

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE OF JUNE 10, 2021

The Heads of Government of the Federal States adopt the following resolution:

The Heads of Government of the Länder, in continuation of their previous decisions on development cooperation, reaffirm that the Länder will continue to make their contribution to addressing development challenges in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) until 2030.

They agree to proceed with the development cooperation of the federal states on the basis of the position paper „Contribution of the German Federal States to Sustainable Global Development“ and to strengthen cooperation with the federal government.

Annex

CONTRIBUTION OF THE GERMAN STATES TO SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

I. Tasks of the German States

In times of a changing world order and global challenges, it is necessary for the federal states, too, to clearly define their position in order to provide future generations with a just future worth living. All political levels as well as society are called upon to implement the 2030 Agenda in their areas of responsibility.

The countries are convinced that the obstacles to sustainable development in many parts of the world can be overcome in a joint effort. These are, in particular:

The Corona pandemic threatens the health of the world's population. It exacerbates existing health risks in the global South and endangers the economic as well as the social basis of vulnerable population groups in particular.

Protectionism, trade conflicts and disadvantageous trade conditions for countries of the Global South endanger their economic and social development and thus, in the long term, our livelihoods.


Social inequalities, including gender inequalities, are increasing.

Climate change, overexploitation of natural resources and progressive loss of biodiversity threaten natural livelihoods.

Continued population growth in some regions of the world poses a major challenge, also in terms of job creation and opportunities for participation.

These developments also lead to violent conflicts, human rights violations, humanitarian emergencies and refugee movements within states and across borders. The greatest possible joint efforts of all social actors worldwide are needed to overcome the global challenges.

The countries therefore reaffirm their will to make effective contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through their multifaceted development policy engagement, within the scope of



their competencies and political options.

The countries have specific experience and competencies to make a sustainable development policy contribution to more resilient societies in the global South. It is therefore important to adopt partnership-based approaches that allow countries to generate sufficient sustainable revenues of their own, independently of financial contributions.

II. Core competencies and fields of action for the development-policy commitment of the federal states

Against this background, the countries concentrate on the following core competencies and fields of action in accordance with their respective development policy preferences and their personnel and budgetary capacities.

1. Climate Protection, Adaptation to Climate Change and Protection of Natural Resources

The countries are committed to climate protection in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement.

Energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, and sustainable land management measures are key development policy issues that can help limit climate change and adapt to climate change impacts. Through technology and knowledge transfer as well as research cooperation, countries can also promote sustainable energy supply, the careful use of resources and environmental protection and nature conservation in the countries of the global South.

2 Global Health Policy

The Corona pandemic has clearly demonstrated the vulnerability of humanity. For people in the global South in particular, Corona is another health threat, in addition to the often-neglected tropical diseases and health hazards from lack of food and water.


The international cooperation and the very rapid successes in vaccine development, which have impressively demonstrated the capabilities of pharmaceutical science and industry, are encouraging. The goal must be equitable distribution of vaccines worldwide.

The countries reaffirm the „One Health Approach“ supported by the G20 heads of state and government under the German presidency as a suitable way, for example, to combat zoonoses and prevent antibiotic resistance. They welcome the German government's capacity-building efforts and express the countries' willingness to cooperate.

At the same time, the countries see that, in line with the SDGs, increasing resilience, providing basic health services, and immunization are the most important for improving the health situation of people in the countries of the global South.

3 Sustainable Economic Development

Globalization needs to be embedded in close and fair economic de-



velopment. This requires a strengthening of multilateral cooperation. Very central in this context are sustainability and the protection of human and labor rights at all stages of global value chains.

Despite the expected transformation costs, a transformation toward a sustainable economy offers considerable economic opportunities for both the German countries and the countries of the global South.

This includes coordinating foreign trade promotion and development cooperation as well as efforts to align economic promotion more closely with global sustainability criteria. In this way, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular can be persuaded to become involved in the global South.

Digitization can offer great potential for the labor market and also the employment market in the global South if workers are appropriately qualified. The private sector is an important partner for development policy when it comes to using digital technologies in a way that takes account of sustainability goals and creates new jobs.

