

# German Sustainable Development Strategy

## SUMMARY



This publication is a summarising extract of the  
German Sustainable Development Strategy – 2016 version,  
adopted by the Federal Government on 11 January 2017.  
The full Strategy can be viewed here:

[www.deutsche-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie.de](http://www.deutsche-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie.de)

In 2015 the international community, meeting in New York, gave the world a piece of truly good news. By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development world leaders clearly affirmed their shared responsibility to improve prospects for present and future generations around the globe. Work on the Agenda was a fine example of international cooperation. The outcome shows that global consensus can be reached on issues which are vital for our future.

This success speaks for itself. But it will only have a lasting impact if we actually work step by step towards the goals we have set ourselves. The Federal Government was quick to start down this demanding route – demanding because it requires a fundamental change in the way we behave at national level, as well as at European and international level.

We in Germany can build on the fact that sustainability has a long tradition in this country. More than 300 years have passed since Hans Carl von Carlowitz described the principle of sustainability in his study on forest management. But it was not until 2002 that this principle was first incorporated into our national policies in a systematic and meaningful way. That year, the Federal Government adopted the National Sustainable Development Strategy, which has been constantly refined ever since. As a result, we possess a sustainable development framework which now provides a firm foundation for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In the present, fully revised National Sustainable Development Strategy, the Federal Government sets out the challenges stemming from this commitment to sustainable development, the specific targets it has set itself and the measures it is taking to meet them. The revised Strategy may seem somewhat abstract and technocratic in places, but it does address questions of existential importance. It centres on nothing less than living life in dignity, justice and peace, on social security, and on freedom to pursue a chosen livelihood while at the same time protecting the natural resources on which life depends.

Sustainable development can only succeed as a concerted effort. It will benefit each and every one of us. And everyone can do something to contribute. In the course of drafting the new Strategy, we were pleased to discover just how much knowledge and support we could count on from our citizens, agencies and civil society associations, from the worlds of business and academia. Our policies will be able



to build on this. I am equally grateful to the German Bundestag's Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development and the Council for Sustainable Development, as well as the German Länder and the associations of local authorities, which also provided valuable input.

The Agenda 2030 has lent tremendous new momentum to the global efforts to foster good economic development, peaceful coexistence and an intact environment. The Federal Government is seizing this momentum and seeks to amplify it with the German Sustainable Development Strategy 2016. For this we earn respect, at home and abroad. This should spur us to continue resolutely on our chosen sustainable course. The determination to do so is there – at all levels, in all fields, on the part of all the various stakeholders. And where there's a will, there's a way. Our Sustainable Development Strategy is the compass that will keep us on course.

*Angela Merkel*



## German Sustainable Development Strategy 2016

What can we do to avoid diminishing the chances of people today and the chances of our children and grandchildren for a prosperous life? How can we preserve natural resources for us and for future generations? How can we make it possible for everyone to lead a life in dignity?

The answer to these questions lies in the guiding principle of sustainable development. To secure humankind's resources and opportunities in the long term, we have to think globally and always consider tomorrow in today's decisions.

### Global targets – national responsibility

2015 brought a new momentum to international politics. In September 2015, world leaders gathered in New York adopted a global agenda for sustainable development – the 2030 Agenda. In Paris in December 2015, they reached a follow-up agreement on international climate protection. Germany campaigned passionately for the success of both negotiation processes.

The 17 global goals for sustainable development of the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), are aimed at everybody: at governments around the world, but also at civil society, the private sector and science.

The world already had around 7.35 billion inhabitants in 2015; in 2050, it is expected to be more than 9 billion. Everybody should be able to lead a life in dignity now and in the future, all have a right to food and water, education, healthcare and a life in safety. This requires the protection of natural resources, the observance of planetary boundaries and the alignment of policies to the Earth's ability to regenerate.

