

German Sustainable Development Strategy

Update 2021 – Summary Version



The Federal Government



Sustainable Development Strategy for Germany



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Foreword



At the SDG Summit in 2019, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for a global Decade of Action, based on the risk then – as now – that the world will fail to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

All states must mobilise more quickly and more ambitiously to implement the Agenda. With this recently adopted update to the German Sustainable Development Strategy, the German Government therefore aims to pick up the pace on the path to greater sustainability, both at home and in international cooperation.

The pressure to act has intensified around the world in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has shown us with stark clarity that even if only one of the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, is in jeopardy – in this case Good Health – the consequences for all other areas of life, and thus for all of the other SDGs, may be fatal. We can all see how the pandemic is making it all the more difficult to fight poverty and hunger.

This difficult time has nonetheless brought the growing realisation that global challenges can be overcome only by global efforts. The European Commission's presentation of its European Green Deal as a model for the future is thus a significant step, and one that we followed up during Ger-

many's Presidency of the Council of the EU. Where climate action is concerned, the EU has undertaken to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

If we are to achieve the targets of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must embark on a truly demanding transformation of key areas such as energy, the circular economy, housing, transport, food and agriculture. In Germany, we plan to advance the transformation process with this update to the Sustainable Development Strategy, and by harnessing education, research and innovation.

Our task now is to set the right course for the Decade of Action ahead. Our transformation into a sustainable Germany can succeed only if we all tread this path together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Angela Merkel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Angela Merkel
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany



Setting the right course now for the Decade of Action ahead

Summary Version of the German Sustainable Development Strategy Update 2021

The German Government adopted a **comprehensive update to the German Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS)** on 10 March 2021. This **summary version** provides an overview of the Strategy's principal elements. It is based on the status of work as at 15 December 2020.

I. Decade of Action

2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was formally adopted by the heads of state and government of the 193 member states of the United Nations in New York on 25 September 2015. With its **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, the 2030 Agenda provides the basis for the German Government's sustainable development policy. In September 2019, the heads of state and government attending the SDG Summit in New York determined that the SDGs would not be achieved by 2030 if the current trends continue. Climate change, species loss and rising resource consumption are quite clearly pushing the Earth's boundaries. Equally as urgent is the need to resolve questions of equity between generations and regions.

This prompted the United Nations to call at the SDG Summit for the **next ten years** to be the **Decade of Action** or, strictly speaking, the "Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development".

The only chance of still achieving the SDGs lies in a concerted effort by the international community and each individual state to move much more quickly and ambitiously in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The task is clear: we must set the right course now for the Decade of Action ahead.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated even more clearly than the financial crisis of 2008 how vulnerable every aspect of our societies is to shock. This is true regardless of developmental level.

In just a short time, the coronavirus has forever changed the lives of people not just in Germany, but around the world. Fighting it has forced us to accept restrictions to public life, business and personal freedoms that were previously unthinkable.

Political action in response to the COVID-19 crisis must be **aligned with the 2030 Agenda** and its global SDGs at the national, European and international levels, and guided at all times by the Agenda's maxim of "leave no one behind".

The updated German Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) therefore also contains the measures that the German Government has instituted in response to the pandemic, that at the same time provide a stronger framework for a sustainable future in Germany, Europe and worldwide.

II. Setting course for sustainability – at all levels

1. International level

It is now more than five years since the 2030 Agenda was adopted, at the end of the first cycle of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Bearing this and the findings of the first Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) in mind, current progress is worrying. Quite apart from the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications, the global challenges facing our economic, social and ecosystems are more present than they have ever been. **Action to date falls far short of what is needed to be on course for sustainable development.**

The German Government is committed to multilateral action and to multilateral approaches to implement the 2030 Agenda in its entirety alongside international partners. This covers the different topic areas under the 2030 Agenda, binding agreements under international law, and other forms of international cooperation, in addition to efforts to reinforce international organisations, strategic alliances, and topic-based partnerships.

High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

Since 2016, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development has served as the central forum for exchange and debate on global progress with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Its work centres on the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) published by each state on their action to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Germany campaigns for transparent reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. In July 2016, it was one of the first countries to submit a VNR on the development of its Sustainable Development Strategy. It has notified the UN of its intention to submit a second VNR to the HLPF in July 2021. The report will build on the present update to the Sustainable Development Strategy, and set out Germany's national efforts and plans towards implementation.

A foreign policy task

German foreign policy plays a significant role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and in promoting sustainability at the international level.

In line with the doctrine of “preventing crises, resolving conflicts, building peace”, the principle that peace, security and development are mutually interdependent is the common theme of German foreign policy. With this in mind, it promotes lasting solutions to conflict that involve all of the parties concerned, and addresses global aspects of sustainability through bilateral initiatives and projects on peace and stability, inequality climate and water diplomacy, to give just a few examples. It is also important that individual contributions to implementing the SDGs are rooted in respect for human rights – in other words that they slot in with existing fundamental human rights obligations. Achieving human rights for all is, after all, a key element of sustainable development globally.

International organisations, and multilateralism as an overall approach (cf. the Alliance for Multilateralism), as well as close exchange with partners in a shared community of values and interests, play an important part in global progress towards sustainability. German foreign policy has advanced sustainability at the multilateral level, and its membership of the UN Security Council in 2019/2020 was a further extension of this. In its work on climate change and security, for example, Germany tackled the risk to human and state security posed by climate change, and also put forward Resolution 2467 on sexual violence in conflict. Advocacy for human rights and for greater participation by women are also elements of an overarching understanding of security. Young people are also to be involved more closely in crisis prevention and peace processes in the future. Resolution 2535, adopted under the German presidency of the Security Council, underscored the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, and emphasised the role of young peace activists.

A development cooperation task

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 SDGs, as well as the foremost principles of People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership – the 5 Ps – form the **common thread for the German Government’s development cooperation work**.

As the world’s second-largest public-sector donor to development cooperation, Germany is fundamental to the achievement of the SDGs in its partner countries. In 2019, development support from German public-sector institutions totalled EUR 21.6 billion, corresponding to 0.61 % of the country’s gross national income.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens the progress that has been achieved towards the SDGs. In 2021, the German Government will therefore be providing partner countries with a wide range of targeted assistance to overcome the lasting effects of the virus. The aim of the various programmes is to facilitate an economic recovery that is geared to sustainability (“Recover Better”).

Action against the COVID-19 pandemic

Alongside other international partners, Germany plays a significant part at the multilateral level in the global platform for the development and global distribution of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for COVID-19, known as the ACT Accelerator. The initiative has its origins in a commitment made by the G20 on 26 March 2020. Within this framework, there will be strategic increases to Germany’s contributions to organisations such as the WHO, as well as to multilateral instruments such as Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development set up an Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme as early as April 2020, and reallocated more than EUR 1 billion from the current budget for an immediate crisis response. The second amendment to the 2020 federal budget then released an additional EUR 1.55 billion to the Ministry. The funds are being used to support partner countries with diagnostics, training, water and sanitation programmes, and supplies. Furthermore, the German Government aids partner countries with high levels of poverty with social security programmes and cash transfers to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic.

The Federal Foreign Office responded to the UN Secretary-General’s Global Humanitarian Response Plan by approving a further EUR 450 million in funding.

In addition, via the Federal Ministry for the Environment’s International Climate Initiative (ICI), in July 2020 the German Government announced a COVID-19 response package worth an initial total of EUR 68 million. It is intended to help partner countries cushion the direct impacts of the pandemic, and also link the restarting of the economy and social stabilisation with action on climate and biodiversity. Assistance includes first aid for nature conservation areas and biodiversity hotspots, as well as economic advisors in many ICI partner countries.

2. European level

European cooperation is more crucial than ever in the age of a fundamental shift in the global paradigm, brought about by developments such as climate change, the digital transformation, geopolitical instability, and now the COVID-19 pandemic. By consistently implementing the 2030 Agenda, the EU can make an important contribution to the successful long-term management of global challenges. Europe should be regarded internationally as an advocate of an order of justice, of innovation and of sustainability (Federal Chancellor Merkel in a speech to the European Parliament in Brussels on 8 July 2020).

