) and projects promoting small arms control around the world.

The FFO has also stepped up its efforts with regard to displacement and migration, including in its contribution to SDG 10.7. On the basis of the New York Declaration of September 2016, the Federal Government, under the FFO's lead, played a major role in the processes for drawing up a Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), thereby underscoring its leading international role with regard to displacement and migration. While the GCR is geared towards fairer international allocation of responsibility in major refugee situations, the GCM is intended to be the basis for globally managed, safe and regular migration. Both Compacts are expected to be approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations at the end of 2018.

As a contribution to SDG 7, the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement, co-initiated and funded by the FFO, was also presented at the HLPF 2018. The plan, developed by 12 international and non-governmental organisations, takes a systematic approach to enshrining sustainable energy supply in humanitarian aid in situations of displacement and forced migration for the first time and is thus intended to improve the living conditions of refugees and displaced persons.

In fulfilment of its global responsibility, Germany will also join the fight against climate change and take a leading role in questions of international climate protection in the UN Security Council (2019). The

implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security plus the follow-up resolutions will be another priority of Germany's Security Council membership.

As the driving force behind the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights (NAP), the FFO is supporting SDGs 8 and 12 in consultation with other ministries and is seeking to involve the private sector in the efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, the FFO is leading an Interministerial Committee supervising the implementation of the over 50 Federal Government measures from the NAP in the area of business and human rights.

The FFO is also focusing on communicating the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and thus the SDGs at international level.

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMW)

The BMW is making a significant contribution to the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy with its various measures in individual policy areas, and also in economic policy as a whole. This is based on the BMW's Sustainable Development Strategy, which fleshes out the German Sustainable Development Strategy specifically for the BMW and its executive agencies.

Specific projects in individual fields of activity include:

Renewable energy is to continue being expanded in a purposeful, efficient, grid-synchronised and increasingly market-oriented manner. Under these conditions, the coalition agreement set out a target for the share of renewable energy in the electricity mix of around 65% by 2030; appropriate adjustments are being made. The expansion of renewable energy must be considerably increased, partly in order to cover the additional electricity needed to achieve the climate protection targets in transport, in buildings and in industry. The challenge will be to improve the synchronisation of renewable energy with grid capacity. Efforts must be made to upgrade and modernise energy grids.

Energy efficiency: The Federal Government aims to halve primary energy consumption by 2050 (compared to 2008). The Federal Government's energy efficiency Strategy, agreed in the coalition agreement, is therefore expected to be adopted by the Federal Cabinet in the first quarter of 2019. The key components of the Strategy are to be a timetable with specific interim targets for 2030 and 2040 and a package of measures for achieving Germany's medium-term efficiency targets in 2030 (update of the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency – NAPE 2.0). In addition, the Efficiency First principle is to be established as a guiding strategic principle of energy policy.

Digitisation can make important contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in many respects. In light of this, the BMW will support start-ups with the Digital Hub Initiative, for example, expand the Mittelstand-Digital competence centres, launch a "digitisation of the Mittelstand" investment programme, strengthen Industry 4.0 activities and continue to develop its technology programmes for application-oriented research to promote advanced digital technologies.

Sustainable procurement: There are considerable management opportunities for promoting sustainability in the area of procurement. Since the reform of public procurement law, sustainability criteria can be considered across the spectrum of public procurement. In this legislative period, the establishment of central procurement statistics, which also cover aspects of sustainable procurement, will be expedited.

Bioeconomy: The shift away from petroleum-based processes and products towards biologically-based industrial production is to be accelerated further with the support of the bioeconomy. The BMW will therefore initiate a platform for dialogue between industry and societal stakeholders on the requirements for an altered raw material base.

Lightweight construction will make a significant contribution to realising the Sustainable Development Goals as a result of its properties (less material and energy used, lower emissions at lower costs and new functions). The BMW has successfully established the Lightweighting Initiative (including a Coordination Office as a network hub and a digital lightweighting map). In a further step, the broad industrial roll-out of this key technology is to be promoted, taking sustainable, closed cycles into account in particular.

Raw material supply chains: Germany is promoting transparency in the global raw materials sector and joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2016. The validation of the first German EITI report is scheduled for 2019. With a national implementation act and the establishment of a corresponding organisational unit in the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), the foundations are being laid for the effective application of the EU Regulation in force from 2021 on supply chain due diligence obligations for raw materials affected by conflicts.

Responsible corporate governance: Sustainable development is a core aspect of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. These extensive international rules include many aspects relating to this, e.g. in the areas of human rights, environmental protection and relations between employers and employees. The public relations work of the National Contact Point (NKS) in the BMW aims to raise awareness of these approaches.

Safeguarding skilled labour: The availability of well-educated, skilled workers is a crucial component of sustainable economic policy. The Federal Government will therefore realign its skilled labour strategy and concentrate on three areas: the potential German, European and international skilled workforces. The BMWi is working to enhance exploitation of domestic potential, including with the Alliance for Initial and Further Training. This alone will not be sufficient given the demographic changes, so greater immigration of skilled workers from abroad is required. The Federal Government will therefore present a skilled worker immigration bill. In addition, the successful information portal www.make-it-in-germany.com for international skilled workers is being expanded to create the Federal Government's umbrella portal, supported by the Working and Living in Germany telephone hotline operated by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).

Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV)

A key focus for the BMJV is the relationship between sustainability and the rule of law (SDG 16). A functioning state under the rule of law is a key requirement for sustainable development, as target 16.3 of the 2030 Agenda makes clear. The measures that the BMJV takes in connection with its responsibility to preserve and promote the rule of law are therefore also means to promote sustainability. With the Pact for the Rule of Law, the BMJV will work to maintain the ability to act of the state based on the rule of law. The planned measures include, for example, the creation of 2000 new jobs for judges in the courts of the Länder and the Federal Government, the improvement of the education and training of lawyers and a campaign to acquire new judicial personnel.

In terms of consumer policy, the sustainable transformation of production and consumption patterns (SDG 12) is also of singular importance for the achievement of nearly all SDGs. Accordingly, the BMJV is helping to take the lead on the issue of sustainable consumption in the Federal Government and is focused in particular on creating scenarios and developing narratives for the necessary transformation of production and consumption patterns from a linear to a circular economy.

Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS)

The national implementation of SDGs 1 (fighting poverty), 8 (full and productive employment and decent work) and 10 (reducing inequality) are the top priority for the BMAS. These three SDGs are closely interrelated, because adequate employment is the most effective instrument for preventing poverty and inequality.

The BMAS' aim is thus to achieve a high level of employment and living wages. The development on the labour market, which in July 2018 saw around 32.8 million people in employment subject to social security contributions – more than ever before – was therefore good news. Around 400,000 full-time jobs were created between July 2017 and July 2018 alone.

In addition, the introduction of the nationwide minimum wage for employees in the low-pay sector is playing a significant role in the improvement of their income situation. It is being constantly enhanced by the Minimum Wage Commission, which has resolved that it will amount to 9.19 euros per hour from 1 January 2019 and 9.35 euros per hour from 1 January 2020. Working women will benefit from this above the average. Another step to improve the income situation of women in particular is the creation of a legal entitlement to temporary part-time work. This entitlement means that employees can return to their previous working hours after a period of part-time work and can thus increase their work volume and income. The Federal Cabinet passed draft legislation on this on 13 June 2018.

If achievements and individual skills are to decide a person's future and not their social background, education and qualifications are the key to a self-determined life. With the National Education Strategy, the Federal Government, under the direction of the BMAS and BMBF, will provide solutions for configuring the digital transformation and for sustainable employability together with social partners and Länder. One objective of this Strategy is to pool federal and Länder education programmes and to establish a new culture of education. It is therefore a crucial component of the skilled labour strategy.

Despite all current efforts, just over 800,000 people in Germany are long-term unemployed. The BMAS' policy aims to reduce this figure, including by creating a social labour market. The Federal Cabinet therefore approved the Opportunities for Participation Act in July 2018, which will create a social labour market with individual support and care services. The Federal Government is contributing 4 billion euros to this end, because being in work and providing for oneself is a question of dignity and participation.

However, relevant measures are not limited to employment policy. If people cannot maintain their minimum subsistence level (including participation in social and cultural life in the community) by themselves, they receive state support in the form of subsistence benefits. Germany has created a minimum guaranteed income scheme that protects people in need – if the relevant conditions are met – against facing ruin by paying benefits for an unlimited amount of time. The standard needs for basic income support for jobseekers and welfare benefits are regularly ascertained on the

basis of data from the sample survey of income and expenditure and adapted as required.

In addition, the Federal Government has passed the Act on Benefit Improvements and Stabilisation in Statutory Pension Insurance drawn up by the BMAS. Acceptance of statutory pension insurance is to be given a further boost by the confidence-building commitments contained therein. For example, a double stop line at 48% for benefits before taxes and at 20% for contributions will be introduced to the pension scheme for the period up to 2025. At the same time, changes such as demographic development are being taken into account. This is reflected in the establishment of the Reliable Intergenerational Contract commission. The commission's task is to find means for the stable protection and development of the pension systems from 2025 and thus to lay the foundation for a new, reliable intergenerational contract. The pension commission is expected to report back by March 2020.

The BMAS is also working nationally and internationally to promote of decent work for all (SDG 8). In the implementation of the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights, the BMAS is responsible for the stakeholder process and the participation in and support of NAP implementation by social partners, chambers of commerce and civil society within the framework of the CSR Forum. The task is to monitor the NAP implementation process with a critical eye. In June 2018, this forum adopted the Berlin CSR Consensus on Corporate Responsibility along Supply and Value Chains. This is the first document mutually adopted by all German stakeholders relevant for CSR and describes requirements for the responsible management of supply and value chains in a globalised economy. The BMAS will initiate industry dialogues in connection with the implementation of the NAP. A scientific study is expected to identify industries with particular human rights challenges by mid-2019 and initiate dialogues with the sectors of the German economy that pose the biggest risk.

The BMAS is also working internationally to promote decent work for all (SDG 8).

To promote better occupational health and safety in global supply chains, the BMAS, together with other partner countries and the International Labour Organization, is supporting the global Vision Zero Fund prevention fund with projects in poorer producer countries.

