

BRICS⁺G Sustainability and Growth

**Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and Germany
in Dialogue on Sustainability Strategies**

A Conference Report



German Council for
SUSTAINABLE
Development

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**Deutsche Gesellschaft für
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and

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Executive Summary

“**BRICS+G Sustainability and Growth**” represents a new kind of international dialogue on the question of how economic growth can be put on a basis which is supportable for nature and society. The increasing importance of the BRICS countries—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa—on the global stage is a challenge which Germany has to respond to, both economically and politically.

Initiated and organised by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, the dialogue was conducted in two stages: in the first instance, six national conferences were held, after which representatives from these conferences came together for an international dialogue. The connection between sustainability and growth was discussed using, by way of example, the subjects of energy and natural resources or social policy. Issues defined by the initiators were used in preparation for the discussions.

A process-oriented concept can only be successful if it is accepted by those involved. On this premise, the national conferences took account of the fact that sustainability cannot be achieved through State intervention alone, but must be developed by the political, social and economic forces involved. The BRICS+G process has succeeded in starting a dialogue involving high-ranking figures from the world of politics, business, science and the civil society.

The dialogue underlines the central importance of setting national objectives and indicators for the development of society and the environment. The participation of stakeholders is a further important element. Another key issue is that of how individual political approaches can be better integrated and made more transparent. If a strategy for sustain-

Zusammenfassung

„**BRICS+G Sustainability and Growth**“ stellt einen neuartigen internationalen Dialogprozess zu der Frage dar, wie wirtschaftliches Wachstum auf eine für Natur und Gesellschaft tragfähige Basis gestellt werden kann. Die BRICS-Länder – Brasilien, Russland, Indien, China, Südafrika – erlangen global eine immer wichtiger werdende wirtschaftliche Stärke und politische Bedeutung. Deutschlands Politik und Wirtschaft muss sich dieser neuen Herausforderung stellen.

Initiiert und organisiert durch den Rat für Nachhaltige Entwicklung (RNE) und die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, sah der Dialog zwei Stufen vor: Zunächst wurden sechs nationale Konferenzen durchgeführt. Repräsentanten aus diesen Konferenzen kamen dann zu einem internationalen Dialog zusammen. Der Zusammenhang von Nachhaltigkeit und Wachstum wurde exemplarisch an den Themen Energie und natürliche Ressourcen oder Sozialpolitik erörtert. Zur Vorbereitung der Erörterungen dienten Fragestellungen der Initiatoren.

Jede prozessorientierte Vorgehensweise kann nur in dem Maße zum Erfolg führen, wie sie von den Teilnehmern angenommen wird. Der Teilnehmerkreis der nationalen Konferenzen berücksichtigte daher, dass Nachhaltigkeit nicht allein durch staatliche Maßnahmen erreicht werden kann, sondern unter Beteiligung von politischen, gesellschaftlichen und wirtschaftlichen Kräften entwickelt werden muss. Im BRICS+G-Prozess ist es gelungen, hochrangige Persönlichkeiten aus Politik, Wirtschaft, Wissenschaft und Zivilgesellschaft miteinander in den Dialog zu bringen.

Der Dialog unterstreicht die zentrale Bedeutung der Aufstellung nationaler Ziele und Indikatoren zur

ability and growth is to stand the test of time and be successful, there must be due consideration of economic, ecological and social aspects with an integrated approach to sectoral policy.

The cooperation of RNE and GTZ has created a framework for an international dialogue which is politics-based yet open at the same time. All participants welcomed the first opportunity they had experienced of entering actively into a dialogue, sounding out the opportunities for cooperation, and learning from each other. The representatives of the countries involved compared the state of their national sustainability strategies, exchanged experiences and evaluations, and broached the issues of difficulties and risks. For the benefit of maintaining maximum openness, formal explanations were not developed, and coordinated communiqués were not released.

This documentation comprises a short summary of the six preparatory national conferences/workshops, a detailed report on the international dialogue conference, and a summary of the lessons learned from the perspectives of RNE and GTZ.

The full documentation on the national conferences, relevant documents on national sustainability strategies and accompanying materials can be found at:

www.bricsg.net

Entwicklung von Gesellschaft und Umwelt. Die Beteiligung von Stakeholdern ist ein weiteres wichtiges Element. Betont wird auch die Frage, wie man einzelne politische Ansätze besser und transparenter zu einem Ganzen integrieren kann. Für eine dauerhafte Strategie zu Nachhaltigkeit und Wachstum ist die Berücksichtigung von ökonomischen, ökologischen und sozialen Gesichtspunkten nur erfolgreich, wenn es gelingt, sektorale Politikansätze zu integrieren.

Die Kooperation von Nachhaltigkeitsrat und GTZ hat für den internationalen Dialog einen politiknahen, doch gleichzeitig offenen Rahmen geschaffen. Alle Seiten begrüßten die erstmals initiierte Möglichkeit, aktiv in das Gespräch einzutreten, Kooperationsmöglichkeiten auszuloten und voneinander zu lernen. Die Vertreter der Länder verglichen den Stand ihrer nationalen Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien, tauschten Erfahrungen und Bewertungen aus und thematisierten dabei auch Schwierigkeiten und Risiken. Auf die Erarbeitung förmlicher Erklärungen und die Abstimmung von Kommunikés wurde zu Gunsten der größtmöglichen Offenheit des Dialoges verzichtet.

Die Dokumentation umfasst insbesondere eine kurze Zusammenfassung der sechs vorbereitenden Länderkonferenzen/Workshops, einen detaillierten Bericht zur internationalen Konferenz sowie die Schlussfolgerungen (Lessons Learned) aus Sicht von GTZ und RNE.

Die Langfassungen der Dokumentationen der Länderkonferenzen, die relevanten Dokumente zu nationalen Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien und begleitende Materialien finden Sie unter:

www.bricsg.net

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Foreword RNE: Opening Options—Sharing Views

Combining growth patterns and sustainability in terms of economic, social and ecological development is a key challenge for any Nation State. The current mainstream ways of production and achieving economic growth cannot represent a lasting solution in terms of achieving prosperity for all. However, we need growth for poverty reduction, democracy and the well-being of more and more people. But we still have to foster the idea that this kind of required growth has to be achieved by supporting—and not opposing—policies of sustainability.

In the 1980s, the UN World Commission on Environment and Development, the so-called Brundtland Commission which I had the honour to be a member of, introduced the idea of sustainability in international politics. This idea kicked off various UN Summits, multinational agreements, and led to action being taken by the civil society and the private sector. Today, the instrument of national strategies for sustainable development has turned out to be the only tool that has created genuinely new political options in terms of creating ownership through stakeholder involvement, combining political action and communication strategies, introducing best-practice benchmarks, and integrating sectoral policies into a set of overarching targets and timetables. In Germany, we are far from already making full use of these options, which is why we are looking for new approaches to share views and experiences and to build learning processes.

On behalf of the German Council for Sustainable Development, I would like to call attention to the fact that it is high time to initiate international dialogues around national approaches on the topic of sustainable development strategies. This is true within Europe, and especially so when we look at the issue of growth and sustainability on a global scale. Emerging economies are shaping a new global socio-economic and political topography. Over the next few decades, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will catch up with the old industrial nations in terms of economic strength, world market share and political importance. These and some other emerging economies will on the one hand create a series of environmental and developmental challenges and on the other will create new windows of opportunity with regard to overcoming the social and ecological burden of unsustainable production and consumption patterns. It is precisely the responsibility of Germany as one of the leading industrial nations to prove that National Strategies on Sustainable Development (NSSD) actually make a difference, and that it is possible to decouple growth from resource depletion. In our understanding as a first mover, this is exactly why we initiated the *BRICS+G Sustainability and Growth in NSSD* project, which is designed as a new international learning scheme. It is our responsibility to improve our own sustainability approaches, and in terms of our global outreach, it is our responsibility to contribute to the world's capacity to face the ecological, social and economic challenges that are posed by meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the livelihoods of future generations.

My explicit thanks goes to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH for joining forces with the Council and jointly implementing the BRICS+G project.

Dr Volker Hauff, Chair of the German Council for Sustainable Development

Foreword GTZ: BRICS⁺G—a Platform for Dialogue on Common Challenges

Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, described implementing the concept of sustainable development as the greatest challenge of the 21st century. In tackling it, it is unthinkable to ignore the future additional economic and political powers such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. With their impressive economic growth, these so-called 'BRICS' countries will be key to the sustainability of the future development of our world. This even more so, given their lead functions in their respective regions—just as Germany has been for decades an important development engine in the EU.

Even though progress in sustainable development often falls short of the mark, many countries all over the world are implementing innovative approaches to it. One problem is that actors dealing with similar challenges in other countries do not get to know enough about the outcomes. There needs to be more exchange of ideas and experiences with sustainable development strategies and the instruments, structures and capacities needed to implement them.

As a service provider in international cooperation for sustainable development in more than 100 countries, we know that ready-made blueprints usually do not produce viable solutions. Instead, for durable outcomes and their social acceptance, and hence long-term viability, different cultural settings, competing goals as well as issues of power and vested interests have to be included in the equation.

In other words, processes of social reflection and learning need to happen. That is why we, together with the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE), initiated the BRICS+G dialogue on sustainability and growth. Because sustainable development requires all of us to seek a fair and peaceful balancing of interests, this dialogue was designed to ensure inputs and insights from stakeholders in government, business, civil society and academia. And once more this holistic approach proved most fruitful.

GTZ is committed to the concept of sustainable development. No matter which services GTZ renders, it always strives to adhere to the principles of this concept. Focusing on capacity development as one of its core competencies, GTZ will feed the lessons learned during the first step of the BRICS+G dialogue into our support of partner countries' efforts to move to more sustainable patterns of growth.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all partners who prepared and attended national conferences and the international workshop in Berlin. Their commitment, engagement and openness made the dialogue succeed and generated interest on all sides to continue the process. It has been an exciting experience to work together in this with the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) as an innovative and most competent partner at our side and I am looking forward to potential future cooperation.

Dr Bernd Eisenblätter, Managing Director of GTZ

BRICS+G: A New Kind of International Dialogue on Sustainability and Growth

A Cooperation Project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH and the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

How can economic growth be shaped in a sustainable way? This question is being discussed intensively all over the world. An increasing number of countries are elaborating national strategies for sustainable development that base economic growth on a long-term foundation, balancing the interests of the economy, society and the environment. In the process of defining such strategies, the visions and practical experiences of countries such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (the BRICS countries) regarding sustainable development are of crucial global importance. However, in the past there were few opportunities for international exchange on these issues. RNE and GTZ have therefore joined forces to initiate a dialogue process among the BRICS countries plus Germany (BRICS+G).

The purpose of the project is to offer a platform for experts from the governments, the economies and the civil societies of the BRICS+G countries to exchange their views, ideas and experiences. While focus is placed on experiences with NSSD, discussions should also refer to examples from the areas of energy, resource management and the social dimension. Participants should compare their respective policies for sustainable development, exchange experiences and evaluations, and draw conclusions regarding their NSSDs. The idea is to provide the initial impetus for further exchange on how to shape economic growth in a sustainable way. The first series of conferences/workshops initiated by this project took place at a mixture of national and international levels:

BRICS+G: Ein neuartiger internationaler Dialog über Nachhaltigkeit und Wirtschaftswachstum

Ein Kooperationsprojekt der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH und des Rats für Nachhaltige Entwicklung (RNE)

Wie kann wirtschaftliches Wachstum nachhaltig gestaltet werden? Diese Frage wird überall auf der Welt intensiv diskutiert. Immer mehr Länder entwickeln nationale Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien, um das wirtschaftliche Wachstum auf eine für Gesellschaft und Umwelt langfristig tragfähige Basis zu stellen. Standpunkte, Visionen und Praxis der Länder Brasilien, Russland, Indien, China, Südafrika (der BRICS-Länder) zur nachhaltigen Entwicklung sind von entscheidender globaler Bedeutung. Ein internationaler Austausch über die Erfahrungen mit Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien ist jedoch selten. Der Rat für Nachhaltige Entwicklung (RNE) und die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH haben sich deshalb zusammengeschlossen, um einen Dialogprozess zwischen den BRICS-Ländern plus Deutschland (BRICS+G) zu initiieren.

Ziel des Projekts ist ein Austausch zwischen Expertinnen und Experten aus Regierung, Wirtschaft und Zivilgesellschaft der BRICS-Länder und Deutschlands. Im Zentrum stehen dabei Erfahrungen mit nationalen Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien und -prozessen, die anhand von Beispielen insbesondere aus der Energienutzung, dem Ressourcenmanagement und der sozialen Dimension diskutiert werden. Die Beteiligten sollen den aktuellen Stand ihrer Nachhaltigkeitspolitik vergleichen, Erfahrungen und Bewertungen austauschen und Rückschlüsse für ihre nationalen Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien ziehen. Damit wollen die Initiatoren einen Anstoß zum weiteren Austausch über die Gestaltung von wirtschaftlichem Wachstum im Sinne des Leitbildes der nachhaltigen Entwicklung geben.

- National conferences/workshops were held in cooperation with local partners in the second quarter of 2005, when experts from the government, economy and the civil society discussed practical experiences with their country's National Processes for Sustainable Development.
- The results of the six national conferences/workshops have been brought together in a two-day international conference held on 4 and 5 September 2005 at GTZ House Berlin. Four experts from each of the six countries participated.
- On the annual congress of the German Council for Sustainable Development on 6 September 2005 the results of the dialogue have been presented and discussed.

The dialogue was not intended to trigger the level of official negotiations in the sense of a joint declaration or any other binding results.

The documentation on hand is supposed to be directed to experts and decision-makers in the participating countries in order to stimulate further discussion on NSSD. Thus, the organisers hope to contribute to the global debate on sustainable development and to identify issues for further exchange between the countries in question.

Der Dialogprozess begann mit einer ersten Konferenz/Workshop-Reihe zunächst dezentral in den sechs Ländern und wurde auf internationaler Ebene zusammengeführt:

- Im zweiten Quartal 2005 fanden in Kooperation mit lokalen Partnern in allen sechs Ländern nationale Konferenzen/Workshops statt, in denen sich Experten aus Regierung, Wirtschaft und Zivilgesellschaft mit der Praxis nationaler Nachhaltigkeitsprozesse auseinandersetzten.
- Die Ergebnisse der sechs nationalen Konferenzen/Workshops wurden am 4. und 5. September 2005 in einer zweitägigen internationalen Konferenz im GTZ-Haus Berlin zusammengeführt. Aus jedem der sechs beteiligten Länder nahmen vier Experten teil.
- Am 6. September 2005 wurden die Ergebnisse des Dialogs auf dem Jahreskongress des Rats für Nachhaltige Entwicklung der deutschen und internationalen Öffentlichkeit präsentiert und diskutiert.

Der Dialog findet nicht auf der Ebene formeller politischer Verhandlungen im Sinne einer gemeinsamen Abschlusserklärung oder anderer verpflichtender Ergebnisse statt.

Die vorliegende Dokumentation wendet sich an Experten und Entscheidungsträger der beteiligten Länder, sodass die hier gewonnenen Erkenntnisse und Erfahrungen für die weitere Ausgestaltung nationaler Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien in den BRICS-Ländern und Deutschland genutzt werden können. Damit möchten die Organisatoren zum globalen Dialog über die nachhaltige Gestaltung wirtschaftlichen Wachstums beitragen und Anknüpfungspunkte für den weiteren Austausch zwischen den Ländern identifizieren.

BRICS+G:

Sustainability and Growth in Brazil



Jointly organised by the
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Sustainable Development,
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Government of the
Federative Republic of
Brazil and GTZ Office
Brasília

National Workshop held in Brasília, 21 July 2005

National Development Model and Sustainable Development Strategy

Brazil is basically at the beginning of the process of defining a national development perspective. With its “Brazil 3 Tempos” project, the Brazilian government has started to institutionalise a strategic management process aiming at proposing some long-term national strategic objectives. According to Raul José de Abreu Sturari, Special Advisor to the Nucleus for Strategic Affairs (NAE) of the Presidency of the Republic, who presented the project to the audience of the National Workshop, “Brasil 3 Tempos” shall interconnect with other planning initiatives, especially with the short-term 2004–2007 Pluriannual Plan (PPA) and the medium-term Agenda 21. Ultimately the project should formulate long-term perspectives covering the period until 2022, the bicentennial year of Brazilian independence.

As the project is still in its infancy, it has not yet developed these interconnections. While Gerson Teixeira, Director for Economy and the Environment of the Ministry of the Environment (MMA), called the project an ambitious and idealistic challenge, co-panellist Jean-Pierre Leroy, advisor to the FASE/Amazon National Programme and anchor for the Brazilian Network for Environmental Justice, regretted never having heard of it before. So far, a consolidation of the strategic thinking of a good part of society, another panellist emphasised, is documented in the Brazilian “Agenda 21” with its 21 guidelines for the construction of a sustainable Brazil.

Sustainable Development Strategies and Energy Sector Policies

In the energy sector, José Carlos de Miranda Farias from the Energy Research Company (EPE) noted the lack of a strategic national development plan. The time frame for energy planning is about 30 years, considering the slow pace of studies and formal procedures

required for the implementation of energy work. By using such long-term plans, new conditions such as the inclusion of socio-environmental criteria could be developed. To prepare such plans, the EPE representative said, “one would ideally have a national development plan” to build on. The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) is currently sponsoring a series of programmes aiming to increase the use of alternative energy sources such as biomass, wind energy and small hydropower plants.

The panellist discussion showed that there seems to be hardly any in-depth dialogue between the Brazilian environmental and industrial policy-makers. Professor Célio Bermann from the Department of Electro-technical and Energy Studies of the Energy Postgraduate Programme of the University of São Paulo criticised EPE’s policy of being opposed to sustainability in many basic points, both social as well as environmental. He drew attention to the need to reorient the energy discussion in Brazil and to eliminate the present submission to the “dictatorship of supply”. As Professor Bermann sees it, efforts are being made to meet the existing demand without previously identifying the demand’s profile.

Panellist Luiz Pinguelli Rosa, coordinator of the COPPE Energy Planning Programme of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and the Executive Secretary for the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change, emphasised the country’s need for an energy policy that includes all forms and sources of energy. He criticised the fact that EPE’s major concern seems to be to supply the demand for electricity, but has neither identified a national petroleum strategy nor a natural gas policy. Regarding alternative forms of energy, Mr Pinguelli Rosa complimented the general design of PROINFA, one of the MME programmes aiming at achieving the vision of sustainable development.

José Carlos de Miranda Farias from EPE said that society’s participation would be assured in future planning activities. The results of the challenging efforts to involve all the different groups will be reflected over the next few years, when new plans will be submitted for public discussion.