The **European Commission** made sustainable development a clear priority at the start of the new 2019–2024 legislative period. It announced that it would place the 2030 Agenda at the heart of EU policy and would make it a measure of its actions both internally and externally.

European Green Deal

With its European Green Deal proposal, the Commission also put forward a **new European model of the future** in which, by 2050, Europe will be a climate-neutral, resource-conserving continent with a fair and prosperous society, as well as a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. The social acceptability of change – known as a just transition – will be a further determining factor.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Sustainable development is already laid down as an objective in the **Treaty on European Union**. The EU must therefore determine what the 2030 Agenda actually means at the policy level. In November 2020, the European Commission presented its plan to oversee and achieve the SDGs: “Delivering on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals – A comprehensive approach”.

Germany structured its **Presidency of the EU Council** along sustainable lines, and used it to advance policy portfolios that make a difference to sustainable development as far as possible. In connection with the European Green Deal in particular, these included the Climate Law, the Biodiversity and Forest Strategies, the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, and in the food sector the Farm-to-Fork Strategy, as well as initiatives concerning the digital transformation and sustainability. Spending under the multiannual financial framework and the “Next Generation EU” recovery plan should contribute at least 30 % of the total amount allocated to achieving the EU’s climate targets.

The German Government is working closely with the administrations of other European states on sustainable development. It is a member of the **European Sustainable Development Network** (ESDN).

3. National level

In Germany as in other countries, existing pressure to achieve the Global Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 has been overlaid by the extensive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus increased in many areas.

The declared aim of the German Government is not only to respond to the pandemic, but also swiftly to lead Germany onto a sustainable growth path. This should then trigger a push for modernisation through innovation, so that the country can emerge strengthened from the crisis.

Economic stimulus programme and future technologies package

Adopted on 12 June 2020, the German Government’s **economic stimulus programme** provides EUR 130 billion in financing for 2020 and 2021. It comprises an economic stimulus programme and crisis management package, a future technologies package, and measures geared to the assumption of international responsibilities.

Fast-acting economic measures were taken as quickly as possible to ensure the survival of businesses and social services, preserve jobs and prevent social hardship and social crisis.

The measures contained in the **future technologies package** have a long time horizon. With EUR 50 billion in funding, this package is intended to support Germany’s modernisation and its role as a global exporter of leading technologies, in particular by investing in the digital future and in climate technologies.

Measures under the future technologies package

The measures of the future technologies package fall into the following categories: (1) promoting the mobility transition, (2) the energy transition and climate targets, (3) investments in the digital transformation, (4) promotion of education/training and research, and (5) more resilient healthcare/avoiding pandemics.

Other important elements such as the National Hydrogen Strategy, the Hospital Future Programme and the EU’s SURE short-time work scheme also got off the ground in 2020. By encouraging German vaccine research, the German Government is supporting the development of safe and effective inoculations.

Work is still ongoing on a raft of measures such as expanding the charging station infrastructure, promoting R&D in electromobility and battery cell manufacture, an additional capital injection from the German Government for Deutsche Bahn AG, and investment to support the digital transformation.

III. The German Sustainable Development Strategy

1. Sustainability as a guiding principle

For the German Government, following the guiding principle of sustainable development means working towards its policies **to meet the needs of today's and future generations** – in Germany and in all parts of the world – while allowing them fulfilled lives of dignity.

The three aspects of sustainability

Absolute limit:

Conservation of natural resources globally

A life in dignity for all



This requires **economically efficient, socially balanced and environmentally sustainable development, its absolute outer boundaries** set by the **limits of our planet**, combined with the objective of a **life of dignity for all** (meaning a life without poverty and hunger, and a life in which all people can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality).

The 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The German Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) is **founded on the 2030 Agenda**. Building on the concept of the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental – established at the UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, since 2015 the 2030 Agenda has defined a total of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals concern such different issues as combating poverty and hunger, decent work and economic growth, and climate action. The 17 goals with their 169 associated targets illustrate the breadth of what is understood under “sustainable development”.

The Strategy's sustainability principles

In 2018, the German Government determined **six Principles for Sustainable Development** as a practicable guide to making sustainable development the measure of its actions. The Ministries must observe these principles when formulating measures in the various areas of policy. They describe how sustainable policy looks and what it contains, and are used by the Ministries for a number of purposes including sustainability-related regulatory impact assessments.

The GSDS sustainability principles

Apply sustainable development as a guiding principle at all times and in all decisions

- (1) Assume global responsibility
- (2) Strengthen the natural resource base on which life depends
- (3) Strengthen sustainable economic activity
- (4) Preserve and enhance social cohesion in an open society
- (5) Use education, science and innovation as drivers of sustainable development

(See below in the overview of the sustainability management system)

Vision

The German Government pursues a positive, comprehensive vision of Germany's sustainable future.

Vision

A “sustainable” Germany must be a progressive, innovative, open and liveable country.

It is characterised by a high quality of life and effective environmental protection. It is integrated, inclusive and excludes no one, creates opportunities for the equal participation of everyone in all areas and at all levels. It fulfils its international responsibility.

(German Sustainable Development Strategy, new edition 2016)

2. Origin and evolution of the Strategy

Germany has had a national Sustainable Development Strategy **since 2002**, when it was presented at the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. Since 2004 the GSDS has been updated every four years, with progress reports from the German Government published in 2004, 2008 and 2012.

Since 2015, the German Sustainable Development Strategy has been **founded upon the 2030 Agenda** with its 17 SDGs. The German Government overhauled the GSDS in the light of the 2030 Agenda, adopting a new edition on 11 January 2017. This was itself updated on 7 November 2018.

3. Update – the 2021 Sustainable Development Strategy

In this 2021 update to the GSDS, the German Government sets out what action has been taken since the beginning of the 19th legislative period to **implement the Strategy**, and what further measures are planned.

The update provides the basis for the reinforced sustainability policy that is required for the Decade of Action (2020–30) called for by the UN Secretary-General. The updated Strategy emphasises the need to set high ambitions when tackling key **areas of transformation**, in particular. This also includes **more coherent** political action. At the same time, special attention will be paid to the central role of social stakeholders from the worlds of politics, science, business, trade unions and civic associations, in the sense of **a Joint Effort for Sustainability**.

4. Process of dialogue

Preparations for the Strategy update took the form of a broad-based dialogue process involving mainly the interested professional public, but also the general population.

A **series of dialogue events** began as early as 29 October 2019 in Berlin, followed up by regional conferences that took place up to February 2020 in Stuttgart, Norderstedt and Bonn and that attracted some 1400 citizens. In the first phase, around 400 verbal and written contributions were received both during and after these events. The draft Strategy update was published on 1 October 2020. On 15 October 2020, the German Government held a hearing with a broad range of stakeholders – the 2020 Sustainability Forum.

By the end of October, some 360 institutions, associations, organisations and individuals had submitted responses to the draft, some of which were very comprehensive and

made well-founded points. The draft GSDS update was then revised on the basis of these inputs. **Responses** that were cleared for publication appeared on the www.dialog-nachhaltigkeit.de website.

The German Government does not regard the **German Sustainable Development Strategy** as a finished product that will not be amended in the foreseeable future, but rather as a **work in progress**. In that sense, the GSDS is a living document that the Government will continually review, update, and adjust in line with changing conditions.

Sustainable development is not just a government matter, however. In addition to **action at all** political levels, implementing the 2030 Agenda demands commitment on the part of social **stakeholders** and the public alike.

5. Content of the Strategy

a) Indicators and targets

As a management framework, the Strategy now contains **75 indicators and targets in 39 areas**. Together, they show where we stand on sustainable development, and provide the basis for future action within the bounds of the Strategy.