The BMAS is also working within the International Labour Organization to support effective protection against violence and harassment in the working world. Since the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, Germany has been a member of the global Alliance 8.7 and is helping to tackle child and forced labour. Alliance 8.7 aims to better coordinate, accelerate and lend weight to

the activities of the individual stakeholders for the achievement of SDG 8.7 (sustained eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour).

Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg)

With its ministry-specific tasks of national and collective defence, the BMVg contributes directly to the protection of the rule of law and fundamental freedoms in Germany. Together with its commitment to United Nations peacekeeping, the BMVg therefore promotes the implementation of Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda and Goal 16 of the German Sustainable Development Strategy, namely "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions". In addition, the BMVg is involved in education projects, including with measures in partner countries, to promote peace and strong institutions. These include small arms control projects to combat the proliferation of small arms and their munitions.

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

Healthy and sustainable food: In Germany, the BMEL is working to make healthy nutrition a given – with high-quality, safe food; with science-based recommendations and information; and by promoting nutritional awareness in all stages of life as well as programmes and activities that help to make the healthy choice the easier choice.

Food security/right to food: As in the past, the BMEL will continue to focus in particular on the implementation of its "world food" concept. In cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and through its bilateral cooperation programme (BCP) and research partnerships, the BMEL is committed to global food security and the realisation of the right to food. The BMEL also included this issue in the process of developing a new indicator for SDG 2.

Food appreciation: Halving food waste in Germany by 2030 is a challenging goal. In light of this, the "Too good for the bin!" information campaign is being expanded as an umbrella brand for communication on a national strategy to reduce food waste.

Sustainable agriculture: The agricultural value chain begins with crop production. The rules for good professional practice make an important contribution to ensuring sustainable production. In arable farming, the BMEL is increasingly supporting environmentally friendly, climate-smart and resource-conserving farming practices, including by developing an arable farming strategy. Healthy crops, the conservation and improvement of soils, efficient water use and more efficient and effective protection of waters, including the oceans, are important elements here.

In addition, the BMEL is working to ensure improved measures to protect and promote biological diversity in the agricultural landscape and woodland. “20% organic farming by 2030”: the implementation of the “Organic Farming – Looking Forwards” strategy is a particular priority for the BMEL. The EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is an essential instrument for promoting sustainable agriculture. With regard to the CAP after 2020, the BMEL supports a higher level of ambition and the more intensive promotion of agricultural contributions to environmental and climate protection.

Animal welfare: The BMEL is seeking to improve animal welfare in Germany to make the country the frontrunner in Europe. In the future, consumers will be able to recognise products that have been produced according to standards higher than the legal minimum by the government’s animal welfare label – and consider this information in their purchase decision.

Sustainable, deforestation-free supply chains: The BMEL is working in diverse ways to promote sustainable, deforestation-free supply chains. The work centres on activities such as the Amsterdam Partnership and the efforts for an EU action plan against deforestation, the Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil, the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa and the Dialogue Forum on More Sustainable Protein Feed.

Climate protection and adaptation to climate change in agriculture and forestry: Agriculture and forestry themselves are directly affected by climate change, so protecting the climate and adapting to climate change play a central role in the BMEL’s policies. There is a package of measures to ensure the achievement of the climate protection targets by 2030 (Climate Action Plan 2050).

Sustainable fisheries: In order to increase sustainability in fisheries, the BMEL is committed to ensuring that fish stocks are managed according to the principle of maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

Sustainable forestry management: The guiding principles of the BMEL’s forestry policy include preserving forests and their multifunctionality in Germany and worldwide, managing them sustainably and achieving a sustainable balance between the various increasing demands on forests and their productivity. In addition, the BMEL is promoting the increased use of wood from sustainable forestry in line with a responsible resource policy.

Digitisation as a multidisciplinary issue: A particular priority of the BMEL is to harness and develop the opportunities of digitisation in order to improve the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

Equal opportunities

Government action can be sustainable only if it considers the interests of women and men equally. The Federal Government’s Second Gender Equality Report makes it clear that equality policy must work closely together with other policy areas to ensure political decisions affect women and men equally. According to the coalition agreement for the 19th legislative period, effective equality between women and men is also an obligation that must span all of the government’s work. Any remaining structural barriers are to be dismantled, for which purpose an interministerial gender equality strategy is to be developed and implemented.

This is to provide a structured process for ministries to increase the impact and effectiveness of their equality policies in order to achieve equality policy objectives. This will make a contribution to the sustainable and permanent establishment of equality policy structures in Germany.

Consistently combating violence against women and girls

In order to better protect women and girls against all forms of violence, Germany fully implemented and ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence of 2011 (Istanbul Convention) in 2017. Once the Istanbul Convention came into force, it became the task of all levels of government (Federal Government, Länder and local authorities) to ensure the fulfilment of the obligations under the Istanbul Convention on a permanent basis. To this end, the Federal Government will launch an action programme to prevent and combat violence against women, which will include innovation and investment measures and aim to improve structures of aid and support. In a round table discussion, the Federal Government, Länder and local authorities will discuss the needs-based expansion and adequate financial support for the work of women’s shelters and relevant non-residential aid and care services.

The Federal Government is currently implementing a comprehensive protection concept for women and children in refugee accommodation, which comprises numerous differing measures.

The initiative to protect refugees in refugee accommodation, which was founded in cooperation between the BMFSFJ and UNICEF, the Associations of Non-statutory Welfare, PLAN, Save the Children and others, has set up coordination offices in 100 refugee accommodation facilities across Germany that are responsible for implementing effective minimum standards to protect refugees in the respective facility.

Multi-language information material helps to raise awareness of existing aid services in an even more

targeted way, especially among refugee women who are affected by violence. The Violence against Women support hotline (telephone no. 08000 116 016), which offers free confidential advice in 18 languages around the clock, plays an important role here. Since 2015, the government-funded coordination offices of the Association of Women's Shelters (Frauenhauskoordinierung, FHK), the Federal Association for Women against Violence (Bundesverband der Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe, bff) and the German Network and Coordination Office Against Trafficking In Human Beings (KOK) have increased their measures to support counselling for refugee women.

Equal opportunities in the labour market

A key indicator for equality between women and men in the labour market is the gender pay gap, which is also reflected by the sustainability indicators. The fundamental components of a gender-neutral labour market policy and requirements for more pay equality are a better compatibility of work and family life, the promotion of women in management positions, the promotion of careers guidance free of gender stereotypes and the promotion of transparency in pay systems and structures in the working world.

Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)

Improving the population's health literacy is a key factor for more sustainability in healthcare. It was for this reason that this target was explicitly formulated for the first time in the coalition agreement. Although around half of Germans already research health topics online, a recent study has shown that more than half of the population have difficulties finding, understanding, evaluating and applying information on health. This also has an impact on the financial sustainability of healthcare. For example, the OECD estimates that the healthcare system incurs costs of between 9 and 15 billion euros per year as a result of deficient health literacy.

In order to effectively increase the population's health literacy in the long term, the BMG launched an Alliance for Health Literacy together with the chief self-governing bodies of the healthcare system last year. In a Joint Declaration, all members committed to contribute to a sustained increase in health literacy with new projects and initiatives in the areas of health education, health information and doctor-patient communication. The declaration also serves to put the objectives defined in a scientifically compiled National Action Plan on Health Literacy into practice on the ground. In addition, the BMG is supporting research projects for the promotion of better health literacy at national level and compared to the rest of the world. Above all, however, the BMG aims to sustainably improve the population's "digital health literacy" by

developing a National Health Portal as agreed in the coalition agreement. The National Health Portal is set to become the central information platform for all members of the public with regard to all questions about health.

In addition, the BMG is also advancing the global dimension of sustainable healthcare policy. Global health questions are closely related to numerous other policy areas such as development, security, trade, economy, human rights, food, agriculture, research, employment, education, migration, environmental and climate protection and humanitarian aid. Against this backdrop, global healthcare policy requires solutions for all sectors and stakeholders. Global health challenges can be overcome only with concerted and coordinated action. Our health requires not only that the national healthcare system works, but also that healthcare structures and capacities in other countries are stable and efficient so that health challenges there can be dealt with and outbreaks of diseases quickly identified.

It was with this in mind that Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel took the initiative together with Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg and Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo and asked the World Health Organization (WHO) to create a Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All for the health goal – SDG 3 of the 2030 Agenda – under their leadership. This global action plan is to provide new impetus for the achievement of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. The WHO is to be encouraged to take an active role in the implementation of the SDGs and is also being asked to pool and coordinate the efforts of the various international organisations active in the healthcare sector.

In the coalition agreement, the Federal Government committed to strengthening the WHO and developing a global health strategy. The objective is to outline which international incentives and priorities Germany wants to set for the advancement of global health and the implementation of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The strategy will bring together the various activities for global health across sectors and ministries, build on the existing strengths of German global healthcare policy and consider the increased expectations of Germany's international partners. The priorities for Germany's efforts at international level can thus be better coordinated, projecting a more coherent image in the relevant forums of global healthcare policy.

Cooperation between all sectors and stakeholders for the creation of the strategy will be promoted from the start via a participatory process with the involvement and intensive consultation of non-government stakeholders (academia, business, civil society, think tanks, youth). The flow of information,

coordination and intensified communication between all stakeholders at national level are to be improved with dialogue platforms.

Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI)

At the BMVI, the Sustainable Development Strategy is being implemented with individual measures by the departments whose work is bound up with the respective Sustainable Development Goals. Besides the core task of safeguarding investment and financing in the transport sector, this includes the promotion of modern and sustainable mobility in all modes of transport and the avoidance, reduction and offsetting of transport and location-specific CO₂ and other emissions.

Modern and sustainable transport and infrastructure policy

In addition to boosting investments to maintain and upgrade roads, railway lines and waterways, there is a focus on a more modern, efficient, quiet and sustainable organisation of mobility. Incentives are being created for this modern and sustainable transport and infrastructure policy in conjunction with low-emission mobility, e.g. by improving and increasingly electrifying public transport, walking and cycling (including e-bikes), promoting car sharing and modernising the Carriage of Passengers Act with regard to new digital mobility offerings. These include the development of a nationwide e-ticket for public transport, the establishment of new digital test areas for automated driving and the creation of the legal framework for the testing and further development of autonomous driving in all modes of transport. In addition, efficient digital infrastructure, which is closely linked to the creation of forward-looking, sustainable mobility, is being expanded.

The BMVI supports innovative ideas for mobility 4.0 with the data-based financial assistance programme mFUND. It funds numerous projects that aim to strengthen multimodal and low-emission transport concepts. These range from improved local mobility by bicycle or on foot to more effective logistics chains in long-distance transport by rail or by water.