For the Federal Government, the promotion of sustainable development is a fundamental goal and yardstick of government action. The Federal Government has committed to the ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Germany is one of the highest-performing countries in the world,

with one of the strongest economies. High employment, a large middle class, social security, a well-developed research landscape, innovative products and high environmental and social standards are a great achievement and simultaneously an obligation to campaign for sustainable development beyond our own borders.

The focus on sustainability offers an opportunity for technological innovation and economic competitiveness. "Made in Germany" has stood for quality products from Germany for decades. A report by international experts ("Peer Review") on sustainability back in 2009 expressed it as "Sustainability made in Germany". Having said that, we in Germany are in some respects also still a long way off from sustainable living, sustainable working and sustainable use of natural resources. For this reason, we have to change our thinking in many areas in Germany, too.

### New version of the German Sustainable Development Strategy

On 11 January 2017, the Federal Government approved this new version of the Sustainable Development Strategy, the most extensive enhancement of the Strategy since its first adoption in 2002.

The notion of sustainable development has never been so pervasive and accepted among the public as it is today. The greater attention has also increased the expectations of and demands on the Strategy.

The German Sustainable Development Strategy outlines the importance of sustainable development for the Federal Government's policies and defines concrete targets and measures over the entire range of political issues. It thus provides a benchmark for the required long-term perspective. All federal institutions are called upon to contribute to achieving the targets with activities in their own fields.

## Dialogue

The Federal Government relied on dialogue and cooperation to compile the new version of the Strategy.

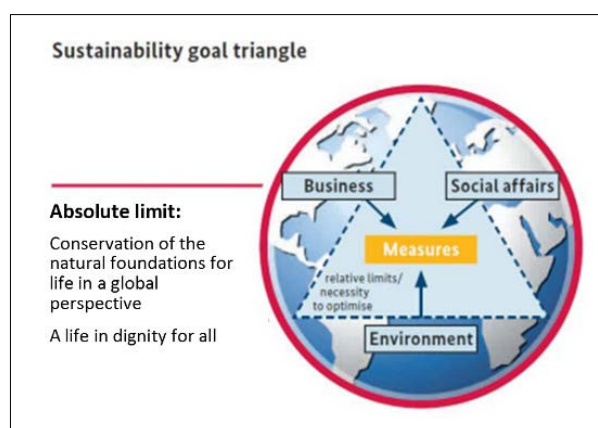
Between autumn 2015 and spring 2016, there were five public conferences with high-level attendees including representatives of the Federal Government, Länder governments and local authorities, a large number of non-governmental groups and members of the public. At the end of May 2016, the German Chancellor gave the go-ahead for the second phase of the dialogue regarding the draft Strategy published online. Representatives from more than 40 associations participated in a subsequent central consultation event in the Federal Chancellery, and lots of opinions were expressed. The suggestions that emerged from the dialogue process proved valuable.

The Länder, the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development in the German Bundestag, the Sustainable Development Council and the municipal umbrella organisations have once again made their own contributions to the Strategy.

## Strategy aim/implementation of 2030 Agenda

The Sustainable Development Strategy is based on a holistic, integrated approach: long-term, viable solutions can only be achieved if interdependencies between the three dimensions of sustainability are taken into account. The Strategy aims at economically efficient, socially balanced and environmentally sustainable development, whereby the planetary boundaries of our Earth together with the objective of a life in dignity for everyone form the ultimate constraints for political decisions.

The Strategy bundles the contributions of the various policy areas to sustainability and works towards greater coherence and the resolution of conflicting goals in light of the large number of systemic interdependencies. It thus directs globally responsible, intergenerationally equitable and socially integrative policy.



The Sustainable Development Strategy presents Germany's measures to implement the 17 SDGs at three levels. Alongside measures with effects *in* Germany, there are also measures *by* Germany with a global impact. In addition, there is also the support of other countries in the form of bilateral cooperation (measures *with* Germany). Germany thereby shows that it is committed to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and is taking on this challenge comprehensively as its own.

