

Intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 agenda

18 – 22 May 2015, New York

German Statement on

Review and Follow-up of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

held by State Secretary Dr. Friedrich Kitschelt,

Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development

on 19 May 2015

Mr. Co-Facilitator,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add some points in its national capacity. We thank the co-facilitators for the thought-provoking points raised in the discussion paper distributed for this session.

We all know the challenges the global community is facing today: to eradicate poverty and hunger, a proper management of our natural resource base and the necessity to ensure sustainable economic development are only some of the pressing issues we urgently need to deal with. We are at a crossroads, and the year 2015 will be pivotal for the future of people and planet.

We have made significant progress in **setting the parameters** for a social, economic and ecological transformation. But we all know: after the September summit, our work will only just begin. We have a long way ahead of us if we want to **get from aspirations to real change**, and we must not lose sight of our aim: a decent life for all future generations.

The good news is that we need not, and indeed cannot, travel this road alone. To unlock the transformative potential of the post-2015 global sustainability agenda, we will need the overarching framework of a **New Global Partnership**.

The post-2015 agenda is about **challenges that all countries face**. Thus, the goals and targets of the agenda are relevant for all countries and all must contribute to their realization. Each country will need to address these challenges in its national setting: national levels of ambition will be decisive for the success of the global agenda. Shared challenges will need to be addressed by the international community as a whole, each member contributing their fair share.

But the comprehensive set of goals **cannot be achieved by governments alone**. The realization of the agenda needs to be based on a multi-stakeholder-approach: governments, parliaments, civil society, the private sector, academia and others will play a crucial role in the implementation of the agenda. **Ownership by all stakeholders is required for successful implementation**.

Agreeing on an inclusive and transformative agenda that is based on universality, shared responsibility and a multi-stakeholder approach may reflect our best intentions, but we will not know whether we will live up to our collective goals unless we follow-up on their implementation. Therefore, we need an **inclusive and efficient review framework at the national, regional and global levels** to realize the true potential of the agenda.

Why are we convinced that review is of the essence for the realization of the post-2015 agenda? Our answer is simple: review is an instrument that can guide us on our path from aspirations to real change for people and planet. We need an effective review process to see whether we are reaping

the maximum benefits from our implementation efforts, or whether we could learn from each other to better achieve our aims.

The **arguments** in favor of such a review framework are compelling:

As was shown during the implementation of the MDGs, countries derive huge **benefits from improved data and statistics**. For example, there has been a tremendous improvement in the ability of national statistical systems to provide data on poverty, food security and nutrition, child and maternal health and access to water and sanitation over the past ten years that helped States to **better design and target policies**. This has been one of the greatest achievements of MDG monitoring.

Germany understands the follow-up and review as an opportunity to learn from one another as we all strive to achieve the SDGs. We are convinced that an **analytical element** to identify causes for success or failure (i.e. “what worked, what did not work”) would allow States to continuously assess the effectiveness of their own implementation measures and adapt as necessary, and thereby increase **trust in the agenda overall**.

The cornerstone of such an inclusive and effective review framework at the global level will be the **High Level Political Forum**, backed by an effective support structure: it should allow **for a broad assessment of implementation efforts, levels of ambition and achieved results**. In the preparatory process of the HLPF, States should have the opportunity to make national presentations and discuss these presentations amongst each other. Interested States could present the results of this interactive dialogue at the HLPF.

We consider that **the following principles should be reflected in the outcome document** as the basis for an **effective and inclusive review framework on all levels**:

It should build on already established systems. Systems at national level should preferably be set up **on the basis of national sustainable development strategies or other relevant frameworks**. In Germany the cabinet already decided that our National Sustainable Development Strategy provides an essential framework for the national implementation of the post-2015 agenda.

It should foster **ownership by all stakeholders** through a **multi-stakeholder approach** while being transparent and independent as well as ensuring regularity in the review. As laid out in the OWG document, nationally defined strategies and commitments should constitute the basis of a **multi-layered review framework** that interlinks the national, regional and global levels under the leadership of the High Level Political Forum. It should be **evidence-based** and carried out on the basis of clear indicators as well as sound and reliable data. It should go beyond monitoring global progress to include an **analytical element which provides information on gaps, challenges and lessons learnt**. It should **facilitate peer-learning** and exchange on the basis of this analysis. It should be **efficient**, using existing monitoring and review structures for other processes, so as to avoid overstraining international and national capacity.

The objective of this review process is **not to exercise control over each other**, but to **benefit from each other's knowledge** and foster understanding of common challenges. We all have lot to learn from each other, and Germany is looking forward to the opportunity!

How could States benefit from participating in such a review? In our view, it is **in countries' self interest to participate**, since the review will offer States several advantages: Implementation will be a challenging task for all States. **We all have a lot to learn and will profit from the experiences of others**. Participation in the review process on all levels will allow States to

enhance the visibility of their implementation efforts as well as allow them to clearly define their needs. While the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) should have a key oversight role in this task, it is obvious that there will be more **need for further capacity support**. For example, States could be provided with capacity support to conduct inclusive multi-stakeholder evidence-based reviews and to conduct in-depth exchange in a safe space on issues regarding implementation. States wishing to do so should be supported in becoming pioneers for effective and inclusive review processes.

We look forward to further discussing these points with you during this session. I would also like to seize this opportunity to invite you to a side event hosted by Mexico, Peru and Germany on “Benefitting from review” today at 1:15pm, where we look forward to hearing your perspectives on the advantages of an inclusive and effective review mechanism.

In conclusion, I want to underline once again the central importance of creating ownership and bringing everybody on board for the realization of the post-2015 agenda. To achieve this, we must also find a way to **communicate the agenda’s** complexities in a clear and concise manner. For this reason, we welcomed the idea of the UN Secretary General to **reflect the new, holistic and transformative spirit of the agenda in overarching key messages**. These messages should be inspiring, easily understandable and capable of spurring action worldwide through the use of innovative and appealing language. We propose the following key messages to communicate the core of the post 2015 agenda:

End poverty and hunger – fight inequality.

Empower people, achieve gender equality and ensure a good and healthy life for everyone.

Promote shared prosperity and achieve sustainable lifestyles for all.

Respect planetary boundaries: fight climate change, protect and sustainably use natural resources.

Protect human rights – ensure peace, good governance and access to justice.

Establish a new global partnership.

These key messages are not intended to diminish the SDGs in their substance; nor to reduce or simplify them. They should speak to those who are not so deeply involved in the process to **understand the new spirit of the agenda** and should generate support and action worldwide.

We have committed to work together in order to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection for the benefit of people everywhere. Let us work together to make these goals a reality and to deliver on our promises.

I thank you for your attention.