The Immediate Action Programme for Clean Air 2017-2020 provides financial support to municipalities affected by violations of the annual average limit for nitrogen dioxide for the implementation of various air quality management measures. It has funds of 1 billion euros and is implemented by the BMVI, the BMU and the BMWi. It covers the following priority funding areas:

- Electrification of transport (393 million euros),
- Retrofitting of diesel buses in public transport (107 million euros),

- Digitisation of municipal transport systems (500 million euros, of which 250 million euros contributed by German automotive manufacturers).

Ministerial research determines the vulnerabilities for transport and its infrastructure caused by climate change and extreme weather events and develops options for adaptation. The findings are taken into account when planning maintenance and upgrade investments for transport infrastructure.

In addition to the Immediate Action Programme for Clean Air 2017–2020, other measures are currently being trialled in a representative sample of five selected cities (Bonn, Essen, Herrenberg, Mannheim and Reutlingen) in the context of model projects, especially with a view to improving public transport.

Alternative drives and climate protection

Electromobility (e-mobility), including hydrogen and fuel cells, is being supported with efforts to promote the establishment of a publicly accessible electric charging infrastructure for at least 15,000 charging points by 2020, of which 5000 are rapid charging points. The funding guidelines for battery-driven electromobility are intended to accelerate local authorities' and businesses' procurement of electric vehicles and the necessary charging infrastructure up to 2020. The establishment of a nationwide network of rapid charging points on motorways is also being promoted. A core network of more than 50 hydrogen (H₂) refuelling stations is being set up for hydrogen and fuel cells. In addition, alternative drives are being promoted, for example with funding guidelines for the acquisition of energy-efficient and/or low-CO₂ lorries and semitrailer tractors for lorries weighing more than 7.5 tonnes. The funding guidelines for the equipment and conversion of ocean-going vessels for the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as fuel have been issued in order to clean up transport by ship and promote the use of alternative fuels in general.

The Federal Government's Climate Action Plan 2050 specifies the climate protection target in light of the Paris Climate Agreement. For the first time, the plan contains sectoral greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2030, which envisage a reduction for national transport by 40–42% compared to 1990. The BMVI is coming up with strategies to achieve this ambitious target. The 2018 coalition agreement provides for the establishment of commissions in the fields of transport and climate protection and the further development of the National Platform for Electric Mobility (NPE). The aim is to develop measures with the involvement of policy-makers, businesses and civil society that ensure affordable, sustainable and climate-friendly mobility. In addition to this task for the duration of the legislative period, specific measures for achieving the targets of the Climate Action Plan 2050 are to be developed by the end of 2018. The effects of climate

change on transport infrastructure will increasingly be taken into account when planning maintenance and upgrade investments.

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

In Germany and globally, environmental boundaries are being overstepped. As found by the German Advisory Council on the Environment (SRU), among others, only six of 25 environmental indicators are currently on track; 12 goals would be significantly missed if the current trend continues. The third international peer review of the GSDS also generally calls on Germany to “raise the level of ambition for what it can achieve” and to “intensify efforts”. The BMU is committed to following these recommendations and is therefore striving to close the gaps.

As a ministry committed to the full spectrum of Sustainable Development Goals, only a few individual priorities are highlighted here for the BMU:

Climate policy

According to the 2017 Climate Action Report, additional efforts are required to catch up with the 2020 climate target as quickly as possible. The Federal Government is developing a programme of measures intended to ensure the achievement of the sectoral targets of the Climate Action Plan 2050 by 2030. These measures are also intended to ensure Germany’s compliance with European climate protection requirements. In addition, a law that will ensure compliance with the 2030 climate protection targets is expected to be passed in 2019. The lead ministries for climate protection in the energy, building, industrial, transport and agriculture sectors will propose specific measures with which they intend to achieve their targets for 2030 to the BMU by the end of this year. The BMU will draft the programme of measures on this basis. The BMU is also preparing a draft climate protection act, which the Federal Government is expected to pass next year along with the 2030 measure programme.

The German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (DAS) and the Federal Government’s Action Plan II are geared to the goals and criteria of sustainable and climate-resilient development. The Federal Government is stepping up its efforts to bring about the right conditions and to increase adaptive capacities at all levels and in the fields of action of the DAS. The coalition agreement allows for a continuation of the German Strategy for Adaptation and the corresponding provision of the necessary resources. Under the leadership of the BMU, the second DAS progress report will be drawn up by 2020.

Biodiversity/insect protection

The BMU will work hard to strengthen the protection of biological diversity as an interdisciplinary task provided

for in the coalition agreement and to accelerate the implementation of the National Strategy for Biological Diversity. The Federal Government intends to improve living conditions for insects with an Insect Protection Action Programme. The Federal Cabinet adopted a key issues paper in June 2018. On the basis of these key issues, the BMU will finalise the action programme by early summer 2019 following a broad-based public discussion. The implementation of the measures will then begin without delay. As an emergency measure, the BMU is making 5 million euros per year from the Federal Biodiversity Programme available for insect protection. High nutrient inputs are one of the key causes of the decline in insect biomass. The BMU is fleshing out the approach to reducing nitrogen emissions by drafting an Action Programme on Nitrogen Reduction as envisaged in the Federal Government’s first Nitrogen Report. The funding for the Federal Biodiversity Programme was raised from 15 million euros to 20 million euros for 2017 and to 25 million euros for 2018; the funds are set to increase to 30 million euros in 2019. In addition, a wilderness fund of 10 million euros a year is earmarked from 2019 in order to realise the National Strategy for Biological Diversity’s 2% wilderness target.

Implementation of SDGs at local level

Cities and municipalities play a key role for the BMU – they are not just the location, but also the stakeholders of sustainable development. With this in mind, the BMU is promoting the implementation of the SDGs at sub-national, national and international level via forums such as the Interministerial Working Group on Sustainable Urban Development from a National and International Perspective and the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN).

Public participation

Sustainable development cannot be imposed by the state; it can be achieved only if the public, politicians at all levels of government, businesses, trade unions and churches are committed to the guiding principle of sustainable development in their areas of responsibility and their actions. The BMU is therefore using innovative forms of participation – so far, for example, around 2500 members of the public have contributed to BMU projects such as the National Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRess II), the Integrated Environment Programme 2030 and the Climate Action Plan 2050; in addition, the BMU has adjudicated in a competition for outstanding public participation together with the Federal Environment Agency.

Resource conservation

After the Federal Government first placed the issue on the G20’s agenda in 2017, the G20 Summit in Hamburg on 7 and 8 July 2017 decided to establish a Resource Efficiency Dialogue. The efficient and sustainable use

of natural resources will therefore be a permanent feature of G20 talks in the future. The BMU is involved first and foremost in the efforts to implement and update the German Resource Efficiency Programme II (ProgRes II) enacted in March 2016.

Sustainable consumption

To ensure sustainable development, it is crucial that we discuss our lifestyles and our responsibility in terms of consumption. The National Programme for Sustainable Consumption, initiated by the BMU and adopted by the Federal Cabinet as an action programme for the entire Federal Government, outlines in over 170 measures how sustainable consumption is to be systematically promoted and expanded. To support the implementation of the programme, the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Consumption was established at the Federal Environment Agency in March 2017. The Centre of Excellence is intended to promote sustainable consumption as an activity shared by the whole Federal Government and to create an institutional basis for this. In addition, the national Sustainable Consumption Network was founded in January 2017 to get the various sectors of society more involved in the implementation of the programme.

Sustainable chemistry

Over 90% of the products we use are manufactured using chemical substances and processes. Transforming chemistry to make it more sustainable can therefore make a positive contribution to sustainable development at many levels while simultaneously reducing the negative effects of chemicals on people and the environment. For this reason, the BMU set up the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3) in May 2017. The centre's task is to promote sustainable innovations in chemistry worldwide and to support international processes and conventions in the chemicals sector as an independent partner. It is to focus in particular on promoting start-ups bringing sustainable alternatives to the market with their innovations. As a platform for dialogue and cooperation, the centre promotes cooperation between politics, business, academia and society. The ISC3 is currently developing an education and study programme in order to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable chemistry among the general population. The ISC3 is supported in its work by two hubs, which are based at Leuphana University in Lüneburg (ISC3 Research & Education Hub) and at DECHEMA e.V. in Frankfurt am Main (ISC3 Innovation Hub). Additional hubs are currently being established abroad, including at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the USA. Further information is available at www.isc3.org

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Education and research are important drivers for a sustainable future in line with the 2030 Agenda. They

create a solid knowledge base and decision-making basis for the implementation of the 17 SDGs, promote sustainable technological and sociocultural innovations and help to translate sustainability into social action. The BMBF has numerous initiatives to strengthen the driving function of education and research and will remain committed to this in the years to come.

Sustainability was already an important priority in the implementation of the High-Tech Strategy in the last legislative period, e.g. as the Expert Forum Sustainable Management of the High-Tech Forum. The issue of sustainability is again firmly anchored in the High-Tech Strategy 2025 in this legislative period. The aim is to see sustainable development more clearly as an opportunity and a driving force for the entire innovation system while increasingly putting new innovations into service for sustainable development. To this end, four sustainability missions have been enshrined in the High-Tech Strategy 2025: wide-scale greenhouse gas neutrality in industry, reduction of plastic waste inputs into the environment, sustainable economic activity in cycles and conservation of biological diversity.

In the development of key technologies, ambitious resource and energy efficiency targets are enshrined in all of the BMBF's research programmes, for example in materials research or microelectronics. The BMBF is contributing to sustainable production and added value by promoting Industry 4.0 and new production technologies. At the same time, new solutions for making the working world humane, healthy and efficient with new technologies are also being promoted in connection with the "future of work" priority.

The BMBF also wants to make greater use of digitisation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, e.g. with new initiatives such as the call for proposals issued in February 2017 on "Inclusion in vocational education through digital media", which is intended to help people with disabilities learn and practice an occupation through the innovative deployment of digital media. The BMBF is also advancing the development of new forms of data evaluation, especially using artificial intelligence. These will facilitate more efficient and effective solutions, e.g. in production, transport, healthcare and nursing, and together with new forms of human/technology interaction will also increase participation, e.g. of older people or people with disabilities. A contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals is also made by the promotion of civil security research, the results of which increase protection against natural disasters, terror attacks and crime.

