

# Policy Decision 2022

## German Sustainable Development Strategy



The  
Federal Government



Sustainable  
Development Strategy  
for Germany

# German Sustainable Development Strategy

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# Foreword by Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz



There are now just eight years to go before the deadline for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That is all the more reason for the Federal Government to apply the Agenda's global goals as the guiding principles of its policies. The challenges are enormous, both globally and nationally. They have become further accentuated in recent months by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. As a result, we face the dual task of achieving our target of climate neutrality by 2045, while ensuring reliable and affordable energy supplies.

We will only succeed on both counts if we make this decade a decade of transformation. Reshaping Germany into a sustainable and simultaneously more resilient community is the best response to the world's climate, energy and resource crises. We are working hard to achieve this, pooling our political, scientific and social forces. In doing so we will never lose sight of social cohesion. "Leave no one behind" is quite rightly the core tenet of the 2030 Agenda.

Many companies have long been pursuing sustainability as a matter of course, primarily to secure their own future and competitiveness. That is something we can build on. Just like them, we must regard the transformation towards a more sustainable world as an opportunity for and driver of innovation. The Federal Government is taking on this mission with policies focused firmly on sustainability. For the here and now and for future generations alike.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Olaf Scholz'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Olaf Scholz  
*Federal Chancellor*

# Foreword by Minister of State Sarah Ryglewski

If we are to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, we must tackle the crucial challenges of the future with redoubled efforts and even greater urgency.

The 2030 Agenda is based on universal human rights obligations. It endeavours to secure forever the social, economic and environmental foundations for peaceful co-existence. This means that sustainability policy is a multi-sector task. It concerns not only energy and climate action, but also questions of social equity, education and development cooperation.

It is therefore imperative to coordinate the work of all Federal Government ministries on sustainability. The State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development is devoted to doing just that, by drawing up strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda. I lead the Committee and report regularly to the Federal Cabinet on our activities. Our first task was to put in place the interministerial working structures for areas in which transformation is needed right now. This Policy Decision consolidates our work on the German Sustainable Development Strategy as a stepping stone to the new version in 2024.

If this transformation is to succeed, we must pull together at each and every level of government. This applies to the Federal Government, the *Länder* and local government just as it does to the European and international levels.

Ultimately, the critical factor will be the practicability of our decisions and strategies. We will ensure this principally by remaining in dialogue with civil society. More and more



people are committing to sustainability, be it privately, or through organisations, associations or businesses. The Community Sustainability Project launched in September 2022 and coordinated by the German Council for Sustainable Development offers great potential for getting stakeholders from all across our society involved. It enables them to connect with new ideas and prepare activities with real-world impacts.

The challenge of sustainability is out there. Let's have the courage to shape our future together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Ryglewski".

Sarah Ryglewski  
*Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor*

# Introduction

With this Policy Decision, the Federal Government underscores the importance that it attaches to sustainable development. The Decision builds on the German Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) that was adopted by the Federal Cabinet on 10 March 2021. The German Government regards the decision of the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development of 14 June 2021 as a valuable basis for the implementation and ambitious advancement of sustainability policy. (The decision, entitled *Transformation erreichen – Perspektiven für die Deutsche Nachhaltigkeitspolitik (Perspektivenbeschluss)* (“Achieving transformation – German sustainability policy (outlook)”) is available in German only).

The German Sustainable Development Strategy is the core framework for German sustainability policy and the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Federal Government is committed to fulfilling its responsibility for putting the 2030 Agenda into action on three levels: in Germany, with international partners, and in international organisations and forums.

Under the theme of “an alliance for freedom, justice and sustainability”, the coalition agreement for the 20th legislative term determines the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda to be the guiding principles of Federal Government policy. It provides for the bold development of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the Programme of Sustainability Measures, as well as the review of existing governance structures for sustainable development. The binding nature of sustainability strategies, targets and programmes is also to be strengthened, translated into specific government action and legislation. Rights to participate in parliamentary processes are also to be broadened.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 was a clear commitment on the part of all states to their shared responsibility to ensure good prospects worldwide for current and future generations.

The 2030 Agenda demands the sustainable transformation of our world. It is based on universal human rights obligations, and endeavours to secure forever the social, economic and environmental foundations for peaceful coexistence. This requires an integrated and systematic approach that connects different policy fields and understands them as a whole.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has brought the importance of alliances and effective international and multilateral cooperation to the fore in terms not just of defending rules-based international order, but also of sustainability. As the preamble to the 2030 Agenda states: “There can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development.”

The Global Sustainable Development Report published by the United Nations in 2019 clearly showed even then that the goals of the 2030 Agenda were unlikely to be reached. The main reasons were global crises and challenges such as climate change, species loss and resource consumption. Current human activity threatens to exceed, or has already exceeded, our planetary boundaries, as the absolute outer limits of what is sustainable. This jeopardises the stability of the Earth’s ecosystem and thus the resource base on which human life depends.

Furthermore, the environmental report published by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2021 established that the costs of inaction are increasingly outweighing the costs of action on protecting the climate and resources.

# Sustainability the answer to multiple crises – action urgently needed

We are experiencing a period of multiple, interwoven crises. The growing risks and challenges of climate change, species loss and resource consumption have been overlaid by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 24 February 2022, an additional factor has been the impact of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, in contravention of international law. There can be only global responses to these global challenges.