At the same time, the countries of the Global South must also be supported in preparing for the fundamental upheavals for employment in the course of digital transformation processes.

4. Fair Trade and Sustainable Procurement

The countries support the diverse activities of civil society, business and municipal initiatives to promote fair trade. In the context of public procurement policy, the federal states are committed to taking social, ecological and human rights criteria into account, regularly exchange information on this and will base their own procurement practices on this.


5. Scientific and Technological Cooperation

The countries see international cooperation between universities and partners in the countries of the global South as an important instrument of development policy. To this end, the universities not only provide study and research places for international students, researchers and teachers, but also promote their international exchange. The countries support the establishment and expansion of scientific structures in their partner countries and regions. Cooperation with the countries of the global South should also serve to mutually strengthen promising and sustainable innovations.

6. Democracy, Rule of Law and Good Governance

A strong civil society, democratic structures, good governance and an established rule of law at all levels are indispensable for sustainable development. Independent, regional and local self-government can offer a contribution to supporting the rule of law. The countries support the efforts for good governance in the partner countries and regions with their experience. In this context, the legal and practical equality of all social groups must be promoted.

Because of their position in the German federal system, the states



have special expertise in supporting their partners in establishing local and regional administrative structures and in making an active contribution to capacity building. Many countries of the global South face considerable challenges in local services of general interest. The know-how of the federal states and municipalities can help them learn from each other and develop sustainable solutions. The federal states will encourage the local authorities here to participate and support them in this together with the federal government.

It is particularly important for the countries of the global South to set up their national budgets sustainably and independently of external financial support. This also includes effective taxation. The states in particular can offer valuable support with their expertise in this area.

7. Art and Culture

Intercultural exchange promotes peaceful and democratic development and contributes to international conflict prevention. Intercultural dialogue and the consideration of art and culture are an important concern of development cooperation. The countries attach great importance to the responsible handling of cultural assets from colonial contexts. They intend to intensify cooperation with the federal government on this issue.

8. Partnerships

An important concern of the Länder is to initiate, coordinate and support partnerships at various levels. The partnership activities with states, regions and provinces in the global south must be further consolidated and expanded. Municipalities play an important role in this process. Both sides benefit from mutual learning in overcoming common global challenges and from the exchange of experience. The civic engagement, expertise of civil society and migrant communities are of great value here.


9. Migration and Development

A climate of appreciation and respect is the basis for cooperation in partnership. The countries advocate a differentiated understanding of migration and reject exclusion and racism as well as xenophobia. Migrant organizations can make valuable contributions to development education and development cooperation through participation and strengthening of civic engagement.

10. Development Policy Information and Education Work

Within the framework of education for sustainable development, global learning is seen as an educational response to the challenges posed by the increasing globalization of all life processes.

A jointly supported and broadly based development information and education work in the school and extracurricular sector as well as in the sector of vocational and individual training and further education is therefore of great importance. In the context of the National Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development and



the adoption of the „Orientation Framework for Global Development Education,“ the German states have made a major contribution to the development of education for sustainable development.

The states have taken joint steps with the federal government within the framework of the National Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development and the adoption of the Orientation Framework for Global Development Education, as well as the One World Promoter Program. These approaches have high priority and will be continued. The commitment of civil society, development partnerships and a wide range of extracurricular educational opportunities in this area are also appreciated by the states. In particular, new target groups with little interest in development policy are to be reached.

III Development Policy as a Shared Responsibility

The diverse contributions of the Länder are an important part of German development policy and indispensable for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, the Länder formulate goals and measures, for example in their sustainability strategies or development policy guidelines. They are aware of the importance of a coherent policy oriented toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of their role as role models.

The federal states welcome greater involvement of municipalities, civil society, science and business in development cooperation and support them within their means. Likewise, the states welcome the good cooperation with the federal government, which can be further expanded. The states offer their cooperation to the federal government in implementing the SDGs, especially in the context of information and education work.

Proven regional and supraregional structures in the field of development education work and in the further training of experts and managers in Germany are of great importance to the states.

Through joint development policy efforts by the federal, state and local governments, Germany can succeed in assuming responsibility for global sustainability and make an effective contribution to sustainable development in the countries of the global South.