The BMBF has been strengthening a systemic approach to sustainability for a number of years with the Research for Sustainable Development (FONA) framework programme. Firstly, this is achieved through the targeted promotion of basic research, e.g. in the

areas of climate, soil and marine science. Secondly, this basic knowledge is consistently translated into practical solutions in the three flagship initiatives City of the Future, Energy Transition and Green Economy, and with the aid of transdisciplinary socio-ecological research. The fourth FONA framework programme will start during this legislative period. It is intended to broaden the systemic approach to other urgent fields of action such as mobility, structural change, digitisation and species diversity, including with new tools such as scalable “living labs”. The BMBF thus intends to continue to help independent and well-founded research to remain the primary factor in socio-political decisions in Germany, Europe and internationally.

Sustainability is also a key maxim in the promotion of the bioeconomy as a bio-based form of economy. The new Bioeconomy Strategy is being compiled jointly by the BMBF and BMEL. The current focus on replacing fossil resources with renewable ones is to be expanded: The entire spectrum of biological knowledge and biotechnological processes is to be harnessed together with converging technologies (digital technologies, nanotechnology, etc.) in order to find custom-fit solutions for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the realisation of a circular economy.

In health research, research findings are being transferred more quickly from the laboratory to practice because, for example, we are aligning clinical research in Germany more closely to the requirements of personalised medicine and presenting a Digital Health Innovation roadmap.

In the field of education for sustainable development (ESD), the BMBF will continue promoting the implementation of the National Action Plan on ESD beyond the end of the UNESCO Global Action Programme on ESD. Therefore, the BMBF will continue to pursue the Action Plan’s overriding goal of enshrining ESD in all areas of the German education structure. The BMBF’s current ESD support already covers key sectors of education: early childhood education, vocational education, tertiary education and the cross-sector promotion of a national ESD process, youth participation and the development of ESD indicators. Working at a local level is also planned for the future. At international level, the BMBF is working to achieve an international ESD successor programme that takes its lead from the SDGs and focuses on the goal of enshrining ESD at the structural level.

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

All of the BMZ’s development cooperation work is aligned to the goals of the 2030 Agenda. In order to better fulfil Germany’s global responsibility and to further strengthen the transformation, the BMZ will focus on the following areas of action, among others:

1. Marshall Plan with Africa

The Marshall Plan with Africa is a driving force promoting the achievement of the SDGs on our neighbouring continent, e.g. by promoting peace, security and economic development.

The “foundations” and “pillars” of the Marshall Plan contribute directly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, e.g. by promoting employment (SDG 8), education (SDG 4), peace and the rule of law (SDG 16), as well as food and agriculture (SDG 1 and 2).

At the same time, the Marshall Plan with Africa follows the 2030 Agenda’s key implementation principles. For example, it calls for inclusive, climate-proofed development in line with the core SDG principle of “leave no one behind” and depends on all stakeholders’ shared responsibility. The Marshall Plan is an “overarching and integrated strategy”: it unites political, economic, social, environmental and cultural cooperation and thus implements a core principle of the Agenda.

2. Making globalisation fair

The BMZ is working to help make globalisation fair, in which the planetary boundaries of our Earth together with the objective of a dignified life for everyone define the ultimate external constraint. The gap between rich and poor around the world must not get any wider. With its initiatives to fight global poverty, the BMZ is implementing one of the core goals of the 2030 Agenda (SDG 1). The BMZ’s work to support sustainable supply chains (e.g. the Textile Partnership, German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa) and sustainable procurement also contributes directly to the achievement of sustainable patterns of consumption and production (SDG 12) and the creation of decent work (SDG 8).

3. Root causes of displacement

Around the world, more than 68 million people are displaced. The BMZ is deploying medium- and long-term measures in countries of origin and (potential) host countries to support refugees and stabilise host countries and to create future prospects for people in fragile contexts.

4. A world without poverty or hunger

Through the special initiatives Education and Employment, Tackling the root causes of displacement, reintegrating refugees, and One World, No Hunger, the BMZ is focusing its attention on people in particular need – in line with the 2030 Agenda’s leave no one behind (LNOB) approach – and making a direct contribution to SDGs 1, 2, 10 and 16. The achievement of the 17 SDGs by 2030 is intended to offer all people future prospects in their home and host countries.

The BMZ has coordinated the development of indicators regarding the German contribution in the fight against

hunger around the world (SDG 2) and sustainable public procurement (SDG 12). Both indicators enshrine important BMZ priorities (“a world without hunger”, “fair globalisation”) in the GSDS. They also make an important contribution to the coherence of the Federal Government’s policy on sustainable development.

5. International climate protection

Germany is endeavouring to double its international climate protection funding compared to 2014 to 4 billion euros by 2020 (public funds and grant elements of development loans). This constitutes an important priority for the BMZ. The BMZ supports projects in almost all of its partner countries for climate protection and adapting to climate change. 80 to 90% of German public funds for climate protection funding come from the BMZ’s budget.

Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (BPA)

Communication on the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy is a core focus of German sustainable development policy and is therefore a high priority in the BPA’s public relations work. Sustainability is an important issue for the overwhelming majority of German citizens. Despite wide-scale public relations work in recent years, there is a demand for more information. In their 2018 peer review of the GSDS, the international experts encouraged the Federal Government to provide more information on the global Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and their implementation via the GSDS. The Federal Press Office will therefore redouble its public relations efforts and continue established and trusted instruments such as the electronic newsletter “Nachhaltigkeit aktuell” and the website www.deutsche-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie.de. The goal of this communication is for the population to be aware of the Sustainable Development Goals and to know what the Federal Government is doing to achieve them, and for this knowledge to encourage people to change their own behaviour.

7. Programme of sustainability measures

The objective of the programme of measures enacted by the Federal Government in 2015 is “to translate sustainability into concrete administrative actions”.

Substance of the programme of measures

The programme of measures is geared to all agencies and institutions of the direct federal administration and contains 11 areas for action (alignment of federal properties to the sustainable construction rating system, climate protection as a contribution on the road towards climate-neutral federal administration, use of renewable energies in the heating of federal buildings, energy-efficient modernisation of federal properties, energy/environmental management systems, public procurement, sustainability criteria for cafeteria services, reduction and offsetting of CO₂ emissions caused by transport, event organisation, compatibility of work with family life/care and cultural diversification of the administration).

On 5 June 2018, the State Secretaries’ Committee on Sustainable Development approved and released the monitoring report for 2017 (www.deutsche-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie.de, see State Secretaries’ Committee on Sustainable Development). The programme of measures is to be reviewed and updated after four years.

The Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Development Ministry aim to be climate-neutral by the end of 2020. Both ministries are using EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) to manage this process.

III. Sustainability indicators and goals

1. Significance and status of the indicators/goals

At the beginning of 2017, the GSDS aligned the indicators to the 17 SDGs and accorded them a greater international focus as a whole. These indicators reflect issues that are particularly relevant for Germany's implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Each SDG is assigned at least one indicator.

This update will supplement the 63 existing indicators of the GSDS in 36 areas with three additional indicators in two new areas.

The number of sustainability indicators in the Strategy has deliberately been kept to a minimum in order to facilitate an overview of the achievements made for sustainable development with little data. The selected indicators are to be understood as "key indicators": they can serve as an example of a particularly important issue or outstanding activity with regard to an SDG or as an introduction to existing, more extensive indicator systems and statistics (for example GSDS indicators regarding biological diversity and criminal statistics).

The indicators are linked to primarily quantitative targets.

Federal Statistical Office contribution

Every two years, the Federal Statistical Office reports extensively as an independent body with a high level of expertise and neutrality on the development of the national sustainability indicators in the indicator report; this assignment stems from the GSDS. The level of expected achievement of targets is rated with weather symbols.

In a further publication, "Data for Germany" (www.destatis.de/SDGDE), the Federal Statistical Office also reports on an annual basis on the national development of the around 240 global sustainability indicators (see Chapter I.2).

As of 2016, 27 of the 63 national indicators at that time were rated positively with a sun (21) or a sun and cloud (6) – this means that, if the current trend were to continue, these indicators would deviate from the target value by less than 5% or by 5 to 20% respectively.

In contrast, a total of 29 indicators were rated critically with a cloud (20) or a storm (9). Here, the indicator's deviation from the target value is more than 20%, or the indicator is developing in the opposite direction so that the distance from the goal is actually increasing. No data was available for seven indicators.

The goal and indicator system is an important part of the GSDS management system (see overview in annex). However, it is not the only instrument for evaluating the GSDS and its implementation. Not all areas of relevance to sustainable development can be covered, and not all measures can be included.

When monitoring the success of the GSDS, the feedback and evaluations of the Sustainable Development Council, the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, other societal stakeholders and, this year, the international experts of the peer review are also particularly important. Discussions often focus on the indicators; however, the political debate is ultimately about the goals, which set the level of ambition for sustainable development, and other measures defined in the GSDS in the areas outlined there.

2. Review process/selection

For this update of the indicators, fundamental choices had to be made between the desirable continuity of goals and indicators and reasonable additions/

adjustments and between comprehensive coverage of important policy areas and the restriction of the number of indicators in order to preserve their ability to be managed and communicated. The availability and quality of data were also crucial.

The GSDS from the start of 2017 announced a review of additional indicators for the following six areas: food waste and losses in Germany, ending hunger and malnutrition worldwide, sustainable public procurement, education for sustainable development, effect of research investments and soil protection.

With the participation of the Federal Statistical Office, the respective competent ministries began reviewing the indicators for these areas in early 2017.

In June 2018, the interim conclusions were made available online as a basis for public consultation. In addition, the review findings were discussed with societal stakeholders in a workshop as part of the Sustainability Forum on 18 June 2018 at the Federal Chancellery.

As a result of the review within the Federal Government and taking the public consultation into account, new indicators for the areas

- food security: realising the right to food worldwide; and
- sustainable public procurement

were added to the GSDS (see 3. below). These will be included in the next indicator report by the Federal Statistical Office (to be published at the end of 2018).

For the other four areas below, the work and data collection required are being continued:

- **Food waste and losses in Germany**

Food waste and losses are a serious problem in Germany and around the world. Such losses reduce the global availability of food and mean that more resources than necessary have to be used to produce food – including in developing countries. From an ethical, environmental and economic perspective, food waste and losses in Germany must be reduced.

