

**Presenting experiences from a**

- (1) Peer Review of the German effort with the SDGs.**

- (2) The SDG-review process and**

- (3) the further development of the HLPE.**



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**I am being asked to address the SDGs by:**

**To answer the following questions:**

**Academia and research**

**Do SDGs add to our knowledge and further our understanding?**

**Politicians and decision makers – all levels**

**Do we need to take them seriously`?**

**The NGO community/civil society**

**Will they empower us as watch-dogs?**

**The private sector**

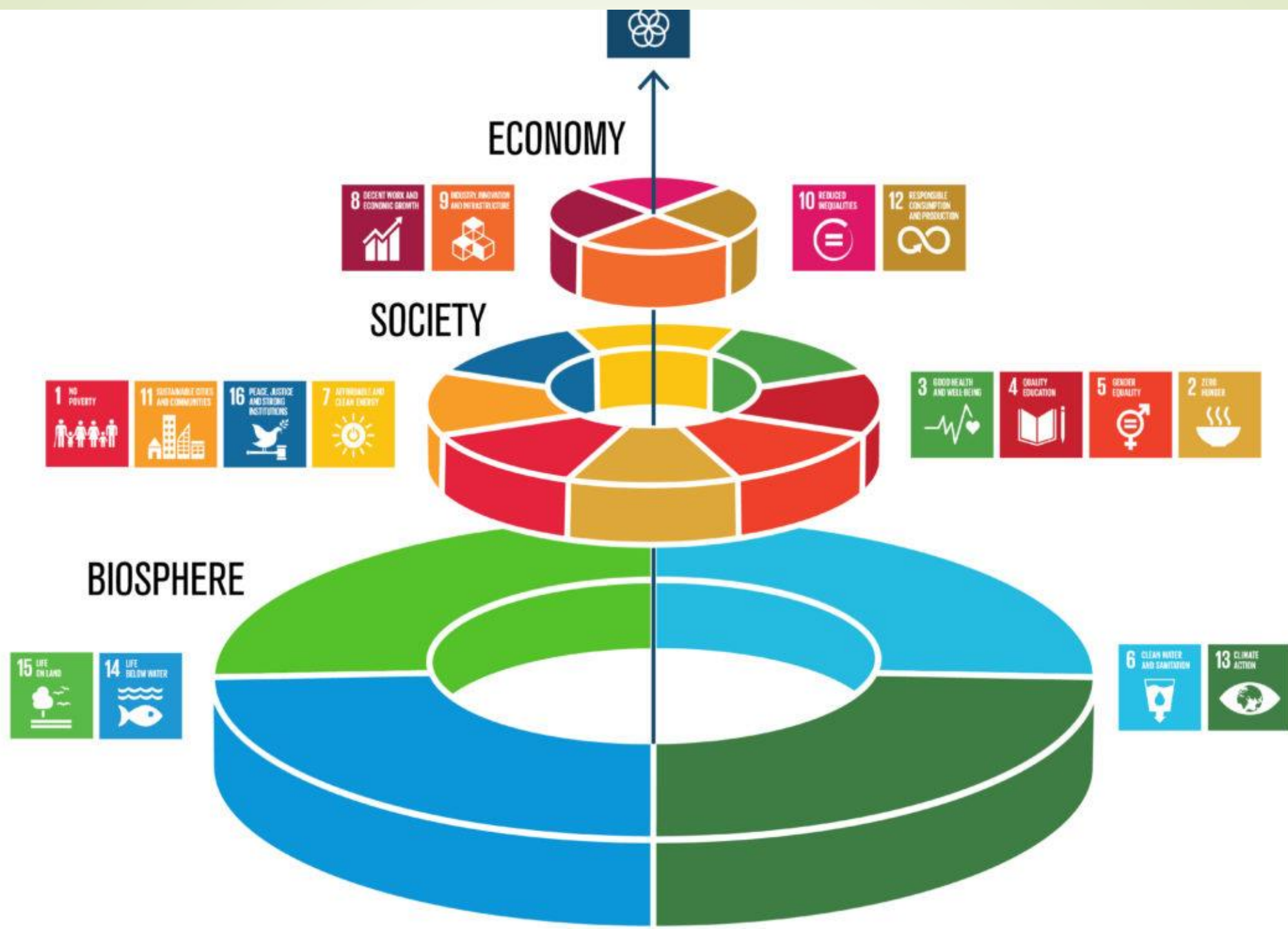
**Will we make a profit if we use them?**

