German Federal Government February 2014

Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Key Positions of the German Government

2015 will be an important year in international politics; the international community will

- take stock with regard to the Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations in 2000 and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) derived from that Declaration,
- make efforts to conclude a new global climate agreement and
- adopt the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development.

This post-2015 agenda, which will apply for all countries, is to be adopted at a UN summit in September 2015. Germany will also be promoting the agenda as part of its G8 presidency.

Great successes have been achieved in reaching the MDGs. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty was cut in half even before 2015, and developing countries have seen great progress with regard to the access to education and clean drinking water and the fight against malaria and tuberculosis. The aim of the post-2015 agenda is to continue working on the goals that have not been achieved by 2015, and to merge them with the sustainability agenda of the Rio+20 process. In that context, some dimensions of the Millennium Declaration, like for example human rights and good governance, are also to be included in the agenda.

At the Rio+20 Conference of the United Nations, an Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-OWG) and an Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) were mandated to present reports to the UN General Assembly. The UN Secretary General will take these reports into consideration for his synthesis report on the post-2015 agenda. The post-2015 agenda is to be negotiated in an intergovernmental negotiating process in the framework of the United Nations by all Member States by September 2015.

On 21 August 2013, the Federal Cabinet decided on a first report on the post-2015 agenda. On that basis, in light of previous talks at the UN level and drawing on numerous statements made by civil society, the German government intends to focus on the following priorities in the negotiation process in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The Federal Government will evaluate the following catalogue of goals in light of the two reports to the UN Secretary General and his comprehensive suggestion. In doing so, suggestions from politics, civil society and the scientific community will be taken into account.

The financial aspects of the post-2015 agenda will also be an important subject of discussions and negotiations. In this regard, both internal and external sources of finance as well as the creation of efficient framework conditions will need to be taken into account. These issues will be addressed in the report of the UN expert group ICEDSF.

A. A new Global Partnership as a framework

A "Global Partnership" is to be the overarching framework of the future agenda for sustainable development, which takes into account and is adapted to planetary boundaries. The pertinent reference documents are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Millennium Declaration and the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, "The Future We Want". The Federal Government is guided by the following principles in this regard: rule of law, equality, non-discrimination, transparency, participation and economic participation.

The purpose of the Global Partnership is to induce a paradigm shift, breaking with traditional views such as the classic North-South or donor-recipient thought patterns and defining joint goals for reducing poverty, creating economic, political and social opportunities, and transforming economies worldwide, making them more sustainable. The existing economic, ecological and social interdependencies in and between all countries require **all states and all stakeholders to assume joint responsibility for the global common good.**

These are the key characteristics of the Global Partnership:

1**. Universally applicable goals**, building on mutual respect and shared values, i.e. all countries are responsible for both the goals and for achieving them (developing countries, industrialised countries and emerging economies) and for all policy areas, while ensuring that national realities, capacities and levels of development are taken into account and national policies and priorities are respected.

2. **Shared responsibility** for global wellbeing through the protection of global public goods and the creation of structural framework conditions that are conducive to development

3. Effectiveness, transparency and **monitoring** at the international level through compelling indicators and mutual accountability

4. Not only national governments but also **civil society, the private sector and academia** must play a vital role in the development process and in bringing the concept of partnership to life.

The German government supports the proposal of establishing a Global Partnership. It is willing to take on the responsibility associated with that Partnership, but expects all other members of the UN to do the same. Emerging economies, in particular, must assume new responsibility as part of the post-2015 agenda.

Germany's contribution to achieving the goals of the post-2015 will depend to a great extent on a coherent concept pursued by all Ministries.