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATES - 01.06.2017

PREPARATION OF THE MEETING OF THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR WITH THE HEADS OF THE FEDERAL STATES

PARTNERSHIPS OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL STATES AND OF THE MUNICIPALITIES WITH AFRICA

The heads of the Federal States recommend the following resolution to the Federal Chancellor:

1. The heads of the Federal States welcome the impetus of the Federal Government for a strengthened partnership with Africa. They agree that there is a need for a large-scale discussion process about how Africa and Europe can develop new dimensions of cooperation, in light of the new and common challenges faced by both of them.
2. The Federal States agree upon continuing their manifold commitment for sustainable development in Africa, especially in terms of partnerships of the Federal States and of municipal partnerships. The present instruments as well as existing and planned cooperation projects shall be developed further in exchange and coordination with the Federal Government.

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATES - 17.03.2016

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN 2016

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States take note of the submitted report on the Federal States' contribution to the Progress Report 2016 and kindly ask the Conference-Presidency to convey it to the Federal Government.

The Federal States agree upon reasonably taking into consideration all three dimensions of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) in their future contributions.


Contribution of the Federal States to the implementation of the guiding principle of Sustainable Development and of the Sustainable Development Goals

1. SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL STATES

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations' General Assembly in September 2015 gave the sustainability policy new momentum and new impulses on the global, but also national and subnational level. The 2030 Agenda further develops the guiding principle of sustainable development, which was adopted during the World Summit in Rio in 1992 and which is also acknowledged and implemented on the German Federal States' level.

In the resolution of the Minister Presidents of the German Federal States of June 12th, 2014 and of the Bundesrat of February 6th, 2015 (Drucksache 622/14), the German Federal States have determined that the progress achieved through the 2030 Agenda towards global sustainable development goals also involves a paradigm shift to a far reaching transformation of the economy and society in both Global North and South with the goal of assuming common responsibility for a sustainable and just world.

Thus, the German Federal States explicitly welcome the fact that the United Nations has established an ambitious sustainability framework through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and especially of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The German Federal States are convinced that a successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires coordinated, common actions of the Federal Government and the Federal States as well as cooperation with the municipalities, civil society, economic players and churches. Many of the SDGs touch on jurisdiction aspects of the German Federal States. Thus, Germany can only successfully exercise its international responsibility for a worldwide sustainable development by implementing the 2030 Agenda in joint efforts with of the Federal Government and the Federal States.



The German Federal States have already made important contributions to the sustainability process and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the past. They are willing to continue this process concerning the implementation of the SDGs in Germany and in the international context.


Thereby, they identify the following topics as central action fields: inequality in and between countries; sustainable cultivation and efficient use of natural resources; increasing the proportion of renewable energies and significantly enhancing the energy use efficiency as well as strengthening the resilience and adaptability against climate-induced hazards. The German Federal States are aware of their international responsibility. They take a stand for a global responsible use of available natural resources, for sustainable production and consumption patterns that comply with global social standards.

All Federal States have already taken substantial action to promote a sustainable development through laws, strategies, aid programs as well as communication and participation activities on important sustainability topics such as climate protection and climate adaptability, renewable energies, biodiversity, resources protection, education and science, sustainable consumption, nutrition and mobility, social cohesion and social changes. So far, two-thirds of the Federal States have adopted sustainability strategies.

Over the past four years since the last contribution of the German Federal States to the progress report on the Federal Sustainability Strategy, new developments have taken place in many of the Federal States. Those developments are partly based on the impulses of the Rio+20-Conference in 2012. So far, some Federal States have seized on the SDGs and their implementation in their sustainability strategies¹.