# The planet needs help – and we have an answer:

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## **PART ONE:**

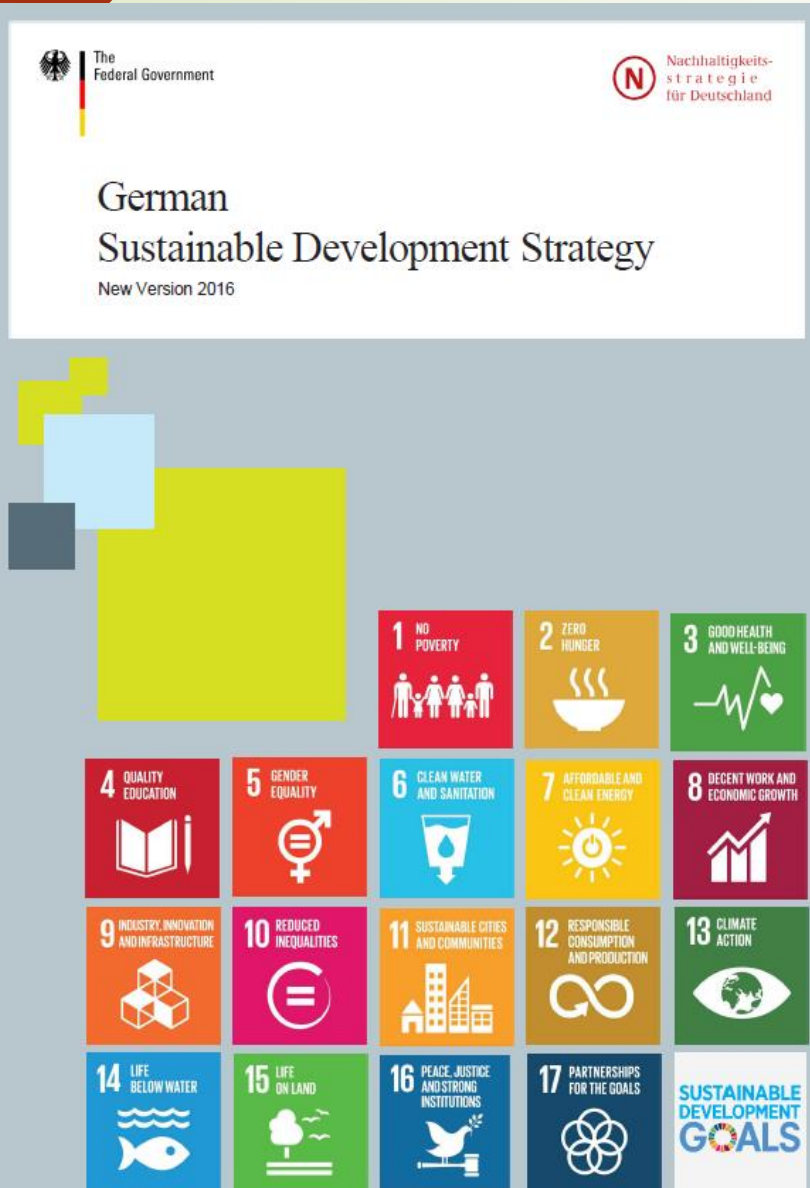
**Germany has had national SD strategies  
since 2005**