The Federal Government therefore aims to achieve SDG 12.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: “By 2030, halve per capita food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains”.

At European level, work is currently under way on a standardised method for reporting on food waste. Besides the labour-intensive data collection that this involves, numerous parameters must be defined and harmonised with pre-existing reporting systems here. As soon as there is consensus on a standardised method at European level, the aim will be to add an indicator to the GSDS on this basis.

Consultation

The responses to the public consultation welcomed the addition of an indicator on food losses (e.g. the German Farmers' Association, RNE, Bread for the World, NABU). Civil society considers the addition of an indicator to the GSDS as a high priority in order to increase awareness of the issue and bolster the implementation of measures. Among other things, it was suggested that not only food losses, but also packaging consumption should be reduced (German Association of Local Utilities).

- **Education for sustainable development (ESD)**

ESD aims to enable people to identify and solve problems of non-sustainable development and to effect change (SDG 4.7). ESD is to be enshrined throughout the German education system from nurseries and schools to apprenticeships and universities and continuing into adult education. This will affect the competencies of the Länder in particular.

Building on the results of discussions with representatives of academia and practitioners, the BMBF has been promoting the development of ESD indicators since August 2017. Initial results are expected in the spring of 2020.

Consultation

The responses to the public consultation welcomed the development of an indicator on education for sustainable development.

- Soil protection

The conservation and sustainable use of soil as a resource is an important goal of the 2030 Agenda (SDG 15 – Protection of Terrestrial Ecosystems) and the GSDS. While land use is already accounted for in the GSDS, soil quality is also to be taken into account with an indicator in the future. However, this is a challenging and complex task as soil quality is determined by various factors, and changes are sometimes hard to detect.

It has become apparent that the data currently available is not sufficient to measure changes in soil quality nationwide. Therefore, data collection via remote sensing (Sentinel satellites) is being considered. This form of data collection could allow changes in land use to be displayed right down to the level of individual plots. The raw data can then be processed, possibly also drawing on other data sources, in order to facilitate conclusions on soil quality (time frame: two years).

A soil protection indicator can therefore be added to the update of the German Sustainable Development Strategy in 2020 at the earliest.

Consultation

The responses to the public consultation welcomed the introduction of this indicator. At the same time, various suggestions were made, such as that Germany should lead the way internationally in the reduction of net soil degradation. The focus on remote analysis was subjected to scrutiny; it was suggested that the indicator should be complemented by representative soil analyses. Others called for the soil indicator to aim to reduce nitrate content and pesticides, or for an indicator to be found that determines the quality of the soil with regard to both nutrients and humus content and to biological activity. Including an eco-efficiency indicator was also deemed to be necessary.

- Effect of research investments

The German Sustainable Development Strategy's existing innovation indicator (indicator 9.1) measures investment in research and development (private and public spending on research and development as a percentage of the gross domestic product). The possibility

in the future to analyse the impact of research investments was also considered.

The BMBF is encouraging the enhancement of the indicators for research and innovation, including the impact of research investments. For example, a method is being developed to analyse text-based, digital mass data (e.g. from research reports, patent descriptions and press releases) relating to innovation. In another project, informal, non-R&D-based learning and innovation processes are to be measured. An additional project is focused on measuring knowledge capital. Spending on knowledge capital in the area of corporate competencies is to be measured in order to ascertain relationships between the individual components of knowledge capital on the one hand and innovation spending and innovation successes on the other. The projects' initial findings are expected from 2020 onwards.

In the public consultation, the BMBF initially proposed measuring the impact of research investments according to the number of patents relevant to the global market per million inhabitants. However, this proposal will not continue to be pursued in light of its insufficient informative value with regard to sustainable development.

Consultation

The responses to the public consultation highlighted the role of science in sustainable development.

However, a range of organisations criticised the design of the indicator ascertaining the effectiveness of research spending. For example, it was felt that patents could not offer any indication as to whether research is really contributing to sustainable development. Furthermore, it could not be ruled out that patents could even have a negative effect on sustainable development and for developing countries. One example mentioned was patents for medicines, which could make products in developing countries more expensive.

3. Outline of the selected new indicators

a) Supporting good governance in the achievement of adequate nutrition around the world

Background

Around 821 million people around the globe still go hungry, and two billion people have nutrient deficiencies. Ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms worldwide by 2030 is a core goal of the 2030 Agenda. The Federal Government is particularly committed to this goal.

The public dialogues carried out by the Federal Government in the run-up to the new version of the German Sustainable Development Strategy at the start of 2017 already emphasised the importance of an indicator for the implementation of the right to food based on human rights. The subsequent review, including in an expert workshop, showed that a number of indicators are required under the heading “Food security: realising the right to food worldwide” in order to do full justice to the German contribution. Governance, as measured by this indicator, is an important element here.

Objective of the indicator

The right to food will have been realised when each and every person has physical and economic access at all times to adequate, safe and nutritionally balanced food in order to satisfy their dietary needs and lead an active and healthy life. This can be achieved partly by strengthening legal, institutional and political conditions (governance).

In 2013, the EU adopted Council conclusions committing it to Food and Nutrition Security in External Assistance, to a rights-based approach and to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food in order to achieve food security in line with the four dimensions of availability, access, use and utilisation, and stability of food. The Council conclusions emphasise that good governance is essential for food security around the world.

The international community is committed to the global realisation of the right to food at UN level. The UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)’s

Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) contains recommendations, standards and guidelines in topic areas whose application contributes to the realisation of the right to food. It is updated annually. The aim of the indicator is to measure the German contribution to the application of these recommendations and guidelines.

In order to end hunger and malnutrition, it is also necessary, for example, to continue the measures for investment in agriculture and rural development that are not directly related to governance. An additional indicator under this heading is to follow.

Definition of the indicator

The indicator measures the funds disbursed for the application of the relevant international standards and recommendations on the realisation of the right to food (defined according to the CFS Global Strategic Framework) as a percentage of total spending on food security.

Goal

The indicator is based on the assumption that the promotion of the application of international guidelines and recommendations on food security can improve the food situation and thus make an important contribution to the fulfilment of SDG 2 and the realisation of the right to food.

The proportion of funds disbursed for food security and used for governance is to increase accordingly by 2030.

Data collection

In order to collect the data for the indicator, all project and programme documents in the area of food security (definition according to CRS codes in line with EU) must be reviewed individually. Projects will be 100% eligible if

a) The objective, the effect matrix or the project description specifically mentions the application of a guideline or recommendation of the CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, or

b) A core element of the content of a guideline/ recommendation is a substantial part of the project and the project simultaneously aims to strengthen

legal, institutional or political conditions. There must be congruity with the ODA measurement of the related spending.

In 2016, Germany spent 1.471 billion euros on food security. With 465 million euros of this total, we are contributing to good governance for adequate nutrition around the world (in provisional compliance with selected guidelines¹). A 32% share is therefore an initial value for the indicator.

An adjustment is planned in the next update.

Consultation

In the responses to the public consultation, civil society welcomed the indicator on food security. However, criticism of the one-sided measurement of good governance and the precision of the indicator was expressed.

The Federal Government's measures to implement the goal

The Federal Government is particularly committed to the realisation of the human right to food. In 2014, for example, the BMZ declared the fight against hunger and malnutrition a political priority and made additional funding available with the establishment of the special initiative One World, No Hunger (SEWOH). With bilateral development cooperation and other approaches, the BMZ invests a total of nearly 1.5 billion euros a year in the areas of agriculture, rural development and food security. Since 2014, SEWOH has proven itself to be an innovative and powerful tool. In this legislative period, SEWOH is being expanded into a wide-scale initiative for rural development.

The BMEL's measures are geared towards its "world food" concept. In cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and through its bilateral cooperation programme (BCP) and research partnerships, the BMEL is promoting global food security and the realisation of the right to food.

Supported by a commitment to this end under the German G7 and G20 presidency, the Federal Government has taken a leading international role on food, agriculture and rural development.

1 The Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (VGRtF) and on tenure of land (VGGT); the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI), and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA)

b) Sustainable public procurement

Background

The public sector plays a particularly leading role when it comes to sustainable public procurement. As an important market player, it also has significant leverage to increase demand for sustainable products and services.

Each year, the public sector awards contracts worth hundreds of billions to private companies (Federal Government: 280–360 billion euros; European Commission estimate: 400 billion euros). This is roughly 10 to 15% of GDP. Of the public sector's procurement processes, around 12% are at Federal Government level, around 30% at Land level and around 58% at local level. Around half of public contracts do not come from local governments, but from public funds, public institutions and public companies.

Objective of the indicators

On the basis of the German ordinance on procurement statistics, the BMWi is currently establishing national procurement statistics together with the Federal Statistical Office. The aim in the future is to measure the public sector's overall spending as well as the share of sustainable procurement. However, this process will take some time. Preliminary work is currently under way at EU level with regard to the inclusion of sustainability criteria in the statistics (adaptation/amendment of publication forms).

Against this backdrop, further thought is being given to, as a minimum, adding indicators for sustainable procurement with a focus on agencies and institutions in 2018. Product-specific indicators for which requirements (e.g. with regard to paper, vehicles and textiles) are contained in the programme of sustainability measures (see II. 7) and data has already been collected were examined.

Definition of indicators and goals

The indicators regarding sustainable public procurement are initially to comprise the following product-specific indicators:

- *Paper with the Blue Angel certification as a proportion of the direct federal administration's*

total paper use (goal in the programme of sustainability measures: 95 % by 2020).

- (Actual) CO₂ emissions of commercially available vehicles in the public sector in relation to mileage (goal: to be significantly reduced).

In the procurement of commercially available cars, the programme of sustainability measures stipulates a target value for 2018 of 110 g of CO₂ per kilometre or 95 g of CO₂ per kilometre on average for the fleet. However, these are not actual emissions, but emissions derived from the vehicles' consumption under standard conditions (information provided by manufacturers).

The indicators are to be understood as key indicators. They represent the changes made in the transition towards sustainable procurement.

Data collection

Data on paper use and the proportion of paper with the Blue Angel certification is collected as part of the annual monitoring of the programme of sustainability measures.

The Federal Statistical Office has data on CO₂ emissions and the number of kilometres driven in the public sector.

Consultation

The responses to the public consultation very much welcomed the introduction of a new indicator on sustainable public procurement. However, they suggested that the indicator should, if possible, not only ensure sustainable public procurement for certain products, but for the entire public procurement process.