B. Strategic issues and exemplary goals

The German government focuses on the following strategic issues:

- **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, secure a life in dignity**
- **Preserve the natural resource base and ensure its sustainable use**
- **Achieve the creation of decent jobs and adequate income through ecologically sound growth**

- **Strengthen good governance, anchor gender equality, protect and foster human rights, secure peace**

To flesh out and implement the strategic issues, thirteen goals for sustainable development are proposed. These are merely examples at this stage so as to avoid premature decisions and definitions, be able to take up further input from national and international actors, also after September 2014, and remain flexible during the negotiation process. Each of these goals is attributed to one of the four strategic issues:

I. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, secure a life in dignity

Global poverty has been reduced significantly since the year 2000. Yet there are still some 1.3 billion people in extreme poverty, and more than 840 million people suffer from hunger. This is unacceptable. A **holistic understanding of poverty** is needed in order to fight the root causes of poverty and hunger. This understanding does not only include income poverty but also and especially the lacking foundations of sustainable development, such as health and education, orientation towards human rights and gender equality, and the necessary general framework conditions such as good governance, secure property rights and peacekeeping. Political, social and economic inclusion and participation and equity of opportunity are of pivotal importance. This requires the political will to overcome social inequalities as far as possible. In the Global Risks 2014 Report of the World Economic Forum in Davos, global risks that result from unemployment and social inequality are high on the scale of importance. **Africa but also the emerging economies** continue to be problem regions; two thirds of people in extreme poverty live in these regions. For reasons of population policy, among other things, the key approach must be to eradicate poverty among **women**, who account for 70% of the poor worldwide, and to give young people better prospects for the future. Reducing income poverty among women is a key factor in the **fight against hunger and malnutrition**. The concept of social protection floors of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is an important instrument in the fight against poverty. This concept is meant to enable developing countries and emerging economies to build and expand basic systems of social protection.

Health, too, is a crucial fundament of social, economic and political development and stability. Health and access to affordable health care are both preconditions as well as the result of social development and contribute to a significant extent to poverty reduction. Access to affordable healthcare is an effective protection against impoverishment.

1. Leaving no one behind - end extreme poverty

- By 2030, **end extreme income poverty** (1,25$ PPP/day)
- Establish and maintain **national floors of social protection comprising basic social security guarantees** according to ILO recommendation No. 202

2. Quality education and lifelong learning for all

- By 2030, ensure that **every child receives at least a full cycle of basic education** (pre-primary, primary and lower secondary) with recognized and measurable learning outcomes
- Increase **adult literacy** to X%
- By 2020, include sustainable development concepts, health and nutrition related issues, human rights including gender equality at all levels into **education and training curricula**.

3. End hunger and ensure food security and good nutrition

- By 2025, **end hunger** and **reduce malnutrition and stunting** among children under five by 2/3
- Achieve a **land and soil degradation neutral world**
- Increase **sustainable agricultural production** and sustainable **fisheries**
- By 2030, reduce by 50% worldwide **post-harvest loss** and food waste
- Increase access of **smallholder farmers**, **especially women** in rural areas to agricultural land, markets & finances, training, capacity building, knowledge and innovative practices
- Promote **nutrition sensitive cross-sectorial policies** (especially agriculture, health, sanitary, education and social welfare) and strengthen political commitment to do so.
- By 2030, increase by at least 40 % the share of women and men, local communities and businesses with **legally recognised evidence of tenure rights**.

4. Maximizing health for all through achieving universal health coverage

- By 2030, at least 80% of the poorest 40% of the population have coverage to ensure **access to essential health services**.
- By 2030, significantly increase **coverage from financial risk of being pushed into poverty** or kept in poverty because of expenditure on health services.
- By 2030, reduce **maternal and child mortality** by 2/3 and ensure universal sexual and reproductive health and rights
- By 2030 reduce the disease burden due to **infectious diseases**, such as HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria by 2/3 and due to priority non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 1/3

II. Preserve the natural resource base and ensure its sustainable use

Global ecological developments such as climate change, soil degradation or the loss of biodiversity are not only a threat to the integrity of creation but also to the very foundation of prosperous societies. In both developing and industrialised countries, **protecting the natural resource base and global public goods** plays a central role in ensuring continued survival especially for poorer sections of the population and future generations (**intergenerational equity**). Resilience to natural disasters also depends to a large extent on well-functioning ecosystems. In future, resources must be used more **efficiently and sparingly** to ensure that the needs of the people can be met in our times of population growth. This is extremely important in the areas of soils, water, energy and food security, which are inextricably linked and interdependent. On the international stage, Germany is an active and widely acknowledged pioneer in climate and environmental politics. With its **energy turnaround**, Germany stands like no other country for the transformation to an environmentally sound economy. **Emerging economies**, too, must **step up their efforts** to protect natural resources and ecosystems.