Sustainable Development Strategies and Forest Policies

As far as other natural resources are concerned, Tasso Rezende de Azevedo, director of the National Forest Programme (PNF), presented the PNF’s goals, challenges and means. While the government’s first challenge in the forest sector is to keep the forest standing, it is confronted with other major challenges. On the one hand, almost half (48.5 %) of the country’s surface is covered by forest. On the other hand, only 60.0 % of all wood supplied to industry comes from planted forests. In addition, there has been a planting deficit since 1998. Thus the PNF is aiming to expand the planted forest base, especially by reforesting degraded areas, and to expand the area of managed forests while protecting areas of high value for conservation. To achieve these goals, the PNF seeks to strengthen the forest sector by means of extending credits, technical assistance, increasing information and technology as well as through incentives. This support is intended to support the sector and orient it towards sustainability.

Paul Moutinho from the Amazon Institute for Environmental Research (IPAM) appreciated the fact that the PNF is seeking to generate criteria for the sector, which lacks guidelines, especially in the Amazon region. The plan has been responding to the emphasis on regulation, inspection and incentives in a satisfactory manner, he said. However, government plans are known to run frequently aground on the inspection question—a fact that Mr Azevedo described as a lack of supervision mechanisms.

Maintaining a managed forest is still relatively costly, Mr Moutinho said, whereas converting it into pasture or planting soybeans is more profitable. It is therefore vital that both the national and the international community recognise the importance of this public asset for climate balance. The Amazon has a global impact upon the world's climate, and actions that help maintain the Amazon rainforest must be remunerated.

Sustainable Development Strategies and Desertification Policies

In Brazil, the area covered by the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (PAN-Brazil), presented by João Bosco Senra, Secretary for Water Resources of the MMA, includes 11 states, 1,482 municipalities, about 32 million people and 16% of the national territory. PAN-Brazil was created based on the demand of 800 organisations that make up the Brazilian NGO ASA – Articulation of the Brazilian Semi-Arid Region. The inter-ministerial group designing the programme avoided defining actions that were isolated from existing policies. The aim was, instead, to increase the potential of actions that had already been planned. PPA actions within the programme's geographical area that could cause desertification were identified, as were those that could combat desertification. This concept responds to the idea that the states should develop their own strategy against desertification. Moreover, PAN-Brazil has defined an agenda for regional cooperation with several Latin-American countries aimed at monitoring, evaluating and designing an information system on combating desertification.

Roberto Malvezzi, a member of the National Coordination of the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), emphasised that the National Plan for Water Resources (PNRH) will play an essential role in defining the use of water over the next 20 years. Brazil, he said, has never had a strategy and culture of saving water and using it carefully. However, whether the institutions implementing PNRH will be strong enough to confront the economic status quo and short-term interests, Mr Malvezzi said, is another story.

Role of the Private Sector and of the Civil Society vis-à-vis Sustainability

Baraca/Brasmazon, a private company whose main activity is water treatment, purchases raw materials in the Amazon region, refines them in São Paulo and sells the final product to the cosmetic industry. This new field of activity was developed in a university institute by some professors. João Matos, Manager of Brasmazon's Biodiversity Valorisation Programme, has identified two questions concerning the sustainability of this kind of business. The first refers to magnitude: How can communities and their capacities to produce be established? The company establishes a direct relationship with the communities, preferring that people

remain in the region where they come from, as this guarantees a high-quality product that is extracted according to specific local knowledge.

The second question refers to sharing the benefits derived from knowledge. According to Matos, this is something the company is still learning to deal with. The company acts as an intermediary with the marketplace, since there is no such interaction between the extractive communities and the marketplace so far. In this regard it facilitates contact between producers and credit institutions, as a means of bringing resources to the communities and increasing the value of traditional knowledge, social organisation, capacity building, collection, planting and replanting, aggregation of value, technology, certification and quality of life.

In a second presentation, Raul do Vale, the representative of the Brazilian Association of NGOs (Abong) and of the Instituto Socioambiental (ISA), defined the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as twofold: (1) to exert social control, inspecting, monitoring and demanding action from the State; (2) to encourage and support the design of plans, programmes and national strategies. NGOs, he said, wish to participate in the country's long-term planning—a process which must be led by the State, “which will always be considered the true umpire for all major national issues.”

Grace Dalla Pria, the representative of the National Industrial Confederation (CNI), reaffirmed Mr do Vale's calls for a strong State when she said that the State must not abdicate its role as the main driver of development. Planning, she said, is the State's constitutional responsibility, and it must provide indications for the private sector, which, in turn, can make a concrete contribution to the implementation of sustainable development. Large companies, she noted, manage to adapt themselves to certain norms, but the majority of companies actually face difficulties in adapting to these norms because the access to laws and rules is too elaborate and difficult.

Debate and Synthesis

During the general debate some additional aspects were mentioned. Paulo Moutinho drew attention to the conceptual problem that legislation which imposes limits is often perceived as a barrier to development. In fact, he said, it can be a comparative advantage. The industry, he said, has recognised this and is adapting to it. However, strict rules and efficient rules are not the same thing.

Mr Viana, the Secretary for Sustainable Development Policies of the MMA, said that lately, for the last 10 or 15 years, Brazil has been trying to get out of its state of stagnation. Thus, there is actually no clear strategy for sustainable development. The present government, he said, seems to be more development-oriented than conservation-oriented. Nevertheless, concrete progress has undeniably been made in environmental sustainability, as expressed through public policies, legislation, regulation and the monitoring of aspects that are essential for the country. This has not reversed the outdated development model, which results in environmental liabilities. However, genuine progress, he insisted, has certainly been made.



Russian Federation



BRICS+G:

Sustainability and Growth in Russia

Jointly organised by the
Russian Federal Ministry
of Economic Development
and Trade, the Russian
Federal Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and
GTZ Office Moscow

National Workshop held in Moscow, 29 June 2005

National Development Model and the Sustainable Development Strategy

Russia is not a blank spot on the road map leading to the implementation of principles and strategies of sustainable development. In April 1996, Decree No 440 of the Russian President, following the resolutions of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Conference, approved a document entitled “The Concept of Russia’s Transition to Sustainable Development”. Although his recommendation to develop an NSSD and the draft State Concept on sustainable development of the Russian Federation still remain outstanding issues, the Decree nevertheless played its role in urging a number of newly created Russian institutions and public agencies and ministries to develop “ministerial” approaches with regard to sustainable development (the ministries of the environment, labour and social protection, the economy, etc.). In different sectors there are thus some sustainable development-related strategies in place. Still, the coordination among them is weak. The development and implementation of sustainable development-related activities in Russia are of a sporadic rather than a systemic character. More coordination and target-oriented efforts from the government, regions, experts, NGOs and local communities are needed.

Hence, the Russian Federation is lagging somewhat behind other countries in transforming accepted ideas of sustainable development into specific national and sub-national programmes. There is neither a formal Russian NSSD nor a national committee (commission) on sustainable development in Russia. No targeted budget resources are yet allocated for these purposes, and no national entity exists which could take the lead in coordinating this work in a national context. In addition to these insufficiencies in terms of leadership and coordination, the lack of legal support (regulations) and specific policies for sustainable development clearly makes the country’s quest to diminish its dependence on exports of

natural resources much more difficult. Workshop participants admitted that a number of key preconditions for Russia's transition to sustainable development are not yet in place, such as:

- The legal basis for transition towards sustainable development (in particular, improving the current legislation) is lacking, especially proper regulation for the sustainable usage of natural resources and environmental protection;
- The violation of sustainable development principles does not inflict penalties, though some environment-related laws have become more severe;
- The promotion of sustainable development ideas and practices has not been given enough emphasis, and lacks country-wide support.

In their statements the high-level representatives of the Russian Federation's Ministry for Foreign Affairs presented many positive developments with regard to Russia's transition to sustainable development. While work on an NSSD at the federal level is proceeding slowly, some regions in Russia have worked out sustainable development programmes. All experts agreed that nowadays the Russian regions are the driving forces for the country's adoption of sustainable development principles. Regional leaders (governors, mayors, regional parliament speakers) have turned out to be major and more dedicated supporters of the future NSSD development and implementation. For instance, Tomsk, Orel, Yaroslavl, Kaliningrad, Novgorod and Vologda oblasts (regions) may be considered as good examples of commitment to sustainable development principles.

Simultaneously, Russian NGOs and independent institutions have become active in promoting sustainable development concepts and practices, even though the role of the "third sector" in sustainable development has not been clarified and addressed at the national level. Russian scientific organisations have begun to show more interest in sustainable development, and major efforts have been undertaken to create an adequate prognostic system for the country. The collaboration between business and the State still needs improvement.

Despite all unfavourable conditions and a lack of coordinating efforts on the side of the government, the need for sustainable development permeates Russian society. The participants expressed their strong belief that the initiation of the BRICS+G project, as well as suitable support from the donor community, can usefully contribute to Russia's transition to sustainable development. The present moment provides a unique opportunity and fertile soil for such a project.

Sustainable Development Strategies and Natural Resource Policies

Workshop participants shared the opinion that the current generation has not inherited the environment from their parents, but is rather borrowing it from its children. Concerns about the unchecked establishment and dominance of market logic and mechanisms, especially with regard to land use, along with contradictory and imperfect land legislation, were a core topic in the discussions. It was emphasised that the absence of a common and approved strategy based on sustainable development principles represents an essential drawback for Russia. Coupled with the tendency of diminishing State control over land use,

the society is facing the increasing problem of adequately preserving and using its natural resources. Russia needs an ecology-oriented land policy.

In general, Russia is still characterised by its inability to use land rationally. However, some positive factors and success stories have been linked with land use at the regional and municipal levels in some parts of Russia. Thus, it was recommended to concentrate on the sub-national level.

Concerning the use of forests, the commonly shared opinion was that the current Forest Code provides some innovations, but suffers from incompleteness and the absence of a clearly defined forest policy. The development of a new forest policy compatible with or based on sustainable development principles must be addressed in the years to come.

Sustainable Development Strategies and Social Development

Sustainable development in the social sector was recognised as a key issue for Russian development. The participants in this sector were very critical in this regard, mainly because the objectives of the social reforms in Russia were considered very vague. In addition, they are not well-linked with other reforms.

The attention of participants was attracted to the main emerging problem, namely demographic pressure on the population and on the State budget, which has started seriously to affect sustainable development in Russia. The problem of migration is one of the most important of the challenges in this field.

Russian businesses are only just starting to address the issue of social responsibility, and this has suffered from the lack of understanding both on the side of the government and entrepreneurs.

Please find the full version of the report at www.bricsg.net/en/national_conferences



BRICS+G:

Sustainability and Growth in India



Jointly organised by the
Ministry of Environment
and Forests (MEF),
Government of India and
GTZ Office New Delhi

National Workshop held in New Delhi, 8/9 July 2005

Traditions Rediscovered

Nearly 16 % of the world's population live in India. The population can be seen as an assorted community equally at home in the most modern of settings as well as with traditional ways of living that have remained unchanged for centuries. Here one sees parallel and simultaneously diverse approaches towards dealing with issues that reveal a mixture of both traditional and modern thinking. This diversity of approaches gives rise to a variety of possible solutions and options to the challenges of modern life.

The traditional Indian lifestyle, in general, is in harmony with nature and is consonant with development. The perils of the Western model of development have not greatly affected Indian traditions and practices. These have evolved out of an understanding of nature, and are today being rediscovered as a source of strength from which new, appropriate strategies for sustainable development could be built. From this a genuine concern for the environment has emerged that is largely rooted in Indian traditions and cultural practices. Sustainable development at the country level can reduce pressure on the so-called global commons (air, water, land, minerals, etc.) to the benefit of all nations.

Sustainability in the Energy Sector

India has the capacity to generate about 120,000 megawatts (MW) of electric power. Electricity is only available to about 60 % of the country's total population, and per capita consumption of electricity is, at around 408 kWh, much lower than the world average of 2,326 kWh. The country experiences substantial peak and energy shortages owing to inadequate generation, transmission and distribution as well as an inefficient use of electricity. The projected installed capacity by 2012 has been assessed at 212,000 MW. An integrated

approach including increased capacity through nuclear and unconventional energies has been adopted in order to achieve the targets.

Petroleum consumption in India has been increasing very steeply and is projected to reach 175 million metric tonnes (MMT) in the period 2006–2007, a considerable increase on the present figure of 130 MMT. The government attaches high priority to minimising gaps between indigenous production and the consumption of petroleum products, which includes judicious use, substitution by other resources wherever feasible, and restricting the use of petrol only to essential needs. The measures being taken are inter-fuel substitution, using compressed natural gas and liquefied petroleum gases, research and development (R&D) for the development of biofuels and measures for environmental protection by upgrading fuel quality.

The all-India coal demand assessed for the period 2005–2006 is 436.46 million tons, compared with availability of about 412 million tons. Sustainable development initiatives in the coal sector include the development and use of technologies to ensure efficiency in the utilisation of coal, such as coal washing and coal gasification, as well as steps to mitigate the environmental damage to land, air and water during the mining and extraction of coal. The large coal reserves in the country provide a ready and economical resource and ensure energy security. Hence, coal has been identified as the mainstay fuel for power generation until 2012. Emphasis has been laid on setting up large pithead stations to avoid the high costs associated with transporting high ash-bearing Indian coal and overstraining the already stretched rail network.

Concerns relating to pollution and the disposal of the large amount of ash produced by coal-based power stations, which are the mainstay of India's power generation, are being addressed through strategies to promote environmentally sustainable power development. The Ministry is taking steps to make the use of fly-ash mandatory for road and bridge construction as well as for the construction of government buildings. Fiscal incentives to supplement the market mechanism for taking up the production and promotion of fly-ash products are also envisaged.

Hydroelectricity enhances India's energy security and is ideal for meeting peak demand. Less than a quarter of the country's vast hydropower potential of 150,000 MW has been tapped so far. Compared to the high level of utilisation of hydropower in countries like Norway (58%), Canada (41%) and Brazil (31%), India's utilisation, at only 17% of its potential, is extremely low. In fact, the share of hydro generation in India has gradually declined over the past 25 years. Consequently, thermal generation, which should generally be used for base load operation, is also being used to meet peak requirements.

Renewable Energy Policy in Place

India has a policy framework in place to tap the potential for renewable energy such as solar, wind, biomass, and small hydropower, irrespective of capacity. The search for alternative fuels that would ensure sustainable development on the one hand and energy security

on the other began as early as the 1970s. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources supports the implementation of large broad-spectrum programmes covering the entire range of new and renewable energies. The share of the non-conventional energy component in the projected demand of 212,000 MW of electric power by 2012 is 10,700 MW.

India was among the first group of countries to recognise the vast potential of unlocking the power of the atom, and as far back as 1954 set up the Department of Atomic Energy. While nuclear power today accounts for only 2 % of the overall installed capacity, India has embarked on a major programme to generate 20,000 megawatts of nuclear power by 2020.

Recognising the fact that an efficient use of energy and its conservation is the least-cost option to meet increasing energy demands, the Government of India has enacted the Energy Conservation Act 2001, which contains the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). The mission of the BEE is to develop policies and strategies with an emphasis on self-regulation and market principles with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy. This will be achieved with the active participation of all stakeholders, resulting in accelerated and sustained adoption of energy efficiency in all sectors.

The new Electricity Act of 2003 provides an enabling framework for accelerated and more efficient development of the power sector. The Act seeks to encourage competition with appropriate regulatory intervention. The national electricity policy emphasises optimal utilisation of resources such as coal, natural gas, nuclear material, hydropower and renewable sources of energy. A national electricity plan prepared under the policy takes into account environmental considerations, including re-habitation and resettlement, technologies for efficient generation and fuel choices based on ensuring energy security for the economy, as well as considerations for optimal development of the electricity sector in its totality.

There is enormous scope for decoupling economic growth from expanding energy and resource use as well as increasing environmental degradation. Japan is a classic example of this. In 1991, Japan was producing twice its output of 1973 with the same amount of energy and significantly reduced emissions. It is similarly possible to decouple industrial growth from toxic waste, urban development from congestion and environmental pollution, agricultural growth from deforestation and land degradation, and resource extraction from ecological destruction and social dislocation.

Land Resources and Watershed Management

Unprecedented population pressures and demands of society on land, water and biological resources and the increasing degradation of such resources, coupled with threats to the stability and resilience of ecosystems and the environment as a whole, have pushed the importance of planning and managing land resources to the fore.

The challenge is to develop and promote sustainable and productive land-use systems and to protect critical resources and ecosystems by balancing land, water and other resource uses,

thereby providing a basis for negotiation, participatory decision-making and conflict resolution among various stakeholders.

The scenario of Indian land resource management is grim. There are various hot spots and pockets in almost all the states of India which reflect the devastating effects of reckless land resource use.

NGOs have played an important role in development processes in land resource management at the grassroots level. Today, the Indian system produces a considerable number of innovations. Stakeholders and other interested people are becoming involved in the area-development projects at all levels right from planning to decision-making, implementation and usufruct-sharing. The Public-Private Partnership concept has been taken to heart. Stakeholders have discovered that the key to success and sustainability lies in the genuine empowerment of the people—especially of women—through the establishment of proper institutional arrangements, leading to the generation of alternative rural livelihoods. The schemes need to be integrated in a holistic manner to ensure success in implementation.

Watershed management plays a critically important role in combating the problem as it ensures dynamic conservation, sustainable development and equitable access to the benefit of interventions. Fortunately, both the ecological and the economic rehabilitation of misused watershed slopes are complementary, and the main technologies for recovery are well-established. However, watershed development should not be treated as a universal panacea; instead, gaps in the sectoral integration need to be addressed in order to ensure a better rehabilitation of wastelands through a watershed approach.

Market-oriented Natural Resources Management

The Indian forestry scenario follows the same strategy, through the application of joint forest management and other people-oriented measures. The management of non-timber forest produce has been identified as having a great employment-generating potential for forest dwellers and other stakeholders. The necessary steps for its conservation, use and processing, including value-addition and post-harvest management, are now being taken. The development of forest tourism and ecotourism has been identified as one of the key factors for the conservation of flora and fauna. The “Task Force on Tigers” addresses issues regarding the protection of wildlife as well as the conflict resolution measures between the human population and wild animals.

Much of the mismanagement and inefficient use of natural resources and the environment can be traced to malfunctioning, distorted or totally absent markets. There is a need for such markets to be developed, not least because it would also protect existing markets from failure due to market imperfections, lack of competition or ill-defined incentives.

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BRICS+G:

Sustainability and Growth in China



National Workshop held in Beijing, 9 July 2005

Jointly organised by
The Administrative
Centre for China's
Agenda 21 (ACCA 21)
and GTZ Office Beijing

National Development Model and Sustainable Development Strategy

In his keynote speech, Mr Han Wenxiu, Director General of the Office of the Leading Group on Financial and Economic Affairs of the National Development and Reform Council (NDRC), outlined the link between sustainable development and the concepts of “Scientific Development” and a “Harmonious Society” that are currently being promoted by the Chinese government. According to Mr Han, sustainable development is a prerequisite for both. The Scientific Development concept, for example, stands for holistic development. This means that if economic development is faster than social development, this imbalance needs to be addressed—the same is true if some regions grow faster than others (creating regional disparities) or if the balance between humankind and nature is threatened. The “Harmonious Society” can be characterised by democracy and the rule of law, equity and justice, integrity and friendship, safety and security, and the balance between humankind and nature. Therefore, sustainable development can be interpreted as both a result and a prerequisite of these two concepts.