The Federal Government's measures to implement the goal

With the programme of sustainability measures, the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development adopted extensive requirements for sustainable public procurement in March 2015. These are aimed at individual product groups (e.g. timber products), as well as structural changes. For example, all agencies of the direct federal administration have appointed direct contact persons who are trained and kept permanently informed primarily by the Competence Centre for Sustainable Procurement (KNB) and who advocate sustainable procurement in their agencies. In addition, sustainability criteria are

included in the master agreements of the Federal Government's electronic order platform, the Kaufhaus des Bundes, which all federal agencies can use.

Beyond measure 6, the programme of sustainability measures also includes requirements for the sustainable construction and operation of federal properties. It also contains web-based tools for complying with requirements for the sustainability of construction materials as early as the planning phase and in invitations to tender (see 2017 monitoring report, measure 1).

The programme of sustainability measures also sets a target to comply with sustainability criteria if possible in 50% of the Federal Government's textile procurement by 2020 (excluding special textiles). The drafting of a guideline to this end and a step-by-step plan are also important parts of the Federal Government's involvement in the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles. Textiles with sustainability seals are still niche products in Germany, to which public procurement can give a significant boost.

For vehicles of the direct federal administration, the programme of measures envisages emissions not exceeding 95 g per kilometre by 2020.

It is now up to public contracting authorities to take the new opportunities and thus contribute to the achievement of goals. The review of the programme of sustainability measures has shown that the federal administration has not yet achieved the goals for sustainable procurement or fully exploited the possibilities of public procurement law (see monitoring report). In addition, the Federal Government has adopted measures in the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights in order to continue to improve compliance with its duty to protect and to ensure that public funds do not cause or facilitate any negative effects on human rights (see also II. 6. – BMWi).

4. Adjustment of existing indicators/goals

With regard to the stipulations in the coalition agreement, this update amends the goals of the following two existing indicators of the GSDS as follows:

- Organic farming

The following is stated as a goal for indicator 2.1 b: "Share of organic farming on land used for agriculture to be increased to 20% by 2030" (previously without target year).

- Spending on research and development

The following is stated as a goal for indicator 9.1: “Private and public spending on research and development to be increased to at least 3.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025” (previously 3%).

In addition, there is a plan to increase the goal for renewable energy.

In accordance with the stipulations in the coalition agreement and the resolution of the Coalition Committee of 1 October 2018, a share of renewable energy sources in gross electricity consumption

(indicator 7.2.b) of around 65% is targeted by 2030 (previously 50%). This will require improvements in the synchronisation of renewable energy and grid capacity.

In addition, amendments to the Textile Partnership and education indicators are still being considered.

A full review and potential update of the Strategy’s indicators/goals will be carried out in 2020.

IV. Principles for sustainable development

In the GSDS adopted at the start of 2017, the Sustainable Development Council was asked to make proposals for enhancing the Strategy's management rules. In its recommendation from the end of 2017, the Council proposed a substantial revision of the rules and initiated a wide-ranging discussion within the Federal Government with its own proposed text.

Function of the rules

The rules had been part of the Strategy with only moderate interim amendments since it was first adopted in 2002 (then as the National Sustainable Development Strategy). The ministries must adhere to these when creating measures in the various policy areas. They describe the content of a sustainable policy and are applied by the ministries in the regulatory impact assessment on sustainability, among other things.

Changes

Building on the Council's response, the Federal Government is now amending the previous rules in this update (see annex – Overview of sustainability management, II. 2.).

The Federal Government is very broadly following the recommendations of the German Sustainable Development Council with regard to structure, composition and many aspects of the content.

Instead of the previous three basic rules and nine rules of sustainability for specific action areas, there are now six requirements. These largely incorporate the previous aspects, but supplement them with new points and, in particular, bring them into alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the dialogue, the Federal Government put forward a proposed text; this draft received broad support. A range of elements were subsequently specified on the basis of suggestions made.

In order to make it clear that they essentially represent a substantive description of sustainable policy, rather than procedures to be followed on the way to achieving it, the suggestion stemming from the dialogue to rename these requirements principles instead of rules was implemented.

Principles for sustainable development

1. *Apply sustainable development as a guiding principle at all times and in all areas*
2. *Assume global responsibility*
3. *Strengthen the natural resource base on which life depends*
4. *Strengthen sustainable economic activity*
5. *Preserve and enhance social cohesion in an open society*
6. *Use education, science and research, and innovation as drivers of sustainable development*

V. Outlook

Sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda requires a profound change.

Far-reaching measures are needed in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda in Germany. Even in Germany, we are, in many respects, still far from achieving sustainable production and a sustainable lifestyle. This change will affect all political issues. Despite all their activities, no country is entirely on track for success from an international point of view. The SDGs – as noted in the dialogue – are still yet to take on a truly pivotal role in political discussions.

The Federal Government therefore believes that the commitment to sustainable development must be a long-term ongoing process. This affects the entire Federal Government, but also goes much further. Ultimately, it requires the whole of society to work together for sustainable development, with all stakeholders adopting this objective as their own and fighting for it in their respective fields. As a contribution to this project, the Federal Government is using this update report to show how – in continuation of the GSDS from the start of 2017 – it has embraced sustainable development in its work and how it will proceed.

Following this update, work on a comprehensive enhancement of the Strategy will begin in 2019. The Federal Government expects the meeting of the heads of state and government on sustainable development in New York in September 2019 to send an important signal for international sustainable development policy.

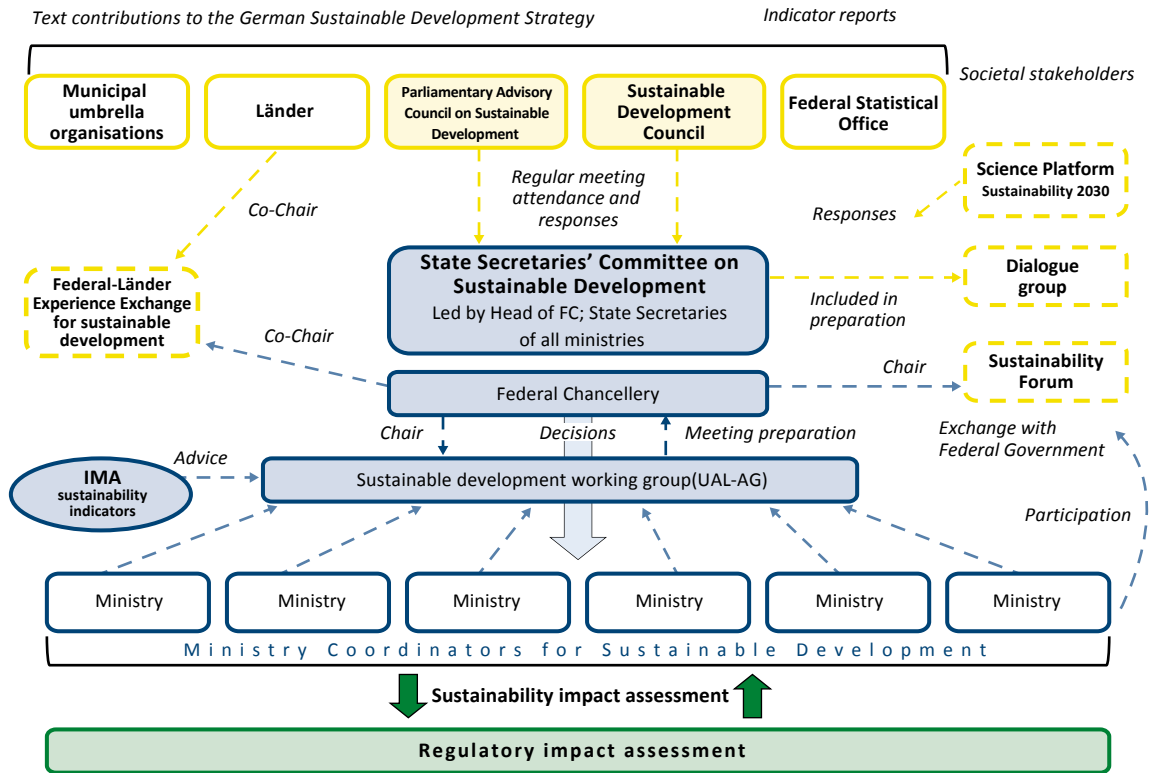
The enhanced GSDS is scheduled to be adopted in 2020. The Strategy will thus be honed further, with its implementation in individual policy areas being improved in particular.

In 2021, Germany will then present the revamped Strategy to the United Nations at the High-Level Political Forum in New York.

Only those who take action at the national level can work at the international level to achieve progress towards sustainable development with any credibility. With this in mind, the Federal Government will continue to gear its actions to sustainability as a guiding principle.

Especially in difficult times for global politics, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a necessity. At national and international level, we need to take radical steps towards global sustainability in order to ensure that the goals of the 2030 Agenda are achieved.

Figure: Sustainability management system



Overview: Content and management of the German Sustainable Development Strategy (sustainability management system)

I. Significance, basis and scope of sustainability as an instrument of control

1. Sustainable development (sustainability) is a guiding principle of the Federal Government's policies. As a goal and yardstick of government action at national, European and international levels, it must be observed in all measures and all policy fields. The planetary boundaries of our Earth together with the objective of a dignified life for everyone constitute the ultimate parameters for political decisions.
2. Sustainability aims to achieve intergenerational equity, social cohesion, quality of life, and the acceptance of international responsibility. With this in mind, economic performance, the protection of natural resources, and social responsibility are to be united to ensure that developments are viable in the long term.
3. The German Sustainable Development Strategy is the version of the 2002 Strategy (National Sustainable Development Strategy) revised in 2016 with this 2018 update. It sets out a process of policy development for the longer term and offers guidance with regard to this process.
4. The main responsibility for sustainable development at the national level rests with the Federal Chancellery in order to emphasise its importance for all policy areas and safeguard interministerial monitoring and control.
5. Making sustainability a reality depends strongly upon the interplay of all relevant stakeholders. Additional stakeholders in the field of sustainability are:

a) International level

Germany is committed to achieving progress on sustainable development within the framework of the United Nations (especially in the High-Level Political Forum, HLPF) and other formats such as the G7 and G20 and bilaterally.

b) European level

Germany

- is committed to strengthening sustainability and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the European level, in particular via an implementation strategy and the link between it and the national strategies; and
- cooperates closely with other European countries (e.g. in the ESDN) on sustainable development issues.

c) Länder and municipalities

The Federal Government and the Länder communicate regularly in the relevant forums with the aim of improving the coordination of activities and goals. Municipal umbrella organisations are also involved.

