

Überschrift/Titel:	German Statement at the SIDS plenary meeting
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Redner/in:	Parliamentary State Secretary Rita Schwarzejlühr-Sutter
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Ort:	Apia, Samoa

Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to have the honour of speaking to you here in this wonderful setting. Its beauty and fragility remind us of what is at stake if we continue with business as usual. Indeed, there are few other places on our planet where the consequences of climate change for humans and nature are more tangible than here. Here it becomes plain for all to see: The fight against climate change is a fight for survival!

Germany has a long-standing partnership with small island states. In light of the challenges of climate change, our cooperation with small island states focuses in particular on adaptation measures such as coastal and marine protection and the conservation of biodiversity through integrated nature

Parliamentary State Secretary Rita Schwarzejlühr-Sutter/Titel: German Statement at the SIDS plenary
conservation strategies. Furthermore, we support the expansion of renewable energies and access to a sustainable and reliable energy supply. Over the past years, the German government has provided over 300 million euros for these projects.

Moreover, Germany, the EU, SIDS and other progressive developing and developed countries are all working together towards a fair, internationally binding climate agreement in Paris in 2015.

I would like to make it quite clear at this point that only a binding and transparent climate agreement aimed at reducing greenhouse gases will enable us to curb the impacts of climate change and keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.

Our task now is to mobilise as much support for this approach as possible. The 2015 climate agreement must kick-start collective climate action which includes ambitious targets for all countries and clear, uniform rules on transparency and comparability of the targets and actions.

At the Petersberg Climate Dialogue in July 2014 in Berlin, Chancellor Merkel announced that Germany will contribute up to 750 million euros to the initial financing of the Green Climate

Fund planned for this year. We call on other countries to make their contributions as well.

Excellencies,
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What we need is nothing less than a paradigm shift towards a low carbon and energy-efficient economy!

Germany is promoting this aim through its bilateral cooperation with developing and newly industrialising countries.

The adoption of ambitious development targets under the post-2015 Agenda next year will also help secure a global transformation towards a green and low-carbon economy with a universal and sustainable energy supply. The emphasis must be on targets which take the planet's ecological carrying capacity into account.

Our experiences in Germany show that decoupling resource consumption from economic growth is possible – and gives rise to many positive effects. As part of the transformation of Germany's energy system - *the Energiewende* - we have set ourselves the goal of raising the renewables' share in electricity

supply from the current 28.5 percent to as much as 80 percent by 2050. By expanding renewable energy and improving energy efficiency we will be able to significantly reduce Germany's CO2 emissions, enhance our supply security, increase investments and secure jobs.

We also want to support an international *Energiewende* in our partner countries, and to this end are advocating the global expansion of renewable energy and the strengthening of the International Renewable Energy Agency IRENA.

Allow me to take this opportunity to invite small island developing states to join the IRENA initiatives and participate in the networks specifically aimed at island states. For SIDS in particular, establishing an efficient, climate-resilient and environmentally sound energy supply is a vital investment in the future.

For it is, in fact, a question of safeguarding our existence – first of all for small island states but ultimately for the whole planet and all who live on it. Let us work together to ensure that we and future generations have a life worth living – here on these beautiful islands and throughout the world.

Thank you very much.