The 2021 German Sustainable Development Strategy has continued to develop against the backdrop of the pandemic and its effects on health and many other areas of life and policy. The pandemic had already laid bare the vulnerability to crises of our lifestyles and economies, and with them our prosperity. The outlook adopted in June 2021 by the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development found, for example, that fundamental change is required to prevent crises and to improve resilience and adaptability. It stated that this would take a systematic, holistic view to achieve. It is precisely this view that is foundational to the sustainability agenda. Sustainable development and stability in the face of crisis are closely linked.

The 2030 Agenda marks a milestone in international cooperation and a powerful declaration of belief in multilateralism. The global challenges to our economic, social and eco-systems are currently more present in society than ever before. The transformation towards sustainability is more important than ever.

The urgency of this transformation in many areas has been highlighted by the impact on sustainable development of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. This was addressed by the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development on 12 September 2022.

Partly as a result of the war, the world is on the brink of its worst food crisis for decades. According to World Food Programme estimates, 345 million people are suffering acute hunger. Partnering with the World Bank, the Federal Government initiated the Global Alliance for Food Security as part of the German G7 Presidency. Following an initial

430 million euro commitment in March, at the G7 Summit in Elmau the Government mobilised a further 450 million euro for food security in the form of a shared pledge by G7 states.

In common with many other nations, Germany is facing the challenge of achieving our set climate action targets while at the same time ensuring reliable and affordable energy supplies. To achieve this, we must accelerate not only the expansion of renewable energies and the grids they require, but also gains in energy efficiency. This obligation falls in part to private households and businesses, but the public sector must also pursue energy efficiency in its own activities.

Rocketing prices in the energy sector and for many other goods and services place a strain on the economy and the population. Those on low incomes, especially, are rightly worrying about how to pay their bills. Since the spring of 2022, the German Government has instituted a variety of measures to ease the financial burden on households and businesses of the sharp increase in energy prices. These have included three relief packages. On 29 September, the Government also agreed on a defensive shield for the economy against high energy prices. This will be partly funded by the provision of an additional 200 billion euro in borrowing authorisations by the Economic Stabilisation Fund (ESF). The aim is to support consumers and companies, stabilise the gas market and guarantee reliable energy delivery. Measures to increase the overall energy supply and reduce energy consumption are a further element of the defensive shield, along with the introduction of a cap on electricity and gas prices, the reactivation and refocusing of the ESF, and a temporary reduction in value-added tax on gas and on district heating.

It is clear from the prevailing challenges that we can only succeed together if we achieve the SDGs by 2030. Solidarity is key to implementing the 2030 Agenda. At this time especially, when the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is putting pressure on the work of the international community within the United Nations and once again fomenting

the formation of political blocs, the answer must be more multilateralism, not less. At the UN SDG Summit in 2023, the world's nations will have to present their responses to the difficulties reaching the Goals.

We now have a little under eight years before the 2030 Agenda's global Sustainable Development Goals should be achieved. It is therefore imperative that the current decade becomes a true Decade of Action, as the United Nations has declared. The SDGs can only be reached by their 2030 deadline if we significantly increase the speed and ambition of implementation work, while abiding at all times by the "leave no one behind" tenet of the Agenda. Realising the SDGs is a mission of the highest priority.

Germany continues to work at the European level towards the consistent implementation of the 2030 Agenda across the European Union. Sustainability is also a pan-European responsibility.

# Advances in sustainability governance

As provided for in the coalition agreement, the German Government has made advances in sustainability governance to make it even more effective and binding.

## Minister of State given responsibility for sustainability

In its decision of 24 August 2022, the Federal Cabinet entrusted Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor, Sarah Ryglewski, Member of the German Bundestag, with responsibility for sustainability policy further raising the profile of this policy field. There will also be synergies with other aspects of Minister of State Ryglewski's portfolio, in terms of coordination between federal and *Länder* governments. The way in which the federal state of Germany is structured places legislative and administrative authority in key action areas for sustainable development with the *Länder*. The Minister of State heads the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development, on which all ministries are represented, and will report to the Federal Cabinet regularly on the Committee's work.

The new portfolio also responds to a call that the German Council for Sustainable Development has been making for some time. International experts had demanded as long ago as 2009 and 2013, as part of the peer reviews conducted by the Council, that a Minister of State in the Federal Chancellery be given specific responsibility for sustainability.

## German Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS)

Germany has a system of sustainability policy that enjoys a high degree of international recognition. It has been steadily applied and expanded ever since the first national sustainable development strategy was adopted in 2002.

The German Government regards the implementation of the ambitious new iteration of the 2021 GSDS adopted by the Federal Cabinet on 10 March 2021, in combination with the outlook adopted on 14 June 2021 and the requirements of the coalition agreement as an important mission.

### Coordination between ministries

All Federal Government ministries have once again appointed coordinators for sustainable development for the 20th legislative term. They ensure that the ministries act in lock-step to implement the 2030 Agenda. The list of these coordinators is published on the Federal Government website.



## State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development

The inaugural meeting of the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development for the 20th legislative term took place on 12 September 2022, chaired by Minister of State Ryglewski. The Committee is the central management body for the German Sustainable Development Strategy. It sees itself as a high-level strategy forum in which core sustainable development issues are discussed and addressed by all Federal Government ministries with input from external experts. The chairs of the German Council for Sustainable Development and the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development also regularly attend meetings on focus topics.

Following a technical discussion of the impacts of the war in Ukraine on sustainable development (see above), the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development adopted its work programme for the 2022 to 2024 period. The programme focuses on the six areas of transformation highlighted in the 2021 German Sustainable Development Strategy, as well as the topic of international responsibility and cooperation as a critical lever. Beyond this core, the programme remains deliberately flexible so that it is able to respond to the prevailing national and international challenges.