- d) Civil society (the public, trade unions, academia, churches and associations)

Stakeholders from civil society are required for the realisation of sustainability in many different ways and are involved on a constant basis. Among other things, consumers make individual contributions by selecting products and using them in a socially acceptable, environmentally friendly and economically useful manner.

- e) Private sector

Businesses, chambers of commerce and associations are called upon to do their part to support sustainable development. For example, businesses are responsible for their production processes as well as their products and services. Informing consumers about the health- and environment-related properties of the products and about sustainable production methods is part of this responsibility.

II. **Sustainability management concept**

1. The ministries are employing the concept of sustainable development management for the assessment and development of measures in their areas of responsibility. This concept contains the following three elements:

- Principles of sustainable development (see 2.)
- Indicators and goals (see 3.)
- Monitoring (see 4.)

2. Principles of sustainable development

The following principles contain fundamental requirements for sustainable policy. They are intended to help put the guiding principle of sustainable development into practice and are based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in light of the urgent necessity to transform our society and economy.

(1.) Apply sustainable development as a guiding principle at all times and in all areas

The overriding goal and benchmark of all action is to safeguard the Earth's natural resources on a permanent basis and to enable all people to live a life in dignity now and in the future.*

To this end, economic efficiency, the protection of natural resources, social justice and equal participation must be synthesised in all decisions, while accounting for systemic interrelationships and technological and societal innovations, so that developments for present and future generations are environmentally and socially sustainable on a global scale. Political action must be coherent.

* World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987

(2.) Assume global responsibility

- a) In line with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement, the following must be combined at global level:
- The fight against poverty, hunger, social inequality and exclusion
 - Respecting, protecting and guaranteeing human rights
 - Comprehensive participation for all in economic and social development
 - Protection of the environment, especially the climate, including compliance with environmental boundaries in a regional and global context
 - Responsible government action under the rule of law
- b) Germany must consider and encourage sustainable development in other countries. Wherever possible, our actions in Germany must not cause burdens for people or the environment in other countries.

(3.) Strengthen the natural resource base on which life depends

- a) To strengthen the natural resource base and keep within planetary boundaries, material cycles must be closed as quickly as possible and/or brought into alignment with ecosystem processes and functions. To this end,
- Renewable natural goods (e.g. woods and fish populations) and soils may be used only within the bounds of their ability to regenerate and without impairing their other environmental functions;
 - Non-renewable natural goods (e.g. mineral raw materials and fossil fuels) must be used as sparingly as possible. Renewable resources are to replace the use of non-renewable resources, provided this reduces the environmental impact and this use is also sustainable in every aspect; and
 - Substances may be released into the environment only in line with the precautionary principle and within the environmental boundaries of the sustainability of natural systems (environmental responsiveness).
- b) Dangers and unjustifiable risks to human health and nature must be avoided.

(4.) Strengthen sustainable economic activity

- a) The structural transformation required for global sustainable consumption and production and the technological advancements to be developed for this purpose must be economically successful as well as ecologically and socially sustainable and ensure intergenerational equity in the German and global contexts.
- b) Energy and natural resource consumption and the provision of transport services must be decoupled from economic growth. At the same time, the aim must be for the increase in demand for energy, resources and transport to be reduced and for consumption to decline as a result of efficiency gains (absolute decoupling).

- c) Sustainable agriculture and fishing must be productive, competitive and compatible with society and the environment; they must protect and conserve biodiversity, soils and waters in particular and take into account the requirements of livestock farming in a way that is fair to the animals and safeguards consumer protection, particularly concerning health matters.
- d) Public budgets are obliged to take account of intergenerational equity in all dimensions of sustainability. The financial markets must consider the requirements of sustainable development.

(5.) Preserve and enhance social cohesion in an open society

In order to strengthen social cohesion and leave no one behind,

- Poverty and social exclusion must be overcome and prevented to the greatest possible extent and inclusive prosperity promoted;
- Equal living standards must be sought in every region;
- Everyone must have an equal opportunity to share in economic development;
- Necessary adaptations to demographic change must be implemented at an early stage at the political and economic level and in society;
- Everyone must be able to fully take part in social, cultural and political life without discrimination; and
- Contributions must be made to reduce poverty and inequality worldwide.

(6.) Use education, science and research, and innovation as drivers of sustainable development

- a) The necessary qualifications and skills must be enshrined throughout the education system in order to create “education for sustainable development”.

Opportunities to share in high-quality education and acquire skills for sustainable development must be further improved regardless of background, gender or age.

- b) All decisions must be based on research findings. Science and research are called upon to focus more intensively on the goals and challenges of global sustainable development.
- c) Sustainability aspects must be included in innovation processes in a consistent manner from the start, especially in the context of digitisation, so that opportunities for sustainable development can be seized and risks for people and the environment can be avoided. At the same time, innovativeness and its scope must be increased.

3. Sustainable development is measured in 38 areas using the following key indicators:

No.	Indicator field <i>Sustainability postulate</i>	Indicators	Targets
SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere			
1.1.a	Poverty <i>Reducing poverty</i>	Material deprivation	Keeping the proportion of people who are materially deprived significantly below the EU-28 level by 2030
1.1.b		Severe material deprivation	Keeping the proportion of people suffering from severe material deprivation significantly below the EU-28 level by 2030
SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture			
2.1.a	Farming <i>Environmentally sound production in our cultivated landscapes</i>	Nitrogen surplus	Overall nitrogen surpluses for Germany to be reduced to 70 kilograms per hectare of utilised agricultural land in the annual average from 2028–2032
2.1.b		Organic farming	Share of organic farming on land used for agriculture to be increased to 20% by 2030
2.2	Food security <i>Realising the right to food worldwide</i>	Support of good governance	Funds disbursed for the application of guidelines and recommendations of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as a percentage of total spending for food security to be increased appropriately by 2030
SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages			
3.1.a	Health and nutrition <i>Living healthy longer</i>	Premature mortality (Cases of death per 100,000 residents under 70): women	To be reduced to 100 per 100,000 residents (women) by 2030
3.1.b		Premature mortality (Cases of death per 100,000 residents under 70): men	To be reduced to 190 per 100,000 residents (men) by 2030
3.1.c		Smoking rate among young people (12- to 17-year-olds)	To be reduced to 7% by 2030
3.1.d		Smoking rate among adults (15 years and older)	To be reduced to 19% by 2030
3.1.e		Obesity rate among young people (11- to 17-year-olds)	Increase to be permanently halted
3.1.f		Obesity rate among adults (18 years and older)	Increase to be permanently halted
3.2.a	Air pollution <i>Keeping the environment healthy</i>	Emissions of air pollutants (index of national emissions of air pollutants SO ₂ , NO _x , NH ₃ , NMVOC and PM _{2.5})	2005 emissions to be reduced to 55% (unweighted average of the five pollutants) by 2030
3.2.b		Share of the population with increased exposure to PM ₁₀ in Germany	WHO particulate matter benchmark of an annual average of 20 micrograms/cubic metre for PM ₁₀ to be achieved as widely as possible by 2030
SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all			
4.1.a	Education and training <i>Continuously improving education and vocational training</i>	Early school leavers (18- to 24-year-olds without a school leaving certificate)	To be reduced to less than 10% by 2020
4.1.b		30- to 34-year-olds with a tertiary or post-secondary non-tertiary level of education	To be increased to 42% by 2020

No.	Indicator field <i>Sustainability postulate</i>	Indicators	Targets
4.2.a	Prospects for families <i>Improving the compatibility of work and family life</i>	All-day care provision for children (0- to 2-year-olds)	To be increased to 35 % by 2030
4.2.b		All-day care provision for children (3- to 5-year-olds)	To be increased to 60 % by 2020 and 70 % by 2030
SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls			
5.1.a	Equal opportunities <i>Promoting equal opportunities in society</i>	Gender pay gap	To be reduced to 10 % by 2020, maintained until 2030
5.1.b		Women in management positions in business	30% women in supervisory boards of listed and fully co-determined companies by 2030
5.1.c	<i>Strengthening the economic participation of women globally</i>	Vocational qualification of women and girls through German development cooperation	To be successively increased by a third by 2030 compared to 2015 as the base year
SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all			
6.1.a	Water quality <i>Reducing the pollution of water with substances</i>	Phosphorous in flowing waters	The benchmark values for specific types of water to be met or beaten at all monitoring points by 2030
6.1.b		Nitrate in groundwater – proportion of monitoring points in Germany at which the threshold of 50 mg/l for nitrate is exceeded	“50 mg/l” of nitrate in groundwater to be complied with by 2030
6.2	Clean water and sanitation <i>Better access to drinking water and sanitation worldwide, higher (safer) quality</i>	Number of people gaining access to drinking water and sanitation through support from Germany	10 million people a year to gain access to water by 2030
SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all			
7.1.a	Resource conservation <i>Using resources economically and efficiently</i>	Final energy productivity	Final energy productivity to be increased by 2.1 % per year from 2008 to 2050
7.1.b		Primary energy consumption	To be reduced by 20 % by 2020 and 50 % by 2050 compared to 2008
7.2.a	Renewable energy <i>Strengthening a sustainable energy supply</i>	Share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption	To be increased to 18 % by 2020, to 30 % by 2030 and 60 % by 2050
7.2.b		Share of renewable energy sources in gross electricity consumption	To be increased to at least 35 % by 2020, to at least 50%* by 2030 and to at least 80 % by 2050
SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all			
8.1.	Resource conservation <i>Using resources economically and efficiently</i>	Total raw material productivity = (GDP+imports)/raw material input (RMI)	Trend of 2000–2010 to be maintained until 2030
8.2.a	Government debt <i>Consolidating public finances – creating intergenerational equity</i>	General government deficit	Ratio of government deficit to GDP less than 3 % To be maintained until 2030

* See Chapter III.4 (p. 43).