## Sustainability management

At the heart of the German Sustainable Development Strategy is a sustainability management system: goals with time frames for their attainment, indicators for continuous monitoring, rules for management and definitions for institutional configuration.

### Management rules

The twelve management rules define general requirements for sustainable policy-making.

*"Each generation is required to solve the challenges facing it and must not unload them onto future generations. It must also make provisions for foreseeable future problems"*, according to the first fundamental rule of the strategy.

### Measuring success with targets and indicators

The Sustainable Development Strategy contains 63 "key indicators". The indicators are mostly as-

sociated with quantified targets. At least one indicator-backed target is defined for each of the 17 SDGs.

Among the public, sustainable development is often primarily associated with environmental issues or questions of international cooperation. In fact, however, the sustainability principle concerns all policy areas.





Therefore, the Sustainable Development Strategy does not only cover climate and biodiversity protection, resource efficiency and mobility, for example. Issues such as the fight against poverty, education, health, equality, sound government finances, distributive justice and anti-corruption are also incorporated into the Strategy with political goals. In line with the content of the 2030 Agenda, 13 new topics and 30 indicators have therefore been added to the Sustainable Development Strategy.

#### Regular monitoring

Transparent and regular monitoring allows the important tracking of successes and failures in the attainment of the Strategy's goals. It serves as a basis for the management of sustainable policies and necessary realignments, but also as a transparent source of information for democratic decision-making and debate.

Every two years, the Federal Statistical Office publishes an Indicator Report. The Strategy itself is updated every four years. The statisticians are responsible for the technical analysis of the indicators and their development. Weather symbols illustrate whether the target will be achieved if the current trend continues.

**Status of the indicators**

-  Goal will be (almost) reached
-  Development is heading in the right direction, but between 5% and 20% of the goal will not be met
-  Development is heading in the right direction, but a gap of more than 20% will remain
-  Development is heading in the wrong direction

The latest analysis by the Federal Statistical Office shows that 27 indicators with a more positive status or trend are offset by 29 indicators with a more negative status or trend; for seven indicators, no status/trend can be identified at present. Even if many targets have positive trends, there are still areas with little or no progress.

#### Sustainability impact assessment

The guiding principle of sustainability should be considered in every law and every decree from the start. Sustainability is therefore enshrined in the Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries as a mandatory criterion when assessing the impact of the Federal Government's proposed laws and regulations.

#### Programme of sustainability measures

The Federal Government adopted a new, extensive programme of measures for sustainable administrative activities in 2015 with the theme "Setting a good example". For example, it includes targets and measures regarding the reduction of energy consumption in government buildings, procurement standards, sustainable event management and the better compatibility of work and family life or nursing care.

#### **Sustainability institutions**

##### Sustainability is a top priority – cooperation of all Federal Ministries

Sustainability involves all areas of political activity. Due to its overarching, cross-cutting relevance and special significance, responsibility for the German Sustainable Development Strategy lies with the Federal Chancellery. In Germany, sustainable development is therefore a top-level priority. All ministries are involved in shaping and implementing the Strategy. To further strengthen the coherence of political measures, Ministry Coordinators for Sustainable Development will be appointed in all ministries as central contact persons.

The coordinator: the State Secretaries' Committee

The State Secretaries' Committee chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery serves as the central coordinator for the Sustainable Development Strategy. Its role is to ensure that the Strategy is applied to all policy areas like a common thread. External experts are invited to the Committee's meetings according to the topic (e.g. business, civil society/associations, Länder, local authorities, EU Commission). In addition, the ministries present departmental reports on sustainability.