“When economic development is faster than social development, this imbalance needs to be addressed.” Han Wenxiu

Dr Guo Risheng, Deputy Director of the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA 21), emphasised in his keynote speech the need for a proper implementation of sustainable development at the local level. From its inception, ACCA 21 has been involved in the formulation of China's NSSD. In the past decade, ACCA 21 has dedicated itself to promoting sustainable development at all levels and, to this end, has initiated a number of close partnerships with international partners.

Sustainable Development Strategies and Energy Sector Policies

Panel I focused on sector policies regarding energy and exhaustible resources and their link to China's NSSD. The panellists agreed that the current structure of China's energy supply, which is almost 70 % reliant on coal, is not sustainable. Moreover, China's high CO₂ emissions contribute to air pollution and to the global greenhouse effect, while SO₂ emissions from coal-fired power plants cause serious problems at the local and provincial levels.

“Coal is our biggest problem. China's current energy supply structure is not sustainable.” Yu Jie

However, participants emphasised that in its current drive for industrialisation, China simply requires energy in great quantities, and that this trend will not change in the years to come. At present, per capita consumption of energy in China

is still much lower than in the industrialised world. Two possible ways out of China's current dilemma are increased energy efficiency and systematic investments in new technologies, especially in the field of renewable energies.

It was generally observed that while China has done a good job linking its sustainable development strategy to sector policies, day-to-day operations and practices often run counter to the country's overarching strategies. Therefore, the consistency between the sustainable development strategy and actual policies needs to be improved (in terms of coal, power plants, water and infrastructure planning). In numerous cases, sustainable development is sabotaged by opposing interests at the provincial and local levels.

Sustainable Development Strategies, Environment Policies and Environmental Protection

Panel II analysed the current state of environmental policies with regard to the national sustainable development strategy. Participants stated that the general public in China is well aware of environmental problems. The environmental protection movement has passed its initial stage, and the government's Five-Year Plans have also become increasingly “green”. According to a recent World Bank study, the government has been able to achieve some encouraging results: (1) a broad-based and absolute reduction in industrial air and water pollutant emissions during the second half of the 1990s, (2) the reversal of deforestation, and (3) the reversal of secondary salinisation in irrigated areas. These achievements provide strong indications that high-level political commitment is necessary for real progress to be made in environmental management.

Yet the same study warns that the Chinese environmental situation is likely to become more complex. Therefore the government will have to reorient its management approaches by placing less emphasis on “fire-fighting” and more emphasis on the prevention of environmental problems.

Panellists criticised the fact that government officials, especially at the local level, still too often decide one-sidedly in favour of economic growth, neglecting environmental aspects. In the following panel discussion, Professor Zheng Yisheng blamed this phenomenon on

faulty fiscal incentives that exclusively relate to quantitative growth, and on overall inefficient public revenue sharing. Workshop participants suggested that the performance of political leaders should not only be measured by economic indicators, but should also include qualitative indicators. The introduction of a “Green GDP” concept might be one way to introduce a more balanced view on development—an alternative could be a general debate on what actually constitutes a “good life”.

Sustainable Development Strategies and Social Dimensions

The participants of **Panel III** emphasised China’s achievements in the social sector: the successful control of population growth, speedy poverty alleviation and basic education for all. Nevertheless, current challenges remain huge, such as regional disparities between the eastern and western regions of the country, unemployment as well as an uneven distribution of financial and political power. There was agreement that only a more balanced development approach and a strong dialogue involving the government, the private sector and the general public can ensure the formulation of more equitable and transparent policies.

“Corporate Social Responsibility in China is still largely limited to foreign multinationals and state-owned enterprises.” *Chen Kun*

The panellists identified higher levels of participation and transparency, especially with regard to the Chinese media, as the crucial factors for a successful multistakeholder dialogue that successfully tackles the social aspects of sustainable development. Several participants also called for a stronger role for Chinese enterprises concerning the establishment of corporate social responsibility guidelines and the implementation and supervision of nationwide social standards.

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BRICS+G:

Sustainability and Growth in South Africa



Jointly organised by the
State Department for
Environmental Affairs and
Tourism (DEAT),
Government of the
Republic of South Africa
and GTZ Office Pretoria

National Round Table held in Pretoria, 4 August 2005

National Development Model and Sustainable Development Strategy

South Africa has already made significant progress in the elaboration and formulation of an NSSD and is in the process of conceptualising the final stages of a national consensus on sustainable development priorities. This will be formulated in a final product which will be used by the government and stakeholders to enhance South Africa's long-term planning capacity.

The approach adapted to the NSSD recognises that sustainable development must be integral to South Africa's "Vision 2014" and to the country's economic growth path. Development scenarios must respond to long-term trends, address the need for a balance between social, economic and environmental parameters, and explicitly recognise the tradeoffs that are being made at any particular time.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) has also recognised that the NSSD should be developed as an "encompassing framework", as stated in the Ten-Year Review (Presidency, October 2004). This framework would provide the basis for policy coordination and performance management. It is not conceived as a new "super policy", but rather as a framework that builds on existing programmes and strategies, extends the planning time horizon from 10 to 20 years, and addresses synergies and tensions at the interface of social, economic and environmental priorities.

Long-term Environmental Trends and Sustainable Development Strategies

The round-table discussion was devised as a means of obtaining focused and meaningful inputs from key stakeholders and experts on specific environmental sectors that influence

sustainable development in South Africa. The environmental sector was identified as a lens that could be used to approach issues at the interface between social, economic and environmental parameters and to assess their implications for sustainable development. Changes to the environment are useful indicators of the impact of development and can reveal whether development itself is sustainable or unsustainable. By considering emerging trends in the environment sector, it is possible to create a picture of how sustainable South Africa's development will be in the future. This is achieved by considering environmental trends and projections, their potential impact and, importantly, their implications for economic growth and social development.

Each workshop participant participated in one of three working groups, each of which focused on a particular environmental sector. The groups were asked to consider the earlier presentations and to answer four questions relating to their specific sector, namely:

- a) What are the key trends and 20-year projections for the selected area?
- b) What are the key implications of these trends and projections (challenges, opportunities and risks) for social development and economic growth?
- c) What challenges do these implications pose for the science and technology agenda?
- d) What key conclusions from your working group should be incorporated into the NSSD?

Each working group presented the results of its deliberations plus the results from the climate change, water and waste working groups.

The final plenary discussion clearly showed that although each working group had focused on specific issues relating to its particular sector, there were a number of common themes that emerged from the discussions.

NSSD—An Integrating and Coordinating Tool for Different Sector Policies

The main topics can be summarised as follows:

1. While the NSSD strives to integrate existing policies and to provide a consistent and coherent long-term strategy, participants stated that in certain sectors, the implementation of such policies is still a problem. The different sector policies are still lacking in coherence and integration, especially with regard to an overall, long-term perspective. However, the NSSD was identified as the most appropriate mechanism to integrate sector policies and to improve interdepartmental coordination.
2. South Africa still faces various challenges linked to transformation, particularly concerning how to address the needs of the poor and to provide services and social security. South Africa's vision is to provide the basis for this via an accelerated growth strategy, which will allow public investment and redistribution.
3. In similar fashion, it was recognised that relevant and useful research is being carried out to support sustainable development in South Africa, but on an ad hoc basis, without being integrated. It was suggested that the National Research and Development Strategy presents an important resource for consolidating appropriate research. South Africa's existing capacity in terms of sophisticated science and technology is

also an advantage with regard to the development and introduction of new and sustainable technologies, not only in the country itself, but also across the African continent and beyond.

4. The idea or the need to consider sustainability as an element of long-term political, economic and social perspectives and of people's daily life is not yet broadly accepted within South Africa's society or even within the government or other stakeholder groups. Moving towards sustainable development in South Africa requires a new development paradigm, not only for all South Africa's citizens, but also within the government and institutions. Achieving such a paradigm shift requires an acknowledgment that sustainability needs to become an integral part of strategic planning—politically, economically and socially.
5. As South Africa is a developing country, it is important to introduce appropriate infrastructural investment. More new and sustainable technologies for development are required. In addition, current development nodes and the planning for an improved physical infrastructure need to consider sustainability as one of the more important elements for decisions. This also applies to private investments such as golf estates or mall and compound developments.
6. It is important to ensure that all stakeholders take responsibility and are held accountable for their actions. Through the policy process, it will be important to look for the appropriate opportunities to introduce either incentives or regulations to promote accountability.
7. South Africa faces the problem of over-consumption of resources by certain social groups. In order to promote sustainable development, it is important to apply the “user pays” and “polluter pays” principles.
8. It is recognised that a successful implementation of the NSSD and its function in terms of long-term political and strategic planning needs to be linked to the framework for spatial plans such as the National Spatial Development Perspective (NSDP), the Provincial Growth and Development Strategies (PGDS) and Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).

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BRICS+G:

Sustainability and Growth in Germany

National Workshop held in Berlin, 9 June 2005

Organised by the
German Council
for Sustainable
Development (RNE)

Significance, Issues and Organisation of the German National Sustainability Strategy

The German government's National Sustainability Strategy was submitted in April 2002 under the auspices of the Federal Chancellery. It receives advice from numerous stakeholders. Berthold Goeke of the Federal Chancellery evaluates it as providing for a laboratory for a policy on generation equality. In Germany's federal state structure, it complements the measures taken by the *Länder* (federal states) and the local authorities—stimulating them, but not replacing them. The National Sustainability Strategy is geared to concrete problems for which it identifies specific solutions. At its core are new perspectives for generation equality, quality of life, social cohesion and global responsibility. It offers a variety of points of contact for players from trade and industry as well as from the civil society. Mr Goeke referred to key initiatives of the German government that have been initiated by the National Sustainability Strategy, adding that long-term goals enable the State to produce new market effects.

“The government's work on the National Sustainability Strategy is coordinated and driven by the Federal Chancellery. Through this, it is ensured that the goals and measures of ecological, economic and social importance are handled at cross-departmental level.” *Berthold Goeke*

The government's work on the National Sustainability Strategy is coordinated and driven by the Federal Chancellery. This underlines the significance of the issue, which has become a matter of top priority for the Chancellor. This ensures that ecologically, economically and socially important goals and measures are handled at cross-departmental level.

Establishing the German Council for Sustainable Development as the stakeholder body was the right decision to take, Mr Goeke said. Part of the requisite consultation and participation process comprises the annual meetings held by the Council, which provide social groups with a forum for exchange as well as discussion on individual positions. These have become a “must-attend” appointment for Germany’s chancellor.

Member of Parliament Astrid Klug, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Sustainable Development in Germany’s Bundestag, states that Parliament has stepped up its active role in the sustainability debate. The Parliamentary Advisory Council accompanies the ongoing development of the National Sustainability Strategy as well as the implementation of both its content and the process. It also sets its own focal points. In a detailed statement, the Advisory Council noted that, while the current discussions within the German government and the opposition on reforms aiming at making society viable for the future, in terms of communicativeness and strategy, they are all too seldom loosely grouped under the banner of “sustainable development”. Opportunities are wasted as a result. More than anything, the aim must be to incorporate parliament’s engagement with the sustainability requirements into finalised procedures and processes.

RNE representative Angelika Zahrnt stressed that the extent and urgency of the current national and global problems necessitate a new policy. She especially highlighted energy and climate, mobility and the overexploitation of natural resources, environmental pollutants, demographic change as well as infrastructure. The National Sustainability Strategy plays a crucial role in these aspects. One positive move has been the establishment of a *Green Cabinet* (comprising the secretaries of state of those ministries involved in the elaboration of the strategy: finance, environment, consumer protection, food and agriculture, building and housing, mobility, economy, social affairs, health, family, economic coop-

eration and development, foreign affairs, science and education, defence) chaired by the Federal Chancellery. This is a new instrument for policy integration. The National Sustainability Strategy contains clearly defined objectives and indicators and puts new issues on the agenda, such as urban development.

“Growth continues to be interpreted as a mere quantitative indicator of GDP. As a consequence, it remains without any specific ecological or social direction.” Dr Angelika Zahrnt

Criticism is, above all, warranted since the scope for activity is not actually being fully exploited. More could be done to increase resource productivity and energy efficiency, for example in the field of public procurement. The strategy continues to interpret “growth” as a mere quantitative indicator of GDP which is no longer fully accurate. As a consequence, it lacks any specific ecological or social direction.

Sustainability Policy in the Economy and Society

According to Maximilian Gege of the German Environmental Management Association (BAUM), the potential for implementing sustainability in companies has not yet been

fully exploited. Growth dynamics should be geared more specifically to sustainability—for example through social work-time structures, new technologies, resource productivity and sustainable consumption. To date, it has not been possible to initiate a growth dynamic which is oriented towards the goals of sustainable development, but this must occur in the future. Private companies should increase their sustainability reporting.

Mr Gege perceives the role of the financial markets and analysts as being highly problematic. The call for ever-higher returns on investment is, in his opinion, driving companies to relocate to countries with low-wage economies. This undermines the State's ability to take action.

“To date, it has not been possible to initiate a growth dynamic which is oriented towards the goals of sustainable development, but this must occur in the future.”

Professor Maximilian Gege

Stefan Becker of EON AG highlighted many practical examples in the economy, which demonstrate that the idea of sustainability is being embraced and implemented in terms of innovation, product policy as well as corporate responsibility. In his opinion, this is also an indication of corporate commitment to “econsense”, the Forum on Sustainable Development of German Business.

Martin Jänicke, Professor at the Environmental Policy Research Centre at the Free University of Berlin and a member of the German Advisory Council on the Environment, stressed the consensus over and beyond party politics in Germany with regard to the policy of sustainability and climate policy. An international comparison shows that sustainability policy is achieving success in areas where faith is being placed in technical innovations. Corporate players are increasingly recognising the profitability of “dematerialisation”, for example, i. e. the decoupling of resource consumption and the economy.

Does the German National Sustainability Strategy offer sufficient points of contact for social pioneers as well as new types of action?

Gerhard Timm, Federal Managing Director of BUND Friends of the Earth Germany, reports that the environmental organisations are in principle very receptive to the 2002 National Sustainability Strategy. However, in spite of the long-term perspective of the objectives, the concrete measures of the strategy barely go beyond action already being taken by the government. This fails to take account of the finiteness of resources, the necessary lowering of global resource consumption, and the need to change the consumption-oriented lifestyles in the Western world.

According to Sabine Hofmeister, Professor at the University of Lüneburg and representative of the Gender Network, the gender perspective can strengthen the integrative strategies of the sustainability policy, but is not being utilised to its full extent. Progress towards a sustainable society cannot be measured by abstract growth goals, she pointed out, but by the degree that social needs are being satisfied and by the overall level of precautions in place. She also highlighted options for future generations, with respect to “time prosperity” for

women and men, spatial and social proximity, cultural diversity, needs-oriented products and technological developments and designs that take ecological implications into account. Reporting on the impact of sustainability on education policy, Christiane Averbeck, representing the Bund-Länder Commission for Educational Planning, drew attention to the “Transfer-21” programme. This programme is designed to integrate methods and learning materials on sustainability into 10 % of all classrooms throughout Germany. Experience shows that it is important to tie these in with pupils’ practical experience, as well as to allow for participation and self-organised learning, and to open up schools to external cooperation partners. However, in Averbeck’s view, both the National Sustainability Strategy and the 2004 Progress Report may have added some input, but have largely failed to provide any content-related orientation for education policy.

What significance does the German National Sustainability Strategy have for the Länder and the local authorities? Does it benefit Local Agenda 21 in the process, or does it remain ineffective?

The Agenda-Transfer Agency for Sustainability represented by Albrecht Hoffmann and the Servicestelle Kommunen in der Einen Welt (Nation-Wide Service Department Local Agenda 21) has been vested with the task of ensuring that exchanges of experience take place throughout the country and that local activities are networked. In addition to this, some Länder have offices which perform similar tasks.

According to Mr Hoffmann, 2,500 of the 12,900 local authorities in Germany have formally agreed on Local Agenda 21 and have become active players by initiating projects and organising round tables. However, their actions no longer have the same political clout as at the beginning. The National Sustainability Strategy is also still largely unknown to the local authorities, probably because the National Sustainability Strategy is not very well linked to the Local Agenda 21 processes. Mr Hoffmann further criticised the lack of political coordination of the federal government’s measures in terms of implementation at local level. As a

consequence, the National Sustainability Strategy has, in many places, failed to match its possibilities and, in the eyes of many local activists, cannot be used for political purposes.

“The existing and functioning networks of civil society (Local Agenda 21) and the corporate networks could be involved more effectively in the elaboration and extrapolation of the Sustainability Strategy and utilised to the benefit of common objectives.” Günter Lanz

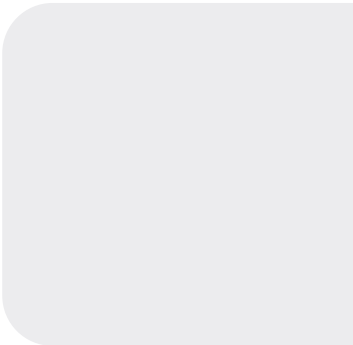
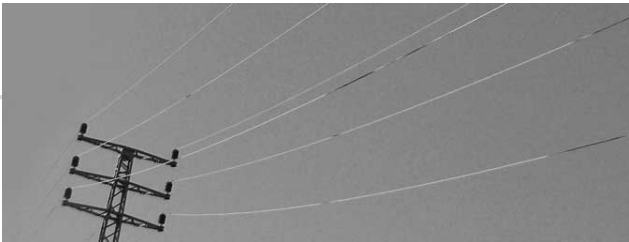
Holger Tschense, a member of the German Council for Sustainable Development, offered a positive impression of how Local Agenda 21 has progressed in Germany. Already up to 300 local authorities have

established action plans containing concrete goals, and a significant number of mayors are assuming a pioneering role in their local authority as a result of the local sustainability policy. These are useful in addressing the major challenges facing German local authorities in the areas of budgetary finance, the economy, the number of inhabitants and the environment.

Günter Lanz of the Federal Government and the *Länder* Working Group on Sustainable Development reported on the *Länder*'s sustainability efforts. The National Sustainability Strategy reaches expert groups, but has not yet been extended to the broad public. In state politics (at *Länder* level), a connection to the sustainability policy is only made in an unsystematic way when this is likely to result in greater acceptance of that state's activities.