### **Six areas of transformation, one lever**

- 1. Human wellbeing and capabilities, social justice** (discussion spring 2023; decision summer 2023)
- 2. Energy transition and climate action** (discussion autumn 2022; decision spring 2023)
- 3. Circular economy** (discussion spring 2023; decision summer 2023)
- 4. Sustainable building and the transformation of transportation** (discussion summer 2023; decision autumn 2023)
- 5. Sustainable agriculture and food systems** (discussion summer 2023; decision spring 2024)
- 6. Pollutant-free environment** (discussion autumn 2023; decision spring 2024)

**International responsibility and cooperation as a lever** of transformation (see below) is likely to be discussed by the State Secretaries Committee in early 2023, with a decision made in summer 2023.

As set out in the coalition agreement, a further objective of the Committee's work is to strengthen the binding nature of sustainability strategies, targets and programmes, translated into specific government action and legislation. This also concerns the governance structure for the German Sustainable Development Strategy.

## Transformation Teams (TT)

With a view to modernising government, the coalition agreement provides for the introduction of permanent, agile project teams and innovation units that operate across ministries and authorities and have specific remits. Based on this, Transformation Teams (TT) have been set up in the form of temporary, interministerial project groups for the total of seven focus topics.

Drawing on work and processes that are already ongoing, and with specific areas of emphasis within the areas of transformation, their role is to prepare the meetings of the State Secretaries Committee on the individual issues. They will also draft decisions and reports, including targets and measures that are as practicable as possible, and support the implementation of the measures that are adopted. The members of the project groups were determined at the meeting of the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development on 14 November 2022. All TTs will begin their work by the end of 2022.

The TTs should include the German Council for Sustainable Development, the Scientific Platform for Sustainability 2030, and the Dialogue Group that was reconvened in September 2022, in their activities.

## Two-stage approach in future

The areas of transformation and the international responsibility and cooperation lever, as well as cooperation within the State Secretaries Committee, will be examined gradually and in two stages in each case. First, the Committee will discuss the topic with experts on the basis of a succinct briefing paper. The second step is to draw up the decision and to discuss (and approve) it at a subsequent Committee meeting. The final decision will then be taken by the Federal Cabinet. The crucial aspect of this new approach is that it begins with exchange at the highest ministry level. This also allows new directions to be determined efficiently. Additionally, the interval between the initial discussion and the decision means that the expert findings and other technical inputs can be evaluated and incorporated.

TT	Topic	Lead	Further members
TT1	Human wellbeing and capabilities, social justice	BMBF, BMAS, BMG	AA, BMZ, BMFSFJ, BMJ, BMEL
TT2	Energy transition and climate action	BMWK, BMUV, BMZ, AA	BMDV, BMEL, BMBF, BMAS, BMWSB, BKM
TT3	Circular economy	BMUV, BMWK,	BMZ, BMBF, BMEL, BMI, BMJ, BMDV, BMWSB
TT4	Sustainable building and the transformation of transportation	BMWSB, BMWK, BMUV	BMDV, BMBF, BMEL, BMZ, BMVg, BKM
TT5	Sustainable agriculture and food systems	BMEL, BMUV	BMBF, BMZ, AA, BMG, BMWK
TT6	Pollutant-free environment	BMUV, BMEL	BMBF, BMZ, BMWK
TT7	International responsibility and cooperation	BMZ, BMUV, AA	BMWSB, BMVg, BMEL

governance; social mobilisation and participation; funding; research, innovation and digitalisation; and international responsibility and cooperation.

• **Governance** (coordination and management)

Beyond the leading and coordinating role that the Federal Chancellery plays in the German Sustainable Development Strategy, all ministries have a responsibility not only individually for their particular fields, but also jointly in pursuit of a sustainable Germany in all areas and targets. The inter-ministerial Transformation Teams are an important step in tackling this urgent work together.

• **Social mobilisation and participation**

With their knowledge, commitment and networks, social stakeholders have an outstanding role to play in implementing global and national sustainable development targets.

On 26 September 2022 Minister of State Sarah Ryglewski, representing Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and the chair of the Wüst (North Rhine-Westphalia) Conference of Minister-Presidents together launched the web platform of the Joint Action for Sustainable Development. The Joint Action is founded on an initiative by the Federation and the *Länder*, and is being coordinated by the German Council for Sustainable Development in consultation with the four Regional Networks of Sustainability Strategies (RENN).

In combination with the regular reports by the Minister of State to the Federal Cabinet, this boosts the binding nature and impact of the German Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Federal Government has opted for these new forms of management and coordination so that it can take effective action to progress much faster in the areas of transformation across all ministries, while also drawing on external expertise.

**Levers of transformation**

In the 2021 German Sustainable Development Strategy the Federal Government particularly emphasised the following five levers to support the six areas of transformation:

*“Sustainability is a community project and a community responsibility. The question of what kind of world we leave behind for future generations affects us all in some way. We can all do our part. Today we launched the Community Sustainability Project. It is intended to bundle all sustainability-related activities nationwide – covering local sustainability initiatives, businesses, the academic community, local government and everything in between. It will help stakeholders to build stronger networks, gain greater visibility, and take action together.”*  
Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz

AA: Federal Foreign Office; **BKAmt**: Federal Chancellery; **BKM**: Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media; **BMAS**: Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; **BMBF**: Federal Ministry of Education and Research; **BMDV**: Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport; **BMEL**: Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture; **BMFSFJ**: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; **BMG**: Federal Ministry of Health; **BMI**: Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community; **BMJ**: Federal Ministry of Justice; **BMUV**: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection; **BMVg**: Federal Ministry of Defence; **BMWK**: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action; **BMWSB**: Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building; **BMZ**: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development;

The Joint Action is designed to make existing efforts towards sustainable development more visible, encourage further commitment, get new stakeholders involved, and get them partnering in new ways.