**and reviewed the by peers every time  
the 2018 Peer Review was the last one**

**The present strategy is built entirely  
around the 2030 Agenda with the  
SDGs**

# Germany has used the concept sustainability (Nachhaltigkeit) for more than 300 years

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- This requires economically efficient, socially balanced and environmentally sustainable development, constrained only by the planetary boundaries of our Earth together with the objective of a life in dignity for everyone
- The boundaries of our planet's resilience, as identified by an international team of scientists in 2009, define a "safe operating space", within which development, global justice, prosperity and a "good life" can be achieved and permanently secured. According to this research, humanity has already left the safe operating space with regard to the loss of biological diversity, the disruption of biogeochemical cycles of nitrogen and phosphorous, climate change and land-system change.

# From the strategy

## ➤ Sustainability management with 12 Management rules

- The twelve management rules define general requirements for sustainable policy-making.
- The first fundamental rule of the strategy is: “Each generation is required to solve the challenges facing it and must not unload them onto future generations. It must also make provisions for foreseeable future problems.”
- Measuring success with targets and indicators
- Programme of sustainability measures
  - The Sustainable Development Strategy contains 63 “key indicators”. The indicators are mostly associated with quantified targets. At least one indicator-backed target is defined for each of the 17 SDGs.
  - Transparent and regular monitoring



# From the strategy

- ➡ Sustainability impact assessment
  - ➡ The guiding principle of sustainability should be considered in **every law and every decree from the start.**
  - ➡ Sustainability is therefore enshrined in the Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries as a **mandatory criterion when assessing the impact of the Federal Government's proposed laws and regulations.**