The indicators were brought into line with the 17 SDGs and given a more international outlook when the 2017 edition of the GSDS was published. They represent issues of particular relevance to Germany when implementing the 2030 Agenda. For every SDG, at least one indicator-backed political target is listed which identifies a relevant need for action in that area, although it does not aim to describe that action in any further detail.

The GSDS indicators should therefore be regarded as **key indicators**. They denote a particularly important topic or outstanding activity connected with an SDG. Some of them also serve as gateways to more comprehensive indicator systems and statistics that already exist. Examples here include the GSDS indicators for poverty and inequality, biodiversity, and crime statistics.

As an independent body, every two years the **Federal Statistical Office** provides an extensive description of the trend in national sustainability indicators in its indicator report. This remit derives from the Sustainable Development Strategy. The degree to which targets are likely to be achieved is scored using weather symbols.

Indicator status

Target will (almost) be reached



Trend is heading in the right direction, but the shortfall will be between 5 % and 20 %



Trend is heading in the right direction, but the target will be missed by more than 20 %



Trend is heading in the wrong direction

The current update includes a series of **new indicators**.

New GSDS indicators

The following indicators are included in the Strategy for the first time: global pandemic prevention – indicator 3.3, women in management positions in the federal civil service – indicator 5.1. c, proportion of fathers receiving parental leave allowance – indicator 5.1.d, high-speed internet expansion – indicator 9.1. b, cultural heritage/improving access to cultural heritage – indicator 11.4, soil protection world-wide – indicator 15.3.b. By strengthening the global dimension of the GSDS indicators, the German Government has responded to input received during the dialogue process.

Compared with 2018, there has been a series of changes to the **off-track indicators**, i.e. those for which it is unlikely that the corresponding targets will be achieved.

Significant improvements have been made with indicators 7.2. a (share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption), 8.2.c (debt) and 11.1c (settlement density). By contrast, the performance of indicators 12.1.bc (global environmental damage caused by private household consumption) and 11.2.a (final energy consumption in freight transport) has deteriorated, and they are now described as “off track”. The scores of six of the off-track indicators have changed, with three better, and three worse.

b) Areas of transformation

Participants in the dialogue process advocated the greater inclusion in the German Sustainable Development Strategy of areas of transformation. These areas are linked to a number of the 2030 Agenda goals, and emphasise how change in one affects the others. Having studied these recommendations, the German Government believes progress in the following areas to be particularly relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

- (1) The human well-being and capabilities; social justice transformation area links SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10.

To facilitate human well-being around the world, human rights must be upheld, work paid appropriately, social security created, gender-specific inequalities tackled and social structures that prevent marginalised sections of society and minorities living a self-determined life changed. The objective is for global value chains to respect these aspects from start to finish.

We did not need the COVID-19 pandemic to demonstrate how good health and well-being are crucial to survival. Interdisciplinary perspectives that place human health in the broader context of animal and environmental health are becoming increasingly important. That is why the German Government is promoting the One Health approach, protecting the health of farm and wild animals, as well as biodiversity and natural habitats, as part of its development cooperation work.

Here, education, science and research form the basis of a self-determined, responsible life, and pave the way for the achievement of all sustainability targets.

- (2) The energy transition and climate action transformation area (SDGs 7 and 13) demands an integrated approach based on protecting the climate.

The adoption of the 2030 Climate Action Programme and the Federal Climate Change Act (*Bundes-Klimaschutzgesetz*) provided important waymarkers for the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2050 and the binding European climate targets for 2030. Sustainable transformation requires energy consumption to be halved by 2050. Greenhouse gas emissions and economic growth must be decoupled. As a contribution to the target of greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050, energy must increasingly be generated from renewable sources. This may also open up new value-creation potential for Germany as a location for business and industry.

- (3) A further area of transformation, the circular economy (SDGs 8, 9 and 12), responds to the need to decouple growth from resource consumption. Consumption and production must remain within the boundaries of our planet.

This involves both consumption by the individual, and reworking the models of value creation that underlie our output. Resource efficiency, the circular economy and sustainable supply chains are equally as essential as preventing waste where possible, and disposing of it responsibly where not. In their management role, politicians and lawmakers must incentivise the sustainable use of resources.

- (4) Construction and buildings, as well as the transport sector, are addressed as part of the sustainable building and mobility transition transformation area. It links with SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13.

Here, too, there are synergies with other sustainability factors. Given its upstream and downstream processes, the construction and buildings sector is closely interwoven with other areas of transformation.

Sustainable construction requirements cover energy efficiency and climate neutrality, biodiversity safeguards, the conservation of resources and the use of renewable raw materials, a reduction in land area use, the sustainable procurement of products and services, including respect for human rights in supply chains, and measures to ensure the health and comfort of users.

All of these requirements demand an approach involving different ministries and sectors. Taking all of the aspects into account, buildings are responsible for around 40% of greenhouse gas emissions. The German Government will therefore put even more effort into promoting sustainable, climate-neutral construction, and will draw up an interministerial action plan in the course of 2021.

The transformation of transportation can succeed only if mobility is recognised as an essential element of life in society that must remain accessible to all. At the same time, mobility must be increasingly responsive to environment and climate-related concerns. To guide this process towards sustainability, in September 2018 the German Government launched the National Future of Mobility (NPM) platform. Since the beginning of 2021, further powerful leverage has come from the introduction of carbon pricing in the transport sector. There must be a particular effort to bring technological innovations and developments in alternative drive technologies and fuels etc. to market quickly, to do full justice to changing mobility needs and the role of the transport sector in climate action.

- (5) An holistic perspective is required to achieve progress in the sustainable agricultural and food systems transformation area, which ties into SDGs 2, 3, 12 and 15. "Food systems" describes the complex interrelationships and interdependencies between the way in which agricultural commodities are produced, processed and transported, and how foodstuffs are consumed and handled. The German Government supports the integrated approach that is also followed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and is working to enhance food systems in Germany and the EU to reflect the SDGs more closely.

In practice, this means jointly formulating national, European and international agricultural, food, health, and environment and climate policy, and designing strategies and measures in the same way. The aim here is to

ensure a sufficient supply of a variety of safe, affordable foodstuffs, as well as a healthy diet for everyone around the world. At the same time, environmental and climate protections must be guaranteed, conditions for farm animals improved, producers' rights respected and their working and living conditions upgraded, and rural areas preserved as attractive places to live and work.

- (6) A pollutant-free environment provides the basis for health and well-being, including both physical and mental health. In addition to all of the environment-related SDGs (6, 13, 14 and 15), this area also affects some of the social goals (SDGs 3 and 11), and impacts directly on the economic ones, especially SDG 8.

The German Government regards the BNB Sustainable Construction Rating System, as well as environmental law in its interplay with requirements under chemicals law, water and emissions protections and legislation on waste, as the main jumping-off points from which to achieve a pollutant-free environment. Consumer awareness about the implications of their decisions should also be raised by a targeted information campaign.

The German Government has identified the primary transformative measures for these areas that will be used to achieve measurable progress in each case.

c) Systematically connecting SDGs, measures, indicators and targets

The German Sustainable Development Strategy is the principal **framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in, by and with Germany**.

Chapter C) of the full version, which is structured according to the 17 SDGs, contains a succinct presentation of the political priorities in each case, as well as examples of action to implement the SDGs.

Measures in, by and with Germany

The measures that are presented in the full version are divided into three levels:

- The first level concerns measures with effects **in Germany**;
- The second level concerns measures implemented **by Germany** with global effects, in particular activities for the benefit of public goods around the world, i.e. global well-being; and
- The third level concerns specific support for other countries, in other words measures taken jointly **with Germany**, in particular in the context of bilateral international cooperation.

This structure is based on the logic that, to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, the German Government must play its part both nationally and internationally. This affects the ministries and the full spectrum of their actions, including their strategies, programmes, projects, related legislation, promotion efforts, etc.