The sustainability strategies of the Federal States and similar strategic documents cover a wide spectrum of issues (similar to the Federal Sustainability Strategy), but are partially more focused thematically. The spectrum of instruments used for the implementation of the strategies varies (sustainability checks, interdepartmental coordination, dialogues with stakeholders, advisory committees). Some strategies are strongly guided by the Federal Strategy; other Federal States have developed separate instruments (for example through sustainability conferences bringing together governmental

1 For example: the new sustainability strategies of Baden-Württemberg (2012) and Bavaria (2013); the strategic reorientation of the Hesse's sustainability strategy as well as the redraft or update of the strategies of Saxony (2013), Brandenburg (2014) and Rhineland-Palatinate (2015). Further Federal States have released sustainability progress and indicators reports (Thuringia - 2012; Berlin - 2014; Hesse - since 2009; Saxony-Anhalt - 2015). North-Rhine-Westphalia has presented a preliminary sustainability strategy which is supposed to be adopted subsequent to a consultation round in early 2016. This is the second sustainability strategy which picks up on the SDGs after the one in Rhineland-Palatinate. At the moment, Berlin is working on its sustainability profile which will be released in early 2016 and will pursue a methodological way based the Berlin Strategy / Berlin City Development Concept 2030 adopted by the Senate in 2014.



representatives and stakeholders or youth participation formats). The cooperation with the municipalities and the civil society plays an important part in the view of the Federal States. Some States have established special cooperation forms with economic players. The topic of awareness-raising among the population is a special focus area in some of the sustainability strategies of the Federal States (for example the Sustainability Week or the Day of Sustainability).

2. SELECTED THEMATIC FOCUS TOPICS OF BUND-FEDERAL STATES COOPERATION

a) Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Building on previous experiences and existing structures of the implementation of the UN-Decade “Education for Sustainable Development” (2005-2014), the German Federal States express their wish to consolidate their efforts on the basis of the current World Action Program “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)” (2015-2020). ESD deals with global interconnections and challenges and with the related environmental, economic and social consequences. ESD contributes to raising awareness on sustainable lifestyles among the population. This makes ESD a central instrument to pave the way towards sustainable development, next to political agreements, financial incentives as well as technological solutions. Some of the Federal States have developed their own ESD-strategies and measures to implement the ESD-World Action Program.

Pursuant to the World Action Program’s priority action fields, the German Federal States will focus in the future on promoting the holistic transformation of learning and teaching environments as well as developing competencies among teachers and promoters on all educational levels from early childhood, school, vocational training up to university-level. The strengthening and mobilization of youth towards creating own possibilities of participation and of responsibility taking also play an important part. In addition, political support and the promotion of civic engagement and of participatory as well as cooperative processes remain central elements.

The German Federal States support the Bund in implementing the ESD-World Action Program and in developing a National Action Plan for ESD through their contributions in the National Platform, the thematic forums and partner networks. Due to the high relevancy of formal education for ESD, the German Federal States underline the necessity of additional political exchange between them and the Bund in order to formulate and implement the National Action Plan with equal consideration given to formal and informal fields of education.



b) Sustainable Public Procurement


The sustainable public procurement has been an important focus point of the Bund-Federal States' cooperation in sustainability matters over the past years. Many Federal States have worked together with the Bund on the "Alliance for Sustainable Procurement", initiated by the federal government. The Alliance made joint conclusions to important topics possible, for example the procurement of public transportation means and of electro mobiles as well as the introduction of sustainable construction standards. Still not satisfactory is the data basis on sustainable procurement which would otherwise allow a strategic steering of procurement proceedings. The ongoing amendment (2015/2016) of the federal public procurement law will enable taking account of environmental and social aspects in all phases of procurement proceedings and, for example, make it easier to take environmental and Fair Trade labels into consideration.

All these sustainability aspects operate only as "can"-regulations (optional regulations) on the federal level and therefore allow public contractors the freedom to take them into account in the suitable phases of procurement proceedings. Some Federal States have partially established further-reaching laws and regulations on public procurement. The Federal States expect that the Bund establishes a positive framework to ensure the continuation of sustainable procurement practices in the future.

c) Sustainability indicators

The topic of sustainability indicators has also been a topic in focus in the sustainability cooperation between the Bund and the Federal States over the past years. Many of the sustainability strategies and / or reports of the Federal States include indicator catalogues. Those catalogues are on the one hand inspired by the Federal Sustainability Strategy, yet often also contain additional priorities, specific to the respective Federal State. The work on a joint catalogue of sustainability indicators of the Federal States was continued in the reporting timeframe under the surveillance of the Heads of the Chancellery's Conference and of the Heads of the Federal States' Chancelleries.