The sustainable building and housing area of transformation has been selected as the Joint Action's initial point of focus. An open social innovation process, run with the Federal Building Ministry, will begin in 2023.

#### • Funding

A viable and forward-looking system of sustainable finance is a significant contributor to sustainability policy and intergenerational equity, as well as a powerful lever supporting transformation in the economy.

Sustainable finance refers to setting incentives to steer financial flows towards sustainable development. The Federal Government plans to develop Germany into the leading centre of sustainable finance. The Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee constituted on 10 June 2022 to serve for the 20th legislative term ([www.sustainable-finance-beirat.de](http://www.sustainable-finance-beirat.de)) is supporting the Government with the bold implementation and development of its Sustainable Finance Strategy. At the same time, the German Government is an active proponent of sustainable finance at the European level. It advocates standard rules for sustainability-related corporate and financial information, for example. The establishment of the International Sustainable Standards Board in Frankfurt am Main is therefore a particularly welcome move, as it underlines the importance of Germany as a sustainable finance location.

When adopting the initial Federal Government bill on the budget for 2022, on 23 June 2021 the Federal Cabinet decided that a spending review would be conducted on the subject of "linking sustainability goals to the federal budget". The review was to be led by the Federal Ministry of Finance with the participation of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (now the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection), and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The 2021 elections to the German Bundestag and the subsequent process of forming a government delayed the start of this review. The dedicated steering committee held its inaugural meeting on 27 January 2022 and set up a working group to investigate what options exist for linking the German Sustainable Development Strategy with the federal budget. Its findings are scheduled to be adopted by the Federal Cabinet in December 2022.

#### • Research, innovation and digitalisation

Greater efforts should continue to be made with research for sustainability, so that it generates pioneering technological and social innovations, without which the sustainable transformation of the economy and society will be impossible. These include novel ways of protecting the climate and biodiversity, to ensure energy and resource security, and to improve global health, for example. At the same time, sustainability criteria must be seen even more clearly as an opportunity for innovation and business that Germany can use to position itself in international competition.

Building on the Federal Government's Digital Strategy, adopted on 31 August 2022, there is to be greater cross-pollination between digitalisation and sustainability in the sense of a twin transformation. The idea is to make even better use of the innovative possibilities of digitalisation to further sustainable development, while paying attention to potentially negative impacts (such as higher energy and resource consumption), and guiding the digital transformation along a sustainable track.

#### • International responsibility and cooperation

Global challenges demand a global response. So stated United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres when placing the reforms he proposed in the *Our Common Agenda* report explicitly in the context of the 2030 Agenda, the implementation of which should be accelerated. Coordinated climate diplomacy is also crucial. That is why Germany will continue to work tirelessly at international level to speed up the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to further multilateral cooperation.

For example, the Federal Government used the Summit in Elmau held in late June 2022 under the German Presidency of the G7 to present responses to the global crises alongside the G7, as partners sharing the same values. Beyond the Summit itself, sustainability was a thread running through the entire Presidency programme, covering action on the climate, environment and nature conservation, a social and equitable global economic system, enhanced global health and preparedness for pandemics, and measures to ensure open and resilient societies and gender equality.

As it updates the German Sustainable Development Strategy, the Government will also consider what impacts and consequences its own actions have for other states.

## Sustainability targets in legislation

The regulatory impact assessment conducted for all laws and regulations in Germany includes a sustainability impact assessment as standard. The latter's points of reference are the targets and principles of the German Sustainable Development Strategy, and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

On 14 November 2022, the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development called upon all ministries to observe the recommendations drawn up by the Federal Chancellery and Federal Ministry of Justice on making sustainability targets a more binding element of draft laws, statutory orders, strategies and programmes. The recommendations advocate including sustainability aspects at an early stage, and offer advice on dealing with potentially conflicting objectives. They aim to develop sustainability impact assessments as an important means of establishing coherent policies on sustainability, and as an opportunity to institute a systematic solution in this regard.

### **Electronic sustainability impact assessments:**

*A web-based evaluation tool, known by the German acronym eNAP ([www.enap.bund.de](http://www.enap.bund.de)), exists to support sustainability impact assessments. Work on adapting the tool to the content of the 2021 GSDS and making it barrier-free was completed in May 2022. In addition, eNAP has been designed so that conflicting objectives can and should be reported. The principal change, however, is that eNAP is now incorporated into the electronic legislative system on Federal Government networks. This allows the sustainability impact assessment to be linked with other regulatory impact assessment issues.*

## Institutions

Many stakeholders are involved in implementing, shaping and updating the German Sustainable Development Strategy. Figure 2 in the Appendix offers an overview of the partners and processes concerned. Of particular importance here are the German Council for Sustainable Development, the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, and the Scientific Platform for Sustainability 2030.

### • German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

The German Council for Sustainable Development consists of 15 members. They are appointed by the Federal Chancellor for a three-year term of office, the next of which begins on 1 January 2023. The Council has an important function as both a catalyst for government action and a stakeholder and transmission mechanism in society.

### • Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (PBnE)

In the German Bundestag, the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development supports German sustainability policy and monitors the sustainability impact assessments conducted by the ministries taking the lead on legislation and regulation.