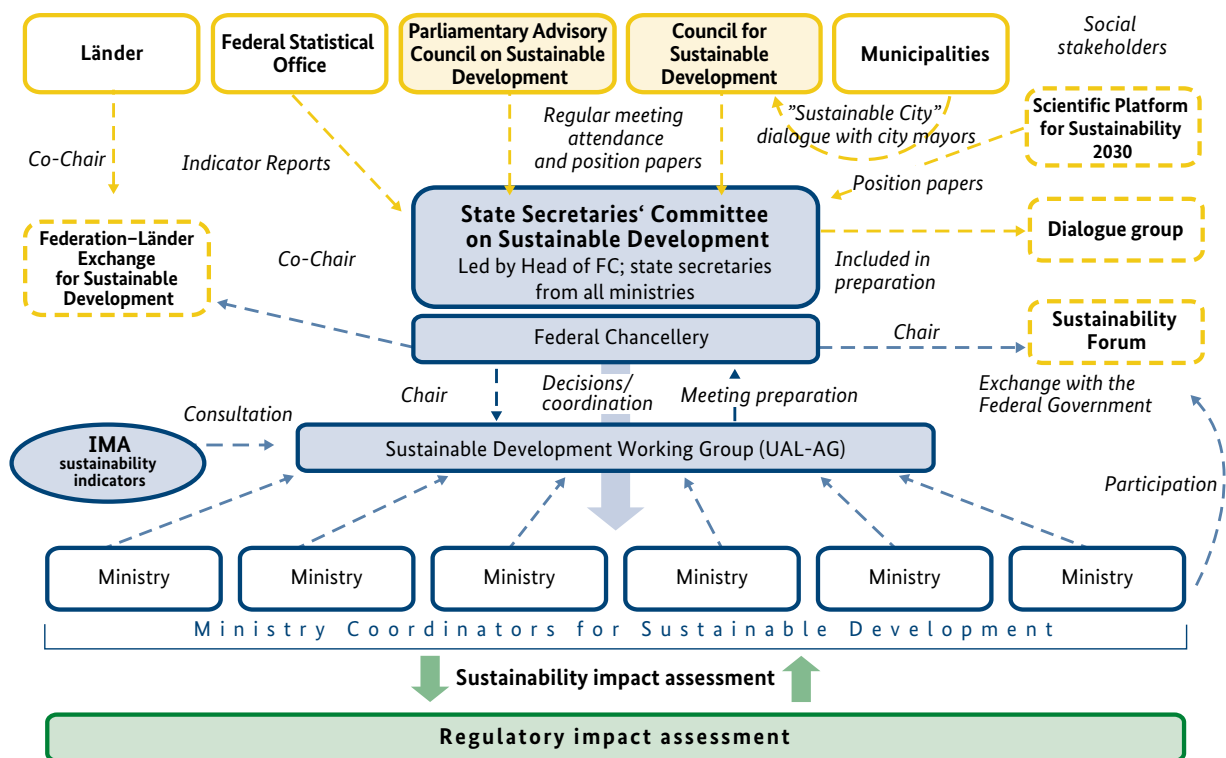
Indicators and targets

For each measure described, there follows an outline of the indicators specified as part of the Sustainable Development Strategy, with their targets (see above). To emphasise the leverage effect of the Strategy, each of its indicators is followed directly by remarks on what the German Government is doing to achieve the targets set for that indicator. The guiding effect of the Strategy is thus clear.

In accordance with recommendations, particularly those arising from the international peer review of the 2018 GSDS, the Government is focusing particular attention on measures relating to those indicators where achievement of the targets is not yet assured. These outlines reflect the way in which “off-track” indicators were treated at the meeting of the State Secretaries’ Committee on Sustainable Development in December 2019.

The 75 **individual Strategy targets form an entity**. Although they are presented individually, they are interrelated and interdependent in multiple respects. Progression in the six areas of transformation is therefore hugely relevant to their achievement. Improvements affect several SDGs or indicators at once, and they also have the potential to resolve conflicts between targets that have hitherto hampered progress.

IV. Institutions and responsibilities



a) Role of the Federal Chancellery and of the ministries

Sustainability encompasses all areas of policy.

In view of its overarching, cross-cutting nature and particular significance, responsibility for the German Sustainable Development Strategy lies with the **Federal Chancellery**. In Germany, sustainable development goes right to the top.

At the practical level, this does not change the responsibility of the **ministries** for implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda in their respective policy fields. Independently of where lead roles and responsibilities are actually allocated, all ministries have a shared responsibility for achieving the GSDS’s targets.

b) State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development

The State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development is chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery and serves as **central coordinator** for the Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Committee continually updates the content of the national Sustainable Development Strategy, ensuring that it is incorporated as a common theme into all areas of policy. Its meetings are attended at permanent state secretary level by all ministries.

Depending on the topic, **external experts** may also be invited to attend. The chairs of the Sustainable Development Council and the Parliamentary Advisory Council are also present.

The meetings of the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development are prepared by a working group led by the Federal Chancellery. This group is also responsible for supporting the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy, and for its continuing evolution. Additionally, in each legislative period each ministry reports on progress on putting the Strategy into effect.

c) Sustainable Development Council

The Sustainable Development Council has advised the German Government on all sustainability matters **since 2001**, and continues to draft submissions for the ongoing development of the Sustainable Development Strategy. The Council publishes position papers on relevant sustainability-related issues, and helps to create public awareness and social dialogue surrounding sustainability. The professional and personal backgrounds of its **15 members**, last appointed on 1 January 2020 for a term of three years, reflect the three dimensions of sustainability. The Council is professionally independent.

Its many activities include Regional Networks of Sustainability Strategies (**RENN**), its own German Sustainability Code (**DNK**), which currently has more than 600 participating companies, and the organisation of German participation in the European Sustainable Development Week (**ESDW**), plus at present the conceptual framework and implementation of the Joint Effort for Sustainability (see below).

d) Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development

The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development has provided support for the national and European Sustainable Development Strategy **since 2004**.

In 2009, it began conducting **sustainability impact assessments** of legislation. Its position papers are used by the relevant lead committees in their own reviews.

The Council's first **plenary sustainability week** was held in September 2020.

e) Ministry Coordinators

To ensure that the ministries within the German Government coordinate and act together, since the first half of 2017 each has appointed a Ministry Coordinator for Sustainable Development.

They are the **central points of contact** for questions concerning sustainable development. They are involved across the various departmental entities in the incorporation of the Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda in departmental policy, for example by factoring aspects of sustainability into legislative and regulatory procedures.

5. Instruments, procedures and levers

The German Government uses a series of strategic instruments and procedures to speed up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Achieving sustainable development targets demands not only action at policy level, but also an operating framework that makes sustainable development at all possible.

a) Regulatory impact assessments for sustainable development

Section 44 (1) sentence 4 of the Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries requires a **sustainability impact assessment** to be conducted for every draft law or ordinance before it goes to the vote. The targets and indicators of the GSDS, the Principles for Sustainable Development, and other benchmarks relating to the individual SDGs provide the frame of reference for this assessment.

A computer-assisted tool – the **electronic sustainability impact assessment, eNAP** – was developed to improve the quality of regulatory impact assessments, while making them easier to perform. Users are guided systematically through the principal content of the GSDS that is relevant to the assessment. eNAP was launched on 1 March 2018 and is now used by the ministries as standard procedure for their sustainability impact assessments.

b) Communications

Communications on the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy are one of the primary elements of German sustainability policy. They are of great importance in the public relations work of the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government and the individual ministries.

c) Funding as leverage

The German Government has defined five levers for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: governance, social mobilisation and participation, funding, research, and international responsibility and cooperation.

Public finances can exert considerable leverage towards the achievement of sustainable development targets, and towards progress in areas of transformation. This is true not only of the federal budget itself, but also of the subsidies and financial investments that come from it, and the **sustainable procurement** of products and services. Based on the guidelines on subsidy policy, **subsidies** must undergo both a sustainability impact assessment and regular evaluations that are aligned with the targets of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and focused on long-term economic, environmental and social effects.