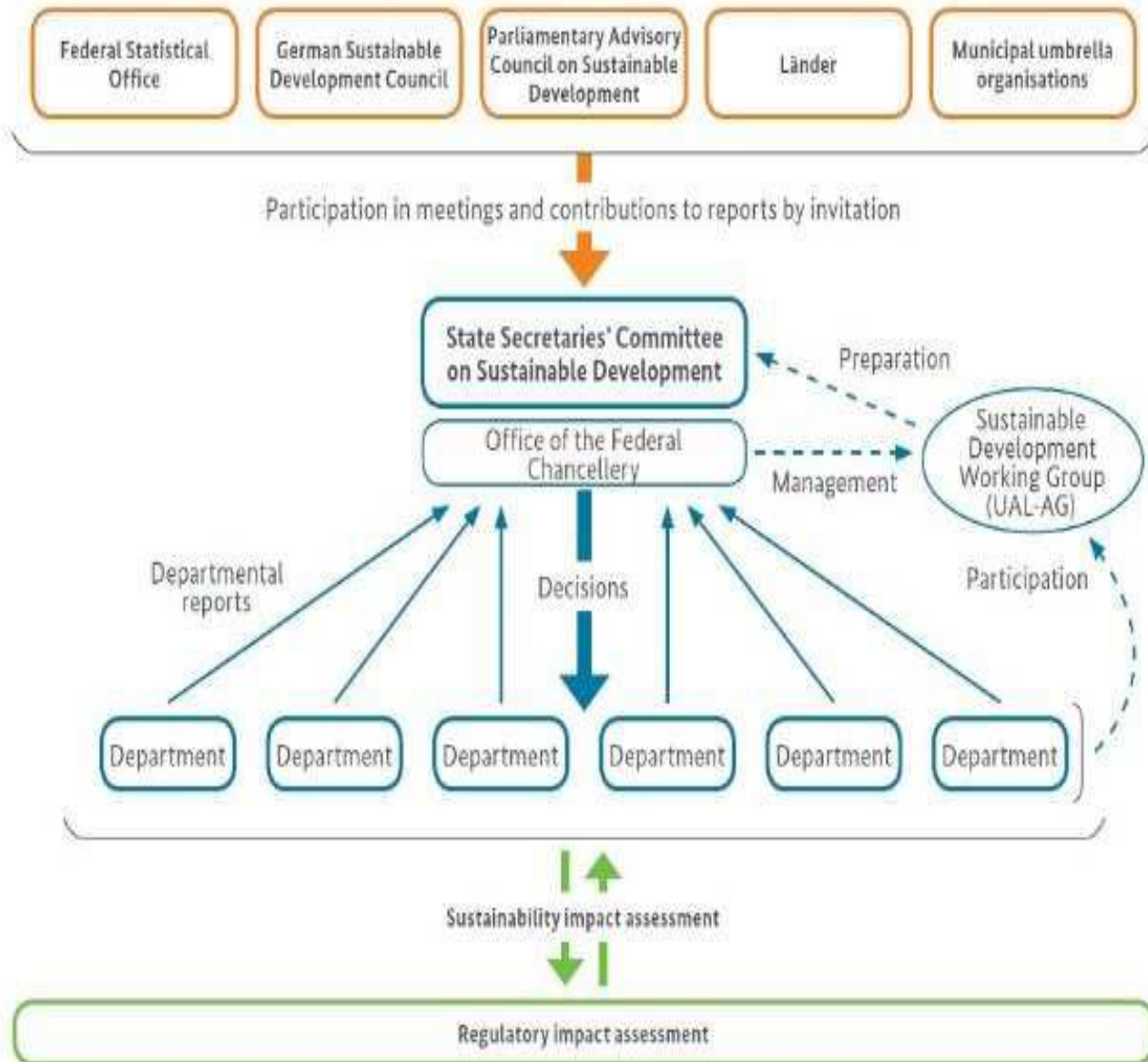
# From the strategy

## ➤ Sustainability institutions

- Sustainability **is a top priority** – cooperation of all Federal Ministries
- Sustainability **involves all areas of political activity**. Due to its overarching, cross-cutting relevance and special significance, responsibility for the German Sustainable Development Strategy lies with the **Federal Chancellery**.
- In Germany, sustainable development is therefore a top-level priority. **All ministries are involved in shaping and implementing the Strategy**. To further strengthen the coherence of political measures, Ministry Co-ordinators for Sustainable Development will be appointed in all ministries as central contact persons.

# An adapted strategy based on the SDGs

## Sustainability Management



## Status of the indicators



Goal will be (almost) reached



Development is heading in the right direction, but between 5% and 20% of the goal will not be met



Development is heading in the right direction, but a gap of more than 20% will remain



Development is heading in the wrong direction



**How did we approach the strategy as  
peers?**



# BROADENING THE SCOPE

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➤ The goal:

➤ A prerequisite:

➤ A problem:

➤ Remedy (or necessity):

➤ Operative tools, a (possible) guarantor of success:

➤ Challenge:

➤ Optimal well-being for all

➤ A world that can provide this

➤ Resource depletion, pollution, environmental destruction; inequality at all levels: physical, social, political, economical

➤ Build a world totally based on the principles of sustainable development, resource sufficiency, circular economy, long term planning

➤ Good, functional governance with systems and institutions that function

➤ Understanding governance, conceptualising it, having access to governance

**The SDGs – all 17 with all 169 targets and 230(+) indicators, and how can this be a living part of the German national strategy?**

- **Integrated, interlinked and indivisible;**
  - **Hence: No Cherry picking, all must be part of planning and operation/implementation**
- **People-centred and planet-sensitive;**
  - **Hence: all must be involved with new resource and economic policies**
- **Universal – applying to all countries while recognizing different realities and capabilities – thus affecting Norway's – every country's national and foreign policies in all aspects – EU, trade, finance, environment etc**
  - **Hence – we must all strive to succeed. We have no time to loose!**

# A new understanding of economic, resource and social issues based on the 2030 Agenda:

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## The triple bottom line vs the five Ps of the 2030 agenda