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The International Conference— 4/5 September 2005 in Berlin



Prof Dr Renat Aleksevich Perelet
Prof Sergei Nikolaevich Bobylev
Dr Ding Ningning



Rajiv Kher



The International Conference—4/5 September 2005 in Berlin



Blessing Manale
Harald Lossack
H.E. Gilney Amorim Viana
N. K. Singh

Roberto Smeraldi





Alexandre Prilepin
Prof Dr Marcel Bursztyn
Elena Evgenjevna Nikolaeva



Celina Borges Torrealba Carpi
Naseem Chohan
Tang Dingding

Prof Sergei Nikolaevich Bobylev





Workshop Impression

The International Conference—4/5 September 2005 in Berlin

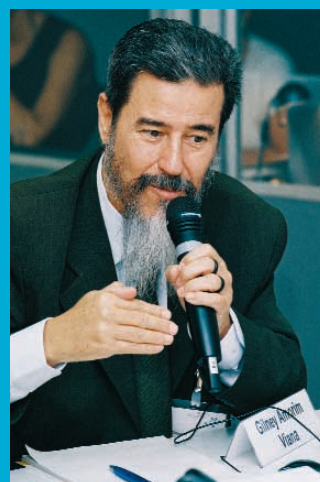
H.E. Pan Yue



Dr Angelika Zahrt



H.E. Gilney Amorim Viana



N. K. Singh
Sanjay Kumar Srivastava
Dr Angelika Zahrnt
Roberto Smeraldi



Dr Utz Tillmann
Dr Rolf Sülzer



Blessing Manale



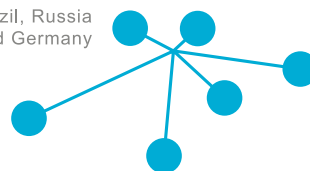
N. K. Singh
Akash Taneja
Rajiv Kher
H.E. Sudhir Mital



The International Conference—
4/5 September 2005 in Berlin

BRICS⁺G

Sustainability and Growth in Brazil, Russia
India, China, South Africa and Germany



Delegations

B

H.E. Dr Gilney Amorim Viana
 Ms Celina Borges Torrealba Carpi
 Prof Dr Marcel Bursztyn
 Mr Roberto Smeraldi

R

Dr Elena Evgenjevna Nikolaeva
 Prof Sergei Nikolaevich Bobylev
 Prof Dr Renat Aleksevich Perelet
 Ms Tatjana Y. Chetvernina
 Mr Alexandre Prilepin

I

H.E. Sudhir Mital
 Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava
 Mr N. K. Singh
 Mr Akash Taneja
 Mr Rajiv Kher

C

H.E. Pan Yue
 Dr Ding Ningning
 Prof Ye Jingzhong
 Ms Liao Xiaoyi

S

Mr Blessing Manale
 Mr Naseem Chohan
 Mr Pancho Ndebele
 Mr Nelco Zenzele Hlatshwayo

G

Mr Berthold Goeke
 Dr Angelika Zahrnt
 Dr Günther Bachmann
 Dr Utz Tillmann

also present

Hosts

Dr Günther Bachmann
 Ms Franziska Donner

Advisors to the BRICS+G Project

Dr Albert Statz
 Dr Walter Tabat

Guests

Mr Klaus Brückner

Facilitator of the Conference

Mr Dirk Jung

Moderators of the Working Groups

Mr Peter Conze
 Mr Harald Lossack
 Dr Rolf Sülzer

Minute Takers

Mr Jan-Peter Schemmel
 Mr Michael Stoyke

Assisting Staff

Ms Dorothee Braun
 Mr Daniel Regenhardt
 Mr Philipp Steinheim

BRICS+G:

Sustainability and Growth in Brazil,
Russia, India, China, South Africa
and Germany



Jointly organised by
GTZ Office Berlin and
the German Council
for Sustainable
Development (RNE)

The International Conference— 4/5 September 2005 in Berlin

Welcoming Speeches by

Ms Franziska Donner, Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische
Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, GTZ House Berlin

Dr Günther Bachmann, Director, German Council for Sustainable Development
(RNE—Rat für Nachhaltige Entwicklung)

In their opening remarks, Ms Donner and Dr Bachmann extended a warm welcome to the participants and expressed their excitement about the great number of high-ranking experts attending this conference in Berlin in order to share their experiences and thoughts about sustainability strategies and economic growth.

Given the large population and the enormous growth potential of the BRICS countries, Ms Donner stated that their ability to link economic growth with sustainability would strongly influence the entire globe's future development. The conference should foster this linkage and create an atmosphere supportive of asking questions and listening to each other.

For the RNE, Dr Bachmann emphasised that this dialogue represents a second step reaching beyond the European discourse on sustainable development, which was initiated as a learning network of European councils. Rather than presenting its successes, he stressed that Germany intends to participate in this conference dialogue in order to learn from the experiences of other BRICS countries and to discuss the issues at stake, namely: what must be done, and how can economic growth become part of the solution instead of being regarded as part of the problem.

Opening the first session, conference moderator Dirk Jung invited the delegations to report on the state of their countries' national sustainable development strategies.

Session 1: State of the National Sustainable Development Strategies —Country Presentations

Brazil: His Excellency Gilney Amorim Viana, Secretary of State, Secretariat for Sustainability Policies, Ministry of the Environment

After summarising the assets and challenges with regard to his country's future development, Dr Viana emphasised that Brazil currently only has elements of a sustainable development strategy. For example, environmental issues have now for the first time been integrated into the "Pluriannual Plan" (PPA). The PPA (focusing on objectives for 2007, 2014 and 2022) has been invigorating medium and long-term planning, thus underlining the need to take environmental aspects into consideration. In the forest sector the government is developing a tighter policy to protect biodiversity and forests in a step-by-step approach. In order to limit and ultimately stop clandestine and illegal logging activities, Brazil is monitoring deforestation by satellite. The daily updated results are publicly accessible via the internet. With regard to economic and social issues, Dr Viana stressed Brazil's need for economic growth in order to create jobs. Economic growth alone, however, will not solve the income distribution problem, as has been illustrated in the past, with no improvements in income distribution despite 7 % annual growth. Brazil has some of the greatest disparities in income distribution in the world, with one-third (53 million) of the population living below the poverty line of 2 US dollars per day. Therefore Dr Viana expressed his wish that international companies should operate in Brazil according to the same standards they adhere to in their developed home countries. To improve access to income by the poorest, Brazil has started an income transfer programme to help as a first stage. Furthermore, land reform is needed.

Russia: Dr Elena Evgenjevna Nikolaeva, Deputy Head, Department for Federal Relations, Regional Development and Local Administration, Ministry of Regional Development

Dr Nikolaeva emphasised that sustainability is extremely significant for Russia, because natural capital accounts for 85 % of this huge country's assets. Of the remainder, human capital amounts to only 5 %, while productive (man-made) capital accounts for 10 %. Any government policy therefore has to take this structure into account, and as a result Russia has been actively involved in and has contributed to all major international sustainable development conferences. The ratification of the Kyoto Protocol in 2004 represents an important milestone in the country's continuous efforts to strengthen sustainability issues in a global context.

On the national level, there are a sizeable number of programmes and initiatives that aim to implement sustainability policies. They include the "Concept of the Russian Federation's Transition to Sustainable Development", the "First Russian National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)", the "Federal Law for the Protection of the Environment" and the "Major Directions of the Russian Federation's Socio-economic Development". The latter represents the country's long-term development plan. These policies are in line with national sustainable development priorities, which include poverty eradication, the doubling of GDP by 2010 as well as a reduction in the country's economic dependency on natural resources.

The size of the country necessitates special coordination structures centring on the Ministry of Regional Development. The administrative entities to be coordinated include 24,404 municipal institutions. Regional policies are focused in particular on special economic zones, protected areas as well as indigenous people's settlements.

India: His Excellency Sudhir Mital, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Sustainable approaches to development, Mr Mital said, have a long tradition in India and actually form an integral part of the country's culture. To illustrate this, he quoted Mahatma Gandhi's aphorism that "the earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's need but does not provide enough to satisfy everyone's greed." Environmental protection is part of India's constitution, and sustainable development is a crucial element of the country's legislative and policy framework. Mr Mital also emphasised that India is one of the world's sustainability hot spots due to its size, its cultural diversity, its role for climate change and its richness in biodiversity.

Mr Mital underlined that poverty alleviation is India's first and foremost goal. Poverty and environmental degradation are closely linked because poor people are the most affected by environmental degradation, and because poverty tends to perpetuate environmental decline. Thus poverty alleviation has to be regarded as a prerequisite for environmental protection. Among the most pressing environmental problems that need to be addressed are degradation of land, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and the pollution of air, soil and water.

Nevertheless, India does not per se have a national strategy on sustainable development, although sustainability issues have been increasingly mainstreamed into existing national development plans. All development programmes and projects have been reoriented towards the promotion of sustainability since the "Agenda 21" was incorporated into the 8th national Five-Year Plan. The subsequent 9th Five-Year Plan identified environmental protection as one of its core objectives, and

"Not having had a disruption like in Russia is something of a miracle, when we look at the challenges that China has to face in the area of sustainability."

Dr Ding Ningning

the current 10th Plan (2002–2007) places the individual at the centre of all developmental efforts and regards sustainability as a prerequisite for increasing the well-being of all people.

Since the State will not be able to mobilise all resources required to foster development, it is seeking to intensify cooperation with the private sector. Thus the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships ranks among the current government development initiatives.

China: His Excellency Pan Yue, Vice Minister, State Environmental Protection Administration

"We know in China that our development is not sustainable," Mr Pan stated in his opening remarks. "First we followed the Soviet experience and then we followed the model of the EU

and the US. These were high consumption and high pollution models unable to achieve sustainable development.” Hence, among the major challenges China faces today is the fact that 300 million people do not have access to clean water, as well as the problems of desertification, water pollution, new pollutants and increasing CO₂ emissions. Mr Pan concluded that if China continues with this model and does not tackle its environmental problems, then growth in the future will be impossible. Therefore, China will need to change its energy use. Economic growth, however, is regarded as a prerequisite, as the ability to solve all problems is often linked to growth.

“Talk is talk, but we need to translate talk into action.” H.E. Pan Yue

To tackle these challenges, Mr Pan thinks that China can learn much from Germany and indeed has already done so, e.g. with regard to the “circular economy” model. In China obligatory circular economy principles will now be embedded in legislation. Companies failing to follow these principles risk having their operations closed down by the administration.

Important lessons could also be derived from one’s own cultural heritage, Mr Pan said. Consequently, sustainable development in China has been operationalised in an approach based on two overarching themes, a “harmonious society” and “scientific development”.

China is currently working hard on setting up circular economy zones, on promoting renewable resources, on integrating environmental protection into the 11th Five-Year Plan and on implementing the concept of “Green GDP” in ten provinces (the results of which are expected to be presented in 2006). This concept is also thought to be used to monitor and judge the performance of civil servants. However, in certain areas environmental accounting has proven quite difficult, and for this reason provinces require the support of central government institutions.

Finally, Mr Pan called upon developed countries to live up to their promises to support developing countries in their attempt to achieve sustainable development: “If they claim to be leaders, they should help us.”

South Africa: Mr Blessing Manale, Director, Coordinator of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, State Department for Environmental Affairs and Tourism

South Africa does not yet have in place a national strategy for sustainable development, Mr Manale stated. However, the country has addressed the issue of sustainability through its various national development plans and sector policies. First and foremost of these is the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), which commenced in 1994. This programme focuses inter alia on the establishment of an efficient and participatory governance framework, which in turn enables government and the various stakeholders to address the issue of sustainability in a coherent and long-term manner. In trying to overcome the legacy of apartheid, the RDP also focuses on nation-building, maintaining peace and security, fostering a people-driven development process and meeting basic human needs—efforts that provide the basis for a long-term sustainable development process.

Recently, the Government of South Africa approved a framework for a national strategy for sustainable development. It also confirmed that sustainability will form an integral part of all future national development efforts. By building on existing development plans, the future South African sustainable development strategy will pursue the objective of establishing an enabling framework capable of providing the basis for coordinating economic growth, achieving poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, and identifying synergies and tradeoffs between the three. Another objective will be to strengthen the existing strategic planning framework by defining clear timeframes, identifying future scenarios and trends that might impact development outcomes, and providing a guideline for resource distribution, stakeholder participation and coordination of the various existing development plans.

Mr Manale then outlined the structure of the strategy. Special chapters will be dedicated to the analysis of long-term development trends and their impacts, to risks and opportunities, choices and tradeoffs of policy and implementation efforts. Other chapters will cover principles, objectives and commitments, an action plan and a Millennium Development Goal (MDG) response strategy as well as monitoring, evaluation, communication and participation frameworks. The final chapter will contain a 'Statement of Intent' and a 'Sustainable Development Declaration'. Guidelines for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) are also foreseen to be part of the strategy. These would call for businesses to monitor not only their contributions to the economy, but also their social and environmental impacts. The top 100 South African companies already follow the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines on CSR. To ensure that companies continuously do so, institutional enforcement mechanisms are being set up such as the "Green Scorpions", Strategic Environmental Impact Assessments, or the establishment of countrywide standards for reporting. It would be welcomed if civil society organisations (CSOs) could also report on their social and economic impacts.

The lead in coordinating the strategy lies with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Implementation of the strategy will be a task for the entire government. Indeed, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism perceives the strategy to represent an opportunity to raise the environmental profile in all sectors.

In concluding, Mr Manale also called upon South Africa's partners to support the efforts of designing and implementing a sustainable national development strategy.

Germany: Dr Günther Bachmann, Office Director of the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

Dr Bachmann started out by stressing that Germany's sustainable development strategy not only focuses on the environment, but covers other issues as well. One important challenge addressed in the social dimension is that of the "greying society", i. e. a society that is decreasing in size and increasing in average age, with new impacts on infrastructure, education and the economy.

In Germany, due to the non-sustainable resource use of the economy, there is still a need to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, Dr Bachmann outlined in his opening remarks. As a leading actor on issues concerning sustainable development, Germany should take on a commitment to show that this is possible.

Most relevant in this context is the issue of energy, the urgency of which is illustrated by the current record high oil prices. There are some encouraging success stories in decoupling environmental degradation from growth in the energy sector, but much remains to be done. Germany is significantly expanding its renewable energy potential and, in the scope of the sustainable development strategy, has also developed a fuel strategy that serves as a road map for making energy use for mobility more sustainable through a change in fuel use. Still, as Dr Bachmann explained, there is potential for further easy-to-implement efficiency gains of up to 20 %, which represents a practical and achievable target. Furthermore, the RNE has developed recommendations for the use of clean coal, although these are still to be implemented.

Work on Germany's sustainable development strategy was carried out between 2001 and 2002. Since then, two progress reports have been published. Leadership lies with the Office of the Chancellor chairing the "Green Cabinet" as the main body responsible for developing the strategy and coordinating its implementation. The strategy makes use of 21 indicators (e.g. on renewable energy, organic food supply, land consumption, education or integrating migrants). The stakeholder-based RNE serves as a watchdog, proactive adviser and communicator in the process. It is composed of 19 eminent persons from all major groups.

As for the transfer of clean technology, several German government initiatives are designed to enhance clean technology solutions, and many GTZ projects focus on technology transfer. These projects are usually of a pilot character. Therefore, such measures can only be one element of a strategy to mainstream innovative technology in partner countries.

Unfortunately, export policies still do not consider environmental footprints. With regard to general objections against environmental standards being integrated into trade issues, Dr Bachmann called the process of European enlargement and integration a good example.

There the Cohesion Fund is supporting the dilution of European environmental standards. In this way, timetables for meeting the requirements are the objective of debate, but not the standards themselves. Dr Bachmann concluded by saying that a question of major

*"You cannot manage sustainability,
if you can't measure it." Dr Günther Bachmann*

importance for the implementation of sustainable development strategies in his view is how to link national approaches to complement the rather slow progress made by multilateral agreements.

Session 2: Linking Sustainable Development Strategies to Sector Policies

Energy

The working session started with each country giving a short outline of the structure of its energy policy and the network of relevant actors. The comparison revealed many clear similarities between the BRICS countries. In India, China and South Africa, coal is the major source of electricity. Both China and South Africa explicitly mentioned their limited capacities to meet their (prospective) energy needs for economic growth. In all countries apart from Russia, a significant percentage of the population is still not connected to the grid, nor do people have access to energy.

To generate the additional energy needed, in China, Brazil and India large hydropower projects are an option of only limited value. In India public resistance is blocking nearly every related project; in Brazil a history of non-compensation of the dislocated populations has also led to major resistance against large hydropower projects; while in China the environmental impact of prospective large hydropower projects in the northwest makes these problematic. Among other measures, India and China are planning to increase their nuclear power capacities. Brazil, by contrast, is placing more emphasis on the potential of biofuels made from sugarcane. However, according to Ms Borges, promoting sugarcane is known to

lead to deforestation, and therefore further debate on the issue will be needed.

“The problem is not poverty, but extreme poverty or exclusion. The problem is not environmental degradation, but degradation of the human condition —the blind hunt for a way to survive.”

Professor Marcel Bursztyn

With regard to the output side, she quoted estimates that by 2020 Brazil's CO₂ emissions will be five times higher than in 1990. According to Mr Tang, China is expected to be the largest energy consumer in about 20–30 years' time. To limit CO₂ emissions, China is keen to use the potential of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects,

of which there are already ten in the pipeline. While India, according to Mr Kher, is in the process of developing an integrated energy policy, Brazil, Ms Borges said, urgently needs such a strategy to deal with the challenges on the input side as well as on the output side. Mr Tillmann echoed the need for a coherent energy strategy for the EU as well, which currently does not yet have such an integrated policy.

Dr Bachmann presented five approaches to decoupling energy use from economic growth: capping emissions and trade emission rights; eco-taxes that shift the tax burden from labour to energy; procurement rules; regulations to allow decentrally generated renewable energy to be fed into the grid as in Germany; and finally, increased research and development. Ms Borges outlined initiatives in Brazil where small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are consulted on how to save energy. The advice is linked to a labelling scheme enabling consumers to choose products based on information about how energy-efficiently they were manufactured. In India, Mr Mital countered, that by law certain manufacturers have to become more energy-efficient. Ms Borges added that “Brazil has a lot of laws that nobody knows.” Hence, “we don't need more laws. The challenge lies with the institutions; we need to establish value systems and an ethic for sustainable development in society that ensures that the laws are followed.” As Mr Kher (India) pointed out, hinting at the political economy questions, this not only applies to consumers and citizens: “The decisive question is: is the political class willing to accept the major destabilisation that will take place in case of change? Parties do not win elections on sustainability-style issues.”

To tackle the problem, it was agreed that more research and development is needed in the field of innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy technology.

On the question as to how far national sustainable development strategies influence energy policies, Mr Mital highlighted the need to have either a common institutional coordinating body or harmonised sustainable development indicators to ensure a clear link between energy policies and a sustainable development strategy. Dr Bachmann supported this notion of coherence through a more focused sustainability strategy. In China, Mr Tang explained,

that due to the co-location of the leadership for energy policy and for the sustainable development strategy in the NDRC, there is a good link between the two processes.

Natural resources

At first, various participants outlined the main issues in the natural resource sector of their specific countries. It turned out that 'Biodiversity and Conservancies', 'Water Management and Water Supply' as well as 'Agriculture, Land and Soil Degradation' are areas of concern in all BRICS+G countries.