In the interests of putting fiscal and budgetary policy leverage to even better effect to promote sustainable development, the German Government will conduct a pilot project to investigate what options exist for **linking** the SDGs and the targets and indicators of the GSDS **with the federal budget**.

By regularly **issuing green federal securities** (the first issue in H2 2020 had a total volume of EUR 11.5 billion), the German Government does much to grow the market for sustainable financial products.

d) Sustainable administration/continuing education

In the interests of sustainable government, since 2010 the German Government has set specific targets under what is known as the **Programme of Sustainability Measures**. Progress with the implementation of those measures is recorded annually and published in a monitoring report.

The programme of measures of 30 March 2015 addresses all agencies and institutions of the direct federal administration, and contains 11 areas for action: the Federal Government's function as a role model for sustainable construction, climate action as a step on the way to a climate-neutral federal administration, the use of renewable energies in the heating of federal buildings, energy-efficient modernisation plan for federal properties, energy/environmental management systems, public procurement, sustainability criteria for cafeteria services, reduction and offsetting of CO₂ emissions caused by transport, event organisation, compatibility of work with family life/care, including equal participation in management positions, and cultural diversification within the administration.

An update to the programme of measures is planned by the summer of 2021.

The year 2030 was set as the target year for a climate-neutral federal administration in the autumn of 2019, with the Government's 2030 Climate Action Programme and the Federal Climate Change Act. To support the various aspects of this work, further to a decision by the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development the Federal Ministry for the Environment set up a **Federal Climate-Neutral Coordination Unit** (KKB). The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Environment Ministry have already set their administrations on a climate-neutral path, in 2019 and 2020 respectively. They both adopt the hierarchical principle of "avoid – reduce – offset".

A further aim of the programme of measures is steadily to improve the incorporation of aspects of sustainability in **public procurement award procedures**. The role of the **Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Procurement** (KNB), which forms part of the Procurement Office of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, is particularly important here.

The sustainability training office has formed part of the **Federal Academy of Public Administration** (BAköV) since January 2020. It offers needs-based continuing education and support on sustainability for managers and staff of the German Government.

V. Joint Effort for Sustainability

The multi-stakeholder approach is an important principle behind the 2030 Agenda. Sustainable development requires all governmental and non-governmental actors to work together.

1. Involvement of social stakeholders in the work of the Strategy

In the new edition of the GSDS, the German Government has created new formats for including social stakeholders:

a) Sustainability Forum

The annual Sustainability Forum is where the German Government consults with social stakeholders on progress with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the continued development of the GSDS.

b) Dialogue Group

Since June 2018, a group consisting of **15 institutions and organisations**, known as the Dialogue Group, has helped to prepare the focus topics for the individual meetings of the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development. These institutions and organisations represent the fields of business, environment, society and development/international affairs. The ministry responsible for preparing each meeting topic also invites five other organisations/institutions with a particular connection to the topic to a Dialogue Group meeting in preparation for the State Secretaries' Meeting.

c) Scientific Platform for Sustainability 2030

The Scientific Platform for Sustainability 2030 was launched in 2017 as hub for science, society and policy. It provides scientific expertise to support the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda.

2. Länder/local authority level

a) Länder

Within the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany, legislative and administrative authority over key aspects of sustainable development rests with the individual Länder. The Länder therefore play a decisive role in the implementation of the GSDS and the 2030 Agenda.

Meeting twice a year, the **Federation-Länder Exchange on Sustainable Development** (BLE NE) was established as a

format for regular exchange on current sustainability-related issues at both federal and Land level. Meetings are prepared and led by the Land currently holding the chair of the Conference of Minister-Presidents, together with the Federal Chancellery. In 2018, a set of common indicators for the Federal Government and the Länder was determined on the basis of the indicators in the Sustainable Development Strategy.

The political will to adopt a shared approach is also expressed in the declaration entitled "**Working together to promote sustainable development – assuming responsibility for a bright future in Germany, Europe and around the world**" that was made by the Federal Chancellor and the heads of government of the Länder on 6 June 2019. In the declaration, the Länder announced that they would align their political activities with the principles of sustainable development set out in the Sustainable Development Strategy as a "common compass". The Federal Government and the Länder have further stated that they regard sustainable development as a joint effort.

b) Local authorities

In a multi-level federal system, each level of government bears a joint responsibility for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda in and with Germany. The development and implementation of integrated **local government sustainability strategies** are an important instrument of which even greater use should be made in the future. To highlight the local authorities' contribution to the 2030 Agenda, municipal umbrella organisations cooperated with other stakeholders to develop SDG indicators for local authorities (www.sdg-portal.de).

3. Social stakeholders

In the latest German Sustainable Development Strategy, the German Government has defined **strengthening cooperation with social stakeholders** as one of the update's areas of focus. The German Government will continue to involve civil society closely in the continued evolution of the GSDS, and in other sustainability-related processes. These include the production of the Voluntary National Review for submission to the United Nations in 2021, which is intended to incorporate input from civil society.

Scientific community

The social, environmental and economic challenges associated with the 2030 Agenda cannot be overcome without science.

A free scientific community is one of the main drivers of innovation for a sustainable future in the sense of the 17 SDGs.

Germany has a powerful scientific sector. For many years it has been doing sterling work both nationally and internationally to ensure preparedness for the future. Examples here include the German Government's Scientific Advisory Council on Global Environmental Change (WBGU), and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). These and other activities involve identifying long-term trends and risks, as well as specific potential solutions for social and political processes.

With its innovative capacity, the German research community is helping to develop new solutions and products to help achieve the SDGs in Germany and world-wide. Decisive here are participatory interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to research that encourage exchange between science and politics, and society and business. The **Research for Sustainability** (FONA) framework promoted by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research has a particular part to play here.

Business

Many of the SDGs are **directly linked to business**. This is particularly evident in the case of SDGs 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth", 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure", and 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production". Economic growth also has an indirect effect on other areas of the 2030 Agenda, however. Without growth that is broad and inclusive, it will be impossible to make significant progress in the fight against poverty and hunger (SDGs 1 and 2), or Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3).

There are various frameworks and activities that call for and support **corporate social responsibility** and duties of due diligence. At the international level, these include the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the UN Global Compact. The central reference framework at the national level is the National Action Plan Business and Human Rights. Alongside them stand a whole raft of business initiatives such as *ecosense* and *Chemie hoch drei*, as well as multi-stakeholder programmes such as the fora for sustainable cocoa and sustainable palm oil, the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, and the German Sustainability Award Foundation. They can provide impetus for further activities to ensure increased sustainability in business. Furthermore, business representatives have participated with

trade unions, non-governmental organisations and the scientific and political spheres within the German Government's National CSR Forum.

In addition to the manufacturing and service sectors, the **financial sector** wields special influence here. Its primary function remains the provision of investment capital for productive commercial projects. That said, **ESG (environment, social and governance) criteria must be factored more systematically into investment decisions**. Sustainable investments have a long time horizon, and achieve above-average returns while respecting environmental boundaries and social considerations.

4. Towards a Joint Effort for Sustainability

Realistically, the 2030 Agenda and the German Sustainable Development Strategy can be implemented successfully only if they are broadly supported and actively furthered by society as a whole. Putting the 2030 Agenda into practice is a joint effort.

Many citizens are already engaged in countless organisations and initiatives for sustainable development, in Germany and around the world. In Germany, some 30 million people have volunteered their time and are doing their bit to improve social cohesion. Each and every individual can also make a real difference with their day-to-day actions.

The aim is to make this social engagement visible, to expand it still further, and to create networks between those involved.

Building on the 12 November 2020 decision of the Federal Government and the Länder, the **Joint Effort for Sustainability** is intended to help do just that. It is scheduled for launch in the summer of 2021. The Länder welcomed the news that the Federal Government has entrusted the concept and implementation of the initiative to the **Sustainable Development Council**.