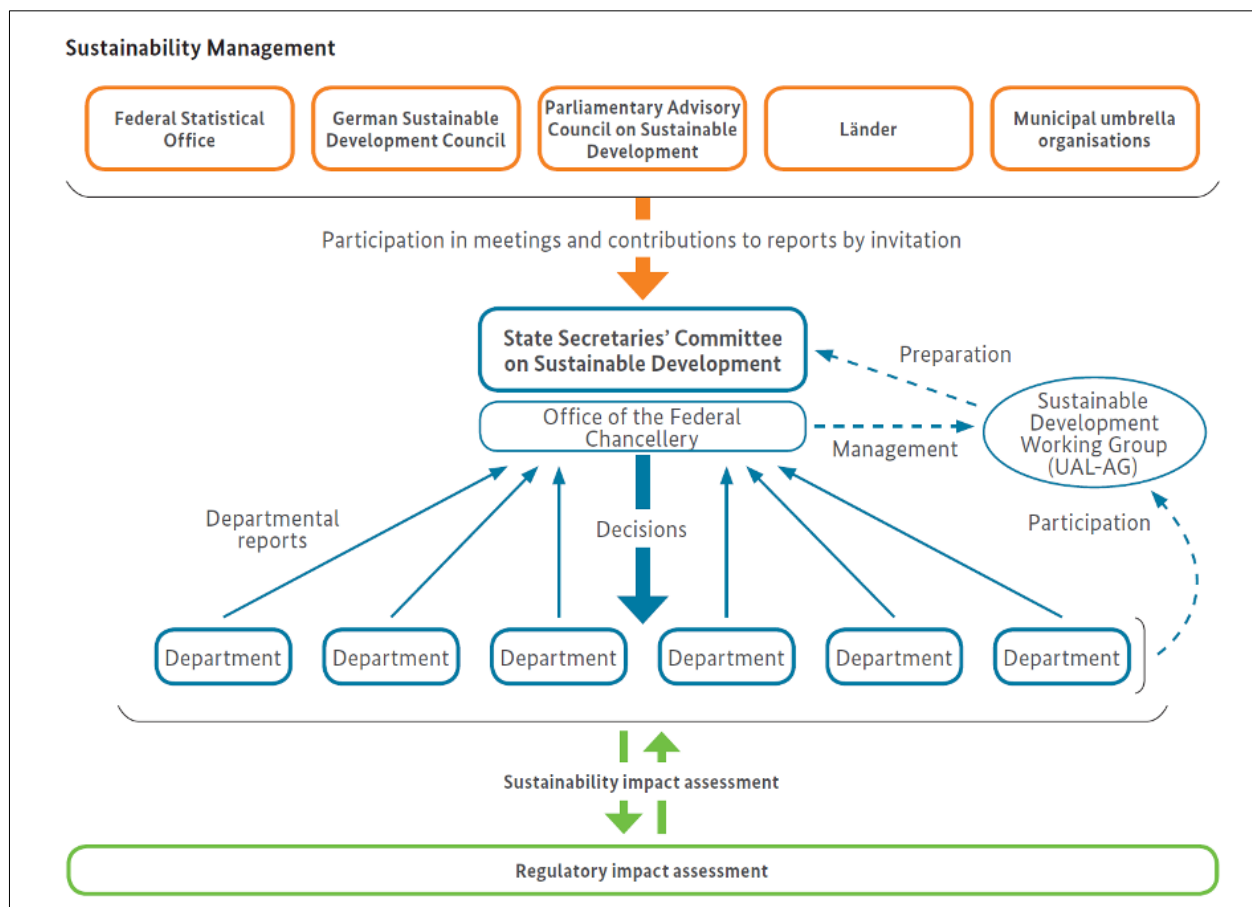
Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development

Sustainability has been enshrined in the German Bundestag since 2004, when the Parliamentary

Advisory Council on Sustainable Development began monitoring the National and European Sustainable Development Strategy. It also reviews the sustainability impact assessment of laws.

Sustainable Development Council

The Sustainable Development Council has advised the Federal Government on all matters relating to sustainability and raised public awareness of the issue since 2001. Its 15 members, last appointed by the German Chancellor on 26 October 2016 for a term of three years, stand for the three dimensions of sustainability on the basis of their professional and personal backgrounds. The Council is functionally independent and issues opinions and proposals regarding the enhancement of the Strategy.