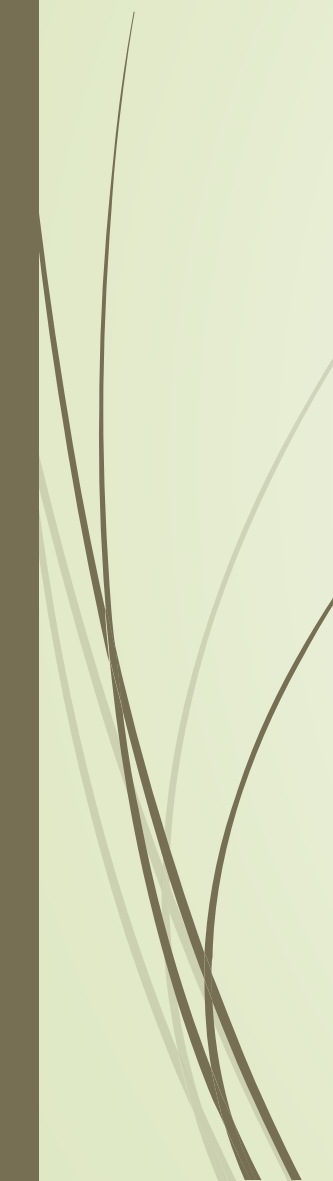
### THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

- ➡ PEOPLE (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- ➡ PLANET (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- ➡ PROFIT (1<sup>st</sup>)

### THE 2030 AGENDA

- ➡ PEOPLE
- ➡ PLANET
- ➡ PROSPERITY
- ➡ PEACE
- ➡ PARTNERSHIP



- 
- 
- ➡ How well are the German institutions, at all levels suited to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs effectively?
  - ➡ What alternative models and structures are conceivable and necessary to put sustainable development on a solid ground?
  - ➡ How could a multi-stakeholder approach and a stronger involvement of organized civil society with academia contribute to overhauling current structures?
  - ➡ How can the private sector wholeheartedly embrace SD?
  - ➡ **Do we need new structures? What does it take to place sustainable development on a solid institutional basis?**



**A question:**

# What do you think?

- ➡ So many claim: There are too many SDGs, too many targets, too many indicators. It makes the 2030 agenda too complex and too diverse.
- ➡ If we accept this statement, it is the same as saying that the world is too complex and too diverse to understand, and to do something about.
- ➡ Consequently we refuse to see the obvious interlinkages which are all around us.
- ➡ SDG relevant institutions must reflect the interlinkages and these must be based on good governance.





# **The German strategy on sustainable development and the Peer Review**

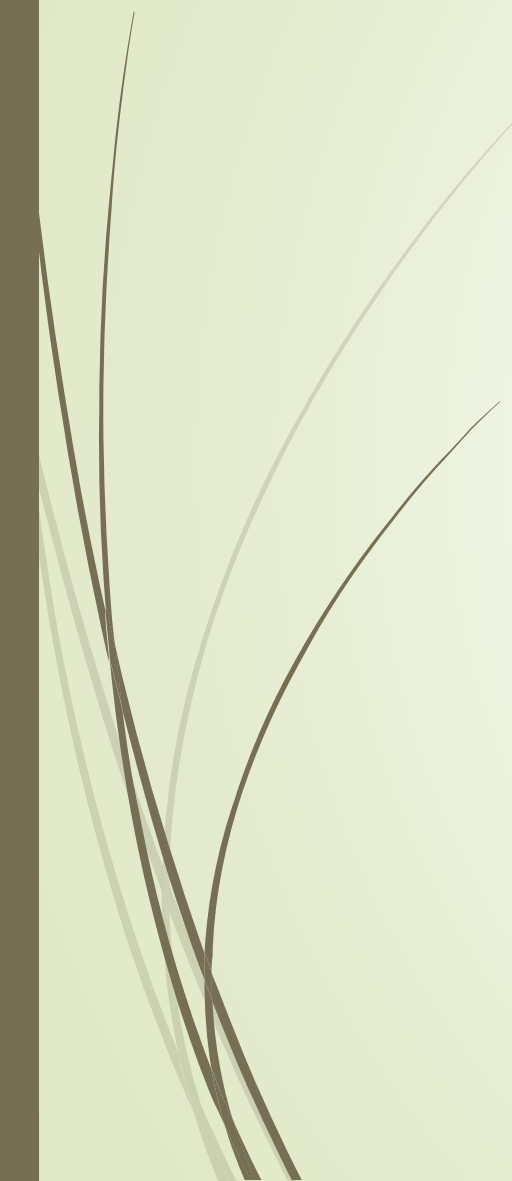
# Change – Opportunity – Urgency: The Benefit of Acting Sustainably