VI. Outlook

Sustainability policy is a process that must be driven steadily forwards, independently of election periods. It is an ongoing task, involving the continual review and updating of the German Sustainable Development Strategy in collaboration with social stakeholders.

The German Government will thus forge ahead with the Strategy, through the work of the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development and, equally, the implementation of GSDS targets at ministry level. Priority here will be given to policy areas in which the indicators are currently off track. Particular attention will be paid to the areas of transformation identified for the first time in this Strategy update.

The GSDS should be expanded to cover the establishment of the Joint Effort for Sustainability. In the future as now, an ambitious policy on sustainability relies on the support of all social stakeholders.

The path to sustainable development, be it global or national, has been made even more arduous by the COVID-19 pandemic, yet tread it we must. We must **set the right course now**, in all areas, to achieve the profound change that is so needed.

Together, we can do it. Success is in our own hands.



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 German Government policy. As an objective and yardstick of government action at national, European and international levels, it must be observed when enacting measures in all policy fields. The planetary boundaries of our Earth, together with the objective of a dignified life for all, form the ultimate parameters for political decisions.
2. Sustainability aims to achieve intergenerational equity, social cohesion and quality of life, and the assumption of international responsibility. With this in mind, economic performance, the protection of natural resources, and social responsibility are to be combined in a way that ensures that growth is viable in the long term.
3. The German Sustainable Development Strategy is the 2016 edition of the 2002 Strategy (National Sustainable Development Strategy), with the present update. It sets out a process of policy development for the longer term and offers guidance in this regard.
4. Primary responsibility for sustainable development at the national level rests with the Federal Chancellery, in order to emphasise its importance for all policy areas and ensure monitoring and control across all ministries
5. Making sustainability a reality depends to a large extent on how all levels interact:

a) International level

Germany is committed to achieving progress on sustainable development within the framework of the United Nations – and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in particular – as well as in other formats such as the G7 and G20, and bilaterally.

b) European level

Germany

- is committed to strengthening sustainability and to implementing the 2030 Agenda at the European level, specifically via a shared implementation strategy and the link between it and national strategies; and

- cooperates closely with other European countries on sustainable development issues, the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) being one vehicle here.

c) Länder and local authorities

The Federal Government and the Länder communicate on sustainability regularly in the relevant forums, with the aim of improving the coordination of activities and goals. Particular emphasis is placed on the Federation-Länder Exchange on Sustainable Development. It is based on the joint declaration by the Federation and the Länder of 6 June 2019 on sustainable development. Municipal umbrella organisations are also involved in the work of the Strategy.

6. Social stakeholders: the Joint Effort for Sustainability

The German Government regards sustainability as a joint effort that should involve all social stakeholders.

- Stakeholders from civil society (the public, trade unions, religious organisations and civic associations) are an integral part of achieving sustainability in many different ways, and are involved continually. Among other things, consumers make individual contributions with their purchasing decisions, and by using these products in a socially acceptable, environmentally friendly and economically useful manner.

- The private sector – businesses, chambers of commerce and associations – are called upon to do their part to support sustainable development. For example, businesses are responsible for their own production processes, products and services, and the associated supply chains, as well as for upholding human rights. Informing consumers about the health and environment-related properties of products, and about sustainable production methods, is part of this responsibility.

- The scientific community plays an important part in the updating and implementation, based on knowledge and facts, of the German Sustainable Development Strategy.

- The arts and the media sketch out the kind of society in which we want to live in the future, and function as drivers of innovation for sustainable development.

II. Sustainability management concept

1. The ministries within the German Government use the sustainable development management concept to assess and develop measures in their particular areas of responsibility. This concept contains the following three elements:

- Principles of sustainable development (see 2. below)
- Indicators and targets (see 3. below)
- Monitoring (see 4. below).

2. Principles of sustainable development

The following principles set out the fundamental requirements for sustainable policy. They are intended as an aid to putting the guiding principle of sustainable development into practice. The principles are based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and set in the context of the urgent need to transform our society and our economy.

(1.) Apply sustainable development as a guiding principle at all times and in all decisions

The overriding goal and benchmark of all action is to safeguard the Earth's natural resources on a permanent basis and to enable all people to live a life in dignity now and in the future.¹

To this end, economic efficiency, the protection of natural resources, social justice and equal participation must be synthesised in all decisions, while taking account of systemic interrelationships and technological and societal innovations, so that developments for present and future generations are environmentally and socially sustainable on a global scale. Political action must be coherent.

(2.) Assume global responsibility

- a) In line with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, the following must be combined at global level:
- The fight against poverty, hunger, social inequality and exclusion;
 - Respecting, protecting and guaranteeing human rights;
 - Comprehensive participation for all in economic and social development;
 - Protection of the environment, especially the cli-

mate, including compliance with environmental boundaries in a regional and global context;

- Responsible government action under the rule of law.

b) Germany must consider and encourage sustainable development in other countries. Wherever possible, our actions in Germany must not cause burdens for people or the environment in other countries.

(3.) Strengthen the natural resource base on which life depends

a) To strengthen the natural resource base and keep within planetary boundaries, material cycles must be closed as quickly as possible and/or brought into alignment with ecosystem processes and functions. To this end:

- Renewable natural goods (e.g. woods and fish populations) and soils may be used only within the bounds of their ability to regenerate and without impairing their other environmental functions;
- Non-renewable natural goods (e.g. minerals and fossil fuels) must be used as sparingly as possible. Renewable resources are to replace the use of non-renewable resources, provided this reduces the environmental impact and this use is also sustainable in every aspect;
- Substances may be released into the environment only in line with the precautionary principle and within the environmental boundaries of the sustainability of natural systems (environmental responsiveness).

b) Dangers and unjustifiable risks to human health and nature must be avoided.











(4.) Strengthen sustainable economic activity











- a) The structural transformation required for global sustainable consumption and production and the technological advancements to be harnessed for this purpose should be financially viable as well as ecologically and socially sustainable, and should ensure intergenerational equity in the German and global contexts.
- b) Energy and natural resource consumption and the provision of transport services must be decoupled from economic growth. At the same time, the aim must be to curb the increase in demand for energy, resources and transport, and for consumption to decline as a result of efficiency gains (absolute decoupling).










¹ World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987










- c) Sustainable agriculture and fishing must be productive, competitive and socially and environmentally compatible; they must protect and conserve biodiversity, soils and waters in particular, and take into account the requirements of livestock farming that respects animal welfare, and precautionary consumer protections, especially where health is concerned.
- d) Public budgets are obliged to take account of intergenerational equity in all of the dimensions of sustainability. The financial markets must also consider the requirements of sustainable development.
- (5.) Preserve and enhance social cohesion in an open society
- To strengthen social cohesion and leave no one behind:
- Poverty and social exclusion must be overcome and prevented to the greatest possible extent, and inclusive prosperity promoted;
 - Efforts must be made to achieve equivalent living standards in every region;
 - Everyone must have an equal opportunity to share in economic growth;
 - Necessary adaptations to demographic change must be made at an early stage at the political and economic levels and in society;
 - Everyone must be able to fully take part, without discrimination, in social, cultural and political life;
 - Contributions must be made to reduce poverty and inequality world-wide.
- (6.) Use education, science and innovation as drivers of sustainable development
- a) The necessary qualifications and skills must be enshrined throughout the education system in the sense of *education for sustainable development*.
- Opportunities to share in high-quality education and acquire skills for sustainable development must be further improved, regardless of background, gender or age.
- b) All decisions must be based on scientific findings. Science and research are called upon to focus more intensively on the goals and challenges of global sustainable development.
- c) Sustainability aspects must be included consistently in innovation processes right from the start, especially in the context of the digital transformation, so that opportunities for sustainable development can be seized and risks for people and the environment can be avoided. At the same time, the willingness and scope to innovate must be broadened.