## Sustainability is rooted throughout politics and society

Progress towards sustainability is conceivable only as a joint effort. In Germany, the idea of sustainability is closely intertwined with the social and political culture – not only because “Nachhaltigkeit”, the German word for sustainability, was first used more than 300 years ago. Nowadays, numerous stakeholders from business, science and associations as well as Länder and local authorities advocate a focus on sustainable development. More and more people are guided in their everyday decisions by the principle of sustainability.

In Germany’s federal structure, the powers to enact and enforce legislation on important areas of sustainable development lie with the Länder and local authorities. The Sustainable Development Strategy creates mechanisms and a framework for the better coordination of measures for sustainable development between the Federal Government, Länder and municipalities. The Federal Government works closely with the Länder and helps the municipal level contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This is also assisted by activities such as the Sustainability Network of Lord Mayors initiated and supported by the Sustainable Development Council and the new initiative to create regional hubs.

The Strategy supports dialogue and cooperation between groups in society committed to sustainability and promotes knowledge, responsibility and opportunities for participation. In the future, the Federal Government will get the social stakeholders more involved than before in the on-going work on the Strategy and its implementation. Plans for this include a regular dialogue format (working title: “Sustainability Forum”) and the greater involvement of social stakeholders in the preparation of meetings of the State Secretaries’ Committee. In science, various initiatives have been launched to support the implementation of the SDGs. The Federal Government has embraced these initiatives and offers a platform on which scientific support for the implementation of the SDGs will be pooled.

## Taking responsibility at all levels, national and international

Germany argues that the “High-level Political Forum” set up at the United Nations must play a large role. This is also why Germany was one of the first countries to report to this body in New York about the on-going work on the German Sustainable Development Strategy in the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Both in bilateral cooperation and in multilateral bodies, Germany provides other nations with extensive support on the road to sustainable development.

At European level, too, Germany is campaigning consistently for the ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the EU, including by calling for a new EU Sustainable Development Strategy. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda also requires a new strategic framework at the European level.

Like during its presidency of the G7 in 2015, Germany will introduce sustainable development as an important overriding issue during its presidency of the G20 in 2017.

## Sustainability – a process

The guiding principle of sustainability is – in the words of cultural historian Ulrich Grober – a kind of compass, a “navigation device for a journey into unknown territory – the future.”

There are no simple answers to the complex challenges of our time. As the focus on sustainable development demands a holistic approach and requires thinking backwards from the endpoint, it can become an engine for real social, economic and political progress.

In the Federal Government’s view, the new version of the German Sustainable Development Strategy is an important step on the road to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Federal Government will rigorously continue the work on the Sustainable Development Strategy. It invites all governmental and non-governmental institutions, social groups and every individual to make an active contribution to this process.