Some strategies of the Federal States also include concrete, quantified and scheduled targets which can be determined and measured by using these indicators. Considering the challenge that progress reporting on the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the associated sub-goals and indicators will pose, enhanced efforts by the Bund and the Federal States will be required to ensure a high compatibility of the indicator systems. The Federal States therefore expect, in line with the vertical integration principle, that the Bund will enable an intensive coordination to ensure that indicator calculations on the federal level are also representable, where appropriate, on the Federal States' level and optimally on the municipality level. If target and indicator systems are compatible and therefore developments on the federal and Federal States' level comparable, the complementarity of the activities of



the Bund and the Federal States will improve along with the chances to achieve the SDGs. This would possibly require a political prioritization, which would still not imply that Germany will not comply with its comprehensive reporting obligations on the 2030 Agenda. Besides this strategic task, a further joint function of the Bund and the Federal States is the communication work on the SDGs and on the measures and instruments to achieve them. For the purpose of communication work it possibly might be important to bold and simple highlight selected indicators. Also, composite indicators such as the Prosperity Index might play an important part.

3. FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BUND AND THE FEDERAL STATES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The reliable cooperation within the framework of exchange of experiences between the Bund and the Federal States under the chairmanship of the Federal Chancellery Department and that of the Conference of the Minister Presidents should be further pursued in the future. The involvement of the State/Senate Chancelleries of the Federal States and of the Federal Chancellery Department as well as of relevant federal and Federal States' ministries can guarantee that the sustainability process and the 2030 Agenda is addressed in a thematically comprehensive manner. This exchange on the working level can when necessary, as suggested by the Bundesrat, be complemented by an exchange on the political level between the State Secretaries' Committees on sustainable development or within the framework of relevant ministries.

For the implementation of the SDGs on the European level, a new strategic framework for sustainable development is advisable. A consistent and politically visible implementation of the 2030 Agenda on the European level, for example through a new EU-Sustainability Strategy or an effective embedding of the SDGs within the new "Europe 2030-Strategy", could substantially advance Germany's efforts, especially on the implementation of the European structural and investment policies.

The Federal States will therefore promote, together with the Bund, the realization of such a strategic framework on sustainable development on the EU-level.

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATES - 12.06.2014

The contribution of the German Federal States to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda

1. The Minister Presidents of the Federal States of Germany welcome the comprehensive process initiated by the United Nations towards working on a new sustainable development agenda for the time after 2015. This agenda will merge the expiring Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the discussion on the further stage post-MDGs as well as the current work within the Rio Conference of June 2012 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Besides the existing core themes, global sustainable goals will in the future also include social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainability. This development represents a paradigm shift towards an extensive transformation of the economy and the society both in the global North and South, in order to jointly take responsibility for a sustainable, fair future.

2. Through the Post-2015 agenda the role of the Federal States in the field of development policy - according to the core competencies and fields of action adopted in 2008 - wins further importance. The development policy of the Federal States as well as the cooperation between the Federal States, the Federal Government and further actors will be facing new challenges in the next years, such as:

- The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) increase the demand for coherency in the policies of the Federal States, in order to achieve these goals on the Federal States level.
- Sustainable behavior patterns in Germany, such as consumption, energy expenditure, mobility, diet, health and economic conduct will become increasingly important.
- Education for Sustainable Development and Global Learning will become important topics in both school and extra-school education.

In order to implement these goals in Germany it is necessary to coordinate the common policy areas both between the Federal Government and the Federal States in the established education focus areas (e.g. Human Capacity Building) or the development partnerships of the Federal States as well as between municipalities, the civil society, the economy and the church.

3. The Minister Presidents of the Federal States reinforce their willingness to contribute to the achievement of the common global development goals within the frame of their possibilities by taking appropriate measures. The cooperation between the 16 Federal States as well as between the Federal States and the Federal Government has proven effective in joint programs. This cooperation will remain important in the work to achieve the new global SDGs.

4. The Minister Presidents of the Federal States deem local, regional, national as well as international cooperations on all levels as important components for the advancement of the SDGs. They require from the other conferences of the ministries that these cooperations be supported within their jurisdiction.