3. Sustainable development is measured in 39 areas using the following key indicators:








No.	Indicator field <i>Sustainability postulate</i>	Indicators	Targets	Status
SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere				
1.1.a	Poverty <i>Limiting poverty</i>	Material deprivation	Keep the proportion of persons who are materially deprived considerably below the EU-28 level by 2030	
1.1.b		Severe material deprivation	Keep the proportion of persons who are severely materially deprived considerably below the EU-28 level by 2030	
SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture				
2.1.a	Farming <i>Environmentally sound production in our cultivated landscapes</i>	Nitrogen surplus in agriculture	Reduction of the nitrogen surpluses of the overall balance for Germany to 70 kilograms per hectare of utilised agricultural area on an annual average between 2028 and 2032	
2.1.b		Organic farming	Increase the proportion of organically farmed agricultural land to 20% by 2030	
2.2	Food security <i>Realising the right to food world-wide</i>	Support for good governance in attaining appropriate nutrition worldwide	Funds disbursed for the application of the guidelines and recommendations of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to be increased appropriately as a percentage of total spending on food security by 2030	–
SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages				
3.1.a	Health and nutrition <i>Living healthy longer</i>	Premature mortality (women)	To be reduced to 100 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants (women) by 2030	
3.1.b		Premature mortality (men)	To be reduced to 190 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants (men) by 2030	
3.1.c		Smoking rate among adolescents	Reduction to 7% by 2030	
3.1.d		Smoking rate among adults	Reduction to 19% by 2030	
3.1.e		Obesity rate among children and adolescents	Increase to be permanently halted	–
3.1.f		Obesity rate among adults	Increase to be permanently halted	
3.2.a	Air pollution <i>Keeping the environment healthy</i>	Emissions of air pollutants	Reduction of emissions to 55% of 2005 level (unweighted average of the five pollutants) by 2030	











3.2.b		Share of the population with excessive exposure to PM10	WHO particulate matter guideline value of 20 micrograms/cubic metre for PM10 to be adhered to as widely as possible by 2030	
3.3	Global health <i>Strengthening the global health architecture</i>	Germany's contribution to global pandemic prevention and response	Expenditure to be increased by 2030	
SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all				
4.1.a	Education <i>Continuously improving education and vocational training</i>	Early school leavers	Reduce the proportion to 9.5 % by 2030	
4.1.b		Persons with an academic or higher vocational qualification (30 to 34-year-olds with a tertiary or post-secondary non-tertiary level of education)	Increase the proportion to 55 % by 2030	
4.2.a	Prospects for families <i>Improving the compatibility of work and family life</i>	All-day care provision for 0 to 2-year-old children	Increase to 35 % by 2030	
4.2.b		All-day care provision for 3 to 5-year-old children	Increase to 60 % by 2020 and to 70 % by 2030	
SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls				
5.1.a	Equality <i>Promoting equality and a partnership-based division of responsibilities</i>	Gender pay gap	Reduce the gap to 10 % by 2020, maintained until 2030	
5.1.b		Women in management positions in business	30 % women on supervisory boards of listed and fully co-determined companies by 2030	
5.1.c		Women in management positions in the federal civil service	Equal-opportunity participation of women and men in civil service management positions by 2025	
5.1.d		Proportion of fathers receiving parental allowance	65 % by 2030	
5.1.e	<i>Strengthening the economic participation of women globally</i>	Vocational qualifications of women and girls through German development cooperation	To be increased gradually by a third by 2030 compared to 2015 as the base year	–

SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all				
6.1.a	Water quality <i>Reduction of substance pollution in water</i>	Phosphorous in flowing waters	Not exceeding benchmark values for specific types of water bodies at all monitoring points by 2030	
6.1.b		Nitrate in groundwater	Compliance with the nitrate threshold value of 50 mg/l at all monitoring points by 2030	
6.2.a	Drinking water and sanitation <i>Better access to drinking water and sanitation world-wide, higher (safer) quality</i>	Number of people gaining first-time or upgraded access to drinking water owing to German support	6 million people per year by 2030	–
6.2.b		Number of people gaining first-time or improved access to sanitation owing to German support	4 million people per year by 2030	–
SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all				
7.1.a	Resource conservation <i>Using resources economically and efficiently</i>	Final energy productivity	Increase by 2.1 % per year from 2008 to 2050	
7.1.b		Primary energy consumption	Reduction by 20 % by 2020, by 30 % by 2030, and by 50 % by 2050, all compared to 2008	
7.2.a	Renewable energies <i>Strengthening a sustainable energy supply</i>	Share of renewable energies in gross final energy consumption	Increase to 18 % by 2020 and to 30 % by 2030, to 45 % by 2040 and to 60 % by 2050	
7.2.b		Share of electricity from renewable energy sources in gross electricity consumption	Increase to at least 35 % by 2020, 65 % by 2030, and greenhouse gas neutrality of electricity generated and consumed in Germany by 2050	
SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all				
8.1	Resource conservation <i>Using resources economically and efficiently</i>	Raw material input productivity	Trend of the years 2000–2010 to be maintained until 2030	
8.2.a	Government debt <i>Consolidating public finances – creating intergenerational equity</i>	Government deficit	Annual government deficit less than 3 % of GDP To be maintained until 2030	
8.2.b		Structural deficit	Structurally balanced government budget, general government structural deficit must not exceed 0.5 % of GDP To be maintained until 2030	

8.2.c		Government debt	Ratio of government debt to GDP must not exceed 60% To be maintained until 2030	
8.3	Provision for future economic stability <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	
8.4	Economic performance <i>Combining greater economic output with environmental and social responsibility</i>	Gross domestic product per capita	Steady and appropriate economic growth	
8.5.a	Employment <i>Boosting employment levels</i>	Employment rate, total (20 to 64-year-olds)	Increase to 78% by 2030	
8.5.b		Employment rate, older people (60 to 64-year-olds)	Increase to 60% by 2030	
8.6	Global supply chains <i>Enabling decent work world-wide</i>	Members of the Textile Partnership	Significantly increase by 2030	
SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation				
9.1.a	Innovation <i>Shaping the future sustainably with new solutions</i>	Private and public expenditure on research and development	At least 3.5% of GDP per year by 2025	
9.1.b		Roll-out of broadband – share of households with access to gigabit broadband services	Universal gigabit network Roll-out by 2025	–
SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries				
10.1	Equal educational opportunities <i>Improving educational success of foreigners in German schools</i>	Foreign school graduates	Increase the proportion of foreign school leavers with a least a secondary general school certificate and bring into line with that of German school leavers by 2030	
10.2	Distributive justice <i>Preventing excessive inequality within Germany</i>	Gini coefficient of income after social transfers	Gini coefficient of income 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	Land use <i>Using land sustainably</i>	Expansion of settlement and transport area in ha per day	Reduction to under 30 ha on average per day by 2030	
11.1.b		Loss of open space area	Reduce the loss of per capita open space area	
11.1.c		Density of settlements	No reduction in density of settlements	
11.2.a	Mobility <i>Guaranteeing mobility – protecting the environment</i>	Final energy consumption in goods transport	Reduction by 15–20 % by 2030	
11.2.b		Final energy consumption in passenger transport	Reduction by 15–20 % by 2030	
11.2.c		Accessibility of medium-sized and large cities by public transport	Reduction of average travel time by public transport	–
11.3	Housing <i>Affordable housing for all</i>	Housing cost overload	Reduce the proportion of people who are overburdened to 13 % by 2030	
11.4	Cultural heritage <i>Improving access to cultural heritage</i>	Number of objects in the German Digital Library	Increase in the number of objects in the network of the German Digital Library to 50 million by 2030	
SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns				
12.1.a	Sustainable consumption <i>Making consumption environmentally and socially compatible</i>	Market share of products certified by publicly managed eco-labelling schemes (in future: market share of products and services bearing trustworthy and demanding eco- and social labels)	Increase the market share to 34 % by 2030	
12.1.ba		Global environmental impact by private household consumption – use of raw materials	Steady reduction	
12.1.bb		Global environmental impact by private household consumption – energy consumption	Steady reduction	
12.1.bc		Global environmental impact by private household consumption – CO ₂ emissions	Steady reduction	