- The 2018 Peer Review on the German Sustainability Strategy
- Report by the International Peer Group chaired by Helen Clark
- Berlin, May 2018



# Germany has a strategy for sustainable development – not many countries do

- **In the Peer Review: There are 11 chief recommendations, several of which address the questions of institutions**
  - Each of these recommendations are supplied with more specific sub-items, in all there are 67 added recommendations to the 11 main ones.
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# Four of the key recommendations from the Peer Review

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- Keep what works, elevate what is good, and change what has failed to deliver.
- Make the institutional architecture charged with implementing the 2030 agenda more effective.
- Raise the level of ambition for what can be achieved.
- Foster a more conducive enabling environment for Leaving No One Behind

## 2. Make the institutional architecture charged with implementing the GSDS more effective

- jumpstart the institutional architecture and re-energise its working modality;
- send strong public signals of leadership on and dedication to advancing the GSDS in this term of government;
- promote understanding of the triple approach and streamline it with operational measures;
- strengthen the GSDS solution capacity in an ever more complex society, including by strengthening the science/society interface;
- consider anchoring the principle of sustainable development in the German Constitution.

### 3. Raise the level of ambition for what Germany can achieve

- moving towards zero net land degradation;
- reversing the trend on biodiversity losses; realising the fundamental changes the dairy and meat industry and our diets need, similar to the scope of the Energie-wende;
- phasing out fossil fuel and nuclear energy generation and putting even more emphasis on driving a global change towards achieving sustainable energy for all;
- speeding up the drive towards more circular consumption and production patterns; and
- leading an informed debate on all dimensions of sustainable development.

## 4. Foster a more conducive enabling environment for Leaving No One Behind

- reflect on the concerns we heard from a number of social organisations and businesses which saw the GSDS as currently being of little relevance to them. *They perceived sustainable development to be an environmental agenda, when in reality it also encompasses the economic and social spheres.* Government should find ways to foster broader engagement with the Strategy through innovative dialogue-based processes;
- address in a meaningful way the LNOB issues of jobs that are neither decent nor fairly remunerated, of gender gaps, and of the wider issues of limits to social cohesion – in particular the feeling of fragility and of living in precarious circumstances and times;
- continue the regional RENN network until 2030 in order to strengthen regional co-ordinating efforts and collaboration between stakeholders, the Federal Government, and the provinces (Länder);
- include the regional RENN network in top-level stakeholder forums run by Government; and
- better localise the GSDS and encourage Länder, cities, and rural areas to contribute further to its implementation and monitoring loops.



## Parliament: there needs to be more powerful parliamentary scrutiny

- ➡ **Transform** the Parliamentary Advisory Council on SD (PBnE) into a more powerful committee which is empowered to scrutinise progress on the GSDS closely and to focus in particular on the off-track indicators;
- ➡ **Improve access** to sustainability assessments prepared for policy decisions;
- ➡ **Anchor** the cross-cutting principle of sustainability in the German Constitution; and
- ➡ **Reflect** the GSDS in the Government's budget.