5. Achieve universal access to water and sanitation and implement an integrated water resources management

- By 2030, ensure **universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene** for all
- Improve the **resilience** of societies and economies to floods, droughts and other water-related disasters.
- By 2030, improve and secure the **status of water quality and quantity** and reduce **water pollution** including with hazardous chemicals from households, industrial and agricultural sources.
- By 2030, significantly improve **water efficiency** in all sectors, in particular in agricultural/ food, industrial and energy production

6. Secure sustainable energy

- By 2030, ensure universal **access to modern energy services**.
- By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in **energy efficiency**.
- By 2030, double the share of **renewable energy** sources in the energy mix.
- Hold the increase in **global average temperature below 2^0 C** above pre-industrial levels, in line with international agreements.

7. Preserve the environment and manage natural resources sustainably

- Ensure **participation** and access of all individuals and population groups in a transparent and equal manner in/to the sustainable use of natural resources
- By 2020, effective and urgent action has been taken to halt the loss of biodiversity, all ***Aichi* biodiversity targets** are reached and ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, with a view to reach the 2050 vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity
- By 2020, **manage cropland area in a sustainable manner**, also to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and preserve the global area of grasslands, savannahs, wetlands and forests
- By 2030, reach **zero net deforestation.**
- Strengthen forest governance frameworks and promote **sustainable forest management** including the expansion of the global certified forest areas
- By 2020, develop and implement the necessary measures to ensure that **marine ecosystems** are clean, healthy, productive and resilient, marine biodiversity is maintained, and habitats, in particular coral reefs, and species are protected and on track to being restored, i.a. by
  - reducing significantly the direct or indirect **input of substances or energy into the oceans** which result or are likely to result in deleterious effects, such as harm to living resources and marine ecosystems, e.g. chemicals, waste, hazardous substances, nutrients into the oceans and underwater noise and collect the scientific data available on marine litter,
  - minimise **negative impact of fishing activities**
- By 2019, gradually eliminate **discards** by avoiding and reducing, as far as possible, unwanted catches

III. Achieve the creation of decent jobs and adequate income through ecologically sound growth

Economic development must take place **within Earth's ecological carrying capacity**. Therefore, any future agenda must support the objective of enforcing **ecologically sound, inclusive and market-based growth strategies** and of **establishing sustainable consumption and production patterns worldwide**, thereby ensuring the integration of the social, economic and ecological dimension of sustainability. In that context, it has to be borne in mind that 600 million more people will enter the labour market by 2030. Most of them will be living in **cities**.

Although high growth rates and market based reforms in emerging countries have lifted many people to the middle class, reduction of extreme poverty has not been

sufficient yet. Many people see **migration** as their only way out. Migration can only be prevented by creating income opportunities through **training and decent jobs**.

Financial and global trade systems that are stable, crisis-proof and conducive to development are a key prerequisite for long-term growth and sustainable economic activity. Functional framework conditions which provide incentives for environmentally sound technological innovations and their diffusion play a role in this respect. Technical innovations can, e.g., contribute to the enhancement of economic productivity and energy efficiency and the mitigation of climate change.

Germany can make a contribution: Germany follows the overall concept of a social market economy and with its circular economy and resource efficiency scheme, is a pioneer for the transformation necessary to make national economies more sustainable. Promoting employment through vocational training is regarded as a German trademark.

8. Make economic development sustainable

- By 2030, significantly speed up **the decoupling of economic growth from resource use**
- By 2030, take action to implement a **circular economy**, in particular by increasing the prevention, reuse, recycling and energy recovery of waste and significantly reducing landfilling, so that by 2030 the majority of waste globally is managed as a resource.
- By 2030, phase out **environmentally harmful subsidies** including for fossil fuels.
- By 2030, significantly increase the internalization of **environmental external costs,** inter alia in the areas of transport, energy and agriculture.
- By 2030, ensure that **natural resources are used efficiently and sustainably** within the carrying capacity of the planet.
- By 2020, ensure the **sound management of chemicals** throughout their life cycle, so that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.
- By 2030, significantly increase the market share of **sustainable products and services** (e.g. marked with reliable labels) and increase their share **in public procurement.**
- By 2030, publish and use **economic, social and environmental accounts** and implement comprehensive and ambitious **environmental management system** in addition to existing conventional growth/wealth indicators such as GDP in all governments, major companies and international institutions (Natural Capital Accounting including valuation of ecosystem services)