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATES - 22-24.10.2008

The heads of the state governments of Germany hereby agree that their cooperation in the area of development policy will be based on the report „Ensuring sustainability - development policy as a common responsibility of the Federal Government, the Federal States and the municipalities“. In so doing, they expect the Federal Government to co-operate with and support them.

Ensuring sustainability - development policy as a common responsibility of the Federal Government, the Federal States and the municipalities

I. Global challenges and the role of the Federal States

The fight against starvation and poverty, climate change as well as global increase in migration pose new challenges for development policy. In order to cope with economic, environmental and political upheavals worldwide, not only nation states and international institutions but also the Federal States need to expend more effort.

Recalling the Millennium Development Goals (2000) and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the Federal States decide to use their specific competencies in addition to the activities undertaken by national and international actors in development processes, without wishing to compete with these actors as donors. The main task of the Federal States is therefore to support, define the parameters for and co-ordinate development partnerships. Partnership activities of the Federal States and municipalities with cities, local areas, bigger regions and other countries of the group of developing and emerging countries should be hereby expanded.

Through their multifaceted commitment to global sustainable development the Federal States recognize their common responsibility and simultaneously contribute to securing their own social and economical sustainability. In light of the increased importance of knowledge, innovations and intercultural competences for the competitiveness of Germany as an attractive location and with regard to the huge growth potential of many developing countries, development aid will have a positive influence on the Federal States themselves.

II. Core competencies and fields of action for the activities of the Federal States

Stressing the background described above and regarding their preferences in development policy, their personnel capacities and their budgets, the Federal States agree to concentrate on the following core competencies and fields of action:

1. Climate protection and energy

Climate protection, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies have become key issues of development policy. Thanks to their wide range of experiences and their proximity to economic actors in this field the Federal States are predestined to make a contribution in tackling the challenges of climate change.



2. Food security and rural areas

The Millennium Development Goal of reducing the percentage of starving people in the world by 50 percent by the year 2015 is at risk. In the spheres of consultation, education and science, the Federal States are able to offer a variety of proposals on how to improve the agricultural productivity as well as the standard of living in rural areas of developing countries.

3. Migration and development

The interface of development policy, migration and integration offers new tasks and opportunities for the Federal States. Collaboration with the Diaspora can reveal new opportunities for economic and cultural cooperation with developing countries and is a way of strengthening the competence of migrants as bridge-builders to their home countries.

4. Scientific-technological cooperation

The Federal States have decided to intensify the use of scientific knowledge and the competences of institutions of higher education for development cooperation and make their institutions of higher education more attractive for foreign students and scientists. In this way, they shall contribute to the improvement of international education and scientific-technological cooperation.

5. Sustainable economic development

Sustainable economic development is an important premise for the fight against poverty and for tackling climate change. The development cooperation we do today is the foreign trade of tomorrow. The Federal States plan to better combine foreign trade and development cooperation and use their economic support more directly for small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries.

6. Good Governance and decentralisation


Thanks to their experiences and competencies in the federal system, the Federal States are able to support developing countries in terms of Good Governance and the creation of decentralised administrative structures. They are also able to make an active contribution to capacity building.

7. Culture and Development

Cultural exchange promotes international understanding and contributes to international conflict prevention. Hence, intercultural dialogue and the consideration of cultural aspects in development cooperation are becoming increasingly important, especially considering the UNESCO Convention for Cultural Diversity (2005). The Federal States, in cooperation with the Federal Government, aim to increase the cultural cooperation with developing countries.

8. Development Policy: Information and Education Work

It remains the important task of the Federal States to encourage



the information and education work on development policy and the social engagement in this field. At the same time, the Federal States welcome the involvement of the Federal Government in this area.

It is of great importance that the information and education work on development policy be well supported and far-reaching in both curricular and extracurricular domains. It must be linked with the efforts of the countries to implement the UN-Decade of “Education for Sustainable Development” as well as with the new “Orientation Framework for the Learning Area of Global Development” (Orientierungsrahmen für den Lernbereich globale Entwicklung).