At its instigation, a plenary debate on sustainability was held in the Bundestag on 29 September 2022, at which spokespersons for the Federal Government underscored its commitment to sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda and the German Sustainable Development Strategy.

### **Excerpts from the plenary Bundestag debate of 29 September 2022**

*"I believe that transforming Germany into a sustainable society is the best response to the worldwide climate, energy and resource crisis that we are currently experiencing. That makes it more important than ever."*

**Sarah Ryglewski, Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor**

*"Climate change, the pandemic, conflicts and wars should not be played off against each other. Instead, their causes must be addressed simultaneously. More than ever we need to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda as an international community."*

**Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development**

*"The major crises of our time are really challenging us. But by now, at least, it should be clear to everyone that we need to act faster, on more fronts, and in an internationally coordinated way. We can't solve one problem after the other. We have to take a comprehensive approach that addresses all 17 SDGs."*

**Dr Bettina Hoffmann, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Environment Ministry**

By the mid-point of the legislative term the Parliamentary Advisory Council will draw up a strategy for how it can be a more effective advocate for sustainability within the parliamentary structure, and how the guiding principle of sustainable development can be incorporated systematically in the work of the German Bundestag.

- **Scientific Platform for Sustainability 2030 (Wpn 2030)**

The platform serves as a hub for science, society and policy. It provides scientific expertise to support the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda. Work on the areas of transformation is one example here. The advisory board dialogue on sustainable development, which involves all of the Federal Government's scientific advisory boards, plays a key role here.

## Programme of Sustainability Measures (MP NHK)

The Federal Cabinet decision of 25 August 2021 adopted an ambitious update to the Programme of Sustainability Measures – with a subheading that translates as “Implementing sustainability in real (federal) government action”. It encompasses the direct federal administrative authorities, as well as those indirect authorities under the technical oversight of the individual ministries. The ministries are also working towards the appropriate application of the Programme by further authorities and institutions in their areas of responsibility. The ministries are accountable for ensuring that the Programme is actioned within their particular fields, and that the set targets are met.

The target of achieving a climate-neutral federal administration by 2030 presents a particular challenge, in part because it serves as a model for Germany as a nation reaching net zero by 2045. Set up initially under the Federal Ministry of the Environment before moving to the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action in 2022, the Federal Climate-Neutral Coordination Unit (KKB) is drawing up a separate programme of measures on climate neutrality. As required under the Federal Climate Change Act, the Programme will be adopted by the Federal Government in 2023.

The coalition agreement states that public-sector purchasing should set a good example. The update to the Programme of Sustainability Measures created new structures and tough requirements for sustainable public procurement. An interministerial committee led by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action will manage and coordinate measures to promote sustainability in this area.

# Revisions to Strategy targets

As a control instrument, the German Sustainable Development Strategy contains 75 indicators and targets in 39 areas. Together they give an impression of the status of sustainable development across a broad sphere of policy areas, and provide a basis for managing the Strategy.

Reflecting the commitments made in the coalition agreement, amendments have been made to the following indicators and targets.

## **Indicator 2.1.b Organic farming**

New target: Increase the proportion of organically farmed agricultural land to 30% by 2030 (previously 20% by 2030).

## **Indicator 4.2.b All-day care provision for children**

New target: Increase the proportion of children attending all-day care to 70% of 3 to 5-year-olds by 2030 (2020 target omitted as deadline passed).

## **Indicator 7.2.b Share of electricity from renewable energy sources in gross electricity consumption**

New target: Increase to at least 80% by 2030 (relating to a higher gross electricity consumption of 680 to 750 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2030) (previously 65% by 2030).

## **Indicator 13.1.a Greenhouse gas emissions**

New target: Reduce by at least 65% by 2030 and by at least 88% by 2040; greenhouse gas neutrality to be achieved by 2045 (previously: reduce by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990, greenhouse gas neutrality to be achieved by 2050).

The previous German Government had already decided to increase climate action targets to 65% by 2030 and bring climate neutrality forward to 2045 in response to the decision of the Federal Constitutional Court on 24 March 2021. In its reasoning, the Court recalled the state objective of protecting the natural foundations of life and animals, as codified in Article 20a of the German Basic Law, and emphasised the responsibility of the state not to shift inter-generational burdens unilaterally towards the future.

## **Indicator 13.1.b International climate finance for the reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change**

New target: Raise international climate finance to at least 6 billion euro by 2025 at the latest (previously: double finance by 2020 compared to 2014).

### **Additional changes:**

#### **Indicators 1.1.a/b, 10.2**

The targets for indicators 1.1.a/b (material deprivation/severe material deprivation) and 10.2. (Gini coefficient of income after social transfers) have been set in relation to the relevant EU-27 figures since 2020, following the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

### **Further amendments**

No further amendments to the indicators are planned until the German Sustainable Development Strategy itself is next updated.

This means that the control indicators from the 2016 Strategy that have not yet been implemented remain relevant. These are education for sustainable development, the effect of research investment, and soil protection.

Important directional decisions for sustainable development have already been taken since the updated German Sustainable Development Strategy was adopted in March 2021 and the new Federal Government took office. All ministries share the challenge of gearing the whole of Federal Government policy to sustainability, and to pursuing it swiftly with targeted and impactful action. With this in mind, it is important that the Transformation Teams (TTs) begin their work as soon as possible.

# Outlook/next steps

## What happens next?

### 2022 Indicator Report

The Federal Statistical Office will present its new report on the sustainability indicators in December 2022.