## Other key - recommendations

- 5. The Federal Government should strengthen the executive's central co-ordination capacities and address off-track indicators promptly
- 8. Revamp communications
- 9. Enhance both capacity for systems-thinking and education for sustainability
- 10. Indicators: expand budgets for and activity on tracking progress
- 11. Deal with emerging issues and apply the principles of the GSDS to Germany's global interactions

# What could be strengthened – a personal view

- The entire progress report could be more developed, the indicators were of a mechanical nature, a better and a more complete narrative should be developed.
- Explicit policies on integrating the three dimensions of SD
- The strategy: did it represent a challenge, an opportunity or a risk? Admitting the risks, but focussing on opportunities?
- Leading by regulations is always difficult. Clearly the government must agree to regulate in the name of sustainable development, and we see this being done all over the world.
- More focus on economic issues and consumption – longevity of products, long term planning, ethical and impact investments (Frankfurter Stock Exchange)
- Germany leading on sustainable energy – highlighted and exported
- Stronger focus on SD education

## PART TWO

- (2) The SDG-review process and
- (3) the further development of the  
HLPF.





**Has the HLPF been successful in  
implementing its mandate?**

**Then - what is the mandate?**

- The mandate is primarily defined in three documents: A/Res/**67/290**;
- further expanded with assignments from **“Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”** –
- And still further strengthened by a third document: A/Res/**70/299**

## Mandate pertaining to HLPF:

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- ➡ **From 67/290:** Found in paras: 1,6,7,11, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 29
- ➡ **From the 2030 Agenda document:** found in paragraphs: 74, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90
- ➡ **Further strengthened in 70/299:** paragraphs: 4,6,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18, 19,20

# Mandates fulfilled? 19 identified ...

<b>Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations</b>	<b>Perhaps</b>
<b>A concise negotiated political declaration for the GA</b>	<b>Not really</b>
<b>Follow up and review</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>A focused, dynamic, action-oriented agenda - new and emerging sustainable development challenges</b>	<b>Perhaps to negligible</b>
<b>Enhance the integration of the three dimensions</b>	<b>improving</b>
<b>A thematic focus with that of ECOSOC and the 2030 agenda</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Follow up, review progress in the implementation of all major United Nations conferences</b>	<b>Improving</b>
<b>Involve relevant UN bodies, in particular WTO, the Bretton Woods institutions, their respective means of implementation</b>	<b>Not really</b>
<b>Improve cooperation/coordination within the UN system on sustainable development programmes and policies</b>	<b>Has begun, needs strength</b>



# Mandates fulfilled? 19 identified

<b>Promote sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned</b>	<b>YES, but mostly on successes</b>
<b>Promote system-wide coherence and coordination of SD policies;</b>	<b>Improving</b>
<b>Take into account work of Development Cooperation Forum, other activities of ECOSOC relating to integration and implementation of sustainable development;</b>	<b>Begun, and improving, (Yes?)</b>
<b>Shall benefit from regional preparatory processes</b>	<b>Not really</b>
<b>Devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries</b>	<b>Begun – and improving (hopefully)</b>
<b>Identify and address new and emerging issues</b>	<b>Not really</b>
<b>Strengthen the science-policy interface</b>	<b>Begun, improving</b>
<b>Develop an independent Global Sustainable Development Report</b>	<b>Improving</b>
<b>Deal with SCP</b>	<b>Improving, but far to go</b>

**Have we understood all what we needed to understand?**

**Or have we overlooked directives we have agreed on?**

## A forgotten directive – the second preambular paragraph of 67/290:

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- ➡ “*Emphasizing* the need for an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development, which should be guided by the specific functions required and mandates involved; address the shortcomings of the current system; take into account all relevant implications; promote synergies and coherence; seek to avoid duplication and eliminate unnecessary overlaps within the United Nations system and reduce administrative burdens and build on existing arrangements,”

## Another overlooked directive – in 70/299 “Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level” also a preambular paragraph:

- *Reaffirming also* that in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Member States committed to engaging in systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the Agenda in accordance with agreed guiding principles, including those set out in paragraph 74 of resolution 70/1, and asserted that the high-level political forum on sustainable development would have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates,



