

Reactions from Germany on the 2018 international peer review of the German Sustainable Development Strategy

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The Peer Review has been a very critical analysis of German Sustainable Development Strategy. We stress specifically the fact that the government has to address its off track indicators, that is 29 of 63, and that it should recognize new threats to sustainability.

That also means that we all agree that we have to defend vigorously the advantages of multilateralism in a world in which some try to build new walls.

The safest protection of people in a globalized world is to cooperate, to safeguard human rights and respect each other. Building walls does not make our lives safer but destroys our common values! Agenda 2030 calls for a social ecological transformation!

We all have to fight those who are faring an anti-transformation movement!

We also demand our parliamentarians to anchor the principle of sustainability in our constitution and thereby give a signal to our citizens for the necessity to fulfill agenda 2030. Also, beyond that date, we need to shape globalization in a just and sustainable way, in innovation, culture, technology, in a sustainable financial system that serves the people and not its own greed, and in a reality which leaves no one behind!

We also support the demand of the Peers to fulfill the necessary commitments to change our agricultural policy, to fight the loss of biological diversity, to leave fossil energy production and to change our transportation and traffic system, to bring forward a circular economy and to reduce inequality and strengthen women nationally and internationally.

As Council for Sustainable Development, we ask vigorously that all SDGs be fulfilled!

We specifically call to analyze and monitor the SDGs under two criteria: to abolish extreme poverty and the fight against inequality.

To give two examples: SDG 5, end all discrimination of women, and SDG 3, creating healthy lives for all.

Moreover, if we look at the reality of women we are far away from SDG 5: Only 22 Percent of parliamentarians worldwide are women, 200 million women have no access to family planning. They are denied their sexual and reproductive rights!

We are also off track to end HIV/Aids Malaria and Tuberculosis: And there specifically young women and girls are once more affected and infected, 74 Percent of new infections in Africa are young girls!

That is why we as Council for Sustainable Development call on our government and parliament to take the global consequences of our own policy more into the focus.

We must give growing finance to the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis and integrate the financing of health systems strengthening into its mandate.

In the following: some proposals that we have towards the High Level Political Forum:

We want to make it a real monitoring institution that contributes to bring the Agenda 2030 forward and that all people in all our countries do really know of!

The process of the High Level Political Forum and the monitoring of the SDGs has to be interlinked with the process of Financing for Development and with the process of the Paris Climate Agreement.

One possibility could be in the preparation of the Summit 2019 to prepare for a Panel on Sustainable Development. The national preparation process in all our countries should be open to the public and engage civil society.

We propose e.g. to include the national shadow reports of civil society into the deliberations of the UN and HLPF, as it is done in the Human Rights Council.

And, the elements of the Universal Period Review could be transferred into the monitoring process of the High Level Political Forum.

We also want to make sure that the representatives of civil society have equal rights in the debate.

Some elements in respect to finances. It is major to help prevent a next global financial crisis, which could hit developing countries once more and which would destroy all our efforts to reach the SDGs.

To reach the goals of sustainable development we must also speak about the responsibility to mobilize finances.

Important is the fulfillment of the 0.7 promise for Official Development Assistance. It is important especially for the poorest and the poorest developing countries.

It should not be counted as ODA, if it is related to the housing and support of refugees in our industrialized countries. Of course this support has to be financed also but not to the disadvantage of the ODA promises.

Mobilizing own resources in partner countries is important to finance the SDGs. That needs the creation of progressive taxation systems, the fight against corruption, and the fight against the profit shifting of transnationals which channels at present about 50 Billion US Dollar out of Africa, which instead should be used within the African countries to finance health and education.

To reach the SDGs it is also necessary to change global structures, rules and standards within industrialized countries. Financing SDGs means also to help finance global public goods. This also means a change away from financing projects to financial instruments and political dialogue with partner countries that try to fulfill the demands of the SDGs.