Despite these commonalities the participants highlighted various country-specific problems and issues in relation to natural resources. Mr Manale pointed out that marine resource management is one of the crucial areas of concern in South Africa. The South African government has recently established a fund for marine resource management to which all respective exploiters of marine resources including fishing companies have to contribute.

Dr Zahrnt explained that due to the high population density, intensified farming and increased road construction, the pressure on land has increased significantly, all of which adds up to a loss of biodiversity. The demand for land and the pressure of urban living on soil resources have also increased dramatically in the emerging economies. As in many other countries, in India the pressure is mainly caused by social deprivation in rural areas, which is linked in turn to deforestation and the loss of biodiversity, since more than 20 million people directly depend on forests for their livelihoods. In Brazil, too, domestic migration is causing ecological degradation.

Given that on a global scale natural resource protection is an environmental service that would be provided mainly by those countries that control the major part of the world's natural capital, participants discussed a potential initiative for biodiversity as proposed by Mr Perelet and Mr Bobylev (both Russia). This initiative could lead, according to Mr Perelet, to an international market-

oriented protocol on biodiversity regarding trade in environmental goods and services (particularly biodiversity conservation) which would be similar to the Kyoto Protocol covering the capping and trading of CO₂ emissions. This would how-

ever require an improved measurement of the value of biodiversity and natural resources to enable developing countries to demand compensation for their rich supply of such goods and services. Mr Smeraldi noted that Brazil already has some internal compensation policies in place for those provinces that provide the most environmental services. In Germany, by contrast, Dr Zahrnt regretted that biodiversity is currently not a political priority, even though there is growing awareness of this issue (particularly for genetically modified species as a threat to biodiversity) and a national strategy for biodiversity is being under development.

The discussion then shifted towards the political factors that influence natural resource management. In this context, decentralisation was discussed both as a driving force for economic development and an obstacle for sustainable natural resource management. As Dr Ding explained, the massive decentralisation efforts undertaken by the Chinese government in the 1980s turned out to have had positive impacts on economic development and negative

“Countries only propose [environmental] standards when it is to their own advantage.”

Professor Ye Jingzhong

impacts on the environment. Since the provinces were asked to stimulate economic growth, more and more cultivated land was changed to develop township industry. However, this caused severe water pollution due to the rudimentary techniques used, and this accelerated the process of soil erosion and degradation.

Mr Manale noted that in the South African context, financial constraints often prevent the implementation of sustainable policies. He suggested developing a “carrot and stick” financial policy that provides incentives for best practices and disincentives for bad practices. As a start, the South African government undertook an Environmental Fiscal Review in order to highlight the costs and benefits of sustainable natural resource management.

Social dimension

Dr Nikolaeva and Ms Chetvernina named a number of particularities of the social dimension in Russia: a multiethnic population, competition for resources between regions and minorities, a comparatively high standard of education, the phenomenon of the “working poor”, the “greying” of the society (similar to Germany), and the problem of migration. For China, Professor Ye listed poverty, income disparity, unemployment, poor production conditions and exploding traffic volumes as prominent social problems. In addition, participants identified two important commonalities in most BRICS countries: the prevalence of poverty, and income disparity. However, remedies for social ills have proven problematic in several countries, either because they are difficult to implement (e.g. the newly devised Chinese health care system illustrated by Professor Ye), or because they lead to other challenges for sustainable development. According to Professor Bursztyn, this has been the case with the negative environmental impacts of small farms created in the course of the land distribution reform in Brazil. He perceives education as one of the means to achieve sustainable development. Still, other participants insisted on the importance of a more equal distribution of resources before the management of these resources could be addressed. As Mr Hlatshwayo (South Africa) claimed, it is “not the lack of education but the unequal distribution of resources [that] has led to unsustainable development.” In his view, it is the role of the government to bridge the current gap.

Referring to the problem of sustainability and growth, Ms Liao (China) complained that by adopting foreign development models and internationally unified strategies, countries risk neglecting national identity and cultural characteristics instead of using these features to achieve sustainable development. However, participants agreed with Mr Goeke (Germany) in objecting that this risk should not prevent different approaches from being compared and from learning from solutions adopted in other countries.

Professor Ye made the point that globalisation cannot be reversed and hence it is not an option simply to return to the traditional way of life if one does not want to lose influence internationally. However, according to Mr Hlatshwayo, the present framework created by globalisation is still not the right one, “because it is not a sustainable way of life, as it is degrading our resources in the broadest sense.”

The current state of international trade was used to illustrate one of these problems. Professor Bursztyn noted that production is increasingly concentrated in countries like China, where environmental and social standards are low. Ms Chetvernina added that in Russia too the presence of foreign companies has not led to improved CSR as some had hoped for. With developed countries demanding that developing countries should meet higher

social standards, there is obviously a double standard. Professor Bursztyn suggested that the BRICS+G countries could give some thought to demanding a scheme of consistent social and environmental standards applicable worldwide.

Session 3: Factors for the Success and Failure of Sustainable Development Strategies

Starting point

Professor Perelet described the challenge of implementing sustainable development policies as a difficult riddle: “Sustainable development has two triangles, one with the corners being the economic, social and environmental dimensions and the other with government, business and society. These need to be put together in the right way. But getting the right overlay is like trying to do a Rubik’s cube.” In all sector discussions it became clear that there are numerous tradeoffs to be dealt with in most fields, even though there are of course also many “win-win” options. The first point was illustrated by Dr Zahrnt, who explained that also within the environmental movement, tradeoffs have to be decided on, e.g. between renewable energy and nature conservation.

Approaches designed to further cross-sectoral sustainable development strategies

The discussion then shifted to focus on potential (innovative) approaches to further sustainable development across sectors. With regard to the overall approach, Mr Mital (India) highlighted that this needs to be a multilevel and multistakeholder approach. The specific mix of instruments to be used will vary from country to country and from issue to issue.

Several more detailed proposals can be grouped in a package of public financial policy. Mr Singh (India) mentioned that India’s Finance Minister has recently emphasised the need to develop an outcome budget in addition to the outlay budget. The outcomes of each programme/scheme will be defined, keeping in view the needs of sustainable development. Since real accountability in government runs via the budget process, the integration of sustainability principles into sector policies and strategies and sectoral accountability for sustainable development outcomes could be improved effectively. If outcomes are then defined and agreed upon, and correspond to sustainable development needs, this could lead to a “Green Budget”. An important prerequisite is to develop sustainable development indicators and to regularly monitor them. “This is not possible unless we are able to measure different environmental services and assign value to them in order to bring objectivity into the system”, Mr Singh said. The current measures of national income (i. e. GDP and net domestic product [NDP]) are inadequate as indicators of sustainable development, and provide misleading information about whether an economy is using its resources sustainably. Thus policy-makers are incorrectly informed on the important link between economic growth and the environment. Hence the “Green Budget” approach of environmental accounting can be useful in removing the current biases.

“There is a huge gap between the legislation on environmental protection and the implementation of this legislation. There is a consensus that we are already doing ‘something’.”

Professor Marcel Bursztyn

On the revenue side of the budget, tax systems have to be changed in order to make them more favourable to sustainable development. This means among other things shifting tax burdens from labour to resource use.

Success factors for sustainable development strategies

Another set of suggestions and success factors can be summarised as the need to create a societal culture that favours sustainable development. Participants agreed, however, that business and the civil society are currently working more flexibly towards sustainable development than are governments. To achieve this societal culture, several avenues have to be followed in parallel.

Mr Goeke emphasised that the upholding of integrated thinking is a success factor, particularly in situations where there is a change in government. There is a need to create a culture within society that is favourable to sustainable development. Dr Viana strongly advocated the promotion of best practices at the local level. In Brazil there are many examples of successfully reconciling sustainable development and growth at the grassroots level, which could be used to inspire policymaking at the national level. However, Mr Kher (India) critically remarked that people only respect traditions and culture as long as their survival is ensured. Livelihood security is therefore a necessary precondition if culture is to unlock its potential. One important element of societal culture would be increased demand on the part of consumers for environmentally clean products and services, as Mr Kher illustrated. This could help to strengthen companies that wish to maintain a long-term and more sustainability-oriented perspective. Currently, as Mr Tillmann noted, many actors in the private sector are forced to focus on a rather short-time horizon due to the logic of the financial markets. In order to counterbalance this, corporate reporting on long-term issues of sustainability and action motivated by corporate social responsibility are essential instruments.

In addition to public awareness and a public culture favourable to sustainable development, a number of institutional and governance issues were listed as success factors. One such element is integrative, coordinated decision-making. As Mr Kher explained, in India a diversity of policy agendas and a fragmented process of political decision-making throughout the country make coherent development planning very difficult. In this context the transfer of authority to the district and village level also has to be treated with caution. In South Africa, despite having the lead, the State Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism lacks the necessary authority. The process should therefore rather be placed directly with the presidency. The situation in Russia, which has seen many reforms but a lack of coordination (providing a third example), was described by Mr Prilepin as follows: "We are all swimming, but all of us in a different direction." The legal reform, he said, goes in one direction whereas the administrative reform is moving in another, resulting in contradictory legal regulations and even clashing laws.

Participants agreed that the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into sector policies is one of the most important success factors. A consensus evolved that only if there is political leadership and will at an appropriate level within government can the integration of sustainable development into national development plans and sector policies be successfully ensured. Such high-level commitment also needs to be reflected in targets that have to be more ambitious than the current ones, such as the MDGs. Mr Kher strongly advocated a

clear strategic focus and explicit priority-setting as crucial prerequisites for success in developing and implementing sustainable development policies, particularly in situations where financial resources are scarce.

As sustainable development strategies are at different stages in the various countries, the factors for success and failure as discussed by one of the cross-sectoral groups differ in each case.

In Germany, as Dr Bachmann pointed out, one success factor has been to combine top-down and bottom-up approaches. On the one hand there was strong government support as reflected in the establishment of the Green Cabinet and the Council, while on the other, close contact was established with society and especially with young people in schools, NGOs, etc., which formed the basis for a long-term internalisation of the idea of sustainable development. Referring to the situation in Russia, Mr Prilepin said, “The biggest success is that we are continuing to discuss the topic.” These two cases exemplify the need for continued dialogue at whatever stage a country might be regarding its national sustainable development strategy.

The Chinese example provided by Mr Tang supported the argument of the importance of investments in sustainable development, including in the capacities needed to implement it. In developing indicators for sustainable development, China closely cooperated with the OECD, which was one important factor for success. To ensure that the indicator system could be implemented, China also invested in capacity building of local officials.

Mr Srivastava and Mr Taneja emphasised that clear property rights—including intellectual property rights—for natural resources and particularly in the field of biodiversity represent a key success factor for sustainable development. In this way, market mechanisms can successfully be used to ensure that proper market prices are paid, resulting in efficient allocation and hence escaping the “tragedy of the commons”. However, this does not mean property rights—e. g. for forest resources —need to be awarded to private entities. In India, for example, the major part of the gene pool of flora and fauna is found in government-owned reserves and protected forests.

Failure factors for sustainable development strategies

Professor Bobylev identified one important factor hindering progress towards sustainable development: the demand for GDP growth in Russia which, in fact, ignores the depletion of natural resources and social problems. Professor Bursztyn illustrated the lack of political will to provide the necessary incentives, funding or institutions: the Brazilian gap in implementing the country’s good and extensive legislation exists not least due to a lack of resources, of the education of officials and of the institutional continuity—hence Brazil’s decreasing capacity to enforce policies.

Summary of Day 1: What have I taken away from today's discussions?

Pin board cards written by participants and grouped by the moderator, Dirk Jung

Growth

- Growth is possible until the teenage years. Sustainability, however, lasts forever. Governments should stimulate development, not growth.
- After you reach 18, growing just means becoming fatter.
- To achieve sustainability, it is necessary to give up the predominant political orientation towards economic growth.
- Growth is only good if it is green.
- "Sustainable growth" represents an escape from confronting the problems of the contradiction between growth and sustainable development.
- A challenge for all groups is to understand that sustainability does not imply growth as a condition.
- Sustainable development must respect ecological limits.

Needs and awareness

- How can we raise awareness among the general public regarding sustainable development issues?
- Public awareness about sustainable development must be developed.
- Policies succeed when they respond to people's real needs.
- Spirituality should be an aspect of sustainability.

The "New Economy"?

- Inclusion of the environmental factor in economic evaluations at the macro level.
- The ethics of financial markets need to be developed/re-thought out.
- The slogan "First growth, then the environment" is or should be old-fashioned. Clever environmental policies contribute to growth.
- BRICS countries will pay a very high price if they adopt sustainable development subjects, as the social and environmental costs are very high.

Rules and responsibilities

- Stakeholders should ensure that the use of national resources is as efficient as possible through cooperation and dialogue.
- Every stakeholder can do something to meet sustainable development goals.
- Governance has to be improved.

Who are the stakeholders?

- Who are the *genuine* stakeholders?
- Sustainable development can be considered as part of the power structures of society.
- The development planning process should involve dialogue with poor/powerless people, because they are the most affected by unsustainable development.
- Sustainable development is an issue that transcends national boundaries.

What can be done with the stakeholders?

- Can an institutional system be set up to get stakeholders together and to help them understand each other?
- We first have to analyse the different worlds of different stakeholders.
- How can a constant dialogue between stakeholder groups be established?
- There needs to be consolidation among stakeholders and international integration (they should certainly be united internationally on the BRICS level, for example).

- Commitments towards sustainable development should be encouraged.
- More Corporate Social Responsibility is necessary!

The process

- Continuity is vital.
- The problem is complex and there is no single solution.
- Measures of sustainable development need to be created as a follow-up.
- Network with others in BRICS+G; don't reinvent the wheel—there are many shared issues.
- More dialogue is necessary.
- How does this dialogue help? Experience-sharing alone can be accomplished through other means.
- Why has sustainable development failed? What can be done to replace it?

Session 4: Presentation of Working Group Results on Successes and Failures, and Discussion

The rapporteurs started Day Two of the conference by presenting the results of the cross-sectoral working groups' deliberations. In the following discussion, Professor Ye (China) expressed strong doubts about the potential of the approach to strengthen consumer awareness: "Who will do that? In reality, business is too strong and the media are controlled by business. So how can you do that?" Mr Manale (South Africa) challenged the proposal to educate the media, referring to South Africa's experiences in the run-up to the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development: "We spend huge amounts of money on educating journalists from the best networks and they just don't understand. So this is very difficult. We should be careful not to bite off more than we can chew!"

In the course of the discussion some interesting examples of sustainable development initiatives were mentioned. In China, for example, the Global Village Beijing Organisation ran the "26 degrees" campaign to motivate people to turn their air-conditioners in summer down to this lower level, thereby saving energy. In Brazil, the NGO "Acatu" has been successful in mobilising producers to upload information about the sustainability of their production to the website of the consumer interest group, allowing consumers to take better informed consumption decisions. As a third initiative, Dr Viana informed participants about the Second National Environment Conference, which is scheduled to take place later in 2005. This year the Brazilian government hopes to reach 15–20 million schoolchildren via this conference, encouraging them to set up mini sustainable development councils in their schools. It is a cooperation between the Environment and the Education Ministries. At such conferences with a multitude of stakeholders a great deal of conflict is always aired. "People really hit hard at the conferences. So that leads to pressure and that again to good ideas."

Session 5: What Are the Roles of the Various Stakeholders?

Facilitators need indicators and tools instead of one-size-fits-all solutions

Governments should act as facilitators. This was the general call of the working group, based on the shared view that there are many tradeoffs to be made on the path towards sus-

tainable development. Or, as Mr Chohan (South Africa) put it: “One needs to move away from one’s self-interest and to move to a negotiable common solution.” Supported by Dr Zahrnt, he saw the need for governments to take a leading role and facilitate this process of dealing with the tradeoffs. Professor Ye suggested as a reality check that it is “nice to say we should do this and that. But who is going to really do that and is going to be willing to do it?”

Dr Zahrnt qualified these statements in that there will be a need for some safeguards. In order to work as an honest and somewhat neutral facilitator, “the commitment of the government for sustainable development needs to be firm and the public needs to be strong enough to make sure that the government does not forget social and environmental targets. If you do not have strong targets and indicators, then in each individual case of conflict between the World Trade Organization and sustainable development, sustainable development would lose out.” Ms Borges agreed, calling for governments to be supplied with guidelines for sustainable development on the basis of which they then could fulfil their facilitating role, because the idea of “government as a facilitator with complete concessionary power is not going to work.” She continued by noting that this is because “just as there are market failures, we have failures in our democracies. They are not representative enough.” We need participation every day, as a monitoring tool, i.e. “to change from representative democracy to participative democracy.” Mr Sülzer outlined respective examples from Indonesia where the government and the civil society systematically introduced public forums and kept them going for a year to discuss whether or not to introduce a social health insurance scheme and to come to an informed and effective policy dialogue. Receiving comments from the civil society and academia greatly helped the government to take an informed decision on the issue.

Taking up the earlier remark by Dr Zahrnt about the indicators and targets, Professor Perelet raised the point that too many relevant environmental issues are not reflected in GDP, currently the main development indicator. Hence it is not an appropriate indicator for countries with a large natural resource sector. A so-called ecological footprint could be a possible alternative indicator. Dr Zahrnt complemented Mr Perelet’s observations by noting that non-marketed social goods and services, which are particularly important in many developing countries with their large informal sectors, are also not reflected in GDP. Therefore for her the question is whether we should have, apart from GDP, an additional sustainable development indicator or one integrated one. This is a point to be discussed by academia and the civil society.

The question of how to decide in favour of sustainable development in specific tradeoff situations turned out to be a recurring issue in the working group discussion. Mr Mital outlined a difficult question India is facing, namely to decide whether a shipping channel should be constructed in the straits between Sri Lanka and India that would allow large ships to take a shortcut. This obviously would create significant savings in transport and hence would be very beneficial for the ship operators and the economy. However, the very rich marine ecosystem would be damaged or destroyed, and the extent to which the economic benefit would also lead to poverty reduction apart from simple GDP growth remains unsure. So how can a decision be reached? Mr Sülzer announced that GTZ in India is currently putting together good examples and will work on the question of how such reconciliation processes could look like in the future. Mr Chohan (South Africa) summarised the situation

by stating that “what we need are tools for addressing the challenge of making balanced decisions.” Furthermore, Ms Borges (Brazil) highlighted the need to set up mechanisms instead of fixed solutions: “We won’t have a standard solution to this question here, nor in five years, nor in ten years, indeed never. What we need to do is to find ways to manage questions like this.” According to her, this is where universities come in. They can play an important role in helping to evaluate the impact of decisions (e. g. of building a hospital or a school and comparing it). In addition, “we need academia to think and work more on solutions.” They would also be the ones—together with the civil society—responsible for developing guidelines for sustainable development that government can apply in its facilitating role.

