

**Deutsches Statement für das High-Level Policy Segment beim UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development**

**Hintergrund (Auszug Programm):**

The focus of the High-level Policy Segment will be on SDG progress and challenges in the region. High-level participants from governments and other stakeholders will share experiences on SDG implementation. This will include countries that have already presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). They are invited to speak about the impact of VNRs on SDG implementation in their country. The discussion will also include the science perspective on SDG implementation in terms of evidence-based identification of bottlenecks and involving the science community in policy-making. The segment will include keynote addresses and interventions from high-level participants from the floor.

**Sprechpunkte:**

Germany has been among the first countries to present its voluntary national review (VNR) in 2016. In 2017 we enacted our national implementation strategy, the German Sustainable Development Strategy, which is currently subject of a peer review process chaired by Helen Clark, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former UNDP administrator. She and her team are visiting Berlin right now and have talks with non-state stakeholders and with our government. Their report will help us to improve the implementation of our Sustainable Development Strategy.

Robust and efficient monitoring and review mechanisms are key for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We need to keep track on where we stand and in which areas we will have to improve.

When we prepared our national review in 2016, the following two points were of particular importance for us:

- I) One of the main characteristics of the 2030 Agenda is its **universal and integrated approach**. This is why we covered all 17 SDGs in the 2016 update of the German Sustainable Development Strategy as well as in the VNR. We also included all sector ministries in the elaboration of our report to ensure a comprehensive and joint approach.

- II) Key actors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are governments and non-governmental actors alike. This is why we launched a **broad consultation process** which gave the different stakeholders the opportunity to comment on our draft VNR and share their views on the different issues covered by the VNR.

In addition, we offered a part of our **presentation slot** at the HLPF to non-state actors, who presented their views on SDG implementation in Germany.

The **involvement of non-state actors** in the process has **proven highly beneficial to us**; not only in terms of raising ownership but also in moving forward sustainable and inclusive growth in the private sector, e.g. by new and innovative business models.

Not surprisingly, the preparation of the German VNR revealed that while we have made quite some progress in some areas, we still need to accelerate our efforts in others.

Against this backdrop, we believe it is crucial to **agree on concrete measures and action programmes** for those areas as a follow-up. For example, in Germany we put together a National Programme for Sustainable Consumption and a Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, which we hope will contribute significantly to the implementation of SDG 12. Furthermore, it is our belief that the integrated approach of the 2030 Agenda should be incorporated in the respective concrete measures and action programmes. Therefore we, for example, see a nexus of future actions on linking "sustainable agriculture" in SDG2 with "deforestation-free supply chains" in SDG15 in Germany and in the European Union.

**Peer learning is a key element for successfully implementing the 2030 agenda:**

During the last years, we had several rounds of discussion with other countries, especially those who were also reporting to the HLPF. These discussions took place at the German Permanent Mission in New York as well as on headquarters level in Berlin and Bonn and have proven to be very helpful.

Based on this experience, the German Development Ministry and the Environment Ministry founded the international **"Partners for Review" initiative**. "Partners for Review" is serving as an international forum for peer learning and exchange on best practices. The network is open to all interested stakeholders which have or a planning to report at the HLPF. It will hold its next meetings

- in April in Georgia and
- another one in Berlin, probably in October.

In addition, **during our G20 Presidency** 2017 we launched a **voluntary peer learning mechanism** with the aim of exchanging experiences of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Germany took part in one of the first peer review groups together with China and Mexico. In this framework, government officials from all three countries regularly discuss their approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda, with a special focus on vertical and horizontal coherence.

We are glad that the Argentinean G20 Presidency will continue to work on these issues and to take forward the **G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda** and the **Hamburg Update**.