No.	Indicator field <i>Sustainability postulate</i>	Indicators	Targets
8.2.b		Structural deficit	Structurally balanced public spending, total national structural deficit of no more than 0.5 % of GDP To be maintained until 2030
8.2.c		Government debt	Ratio of government debt to GDP no more than 60 % To be maintained until 2030
8.3	Provision for future economic stability <i>Creating favourable investment conditions – securing long-term prosperity</i>	Gross fixed capital formation in relation to GDP	Appropriate development of the ratio To be maintained until 2030
8.4	Economic output <i>Combining greater economic output with environmental and social responsibility</i>	Gross domestic product per capita	Steady and appropriate economic growth
8.5.a	Employment <i>Boosting employment levels</i>	Employment rate (total) (20- to 64-year-olds)	To be increased to 78 % by 2030
8.5.b		Employment rate (older people) (60- to 64-year-olds)	To be increased to 60 % by 2030
8.6	Global supply chains <i>Enabling decent work worldwide</i>	Number of members of the Textile Partnership	To be significantly increased by 2030
SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation			
9.1	Innovation <i>Shaping the future with new solutions</i>	Private and public spending on research and development	At least 3.5 % of GDP by 2025
SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries			
10.1	Equal educational opportunities <i>Improving educational success of foreigners in German schools</i>	Foreign school graduates	Proportion of foreign school leavers with at least a Hauptschule certificate (lower secondary schooling) is to be increased, with their diploma rate to be raised to that of German school leavers by 2030
10.2	Distributive justice <i>Preventing excessive inequality within Germany</i>	Gini income coefficient after social transfers	Gini income coefficient after social transfers to be below the EU28 figure by 2030
SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable			
11.1.a	Land use <i>Sustainable use of land</i>	Built-up area and transport infrastructure expansion	To be reduced to 30 ha minus x per day by 2030
11.1.b		Loss of open space in m ² /inhabitant	Reduction in the loss of open space per inhabitant
11.1.c		Inhabitants by area occupied by built-up areas and transport infrastructure (settlement density)	No reduction in settlement density

No.	Indicator field <i>Sustainability postulate</i>	Indicators	Targets
11.2.a	Mobility <i>Guaranteeing mobility – protecting the environment</i>	Final energy consumption in freight transport	Target range minus 15 to minus 20% by 2030
11.2.b		Final energy consumption in passenger transport	Target range minus 15 to minus 20% by 2030
11.2.c		Population-weighted average travel time with public transport from each stop to the next medium-sized/large city	Reduction
11.3	Housing <i>Affordable housing for all</i>	Housing cost overload	People overburdened by housing costs to be reduced to 13% of the population by 2030
SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns			
12.1.a	Sustainable consumption <i>Making consumption environmentally and socially compatible</i>	Market share of goods certified by independently verified sustainability labelling schemes (future prospect: market share of products and services with trustworthy and ambitious eco and social labels)	34% by 2030
12.1.b		Energy consumption and CO ₂ emissions from consumption	Continuous reduction of energy consumption
12.2	Sustainable production <i>Increasing the proportion of sustainable production</i>	EMAS eco-management	5000 organisation locations by 2030
12.3.a	Sustainable procurement <i>Making the public sector a role model for sustainable public procurement</i>	Paper with Blue Angel certification as a proportion of the direct federal administration's total paper use	95% by 2020
12.3.b		CO ₂ emissions of commercially available vehicles in the public sector	To be significantly reduced
SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts			
13.1.a	Climate protection <i>Reducing greenhouse gases</i>	Greenhouse gas emissions	To be reduced by at least 40% by 2020, by at least 55% by 2030, by at least 70% by 2040 and by 80% to 95% by 2050, in each case compared to 1990
13.1.b	<i>Contribution to international climate protection funding</i>	International climate protection funding for the reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change	Funding to be doubled by 2020 compared to 2014
SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development			
14.1.aa	Protecting the oceans <i>Protection and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources</i>	Nutrient inputs in coastal waters and marine waters – nitrogen input via the inflows into the Baltic	Adherence to the good conditions according to the Ordinance on the Protection of Surface Waters (annual averages for total nitrogen in rivers flowing into the Baltic shall not exceed 2.6 milligrams per litre)
14.1.ab		Nutrient inputs in coastal waters and marine waters – nitrogen input via the inflows into the North Sea	Adherence to the good conditions according to the Ordinance on the Protection of Surface Waters (annual averages for total nitrogen in rivers flowing into the North Sea shall not exceed 2.8 milligrams per litre)
14.1.b		Share of sustainably fished fish populations in the North Sea and Baltic	Fish stocks used for economic purposes to be sustainably managed in accordance with the MSY approach by 2020

No.	Indicator field <i>Sustainability postulate</i>	Indicators	Targets
SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss			
15.1	Species diversity <i>Conserving species – protecting habitats</i>	Species diversity and landscape quality	To be increased to the index value of 100 by 2030
15.2	Ecosystems <i>Protecting ecosystems, conserving ecosystem services and preserving habitats</i>	Eutrophication of ecosystems	To be reduced by 35 % by 2030 compared to 2005
15.3	Forests <i>Preventing deforestation</i>	Payments to developing countries for the verified preservation or restoration of forests under the REDD+ rulebook	To be increased by 2030
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			
16.1	Crime <i>Further increasing personal security</i>	Criminal offences	Number of recorded criminal offences per 100,000 inhabitants to be reduced to less than 7000 by 2030
16.2	Peace and security <i>Practical action to combat proliferation, especially of small arms</i>	Number of projects to secure, register and destroy small arms and light weapons carried out by Germany in affected regions of the world	At least 15 projects a year by 2030
16.3.a	Good governance <i>Tackling corruption</i>	Corruption Perception Index in Germany	To be improved by 2030
16.3.b		Corruption Perceptions Index in partner countries in the German development cooperation	To be improved by 2030
SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development			
17.1	Development cooperation <i>Supporting sustainable development</i>	Share of expenditure for official development assistance in gross national income	To be increased to 0.7% of gross national income by 2030
17.2	Knowledge transfer, especially in technical areas <i>Sharing knowledge internationally</i>	Number of students and researchers from developing countries and LDCs per year (semester)	To be increased by 10% by 2020, then stabilised
17.3	Opening markets <i>Improving trade opportunities for developing countries</i>	Share of imports from LDCs in total imports to Germany	To be increased by 100 % by 2030 (base value: 2014)

4. Monitoring

- a) The progress made in implementing the Strategy and planned further measures are reported and the Strategy is enhanced regularly:

Every two years, the Federal Statistical Office publishes an Indicator Report. The Federal Statistical Office is responsible for the technical analysis of the indicators and their development.

The enhancement of the Strategy as part of comprehensive reporting on the Strategy (Progress Report) is carried out once each legislative period. The Progress Reports evaluate the state of the implementation of the Strategy, contain concrete measures for the achievement of the stated goals, and further develop the Strategy in selected focal areas.

The reports are made available to the German Bundestag for information purposes.

- b) The public is comprehensively involved in the enhancement of the Strategy at an early stage.
- c) In addition, the various ministries represented in the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development regularly report on current sustainability issues in their own executive agencies and fields of activity.

III. Institutions

- 1. The Federal Cabinet adopts changes to and further developments of the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 2. The State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development
 - a) Updates the substance of the National Sustainable Development Strategy,
 - b) Monitors the development of sustainability indicators on a regular basis,
 - c) Is the point of contact for the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, for the Länder and for municipal umbrella organisations, and
 - d) Acts as an advisor on current areas of Federal Government work related to sustainability.

All ministries are represented in the Committee. The State Secretaries' Committee is chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery.

- 3. The meetings of the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development are prepared by a working group under the direction of the Federal Chancellery in which all of the ministries are represented by the Directors in charge of the respective matter.
- 4. The Interministerial Working Group on Sustainability Indicators, under the direction of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and with the participation of the Federal Statistical Office, conducts preparatory work with regard to the technical monitoring and improvement of the sustainability indicators.
- 5. In the German Bundestag, the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development monitors sustainable development policy at the national and international levels.
- 6. The German Sustainable Development Council (decision of the Federal Cabinet of 26 July 2000, as amended on 4 April 2007)
 - a) Advises the Federal Government with regard to questions of sustainable development,
 - b) Contributes to improving the Sustainable Development Strategy,
 - c) Publishes statements concerning specific issues, and

d) Contributes primarily to raising public awareness and to the public Dialogue on Sustainability.

The members of the Council are appointed by the Federal Chancellor.

IV. Procedures within the Federal Government for the implementation of the Strategy

1. The ministries share responsibility for implementing the German Sustainable Development Strategy. In order to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Strategy and the global goals for sustainable development, they and their executive agencies make contributions, work together with an interministerial approach and coordinate their projects with the Länder and local authorities. They involve private-sector and societal stakeholders as well as political stakeholders in political decision-making processes as appropriate.
2. On the basis of the Strategy for Sustainable Development, the ministries organise their activities, including their administrative practices, based upon the necessity of sustainable development. The Ministry Coordinators for Sustainable Development work towards this. They
 - Are the central points of contact for issues relating to sustainable development,
 - Are involved at interdepartmental level in the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda in the policy of their ministry, and
 - Are involved in the legislative and regulatory process at interdepartmental level to promote the consideration of sustainability aspects in the legislative and regulatory process, as well as in ministry strategies.
3. In the legislative process, the impact the act or decree to be passed has on sustainable development is examined and the results are presented (Art. 44 (1), fourth sentence of the GGO). The ministries present conflicts between the Sustainable Development Goals transparently and in light of the expected progress. The assessment is performed within the framework of the regulatory impact assessment by the ministry responsible for the legislative project. The ministries demonstrate various alternatives for achieving a sustainable development target and assess their projects' coherence with other projects within the ministry and with measures by other ministries. Statements on the impact on sustainable development must also be made in the case of programmes that are particularly relevant to the targets set.
4. The ministries monitor the implementation of measures on an ongoing basis with recourse to the Sustainable Development Strategy and, when required, inform the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development as to problems that arise. They regularly adjust existing projects to the goals of the Sustainable Development Strategy and check whether the latter could also be achieved by adjusting or terminating these projects.
5. Within the framework of their own communications work, the ministries are at pains to highlight any links to the Sustainable Development Strategy.
6. The Federal Government emphasises with appropriate interministerial projects that it acts on the basis of sustainability. The State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development is responsible for the approval of projects.
7. The ministries and their executive agencies include sustainability criteria in procurement in order to implement the programme of sustainability measures (translating sustainability into concrete administrative actions, resolution dated 30 March 2015).

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