Professor Bursztyn highlighted the need for universities to change before they can successfully contribute to sustainable development. Currently, specialisation and lack of interdisciplinary research or coordination in universities lead to departments conducting research independently of one another (e. g. with one researching technologies and another researching the threats posed by those very same technologies). The problem is that society has become used to this state of affairs. Universities have to change, but first of all society has to demand that change. Mr Hlatshwayo pointed to the need for improved networking among universities and between universities, NGOs and other stakeholder groups in South Africa.

Redefining growth as a challenge of ownership and empowerment

Various participants pointed out that reconciling sustainability and growth is extremely difficult but a must, given that growth is regarded as an economic prerequisite for overall development in most countries. In this context Dr Viana argued that not only high but also low growth rates might have negative impacts on the environment. For example in Brazil, stagnating growth rates in certain regions have caused migration processes which in turn have had negative environmental impacts. Dr Viana emphasised that it is crucial to organise multistakeholder processes and that people need to be the subjects, and not the objects, of these processes. Only through multistakeholder consultations will it be possible to determine what kind of growth is required to avoid jobless growth or patterns of growth with unequal income distributions like the ones experienced in Brazil and that are responsible for much of the social tension. Consequently, the empowerment and inclusion of certain actors such as trade unions are essential for incorporating social and environmental concerns into development policies. In Brazil, stakeholder coordination and participation are often very well-developed in micro-projects, while there are immense problems on the macro level.

In saying this he mirrored the following statement made by Mr Mital in a parallel working group: “At a smaller level, yes there have been best practices. You see the small projects working out, they are successes. But when you look at the bigger ones and policies, then they at times compromise the environmental and social dimension.” A different approach was suggested by Mr Kher. To ensure that the consensus on sustainable development is translated into practice, he advocated a strict top-down approach at the level of political leadership, implying that mandating the mainstreaming of sustainability measures from the highest political office lends tremendous weight to the adoption of the concept within the government. Still, arrangements must at the same time be flexible enough to incorporate input from the grassroots level. He based his call on the fact that while sustainability

is regarded as a common goal for all ministries on a rhetorical level, many government agencies still pursue a one-dimensional growth-oriented approach when designing sector strategies.

Concerning strategies to foster sustainable policies, various participants emphasised the need to create win-win situations for the various stakeholders. To illustrate this, Mr Goeke referred to the two indicators in the German sustainable development strategy, “doubling the percentage of renewable energies till 2010” and “doubling resource efficiency till 2020”. These were agreed upon since the government managed to illustrate that the targets would simultaneously increase efficiency (the economic dimension), support a sustainable energy policy (the ecological dimension), and create new jobs in a high-potential sector of the economy (the social dimension). Mr Manale (South Africa) provided another example, whereby a decision was made against the mining industry and in favour of the promotion of eco-tourism in a particular region, as it was apparent that more jobs would be created by preserving the area rather than exploiting it. However, as many participants noted, a crucial prerequisite for creating such win-win situations is a strong commitment on the part of the political leadership promoting the idea of sustainable development.

On the responsibility and accountability of social and corporate actors

Mr Kher continued the discussion on the roles of the various stakeholders by criticising the fact that many stakeholders misinterpret their roles and limitations. For example, in recent debates on a new environmental policy in India, CSOs demanded that the draft policy should be developed at the grassroots level, which, in his opinion, is impossible considering the diversity and heterogeneity of the country. The ownership of a policy process has to remain within the government. Mr Kher argued that NGOs should focus primarily on those areas in which they have a comparative advantage, such as awareness-raising and working with the communities.

Adding to this, Mr Manale pointed to the problems of legitimacy, accountability and responsibility that CSOs face. While governments have a clear, legitimate mandate, and while corporations are accountable to their shareholders, it is often unclear what CSOs base their legitimacy on. Since many represent special and/or private interests, governments need to know what the views of these organisations are based on. The famous “watchdog” role therefore has to be pursued by all stakeholders, and not only by CSOs.

Regarding the civil society, Mr Prilepin listed five important functions of NGOs:

- (1) the imperative function, keeping issues on the agenda; (2) the watchdog function; (3) the consolidating function, consolidating between the different stakeholders; (4) training (in cooperation with academia) its supporters (officials and citizens); (5)

“As watchdogs, NGOs should not only bark, but also bite.” Nelco Zenzele Hlatshwayo

providing information and expert support. However, in the Russian case, which is characterised by the absence of free resources and a lack of collaboration (the latter caused by permanent competition for the scarce resources available), NGOs have been unable to fulfil their tasks. With regard to CSOs, in the view of Professor Ye, it is crucial that they organise themselves. For that you need, at the minimum, to allow them to organise themselves; their voice will still be low at the beginning, but it will develop slowly. Mr Hlatshwayo described

the position of the civil society in South Africa as weak, too, with environment-based NGOs closing down recently due to a lack of funding. The government either does not take NGO reports sufficiently seriously, or blames NGOs in order to stir up public panic. NGOs should be better equipped with powers to fulfil their watchdog function: “As a watchdog we should not only bark, but also bite.” Ms Liao (China) and Dr Nikolaeva (Russia) stressed the advantages of creating a council for sustainable development. In their countries this would create a platform for deliberation and participation by the civil society as well.

Finally, the role of the private sector was addressed. Ms Liao claimed that many major companies in China have detrimental impacts on sustainability and use their resources to buy off the media and academics. Many participants have identified CSR as a strategic area of intervention. In this context, Mr Manale demanded more self-criticism from the private sector. The various types of companies have to be differentiated, countered Mr Kher. While many transnational companies already apply CSR for purposes of corporate identity, many small enterprises are primarily concerned with economic survival, which often leaves no space for CSR debates. Mr Goeke pointed out that the RNE has been able to initiate a fruitful debate on the importance of German companies following certain social and economic standards in their business activities in other countries. He strongly advocated increased efforts in formulating such standards in developed countries, as this might trigger debates on CSR in developing countries as well.

Governance issues are the key

Regarding which institutional arrangements best promote sustainable policies, most participants agreed that there is no standard “institutional formula”, and that a direct transfer of an institutional setting from one country to another is not likely to be very efficient or desirable, given that most institutional structures are based on unique country experiences and configurations. Accordingly, also the role of government differs significantly from country to country. In Brazil, Professor Bursztyn stated that government capacities (mainly on the far Amazonian frontier) are weak compared to those of other actors and need to be upgraded to ensure the implementation of sustainable development policies. Growth is vital if the State is to accomplish its growing tasks, especially those related to social welfare. In South Africa Mr Hlatshwayo would also like to see the government take more coordinated measures. The situation in China, Mr Tang pointed out, is quite different. There the central government was the driving force, initiating most of the action through local officials and public enterprises. The government gave clear indications through its reform commission, the China Council for Environment and Sustainability, consisting of renowned international and domestic leaders and scientists. On relevant topics the Council set up a task force, which invited the concerned stakeholders and provided feedback to the Council, which in turn reported back to the central government, enabling the latter to take political decisions accordingly. This therefore ensured that sustainability issues play an important role in the policies of the central government. Mr Tang stressed the need to have more competent high-ranking officials. The general impression of participants was—and this differed from another working group—that the government was more far-sighted than the business sector. Still, Mr Smeraldi qualified the observation by noting that “national government creates at the local level the same problems as the WTO creates at the national level, because both lack a vision for sustainable development.”

Looking at the overall picture of stakeholders' roles and responsibilities, Professor Bursztyn complained that sometimes the picture is somewhat muddled, with NGOs trying to be governmental and governments trying to act like NGOs, while the economic sector tries to escape regulation altogether. In the course of this struggle, resources were wasted building useless capacities, and the credibility of NGOs was undermined. How can this framework be changed? "We must agree that the mission of governing should be left to government. We need governors who act as such."

Dr Bachmann summarised the situation, noting that growth was necessary not only in developing countries, but also in developed or shrinking ones (e.g. that of Germany), in order to develop clean technologies, healthy food production, etc. However, a new definition of growth was urgently needed. For this, the stakeholders of the civil society had not yet fulfilled their role, lacking in his opinion the courage to ask: what exactly is growth? In Germany, the civil society does not lack funding, but its role is no longer so clear. Stakeholder organisations should stick to their roles in society, but should also join forces, create partnerships and make these visible through communication. In this, the role that parliament plays in preventing the public sector from merely engaging in window-dressing should not be forgotten.

Session 6: Final Plenary Session on Sustainability and Growth

Following presentations of the results from the working groups, participants engaged in a short discussion. Contributions emphasised again some of the elements already raised in the working groups. In addition, participants continued to focus on the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

Mr Goeke explained that one reason for the strong emphasis in the German sustainable development strategy on communicating the three-dimensional concept of sustainable development was the need to reach out and attract a wider audience than just environmental stakeholders. Mr Prilepin agreed, noting the need to build up a critical mass of people, NGOs, etc. who are concerned about sustainable development. Dr Viana supported the point that there is a significant potential to advance sustainable development outside government. Substantial progress has also been achieved in terms of sustainable development in the BRICS countries without or even despite government (and also in some cases despite business too).

However, Professor Ye warned that each stakeholder group tends to want to pursue its own interests. So society will only become more sustainable if stakeholders balance each other out. Professor Bursztyn added that in many cases, the focus is placed on the wrong stakeholders. Dr Zahrnt agreed that there is some need for caution, since "nowadays you have some initiatives that have very special interests, business or personal ones, and are concealing this under 'civil society' interests and NGO status." Based on this, Professor Bursztyn formulated the respective challenge as follows: "How can we work in a way that we can transform potential stakeholders into effective stakeholders?"

Suggestions for follow-up to the BRICS+G project and conferences

There was general agreement that any continuation of the dialogue should use the format of South-South and North-South cooperation. Suggestion ranged from meeting again in one year's time to raising funds that would permit more regular meetings. Facilitation by Germany in this regard would be welcome. It should be considered whether to include more international actors such as the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) or the European Commission. There also was a suggestion that the existing website could be used to keep the dialogue going between and/or independent of meetings. The website, it was proposed, could also be used to upload information about sustainable development issues and to showcase good practice examples in the participating countries, e.g. regarding the exchange of research and development results and joint projects on sustainability issues.

In addition to international meetings, national follow-up meetings could also be set up to inform the stakeholders about the results of the international conference and about what is being thought and done in the other BRICS+G countries.

Future cooperation could take a variety of different formats: a) dialogue; b) concrete projects; c) discussing in an open format policy guidelines, then delivering the results back home in whatever way suits individual countries; and d) pushing forward together specific issues in international negotiations. In all of these options, specific issues could be focused on. Participants mentioned the following as topics of interest for follow-up: work on the issue of technology and technology transfer; biodiversity; CSR and governance; and institutional issues of national sustainable development policies and strategies. In the case of the latter, a differentiation was made between talking about a) "Green Cabinets", Councils for Sustainable Development; b) monitoring and evaluation of sustainable development (policies); and c) how to link strategies resulting from international conferences and processes (e.g. a national climate action plan, a national plan to combat desertification, national poverty reduction strategies, etc.) to sustainable development strategies.

Another suggestion proposed the elaboration of a handbook containing sustainable development best practices, which could function as a compendium of innovative initiatives and approaches in the BRICS+G countries. Other proposals called for TV programmes on sustainable and unsustainable approaches and for research on how to conduct successful integrative planning in different political and social contexts.

Another suggestion for a common BRICS+G project was the establishment of a platform to promote the idea of an international protocol for trade in environmental products and services to tackle the challenge of biodiversity (resembling the Kyoto Protocol, which tackles climate change).

Closing remarks by Franziska Donner

Ms Donner stated that after looking around the room, she felt that something had clearly changed since the morning of the first conference day. She pointed out the potential of the networking opportunities that had resulted from the meeting.

The ideas for some form of follow-up were very interesting, and Ms Donner urged all participants to give these some consideration at home so that they can be discussed more thoroughly in the near future. Whatever form of follow-up ensues, it should be one that is not just the task of one institution or country, but of all partners.

Ms Donner expressed her belief that a consensus had developed during the conference, and that the dialogue that had initially been started with this conference and the BRICS+G project should continue in some form or other.

She concluded by thanking the moderators, the preparatory team, the organisers, the interpreters, the minute-takers and, last but certainly not least, the participants for all their efforts in making this conference a success.

Please find the full version of the report at www.bricsg.net/en/international_conference





BRICS⁺G: International Conference | Participants

Dr Günther Bachmann

Director of the German Council for Sustainable Development

Since the Federal Government established the Council in 2001, Dr Bachmann has headed its office. Since 2003 he has been co-chairing a working group on sustainability within the network of European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC).

Dr Bachmann graduated in Landscape Planning from Berlin Technical University. He was with the Environmental Protection Agency for about 15 years, recently as a director and professor in the Department of Soil Protection. He has published various books on soil ecology and on the German Soil Protection Law.



Professor Sergei Nikolaevich Bobylev

Professor of the Economics Department at the Moscow State University

The areas of Professor Bobylev's research include sustainable development, macroeconomic policy, and the economic valuation of environmental impacts. He has published more than 160 texts including 12 books. He was a member of the economic task force for the preparation of programmes for the Russian Parliament, the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and the Russian State Environmental Committee. In 2000–2005, he was the main editor of five "Human Development Reports of the Russian Federation" for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). He was the economic head and coordinator of eight projects funded by the World Bank, the UNDP and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).



Professor Dr Marcel Bursztyn

Professor and Director of the Sustainable Development Centre, University of Brasília (CDS-UNB)

After finishing his studies in social economics at the University of Rio de Janeiro with an MSc in Urban and Regional Planning, Marcel Bursztyn went to France, where he took a PhD in Economic and Social Development (at the Sorbonne) and in Economics (at the Université de Amiens). He completed his postdoctoral studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. He is the author of 12 books and has published more than 60 scientific articles.



Celina Borges Torrealba Carpi

President and shareholder in Libra Terminais S. A.; Member of the Steering Committee, Ethos Institute for Social Responsibility; Member of the Board of Directors, Libra Group Holding; a member of the Social Responsibility Council of the Federation of Industries of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Firjan).

Celina Borges Torrealba Carpi graduated in Civil Engineering from the University of Rio de Janeiro; she also has an MBA from the European Institute of Business Administration (Insead), France.



Dr Tatjana Y. Chetvernina

Pro-Rector at the State University Higher School of Economics for Social Policy Research; Director of the Centre for Research on the Labour Market and Social Processes at the Economic Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences

In her research Dr Chetvernina concentrates on developments in the Russian labour market and protection against unemployment. She has published numerous articles on this subject.

**Naseem Chohan**

Group Consultant Sustainable Development, De Beers Group, South Africa

As consciousness of sustainability and environmental issues continues to grow, Mr Chohan is required to deliver sustainability strategies, policies, practices, capacity building and delivery programmes that are globally acceptable to De Beers' internal and external stakeholders, as well as aligned to global best practices. Furthermore, his unit is responsible for formally integrating and reflecting sustainable development priorities across the De Beers value chain/pipeline.

**Dr Ding Ningning**

Senior Research Fellow, Director of the Department of Social Development Research, Development Research Centre, State Council, People's Republic of China

Dr Ding is a Senior Research Fellow and the Director of the Department of Social Development Research at the Development Research Centre (DRC). The DRC is a comprehensive policy research and consulting institution directly under the State Council. Dr Ding joined the DRC in 1991 as a Senior Research Fellow and has held several positions, including Director of the Department of Enterprise Economic Research from 1993 to 1998. He has been the Director of the Department of Social Development Research since 1998.

**Berthold Goeke**

Ministerialrat, Head of the Department for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Safety of Nuclear Reactors at the German Federal Chancellery

After having served as Section Head at the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Safety of Nuclear Reactors and at the Federal Chancellery for several years, Mr Goeke has been heading the Department for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Safety of Nuclear Reactors at the Federal Chancellery since 2001.





Nelco Zenzele Hlatshwayo

Head of the Anti-Censorship Programme at the Freedom of Expression Institute in South Africa

Mr Hlatshwayo has been working for about 15 years in the NGO sector, especially dealing with land and rural development issues. Previously he served as Director of the Association for Community and Rural Development (ANCRA) in the Northern Cape, and later at the National Land Committee (NLC), which has affiliates in all nine provinces.



Rajiv Kher

Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi

During his career spanning 25 years, Mr Kher has conducted various assignments in Indian federal and state governments. All these assignments have been closely linked to global and local environmental issues. Consequently, his main fields of expertise include: sustainable development policy and planning, environmental governance including global issues, environment management / project management, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), administration development, and personnel management. In his present assignment he is closely associated with the preparation of the National Environment Policy, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, a National Environment Action Programme and the Development of Sustainable Development Indicators. In his former capacity as Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Environment and Forests, he headed the Divisions of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development as well as Environmental Education and Awareness. Mr Kher has a postgraduate degree in Economics and Chemistry.



Liao Xiaoyi

President of Global Village of Beijing, People's Republic of China

Ms Liao is the President and founder of Global Village of Beijing, a non-profit NGO dedicated to environmental education, public participation and community services. She holds a master's degree in Philosophy, and is an environmental journalist, producing environmental TV programmes that are broadcasted nationwide through CCTV in China. One of the main focuses of her work is promoting a sense of individual responsibility and empowerment in relation to environmental issues in China. Ms Liao has been awarded the International Banksia Award and the Sophie Prize.



Blessing Manale

Director of Sustainable Development Coordination at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), South Africa

Mr Manale's main work in DEAT includes mobilising support for partnerships, engaging with stakeholders, developing the appropriate country strategy for sustainable development, developing various programmes and campaigns to promote sustainable development best practice among all key players in South Africa, and participating in a number of international negotiations on environment and development issues.

Mr Manale has a BA in Law. He also holds several other academic titles such as a Diploma in Community Relations and Development Communications as well as a Graduate Diploma in Company Directorships (Corporate Governance).

H.E. Sudhir Mital

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

Sudhir Mital is responsible for cross cutting issues in the Indian Government. He belongs to the Punjab Cadre and has worked for the Government of Delhi as Secretary at the Public Works Department, as Secretary at the Department of Energy, as Chairman for the Punjab State Electricity Board, as Secretary at the Department of Planning, as Excise and Taxation Commissioner and Chief Administrator at the Punjab Urban Development Authority, and as Managing Director at the Punjab Financial Corporation in the last few years. He has an MA in History and an MSc in Rural Development from the University of Birmingham, UK. He is an expert in sustainable development issues.



Dr Elena Evgenjevna Nikolaeva

Deputy Head of the Department of Federal Relations, Public Administration and Local Government of the Ministry of Regional Development, Russian Federation

Dr Nikolaeva assumed her present position after having served in key public office positions for many years. The scope of her duties includes the preparation of drafts of federal laws, regulations, research and information materials and documents; participation in inter-departmental commissions, workshops, meetings on the socio-economic and financial state of constituents of the Russian Federation, municipal units and their regional development strategies; the territorial organisation of the Russian Federation; inter-budget relations, taxation and budget policies; evaluation of the results of federal purpose-oriented programmes and activities of executive authorities; and the division of powers among authorities. Dr Nikolaeva holds a degree in Economic Engineering from the Moscow University of Administration S. Ordzhonikidze, and a PhD in Economic Sciences from the Central Scientific-Research Institute of Economics and Construction Administration Gosstroya, USSR.