# Paragraph 8 of 67/290

- *Decides* that the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further decides that those reviews:
  - (a) Shall be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and shall include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant United Nations entities;
  - (b) Shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants;
  - (c) Shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders;

**Successful or perhaps not? The case for agenda setting and a case for reform?**

# HLPF - successful – absolutely and perhaps - not that much?

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- Two paras from 67/290 – what are they both about?
- §18. “*Emphasizes* that the forum shall provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development and that the agenda of all meetings of the high-level political forum shall be focused, while allowing flexibility to address new and emerging issues;”
- § 22. “*Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to coordinate with the Bureau of the Council and with the bureaux of the relevant committees of the Assembly to organize the activities of the forum so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;”

# What do these two paragraphs say?

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- ➡ That they are about agenda setting, that the agenda setting should be regular and embrace new and emerging issues. has this really taken place?
- ➡ And that the Presidents of ECOSOC and UNGA should consult with the entire UN system and with relevant stakeholders including the major groups to establish these agendas.
- ➡ Has this really taken place?
- ➡ And if not, what can be done to address this issue?
- ➡ The clustering of SDGs have decided the agenda so far – should we continue this?



# The 2030 Portfolio on Sustainable Development is growing

## Current

- The 17 SDGs with their 169 targets/2030 agenda
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- The Paris Climate Agreement (December 2015)
- The 232 review indicators (2016)
- The Reviews, national, regional, global
- The annual High Level Political Forum, HLPF
- The Sendai Outcome document, Disaster reduction
- The Samoa Pathway (SIDS agreement)
- The UN Environment Assembly, every 2 years

## To be followed

- World Data Forum, 2019/21/23/25/27
- HLPF review 2019/2020
- SDG High Level meeting, 2019/23/27
- 2027 – a kick off process to replace the SDGs (?)
- Annual FfD forums
- UNEP Geo 2019
- UNEA 2019/21/23
- The Global Sustainable Development Report 2019

## What needs to be improved – a short summary

- Agenda setting – developing a process
- Emerging issues, helping to identify thematic reviews
- The relationship between HLPF, ECOSOC and UNGA, a Steering Committee
- Improved integration of the entire UN system in HLPF (Specialized Agencies, Subsidiary bodies)
- Improved integration of the FfD, AAAA into HLPF, Bretton Woods, WTO, UNCTAD
- Integrate the Technology Facilitation Mechanism/ The UN Interagency Task team on Science Technology and Innovation
- **Regional issues, strengthened and improved, more innovative work**
- **Integrating MEAs, Conventions and rights issues into the bigger picture of the 2030 agenda**
- Major Groups and stakeholder engagement
- Developing and negotiating the Ministerial Declaration
- Implementation and partnerships/ role of stakeholders
- How do we integrate the digital world into the HLPF equation?
- None of this is possible unless we allocate more time and more resources to HLPF

# Now what? Three important issues

- ➡ The 2019 HLPF is the last in the first four-year cycle of the 2030 Agenda reviews— what will the next four years look like? Which will be the themes, and what will the content and outcome of the high level meeting in September be (24/25 September)
- ➡ Will the GSDR – the Global Sustainable Development Report – have any impact?
- ➡ The HLPF will be subjected to a review – beginning in earnest in January 2020. What will the outcome be?


# Norway's position of influence:


- ➡ Norway holds the Presidency of UN ECOSOC – 2019-2020
- ➡ Norway holds the Presidency of UNEP/UNEA – 2019 - 2021





## **In our political debates, remember that**

- Complexity is not the same as fragmentation
  - Fragmentation is not diversity
  - Criticism is not the same as being against
  - We need to find ways to act and think outside the 'silos' while at the same time retain expert knowledge on issues
- 



➤ We have changed the world in a wrong direction by mistake.

➤ We can save it and make it better by intent

➤ **These are the themes for 2019 and they are connected:**

➤ **UNEA:** “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”

➤ **UN HLPF:** “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness”



# Thank you for listening to me

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