The ministries will produce a joint report on target attainment and planned measures to correct off-track indicators as a basis for discussion by the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development. This report will then be published, thereby holding government entities more accountable for achieving targets and making it easier to follow up on individual responsibilities.

### Sustainability Forum

The 2016 German Sustainable Development Strategy laid the foundations for the Sustainability Forum. Its role is to facilitate exchange between the Federal Government and key stakeholders about the status and future of the implementation of the Strategy and the 2030 Agenda. The Forum most recently met virtually on 15 October 2020 to discuss the update to the 2021 Strategy. The Federal Government intends to convene it again in the first half of 2023 to examine progress and work in the six areas of transformation.

### Communications

Communicating about sustainability is part of the Federal Government's daily communications work. The channels used are the Government's general web presence, a web page focusing specifically on sustainability, a six-weekly sustainability newsletter entitled *Nachhaltigkeit*, social media and print products.

In future, the aim is to reach and appropriately engage new target groups, such as young people and their organisations, in sustainability topics, in part using the Joint Action.

## Update to the Strategy

The next comprehensive update to the German Sustainable Development Strategy is scheduled for adoption by the Federal Cabinet at the end of 2024. With the planned advancements in areas of transformation, and stronger levers to implement the 2030 Agenda, we are laying the foundations for a more effective and binding Strategy, as provided for in the coalition agreement.

This will also provide the basis for Germany's next voluntary national review for submission to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in summer 2025.

Work to update the German Sustainable Development Strategy will begin in the second half of 2023 and will be a participatory process involving the public. The plan is once again to hold a broad-based dialogue with conferences and opportunities for submissions.

***The Federal Government is committed to its national, European and international responsibility to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a positive vision for the future, despite – and because of – the major challenges and multiple crises we presently face.***

***In doing so it is also taking responsibility not just for those who are alive now, but also for future generations, for people in Germany and in other countries around the world, for conserving the natural resource base on a global scale, and to ensuring a life of dignity for all.***

# Appendix:



Figure 1: Areas of transformation, off-track indicators, key measures; GSDS 2021, p. 61



**Sustainability governance 2022 – overview**

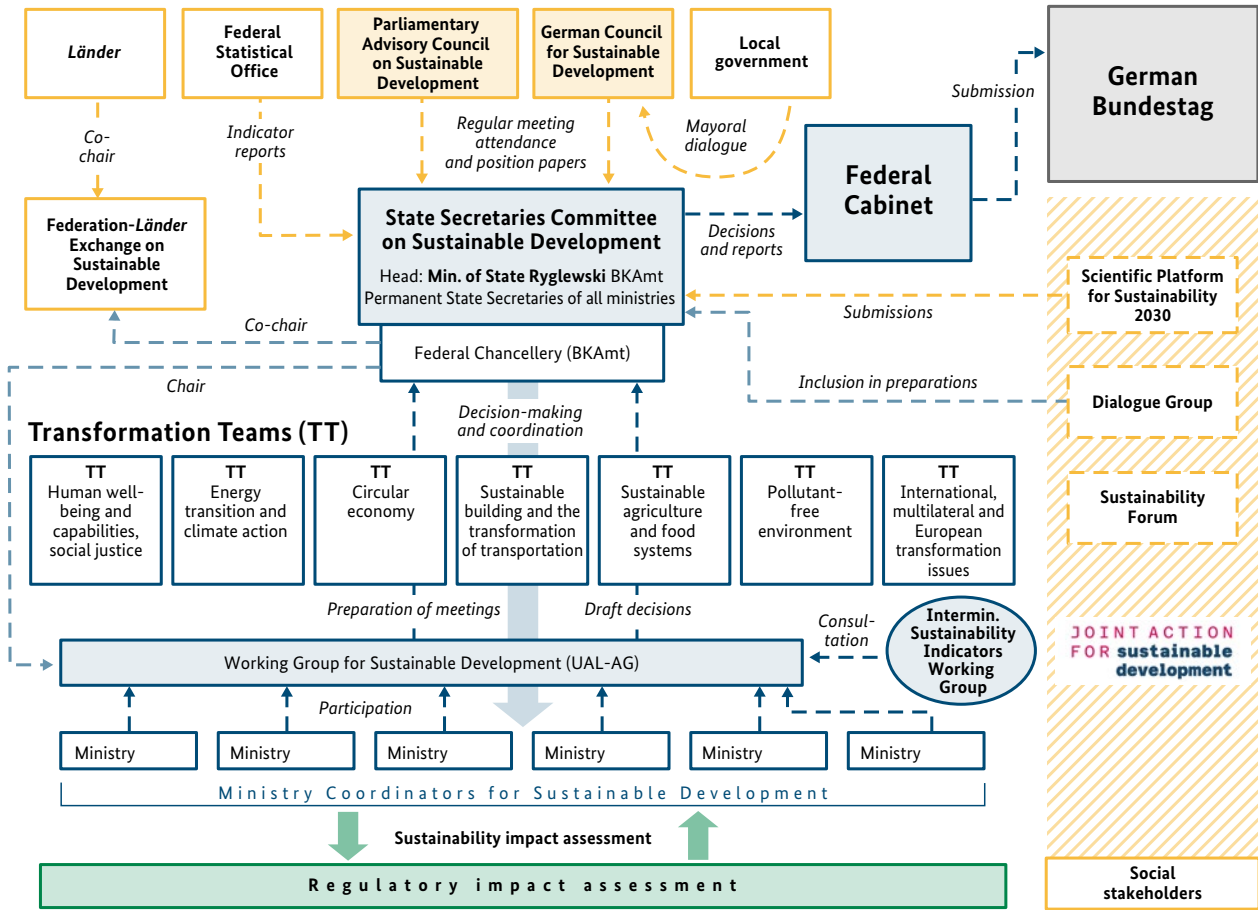


Figure 2: Overview of sustainability governance

## Overview: Content and management of the German Sustainable Development Strategy (Sustainability Management System)

German Sustainable Development Strategy 2021, p. 366 (updated)