H.E. Pan Yue

Vice Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), Member of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) group in SEPA, People's Republic of China

After several years in the army, Mr Pan made a career in journalism, before he joined the public services. In 1993/94, he worked as Director General of the China Youth Research Centre. From 1994 to 1998, he was Vice Administrator of the State Administrative Bureau of State-owned Assets. In 1998 he was appointed Vice Administrator of the State Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision. From 2000 to 2003, he was Vice Director of the Office for Economic Restructuring of the State Council. Since 2003, he has been working as Vice Minister of SEPA and was elected as member of the CCP group in SEPA.





Professor Dr Renat Aleksevich Perelet

Head of Research, Institute for Systems Analysis, Russian Academy of Sciences

Besides his work for the Institute for Systems Analysis, Professor Perelet is also an associate professor at the Russian Academy of Civil Services under Russia's presidential administration. His major areas of interest are economics and the management of sustainable development, including environmental economics and environmental security. He was an expert on the Brundtland Commission (1984–87), a member of the Steering Committee of the Human Dimensions of Global Change Programme (1989–92), deputy head of national delegations to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) governing council sessions in the 1980s, a member of the Russian government delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), an expert at the Russian Parliament as well as at the Ministry of Natural Resources, and at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.



Alexandre Prilepin

Deputy Director of the Institute of Law and Public Politics; Advisor to L. U. Roketskiy, Federal Chairman, Federal Council Committee on the Development of Local Government, Federal Council of the Russian Federation

Having served for several years in the Russian diplomatic service as well as other public services, Mr Prilepin has been working as an independent advisor since the mid-1990s. Among other functions, he has carried out different assignments for the World Bank, the OECD, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the EU TACIS programme. He is a member of a number of professional bodies.

Mr Prilepin has a Master's degree in Engineering from the Polytechnic Institute in the City of Voronezh, where he also completed a Master's degree in Economics, and worked as Assistant Professor.



N. K. Singh

Director, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

Mr Singh is an Indian Forest Services Officer and an expert in mining and forestry planning. He has worked in Gujarat and is especially interested in dry land forestry. Currently he is Director of the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.



Roberto Smeraldi

Director, Friends of the Earth Brazil (Amigos da Terra—Amazônia Brasileira)

As a journalist, Mr Smeraldi has published numerous studies and books about public policies, sustainable development and the environment. Furthermore, he has been involved in several organisations. From 1989 to 1992 he was President of the International Committee of NGOs to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Since 2003 he has been President of the International Advisory Group (IAG) of the Pilot Programme to Conserve the Rainforest. He is also a member of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change, and a member of councils of funds and environmental institutions such as the University of Yale's Forest Dialogue.

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava

Director, International Cooperation and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

Mr Srivastava is an expert in watershed management, wasteland development, climate change and pollution-related issues, sustainable forestry and integrated rural development. He is also an expert in financial management, international banking, agro-business and agro-processing. Currently he is Director of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Mr Srivastava belongs to the Indian Forest Service. He has completed a diploma in Rural Environment Management at the Centre for Arid Zone Studies, University of Wales, UK, and at the Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneshevar, Orissa. He also has a BSc in Chemistry and an MSc in Forestry.



Akash Taneja

Secretary, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India

Mr Taneja works for the Indian Trade Service. His assignments include tenures as Deputy Director General for Foreign Trade, where he was assigned the task of liberalising and implementing the country's export and import policy; as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Minister of Power; Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, looking after trade with South-East Asia and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) division; and Deputy Commissioner and Special Officer in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for the implementation of property tax reforms. He is presently posted as Secretary at the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in the Ministry of Power, looking after implementation aspects of the 2001 Energy Conservation Act.

Mr Taneja has a diverse educational background, with an MSc in Botany from the University of Delhi, an Associate of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy Diploma (equivalent to an MSc in Forestry) besides an MBA. He is also pursuing a postgraduate course in intellectual property rights, and is working on a PhD on World Trade Organization (WTO) issues.



Tang Dingding

Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), People's Republic of China

Mr Tang Dingding has a wide professional background as an environmental specialist. He had been working at SEPA for many years in different functions before he was appointed to his present position. In-between, Mr Tang also worked as an environmental specialist at the UNEP office in Paris. From 2000 to 2003 he worked in the Environment Division and later at the Environment and Natural Resource Division of the Asian Development Bank.





Dr Utz Tillmann

Senior Vice President, Industry and Government Relations concerning Environmental Issues, BASF Aktiengesellschaft, Germany

Dr Tillmann started his business career with BASF in 1990 in the company's ecological laboratory. He soon took over other assignments within BASF before he turned to the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), where he worked as Executive Director, with a variety of changing assignments. In 2004, Dr Tillmann returned to his present position at BASF. He studied biology in Frankfurt and Kiel and took a PhD in Frankfurt.



H.E. Dr Gilney Amorim Viana

Secretary of Sustainable Development Policies of the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Brazil

Dr Viana is one of the founders of the Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT) in Brazil. Over the years he has held several responsibilities within the PT, such as National Secretary of the Environment and Development (1998–2001). In 2002 he was a member of the Drafting Committee for Lula's Government Programme as well as a member of the Committee of Transition to the new Government, before he took his present position.

Dr Viana graduated in Medical Science from the University of Mato Grosso and took his PhD in Health and Environment at the Institute of Public Health.



Professor Ye Jingzhong

Professor of Rural Development and Management, Deputy Dean of the College of Humanities and Development (COHD), Managing Director of the Centre for Integrated Agricultural Development (CIAD), China Agricultural University

Professor Ye is an expert in development sociology, international agriculture / rural development management, regional development planning and management, soil science and agricultural chemistry. Since 1989, he has been working at CIAD of the China Agricultural University. He has been given a large number of advisory assignments by a variety of national and international organisations.

Professor Ye studied in the Netherlands, the UK, Germany and China, where he acquired a number of academic degrees.



Dr Angelika Zahrnt

Member of the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE); Chairwoman of BUND Friends of the Earth Germany

After having completed her university studies, Dr Zahrnt started her career at Siemens AG, but soon turned to the public sector. In 1986 she joined BUND Friends of the Earth Germany, where in 1998, she took over the position of Chairwoman. She has published a number of articles on sustainability, ecological tax reform, ecology and the economy.

Dr Zahrnt studied economics at the universities of Heidelberg, Vienna and Innsbruck; she took her PhD at Heidelberg.

International Conference BRICS+G, 04/05 September 2005, GTZ House Berlin
—also present—

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Lessons Learned—GTZ

The objective of the BRICS+G process was to offer a platform for an open exchange among experts drawn from government, business, academia and civil society of the participating countries. The aim of the process was to create a favourable atmosphere for comparing the countries' respective policies for sustainable development, exchanging experiences and evaluations, and drawing conclusions regarding national strategies for sustainable development. The idea was to create the foundations for a further exchange of views on how to shape economic growth in a sustainable way.

Looking back, the BRICS+G initiative can surely be regarded as a success. The following remarks on lessons learned will focus on procedural matters of the project and dialogue rather than on their content, since the latter has already been covered in more detail in the conference reports.

In the course of the national conferences it became apparent that there was considerable interest in discussing the nexus of sustainability and growth in the BRICS countries as well as in Germany. These conferences provided valuable contributions to the national sustainable development discourses and processes, which seek to reconcile concerns with regard to growth and sustainability. For example, in Brazil, through discussions at the national conferences, stakeholders realised that there is a need for a debate about the general direction of the country's development. In South Africa, the conference provided room to test a methodology to be applied for further steps in developing the national sustainable development strategy. There, the national part of the BRICS+G process facilitated national actors to establish new contacts with other stakeholders and to move the issue of sustainability and growth up

Lessons Learned—GTZ

Sinn und Zweck des BRICS+G-Prozesses war, Experten von Regierung, Wirtschaft und Zivilgesellschaft der teilnehmenden Länder eine Plattform für einen offenen Austausch zu bieten. Dafür musste eine Atmosphäre geschaffen werden, die einen Vergleich der jeweiligen Politiken für nachhaltige Entwicklung, den Austausch von Erfahrungen und Bewertungen sowie das Ziehen von Schlussfolgerungen hinsichtlich der nationalen Strategien für nachhaltige Entwicklung des jeweiligen Landes begünstigt. Dahinter stand die Idee, einen Impuls für den weiteren Gedankenaustausch darüber zu geben, wie wirtschaftliches Wachstum gestaltet werden kann, damit es nachhaltig ist.

Im Rückblick auf den Prozess der BRICS+G-Initiative kann man sicherlich feststellen, dass dieses Projekt ein Erfolg war. Die folgenden Bemerkungen über Lektionen aus diesem Projekt werden sich mit dem Verfahren des Dialogs beschäftigen statt mit den Inhalten, die im Detail Gegenstand der Konferenzberichte sind.

Das Interesse an einer Diskussion über die Verknüpfung von Nachhaltigkeit und Wachstum in den BRICS-Ländern und Deutschland wurde im Verlauf der nationalen Konferenzen sehr deutlich. Diese Konferenzen leisteten wertvolle Beiträge zu den jeweiligen nationalen Diskursen und Prozessen, die darauf abzielen, Wachstum und Nachhaltigkeit in Einklang zu bringen. Sei es, wie in Brasilien, dass den Stakeholdern in den Diskussionen im Verlauf der nationalen Konferenzen überhaupt erst einmal klar wurde, dass es einen Bedarf an einer Debatte über die Grundausrichtung der Entwicklung des Landes gibt. Sei es, wie in Südafrika, dass die Konferenz ein Forum dafür bot, eine Methodologie zur Entwicklung der nationalen Strategie für nach-

the national agenda. Eventually, the Russian preparatory conference for the international exchange intensified arguments in favour of embarking upon a process to develop a national sustainable development strategy. The fact that the BRICS+G project was able to trigger all of these very country-specific developments clearly shows the value of an approach that envisages fora at the national level in addition to an international dialogue. Hence, it seems advisable firstly to use the existing German international cooperation structures to support partners in the BRICS countries further with regard to their sustainable development strategies, and secondly to disseminate, discuss and implement any lessons learned from the international dialogue, as well as to prepare for future exchanges.

The interest at the highest levels in all participating countries proved that there is a commonly perceived need to exchange experiences between countries and to learn together and from each other as to how to move towards sustainable development. All partners praised the informal nature of the experience, which allowed for a frank and open, constructive and learning-oriented dialogue that would not have been possible or as fruitful in a more formal setting. The informality represents a decisive added value of the BRICS+G project compared to other processes, and should be kept as a key element in any future cooperation.

Sustainable development is a process, not a specific place or point in time. Hence, continuous efforts are needed in order to strive for sustainable development and to adapt to an ever-changing context. One-off activities are unlikely to have much impact in redirecting development towards sustainability. Therefore, in addition to informality, continuity will be decisive if the BRICS+G project is to be effec-

haltige Entwicklung zu testen. In Südafrika erleichterte es der BRICS+G-Prozess nationalen Akteuren, neue Kontakte zu anderen Stakeholdern herzustellen und das Thema „Nachhaltigkeit und Wachstum“ auf der nationalen Agenda voranzubringen. In Russland schließlich intensivierte die Vorbereitungskonferenz für den internationalen Austausch die Auseinandersetzung über den Beginn eines Prozesses zur Entwicklung einer nationalen Strategie für nachhaltige Entwicklung. Die Tatsache, dass es im Rahmen des BRICS+G-Projektes gelang, eine solche, jeweils sehr landesspezifische, Dynamik auszulösen, verdeutlicht den Nutzen eines Ansatzes, der zusätzlich zum internationalen Dialog ein Forum auf nationaler Ebene bietet. Es erscheint daher empfehlenswert, die bestehenden Strukturen der deutschen internationalen Zusammenarbeit zu nutzen, um die Partner in den BRICS-Ländern hinsichtlich ihrer Strategien für nachhaltige Entwicklung zu unterstützen, die aus dem internationalen Dialog gewonnenen Erkenntnisse zu diskutieren, umzusetzen und zu verbreiten und weiteren Austausch vorzubereiten.

Das große Interesse auf höchster Ebene in allen teilnehmenden Ländern zeigt, dass es einen überall wahrgenommenen Bedarf gibt, zwischen den Ländern Erfahrungen auszutauschen und gemeinsam voneinander zu lernen, wie man nachhaltige Entwicklung in die Wege leitet. Alle Partner begrüßten den informellen Charakter dieser Veranstaltung. Er ermöglichte einen freien und offenen, konstruktiven und lernorientierten Dialog, der in einem eher formellen Rahmen nicht so fruchtbar oder gar nicht möglich gewesen wäre. Im Vergleich zu anderen Verfahren stellte die Informalität des BRICS-Projekts einen entscheidenden Mehrwert dar, der als Schlüsselement künftiger Kooperationen beibehalten werden sollte.

tive. Calls from all partners to continue dialogue and cooperation further underlined this point, and should be met by a respective commitment on the German side.

The original idea to initiate a dialogue between the BRICS+G countries stemmed from a report by Goldman-Sachs, which highlighted the enormous economic growth rates of the BRICS countries. Based on the data, by 2050 the combined economies of the BRICS could be larger than those of the G7. Given the unsustainable path of the G7 development in the past, this perspective points to the need to find more sustainable growth patterns for the sake of future sustainable development at the global level.

The actual BRICS grouping is a potentially somewhat artificial grouping of participants, based merely on a study and these countries' aggregated economic potential. Indeed, while in recent years some BRICS countries have developed increasingly strong ties with each other, there has not yet been a get-together of all five, not to mention all five plus Germany. The project can therefore be seen as an experiment. During the international conference, though, partners realised that despite all the differences and variations, there are nevertheless many similarities in the challenges they face. They also saw that together they play a crucial role with regard to global sustainable development: in addition to their economic potential, these countries together hold more than 50 % of the world's population, biodiversity and freshwater resources. Participants of the conference in addition developed some kind of group identity, often referring to themselves as "us, the BRICS countries". Therefore, the grouping of these countries in a dialogue has been worthwhile in building commonalities and a shared identity.

Nachhaltige Entwicklung ist kein einmaliges, punktuelles Ereignis, sondern ein Prozess. Im Streben nach nachhaltiger Entwicklung sind deshalb fortwährende Anstrengungen erforderlich, um sich den sich stetig wandelnden Umfeldbedingungen anzupassen. Von einmaligen Aktivitäten werden kaum größere Anstöße zur Neuausrichtung der Entwicklung in Richtung Nachhaltigkeit ausgehen. Neben der Informalität dürfte deshalb Kontinuität ein entscheidender Faktor für die Effizienz des BRICS-Projekts sein. Forderungen aller Partner nach einer Fortsetzung des Dialogs und der Zusammenarbeit unterstreichen dies; diesen Forderungen sollte von deutscher Seite mit dem gebotenen Engagement entsprochen werden.

Die ursprüngliche Überlegung, einen Dialog zwischen den BRICS-Ländern in Gang zu setzen, entstammt einem Bericht von Goldman-Sachs, in dem die enormen wirtschaftlichen Wachstumsraten der BRICS-Länder hervorgehoben wurden. Den Angaben dieses Berichts zufolge könnten die Volkswirtschaften der BRICS zusammengenommen im Jahr 2050 größer sein als die der G7. Diese Perspektive weist wegen des nicht-nachhaltigen Entwicklungspfad der G7 in der Vergangenheit auf die Notwendigkeit hin, im Interesse einer nachhaltigen Entwicklung im globalen Maßstab neue Modelle für nachhaltiges Wachstum zu finden. Die Ländergruppierung der BRICS basierte demnach nur auf einer Studie und dem aggregierten ökonomischen Potential der BRICS. Obwohl einige der BRICS-Länder mit anderen BRICS-Ländern engere Verbindungen geknüpft haben, hat es noch niemals eine Zusammenkunft aller fünf Länder gegeben, von Deutschland als zusätzlichem Teilnehmer ganz zu schweigen. Das Projekt war demnach hinsichtlich der etwas willkürlich anmutenden Zusammenstellung der Teilnehmerländer ein Experiment. Wäh-

From a German (development cooperation) perspective, it was also encouraging to see that participants from the other countries showed considerable interest in the German procedural, institutional and technological approaches adopted to tackle the challenges of sustainable development. This has to be seen in a context of competition among progressive states for the international frontrunner positions concerning sustainable development policies and innovations. To keep Germany's position, German institutions will need to improve their performance continuously to confirm the country's current positive image. With its new strategy paper on sustainable development, GTZ, for example, has started a corporate process to strengthen sustainable development principles further as guidelines for its work. Through the BRICS+G process, GTZ was able to position itself as an institution committed to and competent at furthering sustainable development. A well-founded and positive image of German sustainable development efforts is a basis not only for international recognition, but also for the German potential to export ideas, approaches and technologies. On the other hand, BRICS+G has opened doors for Germany to learn from the other countries and to intensify contacts and cooperation on sustainable development. Appropriate significant efforts, however, will be needed to ensure that doors stay open on either side.

Operating in tandem, the two organising institutions, namely the German Council for Sustainable Development and GTZ, have built a very effective institutional structure. Their combined convening power, networks and links to domestic and international processes as well as proximity to government—while not being part of government—were key ingredients that made this dialogue a success. Through the Council, conference results can be

rend der internationalen Konferenz stellten die Partner dennoch fest, dass es trotz aller Unterschiede und Abweichungen auch viele Ähnlichkeiten bei den Herausforderungen gibt, denen sich die Länder stellen müssen. Sie erkannten auch, dass sie hinsichtlich einer globalen nachhaltigen Entwicklung als Ländergruppe eine bedeutende Rolle spielen: So stellten sie, abgesehen von ihrem ökonomischen Potenzial, fest, dass sie gemeinsam 50 % der Weltbevölkerung, der biologischen Vielfalt und der Wasserressourcen repräsentieren. Darüber hinaus entwickelten die Teilnehmer während der internationalen Konferenz eine Art Gruppenidentität, wenn sie, was häufiger vorkam, von „wir, die BRICS“ sprachen. Das Unterfangen, diese Länder in einer Gruppe zusammenzufassen und zu einem Dialog zusammenzubringen, erscheint demnach als lohnenswert, um Gemeinsamkeiten und eine Identität aufzubauen.

Aus der Perspektive der Deutschen (internationalen Zusammenarbeit) war es zugleich ermutigend zu sehen, dass die Teilnehmer aus anderen Länder sich sehr interessiert zeigten am deutschen prozeduralen, institutionellen und technologischen Ansatz zur Bewältigung der Herausforderungen der nachhaltigen Entwicklung. Das muss vor dem Hintergrund des Wettbewerbs fortschrittlicher Staaten um die internationale Spitzenposition bei Politiken und Innovationen der nachhaltigen Entwicklung gesehen werden. Deutschland wird seine Leistungen in dieser Hinsicht immer weiter verbessern müssen, wenn es sein gegenwärtig positives Image und seine Wettbewerbsposition behaupten will. Mit ihrem neuen Strategiepapier über nachhaltige Entwicklung hat beispielsweise die GTZ einen unternehmensinternen Prozess eingeleitet, mit dem die Prinzipien der nachhaltigen Entwicklung als Leitlinien ihrer Arbeit gestärkt werden. Mit dem BRICS-

incorporated into the German national sustainable development strategy. GTZ, on the other hand, is active in all the BRICS countries and can thus support partners planning to integrate any lessons learned into their national processes. Any further German activities supporting BRICS+G should greatly benefit from the continuation of this fruitful cooperation.