- Preserve **cultural heritage**, strengthen **cultural and creative industries** and foster **sustainable tourism**

9. Create decent jobs and improve the global enabling economic environment

- By 2030, significantly increase the number of **decent jobs** including fair wages (according to the concept of the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO) for women and men alike with a special focus on the employment of women, youth, ethnic minorities and disabled people and the reconciliation of work and family life
- By 2030, decrease the number of **young people not in employment or training** by x% i.a. by promoting education, vocational training, productive skills and employability
- Promote an open, rules-based and development-friendly **multilateral trading system** and ensure the stability of the global financial system incl. the promotion of responsible finance
- Promote **Corporate Social Responsibility** worldwide through the Global Compact and the development of reporting standards
- By 2030, strengthen productive capacity by sharing access to science, technology and innovation and by increasing the use of **Information and Communication Technology** (ICT) by x%

10. Ensure that urbanization is sustainable

- By 2030, ensure universal access to a **secure and affordable built environment** and basic **urban services**
- Increase **resilience** of city regions through efficient land and resource use, climate protection and disaster risk reduction
- Increase the proportion of cities with **sustainable and integrated urban development plans** based on **participatory inclusive processes**
- By 2030, significantly reduce the **severity of air pollution**, in particular by reducing the particulate concentration and SO_2, NO_x and Ozone in urban air.

IV. Strengthen good governance, anchor gender equality, protect and foster human rights, secure peace

Violence, corruption, lack of **legal security**, deficient access to information and restricted freedom of opinion and expression, flight of capital, despotism and a lack of **space for private initiatives and entrepreneurship** continue to be significant

hindrances on the way to sustainable development in many countries. There is a need for action concerning the strengthening of institutions, legal systems, political participation, protection from violence and the **enforcement of efficient framework conditions** for sustainable development. The protection of our natural foundations of life is of particular importance in this respect. That aspect was therefore enshrined in Principle 25 of the Rio Declaration: **"Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible."**

Therefore the Federal Government is of the opinion that **peace and security**, **good governance**, the respect for and protection of **human rights** as well as gender **equality** are fundamental prerequisites and also goals of any development.

11. Achieve gender equality, empower women and enforce women's rights

- Promote **women's voice, leadership and participation** in decision-making processes as well as in public and private institutions
- Improve **women's economic opportunities**, including entrepreneurship, capabilities, income security, as well as access to and control over productive assets and a fairer distribution of family care and household work
- Enact and enforce laws, regulations and policies that prohibit all forms of **discrimination against women and girls** and review existing laws in this regard, ensure women's access to justice and work towards the generation and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.
- Prevent, respond to, and end impunity of **violence against women and girls**

12. Ensure good governance and effective institutions

- Build, ensure and strengthen **effective, accountable and transparent** public and private **institutions** at all levels.
- Increase **political participation** and strengthen state – society relations.
- Strengthen commitment to Rule of Law at national and international level with focus on better **access to justice and independence of the judiciary** as well as other structures and procedures in accordance with rule of law.
- Prohibit all forms of **discrimination against persons with disabilities** and encouraging research on how to improve accessibility and inclusiveness in particular for planning and evaluation.

- Strengthen **good financial governance** (including improvement of domestic resource mobilization through sound and just fiscal systems and elimination of corruption and illicit financial flows).

13. Ensure stable and peaceful societies

- Strengthen effective, formal and informal mechanisms to **manage disputes peacefully**.
- By 2030, significantly reduce **violent deaths** caused by homicides per 100,000 inhabitants
- By 2030, reduce **proliferation** of small arms and light weapons
- By 2030, make more people feel safe and have **confidence in public institutions** and mechanisms to resolve conflicts.
- By 2030, reduce significantly **organized crime** including through addressing its root causes (fight illicit flows of goods and human trafficking)
- By 2030, increase capacities for and access to **disaster risk management** in order to reduce the social and economic impacts of natural hazards and increase the resilience of societies at risk.