### I. Significance, basis and scope of sustainability as an instrument of control

1. Sustainable development (sustainability) is the guiding principle behind the policies of the German Government. As a goal and a 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 constraints for political decisions.
2. Sustainability aims to achieve intergenerational equity, social cohesion and quality of life, and to assume international responsibility. With this in mind, economic performance, the protection of natural resources, and social responsibility are to be united to ensure that developments are viable in the long term.
3. The German Sustainable Development Strategy is the 2021 revision of the 2002 Strategy (National Sustainable Development Strategy) with the amendments from this Policy Decision. It sets out a process of policy development for the longer term and offers guidance with regard to this process.
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 United Nations framework – 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 being one vehicle here.

#### c) Länder and local government

The Federal Government and the *Länder* communicate 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. The Strategy 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: Joint Action for Sustainable Development

The Federal Government regards sustainability as a community project that should involve all social stakeholders.

- Stakeholders from civil society (the public, trades unions, religious organisations and civic associations) are an integral part of achieving sustainability in many different ways, and are constantly involved. Among other things, consumers make individual contributions by selecting products and using them in a socially acceptable, environmentally friendly and economically useful manner.
- The private sector – businesses, chambers of commerce and associations – is called upon to do its 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 the 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 Federal 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 actions 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 Climate 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 climate, 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.

<sup>1</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987

(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 use of transportation 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).
- 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 both 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 factor in the demands 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 should be overcome and prevented to the greatest possible extent, and inclusive prosperity promoted;
- Efforts should be made to achieve equivalent living standards in every region;
- Everyone should 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 should be able to take part fully in social, cultural and political life without discrimination;

– Contributions should be made to reduce poverty and inequality worldwide.

(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 participate in high-quality education and acquire capabilities 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, right from the start, in innovation processes, 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, willingness and scope to innovate must be broadened.

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

No.	Indicator field Sustainability postulate	Indicators	Targets
<b>SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b>			
1.1.a	<b>Poverty</b> <i>Limiting poverty</i>	Material deprivation	Keep the proportion of people who are materially deprived significantly below the EU-27 (after the United Kingdom left the European Union) level by 2030
1.1.b		Severe material deprivation	Keep the proportion of people suffering severe material deprivation significantly below the EU-27 (after the United Kingdom left the European Union) level by 2030
<b>SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</b>			
2.1.a	<b>Farming</b> <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 30% by 2030
2.2	<b>Food security</b> <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
<b>SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</b>			
3.1.a	<b>Health and nutrition</b> <i>Living healthy for longer</i>	Premature mortality (women)	Reduction to 100 cases per 100,000 women by 2030
3.1.b		Premature mortality (men)	Reduction to 190 cases per 100,000 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	<b>Air pollution</b> <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 PM <sub>10</sub>	WHO particulate matter guidelines value of 20 micrograms per cubic metre for PM <sub>10</sub> (dust particles with a diameter of less than 10 microns) to be adhered to as widely as possible by 2030
3.3.	<b>Global health</b> <i>Strengthening the global health architecture</i>	Germany's contribution to global pandemic prevention and response	Expenditure to be increased by 2030
<b>SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</b>			
4.1.a	<b>Education</b> <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	<b>Prospects for families</b> <i>Improving the compatibility of work and family life</i>	All-day care provision for children (0 to 2-year-olds)	Increase to 35% by 2030
4.2.b		All-day care provision for children (3 to 5-year-olds)	Increase to 70% by 2030
<b>SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b>			
5.1.a	<b>Equality</b> <i>Promoting equality and a partnership-based division of responsibilities</i>	Gender pay gap	Reduce the gap to 10% by 2020, maintained until 2030 (2020 target omitted as deadline passed)
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	Increase to 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	<b>Water quality</b> <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 milligrams per litre at all monitoring points by 2030
6.2.a	<b>Drinking water and sanitation</b> <i>Better access to drinking water and sanitation worldwide, 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 upgraded 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	<b>Resource conservation</b> <i>Using resources economically and efficiently</i>	Final energy productivity	Increase by 2.1% per year between 2008 and 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 (2020 target omitted as deadline passed)
7.2.a	<b>Renewable energies</b> <i>Strengthening a sustainable energy supply</i>	Share of renewable energies in gross final energy consumption	Increase to 18% by 2020, to 30% by 2030, to 45% by 2040, and to 60% by 2050 (2020 target omitted as deadline passed)
7.2.b		Share of electricity from renewable energy sources in gross electricity consumption	Increase to at least 80% by 2030
SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all			
8.1	<b>Resource conservation</b> <i>Using resources economically and efficiently</i>	Raw material input productivity	Trend of the years 2000 to 2010 to be maintained until 2030
8.2.a	<b>Government debt</b> <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	<b>Provision for future economic stability</b> <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	<b>Economic performance</b> <i>Combining greater economic output with environmental and social responsibility</i>	Gross domestic product per capita	Steady and appropriate economic growth
8.5.a	<b>Employment</b> <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	<b>Global supply chains</b> <i>Enabling decent work worldwide</i>	Members of the Textiles Partnership	Significantly increase by 2030
<b>SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation</b>			
9.1.a	<b>Innovation</b> <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		Rollout of broadband – share of households with access to gigabit broadband services	Universal gigabit network rollout by 2025
<b>SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries</b>			
10.1	<b>Equal educational opportunities</b> <i>Improving educational success of foreigners in German schools</i>	Foreign school graduates	Increase the proportion of foreign school leavers with at least a secondary general school certificate and bring into line with that of German school leavers by 2030
10.2	<b>Distributive justice</b> <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 EU-27 (after the United Kingdom left the European Union) figure by 2030



SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable			
11.1.a	<b>Land use</b> <i>Using land sustainably</i>	Expansion of settlement and transport area in hectares per day	Reduction to under 30 hectares on average per day by 2030
11.1.b		Loss of open space area	Reduce the loss of per capital open space area
11.1.c		Density of settlements	No reduction in density of settlements
11.2.a	<b>Mobility</b> <i>Guaranteeing mobility – protecting the environment</i>	Final energy consumption in goods transport	Reduction by 15 to 20% by 2030
11.2.b		Final energy consumption in passenger transport	Reduction by 15 to 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.	<b>Housing</b> <i>Affordable housing for all</i>	Housing cost overload	Reduce the proportion of people who are overburdened by housing costs to 13% by 2030
11.4.	<b>Cultural heritage</b> <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	<b>Sustainable consumption</b> <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 <sub>2</sub> emissions	Steady reduction

12.2	<b>Sustainable production</b> <i>Steadily increasing the proportion of sustainable production</i>	Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) eco-management	5000 locations of organisations by 2030
12.3.a	<b>Sustainable procurement</b> <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 2030 (2020 target omitted as deadline passed)
12.3.b		CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of commercially available vehicles in the public sector	Significantly reduce
<b>SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</b>			
13.1.a	<b>Climate action</b> <i>Reducing greenhouse gases</i>	Greenhouse gas emissions	Reduce by at least 65% by 2030 and by at least 88% by 2040, greenhouse gas neutrality to be achieved by 2045
13.1.b	<i>Contribution to international climate finance</i>	International climate finance for the reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change	Raise international climate finance to at least 6 billion euro by 2025 at the latest
<b>SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</b>			
14.1.aa.	<b>Protecting the oceans</b> <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 (annual averages for total nitrogen in rivers flowing into the Baltic may not exceed 2.6 milligrams per litre)
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 milligrams per litre)
14.1.b		Share of sustainably fished stocks of fish in the North and Baltic Seas	All fish stocks used for commercial purposes to be sustainably managed in accordance with the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) approach by 2020 (2020 target omitted as deadline passed)
<b>SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</b>			
15.1	<b>Biodiversity</b> <i>Conserving species – protecting habitats</i>	Biodiversity and landscape quality	Reach the index value of 100 by 2030

15.2	<b>Ecosystems</b> <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 world-wide</i>	Preservation or restoration of forests in developing countries under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REED+) 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
<b>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</b>			
16.1	<b>Crime</b> <i>Further increasing personal security</i>	Criminal offences	Reduce the number of criminal offences recorded per 100,000 inhabitants to less than 6500 by 2030
16.2	<b>Peace and security</b> <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	<b>Good governance</b> <i>Combating corruption</i>	Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) in Germany	Improvement by 2030, compared to 2012
16.3.b		Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) in partner countries for German development cooperation	Improvement by 2030, compared to 2012
<b>SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.</b>			
17.1	<b>Development cooperation</b> <i>Supporting sustainable development</i>	Official development assistance as a proportion of gross national income (GNI)	Increase the proportion to 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) by 2030
17.2	<b>Knowledge transfer, especially in technical areas</b> <i>Sharing knowledge internationally</i>	Number of students and researchers from developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) per year	Increase the number by 10% from 2015 to 2020, then stabilise (2020 target omitted as deadline passed)
17.3	<b>Opening markets</b> <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 Strategy 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 Strategy is updated once per legislative term, as part of comprehensive Strategy reporting. These reports evaluate progress with Strategy implementation, contain specific measures to achieve the set goals, 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 Strategy.
- c) In addition, once per legislative term 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 German Sustainable Development Strategy 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 German Sustainable Development Strategy;
  - 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 German Council for Sustainable Development and the *Länder*;
  - d) Acts as an advisor on current areas of Federal Government work related to sustainability.

All ministries are represented at permanent state secretary level on the Committee. Following the decision of the Federal Cabinet on 24 August 2022, the State Secretaries Committee is chaired by Sarah Ryglewski, Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor.

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 generally 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, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection and includes the Federal Statistical Office, conducts preparatory work with regard to 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 Council for Sustainable Development (decision of the Federal Cabinet of 26 July 2000, as amended on 4 April 2007):
  - a) Advises the Federal 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 Federal Government

1. The ministries share responsibility for implementing the German Sustainable Development Strategy. To achieve both the Strategy's goals and the global Sustainable Development Goals, they contribute within their defined scope of activity, work together interministerially, and coordinate their projects with the *Länder* and local government. 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 interministerial 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 (§ 44 (1) sentence 4 of the Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries (GGO), § 62 (2) in conjunction with § 44 (1) sentence 1 GGO). In this context, the ministries present conflicts between the sustainability targets 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 the impact on sustainable development must also be made in the case of programmes that are particularly relevant to the goals 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 to the 2030 Agenda, including in particular links to the Sustainable Development Goals. The ministries support the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government with interministerial communications
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 real-world administrative action. In doing so they are also helping to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

## Publishing information

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