Sustainable development is all about balancing the often conflicting legitimate interests of various present and future societal, economic and political actors. In this context the BRICS+G project was especially successful in bringing together and starting or intensifying a discourse among actors from various backgrounds and spheres, many of whom had not had much contact before. Most participants, however, represented those parts of government, NGOs, business and academia that are already actively promoting sustainable development in their countries. For the first phase of the dialogue, it might already be enough of a challenge to launch a discourse among countries with such different histories and cultures, economies, societies and environments as those represented in the BRICS+G. For future stages of the exchange, though, it should be considered whether attempts should be made—and to what extent—to include more actors who are less involved in the sustainable development discourse or who do not share the same political goals and means as those resulting from the sustainable development paradigm. This would ensure that the dialogue stays grounded in a reality that can be shaped by the majority of actors.

Prozess ist es der GTZ gelungen, sich als Institution zu positionieren, die nachhaltige Entwicklung entschlossen und kompetent fördert. Sowohl für das internationale Ansehen Deutschlands als auch für seine Kapazität zum Export von Ideen, Ansätzen und Technologien ist ein wohl fundiertes, positives Image der deutschen Bemühungen um nachhaltige Entwicklung eine gute Basis. Umgekehrt hat BRICS+G Deutschland aber auch Türen geöffnet, um von anderen Ländern zu lernen und seine Kontakte und Kooperationen bezüglich nachhaltiger Entwicklung zu intensivieren. Um zu gewährleisten, dass die Türen nach allen Seiten offen bleiben, sind allerdings weitere erhebliche Bemühungen erforderlich.

Das Tandem der Organisatoren, des deutschen Rates für Nachhaltige Entwicklung und der GTZ, hat sich als äußerst effektive institutionelle Struktur erwiesen. Ihre vereinten Veranstalterkapazitäten, ihre Netzwerke und Kontakte zu nationalen und internationalen Prozessen sowie ihre Nähe zur Regierung – ohne Teil der Regierung zu sein – waren Schlüsselemente für den Erfolg des Dialogs. Über den Rat können die Ergebnisse der Konferenzen in die deutsche nationale Strategie für nachhaltige Entwicklung einfließen. Die GTZ, die in allen BRICS-Ländern präsent und aktiv ist, kann ihrerseits die Partner dabei unterstützen, bei den BRICS-Konferenzen gewonnene Erkenntnisse in den nationalen Nachhaltigkeitsprozess zu integrieren. Alle weiteren deutschen Aktivitäten zur Unterstützung von BRICS+G würden von einer Fortsetzung dieser fruchtbaren Kooperation stark profitieren.

Nachhaltige Entwicklung bedeutet, einen Ausgleich zu finden zwischen oftmals sich widersprechenden, legitimen Interessen verschiedener gegenwärtiger und zukünftiger gesellschaftlicher, wirtschaftlicher und politischer Akteure. BRICS+G erwies sich gerade

in dieser Hinsicht als besonders erfolgreich, indem das Projekt Akteure mit unterschiedlichem Hintergrund und aus unterschiedlichen Sphären, von denen viele vorher kaum Kontakt miteinander hatten, zusammenführte und damit einen Diskurs in Gang setzte oder intensivierte. Die meisten Teilnehmer vertraten allerdings jene Teile von Regierungen, NGOs, Wirtschaft und der akademischen Welt, die in ihrem jeweiligen Land ohnehin schon aktiv für nachhaltige Entwicklung eintreten. In der ersten Phase dieses Dialogs mag es Herausforderung genug gewesen sein, einen Diskurs zwischen Ländern mit so unterschiedlicher Geschichte und Kultur, Wirtschaft, Gesellschaft und Umwelt wie den BRICS+G in Gang zu setzen. Für zukünftige Stadien des Austausches sollte erwogen werden, ob und in welchem Umfang weitere Akteure einbezogen werden sollten, die nicht so stark in den Diskurs um nachhaltige Entwicklung involviert sind oder die die politischen Ziele und Mittel, die sich aus dem Paradigma der nachhaltigen Entwicklung ergeben, nicht teilen. Dies würde sicherstellen, dass der Dialog auf eine Realität bezogen bleibt, die von einer großen Zahl von Akteuren gestaltet wird.



Lessons Learned—RNE

It is high time that the issues of sustainability and growth should be discussed with these five countries, which are becoming increasingly important on the world stage. There is a need to discover points of common interest, to learn not only from the exemplary elements of national sustainability strategies, but also from differences, and to develop new political options. This is what experiences in European cooperation have taught us. This applies all the more to Germany in respect of countries with rapidly growing economies. BRICS+G therefore represents a worthwhile first step.

In the 1980s, the Brundtland Commission introduced the idea of sustainability into the global political arena. In its wake came a series of UN summits, global environmental agreements and a host of campaigns promoted by the civil society and business. However, it is only now that the political potential of another instrument is becoming clear: national sustainability strategies offer an opportunity to turn vision into specific action. Such strategies create a new framework for involving stakeholders and organising participation, which, with quantitative, defined goals and objectives and best-practice competition, can combine actual policy with transparency and commitment. They also open up new forms of public communication. Only now are we beginning to understand these opportunities for dialogue and process-oriented learning.

Germany needs to establish a dialogue with the BRICS countries about growth and sustainability. China's and India's energy demands and those of some other rapidly growing economies are set to outstrip any past requirements. A growing dependence on resources and an increasing burden on the environment can, however, become pitfalls for growth. We must therefore do more than we have done so far to bring all our industrial and political

Lessons Learned—RNE

Es ist höchste Zeit, über Nachhaltigkeit und Wachstum mit den auf der Weltbühne immer wichtiger werdenden Staaten zu diskutieren. Es geht darum, von Gemeinsamkeiten, Unterschieden und dem besseren Beispiel in nationalen Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien zu lernen sowie neue politische Optionen zu öffnen. Das lehrt schon die Erfahrung der europäischen Zusammenarbeit. Umso mehr gilt es für Deutschland mit Blick auf die Staaten mit drastisch wachsenden Ökonomien. BRICS+G ist ein lohnender erster Schritt.

In den 80er Jahren brachte die Brundtland-Kommission die Idee der Nachhaltigkeit auf die globale politische Bühne. In der Folge kam es zu UN-Gipfeln, globalen Umweltvereinbarungen und einer Vielzahl von Aktionen der Zivilgesellschaft und der Wirtschaft. Aber erst jetzt werden die politischen Potenziale eines weiteren Instrumentes deutlich: Nationale Strategien zur nachhaltigen Entwicklung bieten die Chance, konkrete Aktion und Visionen zu verbinden. Sie schaffen einen neuen Rahmen, um Stakeholder zu beteiligen, Teilhabe und Partizipation zu organisieren, mit quantitativen Zielvorgaben und Best-practice-Wettbewerben Transparenz und Engagement in die Politik einzubringen. Sie schaffen auch neue Wege in der öffentlichen Kommunikation. Wir beginnen diese Chancen für Dialog und prozessorientiertes Lernen erst jetzt zu verstehen.

Deutschland braucht den Dialog über Wachstum und Nachhaltigkeit mit den BRICS-Ländern. Der Energiebedarf Chinas, Indiens und einiger anderer stark wachsender Volkswirtschaften wird in Zukunft alles Dagewesene in den Schatten stellen. Wachsende Abhängigkeit von Ressourcen und wachsende Lasten für die Umwelt können jedoch zu Wachstumsfallen werden. Deshalb müssen wir mehr tun als bisher, um mit industrieller und poli-

competence to bear on pointing the way to globally sustainable development. In this respect, political leaders need to set a standard for sustainability, for example in overcoming the technology hurdle in the clean use of coal, in achieving energy efficiency, in exploring bio fuels and using resources sparingly, and in developing new social services in a society undergoing rapid demographic change.

Among the BRICS countries, the way that problems are perceived and the political approaches to tackling the issue of sustainability vary greatly. However, there are also some shared points. These countries are focusing the MDGs on sustainability and growth. As a joint mission, the international community has to provide stable, effective and visible contributions in order to meet these targets. Furthermore, it is important to send out the signal that the subject of sustainability is very high up on the political and economic agendas of the BRICS countries. BRICS+G has found high-ranking and competent interlocutors in the emerging countries, which is to be commended, and has moreover provided a series of important stimuli for all the invited countries, and particularly for Germany:

- We must be more discriminating than we have been in the past in asking ourselves what level of growth we actually want to achieve and what products and services will be sustainable in the future. At the same time, we must aim at securing lasting prosperity and equitable access to resources. Several BRICS countries are working on so-called Green GDP concepts, that is to say a system of national accounting, which changes the way that national wealth is calculated by removing unproductive ecological and social costs accruing for future generations in respect of environmentally inherited burdens.

tischer Kompetenz dazu beizutragen, Wege zu einer global nachhaltigen Entwicklung aufzuzeigen. Hier ist Politik mit dem Maßstab der Nachhaltigkeit gefragt, zum Beispiel hinsichtlich der Technologie-Hürde zur sauberen Kohlenutzung, der Energieeffizienz, bei Biokraftstoffen, im schonenden Umgang mit Ressourcen und bei der Entwicklung neuer sozialer Dienstleistungen in einer Gesellschaft des demografischen Wandels.

In den BRICS sind die Sicht auf Probleme und die politischen Herangehensweisen zur Nachhaltigkeit sehr unterschiedlich. Aber es gibt auch gemeinsame Punkte. Die BRICS fokussieren die Millennium-Entwicklungsziele auf Nachhaltigkeit und Wachstum, die als internationale Gemeinschaftsaufgaben dauerhaft wirksame und sichtbare Beiträge leisten müssen. Wichtig ist zudem das Signal, dass das Thema Nachhaltigkeit auf der politischen und wirtschaftlichen Agenda der BRICS sehr weit oben steht. BRICS+G hat in den Wachstumsländern hochrangige und kompetente Gesprächspartner gefunden. Das ist eine gute Nachricht. BRICS+G hat eine Reihe wichtiger Impulse gebracht – für die eingeladenen Länder, aber vor allem für Deutschland.

- Wir müssen uns differenzierter als bisher fragen, welches Wachstum wir wollen, welche Produkte und Dienstleistungen zukunftsfähig sind und dauerhaften Wohlstand und gerechten Zugang zu Ressourcen versprechen. Einige BRICS-Länder arbeiten an Konzepten zu einem „Green GDP“, also zu einer volkswirtschaftlichen Gesamtrechnung, die unproduktive ökologische und soziale Kosten, die zukünftigen Generationen für Umwelt-Altlasten anfallen, aus der nationalen Wohlstandsberechnung herausrechnet.
- Die BRICS machen deutlich, wie hoch der Stellenwert kulturell geprägter Lebensweisen,

- The BRICS countries clearly show that culturally defined ways of life, ethical values and societal standards are of great importance for consumption and methods of production. Dialogues such as the BRICS+G project are indispensable if we want to understand better the importance of basic cultural models and, ultimately, the global opportunities for sustainable development.
 - In the search for paths to a “circular” economy, an economy without waste but with product responsibility and liability control, renewable energies, the linking of protection and use of nature, comprehensive concepts are called for which can create and shape the cohesion of individual measures.
 - Our future standard of living and mobility continues to depend on oil. However, there are many signs which indicate that the days of “easy oil” are numbered. Climatic risks and dependence on oil make all economies (and developing ones in particular) increasingly vulnerable to oil-supply shocks, with all the negative implications for security and peace that this entails. Our economic future rests on a relatively narrow base—our capacity to innovate and to make use of renewable alternatives. We need more energy-efficient innovations.
 - Corporate responsibility for social and ecological standards represents a challenge for German companies operating outside Germany. However, at the same time the challenge offers substantial competitive advantages when they, as examples show, become an integral part of corporate management.
- ethischer Werte und gesellschaftlicher Normen für den Konsum und die Produktionsweisen ist. Dialoge wie das Projekt BRICS+G sind unabdingbar, um die Bedeutung kultureller Grundmuster und letztlich die globalen Chancen nachhaltiger Entwicklung besser zu verstehen.
- Auf der Suche nach Wegen zur Kreislaufwirtschaft, zu einer Ökonomie ohne Abfälle, zu Produktverantwortung und Haftungskontrolle, zu erneuerbaren Energien, zur Verbindung von Schutz und Nutzung der Natur sind übergreifende Konzepte gefragt, die den Zusammenhang einzelner Maßnahmen herstellen und gestalten können.
 - Noch immer hängt die Zukunft unseres Lebensstandards und der Mobilität am Öl. Viele Anzeichen signalisieren jedoch das Ende der Zeit des „easy oil“. Klimarisiken und die Abhängigkeit von Öl machen alle Volkswirtschaften, insbesondere aber die Entwicklungsökonomien, zunehmend verletzlich, mit allen negativen Auswirkungen auf Sicherheit und Frieden. Die Fähigkeit zu Innovationen und Anwendung von erneuerbaren Alternativen ist die eigentliche knappe Zukunftsressource für die Ökonomie. Wir brauchen mehr energiewirtschaftliche Innovationen.
 - Die Unternehmensverantwortung für soziale und ökologische Standards, Corporate Social Responsibility, ist für die deutschen Unternehmen im Ausland eine Herausforderung. In ihr liegen allerdings auch erhebliche Wettbewerbsvorteile, wenn sie, wie Beispiele zeigen, zum integralen Bestandteil der Unternehmensführung wird.

These points are all challenges for the continuation of Germany's sustainability strategy. They describe a form of global responsibility, which goes far beyond the usual models of development cooperation and international economic and environmental policy. BRICS+G provides an opportunity to consider a new and broadly applied foreign policy concept for Germany vis-à-vis the newly industrialising states and emerging economies that are playing an increasingly important international role. New networks of players with whom transfers of information and contacts can be organised and objectives set and pursued, and which can overcome the many usual restrictions of global summit diplomacy, are both necessary and feasible.

The international dialogue conference has created a climate of openness, constructive debate and respect for other people's points of view. It has opened the way for new elements of Germany's international dialogue with those countries that are most important for the world's future. The dialogue, which was primarily established for environmental topics, nevertheless touches on all aspects of sustainability—not just ecological, but also economic and social. The forthcoming agenda will also address other topics, primarily those of a social dimension (e.g. health and demographic developments).

The BRICS+G project is a living process, not a recipe book, and takes further legitimacy from its active use of dialogue approaches.

Diese Punkte sind Herausforderungen für die Fortführung der Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie Deutschlands. Sie beschreiben eine globale Verantwortung, die weit hinausgeht über die üblichen Muster der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit, Außenwirtschafts- und Umweltpolitik. BRICS+G gibt Anlass, über ein neues, breit angelegtes außenpolitisches Konzept für die Stellung Deutschlands gegenüber den neuen wichtigen Staaten und Entwicklungsökonomien nachzudenken. Neue Netze von Akteuren, mit denen Informationstransfer und Kontakte organisiert werden, Ziele erarbeitet und verfolgt werden und die manche übliche Beschränkung globaler Gipfel-Diplomaten überwinden können, sind erforderlich und machbar.

Die internationale Dialogkonferenz hat ein Klima der Offenheit, der konstruktiven Auseinandersetzung und des Respekts vor anderen Sichtweisen geschaffen. Sie zeigte erste Konturen für neue Elemente des internationalen Dialoges Deutschlands mit den für die globale Zukunft wichtigen Staaten. Der noch vorwiegend nur zu Umweltthemen hergestellte Dialog hat alle Dimensionen der Nachhaltigkeit berührt, neben der ökologischen auch die ökonomische und die soziale. In Zukunft stehen noch weitere Themen, vorwiegend aus der sozialen Dimension zu Gesundheit und Bevölkerungsentwicklung an.

Das BRICS+G-Projekt ist ein Prozess, kein Rezeptbuch. Es lebt und erfährt seine weitere Berechtigung aus der aktiven Nutzung erster Dialogansätze.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH

Our organisation

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations. It provides viable, forward-looking solutions for political, economic, ecological and social development in a globalised world. GTZ promotes complex reforms and change processes, often working under difficult conditions. Its corporate objective is to improve people's living conditions on a sustainable basis.

Our clients

GTZ is a federal enterprise based in Eschborn near Frankfurt am Main. It was founded in 1975 as a company under private law. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is its major client. The company also operates on behalf of other German ministries, partner country governments and international clients, such as the European Commission, the United Nations or the World Bank, as well as on behalf of private enterprises. GTZ works on a public benefit basis. Any surpluses generated are channelled back into its own international cooperation projects for sustainable development.

GTZ – worldwide operations

In more than 130 countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, the eastern European countries in transition, the New Independent States (NIS) and in Germany, GTZ employs some 9,500 staff. Around 1,100 of these are seconded experts, approximately 7,100 national personnel and around 300 experts in projects in Germany. GTZ maintains its own offices in 67 countries. Some 1,000 people are employed at the Head Office in Eschborn near Frankfurt am Main.

More at **www.gtz.de**

October 2005

German Council for Sustainable Development

Established in April 2001 by Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, the German Council for Sustainable Development is assigned the tasks of proactively and independently giving advice to the Federal Government as regards the Sustainability Strategy, recommending concrete fields of activity and projects, and communicating “sustainability” as a public issue.

As a stakeholder body, its 19 eminent personalities hold key positions in business, environmental and developmental NGOs, academia, churches, trade unions, local communities and the media. They are appointed for three-year terms.

The Council reports back to the Federal Chancellery and the Green Cabinet. It also engages in a critical dialogue with the private sector, with initiatives and institutions committed to sustainability, and with the civil society. The Council provides input to the National Sustainability Strategy and its follow-up monitoring reports. It issues thematic recommendation papers covering missing or neglected cross-cutting aspects in relation to the sustainability agenda, such as international trade issues, private consumption, the future of clean coal energy policies, energy research, land-use policies, the MDGs, the Sustainability Strategy of the European Union, and new approaches to sustainable forestry.

Sustainability policies must involve both stakeholders and people who are not yet thinking in concrete terms about sustainability. Therefore, through its own commitment and projects, the Council tries to encourage new policies.

The Council communicates the idea of sustainability by way of public dialogue projects (the most recent one is available at www.facing-sustainability.de). Its annual public conferences constitute a forum where top political leaders can present political commitments. These conferences offer a way to benchmark how sustainability thinking is currently politically ranked, as well as to reach out to a broader audience.

Further information is available at: www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de

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Summary of the preparatory national conferences

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 Germany: German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

Detailed report on the International Conference

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