## 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 politics of the Federal Government. 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.
2. Sustainability aims at the achievement of intergenerational equity, social cohesion, quality of life, and the acceptance of international responsibility. In this spirit, economic performance, the protection of natural resources, and social responsibility are to be united so that developments will be permanently sustainable.
3. The German Sustainable Development Strategy is a revised version of the Strategy of 2002 according to this resolution. It describes 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 the significance for all policy areas and assure cross-departmental 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 campaigns for progress on sustainability from within the United Nations (especially in the High-Level Political Forum, HLPF) and bilaterally.
  - b) European level  
Germany
    - is committed to strengthening sustainability at the European level, especially the EU Sustainable Development Strategy as well as the links between the EU Strategy and the national strategies; and,
    - cooperates closely with other European countries on sustainable development issues.
  - c) Länder and municipalities  
The Federal Government and the Länder communicate regularly in the appropriate forums with the aim of improving the coordination of activities and goals. Municipal umbrella organisations are also involved.
  - d) Civil society (citizens, trade unions, science, churches and associations)  
Stakeholders from civil society are required for the realisation of sustainability in many different ways and are continuously involved. Among other things, consumers make individual contributions by selecting products and using them in an ecologically compatible and economically useful manner.
  - e) Private sector  
Businesses, chambers of commerce and associations are called upon to do their bit for sustainable development. For example, businesses are responsible for their production and their products. 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. For the assessment and development of measures in their areas of responsibility, the ministries employ the concept of sustainable development management. This concept contains the following three elements:
  - Management rules (see 2.)
  - Indicators and goals (see 3.)
  - Monitoring (see 4.)
2. Management rules for sustainability
  - *Basic rules* -
    - (1) Each generation is required to solve the challenges facing it and must not unload them onto future generations. It must also make provisions for foreseeable future problems.
    - (2) In order to achieve intergenerational equity, social cohesion, quality of life, and the acceptance of international responsibility and to implement human rights and maintain peaceful societies, economic performance, the protection of natural resources, and social responsibility are to be united so that developments will be permanently sustainable.
    - (3) The shared responsibility for sustainable development requires that economic, social and political stakeholders be appropriately involved in political decision-making processes.
  - *Rules of sustainability for specific action areas* -
    - (4) Renewable natural goods (e.g. forests or fish populations) should, on a long-term basis, be used only within the bounds of their ability to regenerate.

Non-renewable natural goods (such as mineral raw materials or fossil fuels) should, on a long-term basis, be used only to the extent that their functions cannot be replaced by other materials or fuels.

The release of materials into the environment should, in the long run, not exceed the adaptability of the eco-system – e.g. the climate, forests and oceans.
    - (5) Dangers and unjustifiable risks to human health should be avoided.
    - (6) Structural change triggered by technical developments and international competition should be shaped in a way that is economically successful as well as ecologically and socially sustainable. For this purpose, political fields should be integrated so that economic growth, high employment, social cohesion, respect, protection and the guarantee of human rights and environmental protection go hand in hand.
    - (7) Energy and natural resource consumption and the provision of transport services should be decoupled from economic growth. At the same time, we should aim for growth-related increases in demand for energy, resources and transport to be more than offset by efficiency gains.
    - (8) Public authorities are obliged to take into account intergenerational equity. This requires compliance with the constitutional debt restrictions on the part of the Federal Government, Länder and local authorities. In a further step, the debt ratio should be continually reduced to a fair level from an intergenerational perspective.
    - (9) Sustainable agriculture needs to be productive and competitive while compatible with nature and the environment and must take into account the requirements of livestock farming in a way that is fair to the animals and provides consumer protection, particularly concerning health matters.
    - (10) In order to strengthen social cohesion and leave no one behind,

- poverty and social exclusion should be prevented to the greatest possible extent and inequality reduced,
  - opportunities for participating in economic development should be open to all sections of society,
  - necessary adaptations to demographic change should take place at an early stage at the political and economic level and in society, and
  - everybody should take part in social and political life.
- (11) All decisions must take the latest scientific findings and the necessary research into account. The necessary qualifications and competence should be enshrined in the education system in order to create “education for sustainable development”.
- (12) Our actions in Germany must consider the burdens they create in other parts of the world. General international conditions should be shaped jointly in a manner which ensures that people in all countries can lead a life worthy of a human being and according to their ideas and in unison with their regional environment while at the same time profiting from economic developments. Environment and development form a unit. Sustainable global action is based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. An integrated approach should link the fight against poverty and hunger with
- the respect of human rights,
  - economic development,
  - environmental protection, and
  - responsible action by governments (good governance).