12.2	Sustainable production <i>Steadily increasing the proportion of sustainable production</i>	EMAS eco-management	5,000 locations of organisations by 2030	
12.3.a	Sustainable procurement <i>Giving shape to the public sector's exemplary role in sustainable procurement</i>	Paper bearing the Blue Angel label as a proportion of the total paper consumption of the direct federal administration	Increase the proportion to 95% by 2020	–
12.3.b		CO ₂ emissions of commercially available vehicles in the public sector	Significantly reduce	–
SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts				
13.1.a	Climate protection <i>Reducing greenhouse gases</i>	Greenhouse gas emissions	Reduce by at least 40% by 2020 and by at least 55% by 2030, in each case compared to 1990; greenhouse gas neutrality to be achieved by 2050	
13.1.b	<i>Contribution to international climate finance</i>	International climate finance for the reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change	Double finance by 2020 compared to 2014	
SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development				
14.1.aa	Protecting the oceans <i>Protecting and sustainably using oceans and marine resources</i>	Nitrogen input in coastal and marine waters – nitrogen input via the inflows into the Baltic Sea	Adherence to good quality in accordance with the Ordinance on the Protection of Surface Waters (Oberflächengewässerverordnung) (annual averages for total nitrogen in rivers flowing into the Baltic may not exceed 2.6 mg/l)	
14.1.ab		Nitrogen input in coastal and marine waters – nitrogen input via the inflows into the North Sea	Adherence to good quality in accordance with the Ordinance on the Protection of Surface Waters (annual averages for total nitrogen in rivers flowing into the North Sea may not exceed 2.8 mg/l)	
14.1.b		Share of sustainably fished stocks of fish in the North and Baltic Sea	All fish stocks used for commercial purposes to be sustainably managed in accordance with the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) approach by 2020	
SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managed forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss				
15.1	Biodiversity <i>Conserving species – protecting habitats</i>	Biodiversity and landscape quality	Reach the index value of 100 by 2030	

15.2	Ecosystems <i>Protecting ecosystems, conserving ecosystem services and preserving habitats</i>	Eutrophication of ecosystems	Reduction by 35 % by 2030 compared to 2005	
15.3.a	<i>Preventing deforestation and protecting soils worldwide</i>	Preservation or restoration of forests in developing countries under the REDD+ rulebook	Increase payments by 2030	
15.3.b		German gross bilateral development expenditure for the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification	Increase payments by 2030	
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				
16.1	Crime <i>Further increasing personal security</i>	Criminal offences	Reduce the number of criminal offences recorded per 100,000 inhabitants to less than 6,500 by 2030	
16.2	Peace and security <i>Taking 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	
16.3.a	Good governance <i>Combating corruption</i>	Corruption Perceptions Index in Germany	Improvement by 2030, compared to 2012	
16.3.b		Corruption Perceptions Index in partner countries of German development cooperation	Improvement by 2030, compared to 2012	
SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.				
17.1	Development cooperation <i>Supporting sustainable development</i>	Official development assistance as a proportion of gross national income	Increase the proportion to 0.7 % of gross national income by 2030	
17.2	Knowledge transfer, especially in technical areas <i>Sharing knowledge internationally</i>	Number of students and researchers from developing countries and LDCs per year	Increase the number by 10 % from 2015 to 2020, then stabilised	
17.3	Opening markets <i>Improving trade opportunities for developing countries</i>	Imports from least developed countries	Increase the proportion by 100 % by 2030, compared to 2014	

4. Monitoring

- a) The progress made in implementing the German Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) and planned further measures are reported and the Strategy is enhanced regularly:

Every two years, the Federal Statistical Office publishes an Indicator Report. The Office is responsible for the technical analysis of the indicators and their development.

The GSDS is updated once per legislative period, as part of a comprehensive system of reporting. These reports evaluate progress with implementation, contain specific measures to achieve the set targets, and further develop the Strategy.

The reports are made available to the German Bundestag for information purposes.

- b) The public is comprehensively involved at an early stage in updating the GSDS.
- c) In addition, once per legislative period the individual ministries report to the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development on how all of the component parts of their ministry policies help to further the implementation of the GSDS and the SDGs. Particular attention is paid here to conflicting objectives, and to how these goals interact with other targets. The ministry reports are published and transmitted to the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development for information purposes.

III. Institutions

1. The Federal Cabinet adopts changes and enhancements to the German Sustainable Development Strategy.
2. The State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development:
 - a) Updates the substance of the GSDS;
 - b) Monitors the development of sustainability indicators on a regular basis;
 - c) Is the point of contact for the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Council and the Länder;
 - d) Acts as an advisor on current areas of German Government work related to sustainability.

All ministries are represented at permanent state secretary level on the Committee. It 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 typically represented by the directors in charge of the matters in question.
4. The Interministerial Sustainability Indicators Working Group, which is chaired by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and includes the Federal Statistical Office, conducts preparatory work for the technical monitoring and improvement of the sustainability indicators.
5. In the German Bundestag, the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development monitors and supports sustainable development policy at the national, European 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 German Government with regard to questions of sustainable development;
 - b) Contributes to improving the Sustainable Development Strategy;
 - c) Publishes statements concerning specific issues; and
 - d) Primarily contributes to raising public awareness and to social dialogue surrounding sustainability.

The members of the Council are appointed by the Federal Chancellor.

IV. Strategy implementation procedures within the German Government

1. The ministries share responsibility for implementing the German Sustainable Development Strategy. To achieve both the Strategy's targets and the Global Sustainable Development Goals, they contribute within their defined scope of activity, work together at interministerial level, and coordinate their projects with the Länder and local authorities. They involve private-sector and social stakeholders, as well as political actors, appropriately in their decision-making on policy.

2. On the basis of the Sustainable Development Strategy, the ministries gear their activities, including their administrative practices, to the need for sustainable development. The Ministry Coordinators for sustainable development work towards this. They are:
 - The central points of contact for issues relating to sustainable development;
 - Involved at interdepartmental level in implementing the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda in the policy of the ministry in question;
 - Involved at interdepartmental level in promoting the consideration of aspects of sustainability in the legislative and regulatory process, and in ministry strategies.
3. The impact of proposed legislation on sustainable development is examined, and the results presented (section 44 (1) sentence 4 of the Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries (GGO), section 62 (2) in conjunction with section 44 (1) sentence 1 GGO). In this context, the ministries present conflicts between the sustainability goals transparently and in the light of expected progress. The assessment is performed within the framework of the regulatory impact assessment by the ministry responsible for the legislative project. The web-based electronic sustainability impact assessment tool eNAP is applied to all regulatory initiatives to improve the quality of those assessments. This rule may be suspended in exceptional cases, subject to the approval of the competent Ministry Coordinator for Sustainable Development. Statements on impacts on sustainable development must also be made in the case of programmes that are particularly relevant to the targets that have been set.
4. The ministries continually monitor the implementation of measures under the Sustainable Development Strategy and, when required, notify the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development about problems that arise. They regularly adjust existing projects to the targets of the Sustainable Development Strategy, and check whether the latter could also be achieved by adjusting or terminating these projects.
5. As part of their own communications work, the ministries take care to highlight links with the Sustainable Development Strategy as well as with the 2030 Agenda, including in particular any association with the Sustainable Development Goals. The ministries support the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government with cross-cutting communication activities.
6. The ministries and their executive agencies include sustainability criteria in their governmental actions so as to implement the Programme of Sustainability Measures, i.e. to translate sustainability into concrete administrative action. In doing so they are also helping to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

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