

Germany's Voluntary National Review to the HLPF 2021

Main Messages

In September 2019, Heads of State and Government stated at the SDG Summit that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* could not be reached if the trend in their implementation remained unchanged. It is imperative that we finally achieve effective progress on sustainability, including climate protection over the Decade of Action.

On the basis of the decisions of the European Union and of the recent ruling of the German Federal Constitutional Court, Germany aims at a reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions of at least 65% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. The German Federal Government will set yearly reduction targets in order to reach greenhouse gas emission neutrality by 2045. This needs to be accompanied by an increased effort in climate and sustainability diplomacy, based on a whole-of-government approach.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its worldwide effects have sharply increased the urgency of social and ecological transformation. It has been and remains strategically important to set the tracks for a socially and environmentally more sustainable and thus more future-proof society to pursue a better and green recovery worldwide, in Europe and in Germany. The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs as well as the Paris Agreement should serve as the guiding framework at the national, European and global levels, to redirect policies and programmes in response to the pandemic to “recover better”, guided by the principle of “leave no one behind”.

Progress in the following six transition areas is key to SDG implementation in, with and by Germany:

- (1) Human well-being and capabilities, social justice (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)
- (2) Climate action and energy transition (SDGs 7, 13)
- (3) Circular economy (SDGs 8, 9, 12)
- (4) Sustainable building and transport (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13)
- (5) Sustainable agricultural and food systems (SDGs 2, 3, 8, 12, 13)
- (6) A pollutant-free environment (SDGs 6, 8, 9, 14, 15)

In its new Sustainability Strategy adopted in March 2021, coordinated by the Federal Chancellery, the German Government has identified transformative policies and measures for these six areas, which are designed to achieve measurable progress. The policies and measures are undertaken at three levels, focusing

- on implementation and effect in Germany,
- on international impact and
- on supporting partner countries.

Global responsibility is one of the principles of the German Sustainability Strategy and part of a comprehensive vision for a sustainable future in Germany. Thus, the German Federal Government aligns its international activities with the principle of sustainability. As part of the European Union and together with our European partners, Germany makes an important contribution to coping with global challenges in the long term.

The German Federal Government will continue its efforts in Germany and in its international engagement with partner countries. This commitment is reflected in our position as the second largest donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Sustainable development serves as a guiding principle for German foreign and development policy. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Germany has played a pivotal role in its implementation and the pursuit of its SDGs world-wide.

Peace and security, human rights and sustainable development are all interdependent. Our policy is to strengthen and promote a rules-based international order and multilateral cooperation. The German Federal Government promotes these principles i.a. through the work of the “Alliance for Multilateralism”, which we have initiated together with France and other partners.

The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda is only possible if the effort is based on broad support from society as a whole. The Federal Government has included civil society, business and science in the process of the development of the German Sustainability Strategy as well as in the dialogue process accompanying the preparation of its voluntary national report. The transition to a sustainable Germany can only succeed if understood as a joint endeavor – that is, as a road that the federal, Land and local authorities and the various groups within society will travel together.