3. Sustainable development is measured in 36 areas using the following key indicators:

No.	Indicator field <i>Sustainability postulate</i>	Indicators	Targets
<b>SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b>			
<b>1.1.a</b>	<b>Poverty</b> <i>Reducing poverty</i>	Material deprivation	Keeping the proportion of people who are materially deprived significantly below the EU-28 level up to 2030.
<b>1.1.b</b>		Severe material deprivation	Keeping the proportion of people suffering from severe material deprivation significantly below the EU-28 level up to 2030.
<b>SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</b>			
<b>2.1.a</b>	<b>Farming</b> <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.
<b>2.1.b</b>		Organic farming	Share of organic farming on land used for agriculture to be increased to 20% in coming years
<b>SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</b>			
<b>3.1.a</b>	<b>Health and nutrition</b> <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
<b>3.1.b</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	<b>Air pollution</b> <i>Keeping the environment healthy</i>	Emissions of air pollutants (index of national emissions of air pollutants SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , NH <sub>3</sub> , NMVOC and PM2.5)	Emissions of 2005 to be reduced to 55% (unweighted average of the five pollutants) by 2030
3.2.b		Share of the population with increased exposure to PM10 in Germany	WHO particulate matter benchmark of an annual average of 20 micrograms/cubic metre for PM10 to be achieved as widely as possible by 2030
<b>SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</b>			
4.1.a	<b>Education and training</b> <i>Continuously improving education and vocational training</i>	Early school leavers (18- to 24-year-olds leaving school without graduation)	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
4.2.a	<b>Prospects for families</b> <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
<b>SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b>			
5.1.a	<b>Equal opportunities</b> <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
<b>SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</b>			
6.1.a	<b>Water quality</b> <i>Reducing the pollution of water with substances</i>	Total phosphate 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” of nitrate in groundwater to be complied with by 2030

		50 mg/l for nitrate is exceeded	
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Clean water and sanitation</b> <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 per year to gain access to water until 2030
<b>SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</b>			
<b>7.1.a</b>	<b>Resource conservation</b> <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
<b>7.1.b</b>		Primary energy consumption	To be reduced by 20% by 2020 and 50% by 2050 compared to 2008
<b>7.2.a</b>	<b>Renewable energy</b> <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
<b>7.2.b</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, to at least 65% by 2040 and to at least 80% by 2050
<b>SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</b>			
<b>8.1.</b>	<b>Resource conservation</b> <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
<b>8.2.a</b>	<b>Government debt</b> <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
<b>8.2.b</b>		Structural deficit	Structurally balanced public spending, total national structural deficit of no more than 0.5% of GDP To be maintained until 2030
<b>8.2.c</b>		Government debt	Ratio of government debt to GDP no more than 60% To be maintained until 2030
<b>8.3.</b>	<b>Provision for future economic stability</b> <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
<b>8.4.</b>	<b>Economic output</b> <i>Combining greater economic output with environmental and social responsibility</i>	Gross domestic product per capita	Steady and appropriate economic growth
<b>8.5.a</b>	<b>Employment</b> <i>Boosting employment levels</i>	Employment rate (total) (20- to 64-year-olds)	To be increased to 78% by 2030
<b>8.5.b</b>		Employment rate (older people) (60- to 64-year-olds)	To be increased to 60% by 2030
<b>8.6.</b>	<b>Global supply chains</b> <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	<b>Innovation</b> <i>Shaping the future with new solutions</i>	Private and public spending on research and development	At least 3% of GDP by 2030
SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries			
10.1.	<b>Equal educational opportunities</b> <i>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 graduation rate to be raised to that of German school leavers by 2030
10.2.	<b>Distributive justice</b> <i>Preventing too-great 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	<b>Land use</b> <i>Sustainable land use</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 <sup>2</sup> /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
11.2.a	<b>Mobility</b> <i>Guaranteeing mobility – protecting the environment</i>	Final energy consumption in freight transport	Target range minus 15 to minus 20% up to 2030
11.2.b		Final energy consumption in passenger transport	Target range minus 15 to minus 20% up to 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.	<b>Housing</b> <i>Affordable housing for all</i>	Housing cost overload	Proportion of the population to decline to 13% by 2030
SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns			
12.1.a	<b>Sustainable consumption</b> <i>Making consumption environmentally and socially compatible</i>	Market share of goods certified by independently verified sustainability labelling schemes (future perspective: market share of products and services with trustworthy and ambitious eco- and social labels)	34% by 2030
12.1.b		Energy consumption and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from consumption	Continuous reduction of energy consumption
12.2	<b>Sustainable production</b> <i>Increasing the proportion of sustainable production</i>	EMAS eco-management	5,000 organisation locations by 2030

<b>SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</b>			
<b>13.1.a</b>	<b>Climate protection</b> <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
<b>13.1.b</b>	<i>Germany's contribution to international climate protection funding</i>	International climate protection funding for the reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change	Financing to be doubled by 2020 compared to 2014
<b>SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</b>			
<b>14.1.aa.</b>	<b>Protecting the oceans</b> <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 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 Baltic Sea shall not exceed 2.6 milligrams per litre).
<b>14.1.ab</b>		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).
<b>14.1.b</b>		Share of sustainably fished fish populations in the North Sea and Baltic Sea	2030 target: EU specifications
<b>SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</b>			
<b>15.1.</b>	<b>Species diversity</b> <i>Conserving species – protecting habitats</i>	Species diversity and landscape quality	To be increased to the index value of 100 by 2030
<b>15.2.</b>	<b>Ecosystems</b> <i>Protecting ecosystems, conserving ecosystem services and preserving habitats</i>	Eutrophication of ecosystems	To be reduced by 35% by 2030 compared to 2005
<b>15.3.</b>	<b>Forests</b> <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
<b>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</b>			
<b>16.1.</b>	<b>Crime</b> <i>Further increasing personal security</i>	Criminal offences	Number of recorded criminal offences per 100,000 inhabitants to be reduced to less than 7,000 by 2030
<b>16.2.</b>	<b>Peace and security</b> <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 per year by 2030
<b>16.3.a</b>	<b>Good governance</b> <i>Combating corruption</i>	Corruption Perception Index in Germany	To be improved by 2030
<b>16.3.b</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.	<b>Development cooperation</b> <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.	<b>Knowledge transfer, especially in technical areas</b> <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.	<b>Opening markets</b> <i>Improving trade opportunities for developing countries</i>	Share of imports from LDCs in total imports by 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 every 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 fields of business and activity.

#### III. Institutions

1. The Federal Cabinet adopts changes in and further developments of the Sustainable Development Strategy.
2. The State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development
  - a) updates the details of the National Sustainable Development Strategy,
  - b) regularly monitors the development of the indicators of sustainability,
  - c) is the 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 topics 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 Interdepartmental Sustainability Indicators Working Group, under the direction of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and with the participation of the Federal Statistical Office, performs 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 particular topics, and
  - d) contributes chiefly to raising public awareness and to the public Dialogue on Sustainability.

The members of the Council are appointed by the German 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 work together interdepartmentally and coordinate their projects with Länder and local authorities.
2. On the basis of the Sustainable Development Strategy, the ministries organise their activities, including their administrative practices, based upon the necessity of sustainable development. In the legislative process, the impact the act or decree to be passed has on sustainable development is examined and the results are presented. They present competition between the achievement of 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 check their projects for coherence and against other projects within the ministry and against measures by other ministries.
3. The ministries constantly monitor the implementation of measures under the Sustainable Development Strategy and, when needed, inform the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development about problems that arise. They regularly reconcile 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.
4. In the framework of their own communication, the ministries take care to highlight any links to the Sustainable Development Strategy.
5. The Federal Government makes clear through appropriate cross-departmental projects that it acts on the basis of sustainability. The State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development is responsible for the approval of projects.



**PUBLISHER**

The Federal Government

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[www.deutsche-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie.de](http://www.deutsche-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie.de)

[www.bundesregierung.de](http://www.bundesregierung.de)

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