III. Collective Responsibility for Development Policy

The efforts of the Federal States, in their substance and variety, are indispensable for the development policy. At the same time, they open new perspectives for more involvement of all parties. The Federal States are willing to continue taking responsibility for the development policy and to play an active role in this political field.

The Federal States consider the municipalities’ contribution to the partnership with developing countries to be very important. This is especially true for the information and education work, for the cooperation with migrants from developing countries, for Good Governance and decentralisation as well as for capacity-building for administrative structures at a municipal level.

The Federal States expect cooperation and support from the German Federal Government. In particular, this includes:

- › In areas where the Federal States are especially committed with regard to certain target countries or issues, or where they have a particularly high level of expertise, the Federal Government should involve the Federal States more in the bilateral and international development cooperation (Dialogue with third countries; teams for special topics; cooperation with the German Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), the German Development Service (DED), German Society for Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit - GTZ), InWEnt (Capacity Building International), the German Reconstruction Loan Corporation (KfW) etc.).
- › Regional and national structures in the area of development policy and education work, in addition to the area of educational training for qualified workers and executive managers in Germany, are of great importance for the Federal States. These structures must remain in place and be strengthened.
- › Strengthening the city of Bonn as the German host city of the United Nations and international competence centre for development cooperation and sustainable development can prove beneficial for all Federal States. In the light of this, the Federal States request the Federal Government to promote the settlement of further international organisations in Germany. Only the joint development



policy efforts of the Federal Government, the Federal States and the municipalities can help Germany preserve its future viability in global competition.

MEETING OF THE HEADS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND OF THE FEDERAL STATES: 17.06.2004

Implementation of the commitments agreed upon in the framework of the Millennium Agenda - Review Conference 2005

1. The heads of the Federal Government and the Federal States note that considerable efforts and joint action are required in order to implement the commitments of the Millennium Declaration of 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) deriving from the Declaration, and the Monterrey Consensus of 2002.

2. The German Chancellor emphasised the important role of the Federal States for the German development policy in the fields of development cooperation as well as education and information work. He welcomes the contribution of the Federal States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to reach the German ODA/GNI (official development assistance) ratio of 0.33% (of the gross national income) by 2006.

3. The German Chancellor points out that the German Federal Government has increased its budget for development aid by about EUR 16 Mil in 2004 (about +0.4% compared to 2003), whereas the national budget decreased by 1.1%. Furthermore, Germany increased its ODA /GNI ratio from 0.27% in 2002 to 0.28% in 2003. He calls on the Federal States to make a special effort themselves in the area of development cooperation.

4. The Minister Presidents of Federal States recall the Resolutions of 1988, 1994 and 1998 with the goal of contributing their part to reaching the MDG as well as the German ODA ratio - within the framework of their competence and possibilities. At the same time, they underline the fact that, given the tight fiscal situation in Germany as a result of the country's economic development, maintaining the status quo already constitutes an ambitious goal.

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATES: 09.07.1998

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States agree that with regard to development cooperation abroad and development policy in Germany, more opportunities for cooperation and the division of labour should be achieved by means of the mutual exchange of experiences and by efficiently joining forces in order to meet the increased demands.

They take note of the report presented on 22 June 1998 by the working group "Coordination and cooperation in development work of the Federal States in the Federal Republic of Germany".

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States appeal to the Federal Government to include the Federal States - with their experiences and resources - even more than before in the conceptual deliberations with foreign partners in development cooperation (national strategies and sector strategies), and to promote more coherence between the Federal Development and Foreign Policy in order to ensure sustainable development.

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States ask the Federal Government and the European Union to support the educational and information work for development cooperation with additional measures and, most importantly, to promote the projects of NGOs and initiatives due to their exceptional importance.

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATES: 01.12.1994

With their resolution of 28 October 1988, the Minister Presidents of the Federal States have once again emphasised their willingness to contribute to resolving current problems in North-South relations. At the same time, they confirmed the resolutions of 3-4 May 1962 and 26-28 October 1977. They consider these resolutions to still be a suitable basis for the development cooperation of the Federal States.

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States stress the importance of the process following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro for the Federal States and will strongly support it within the scope of their competences.

They regard the results of the UNCED as unequivocal support for their own position which is aimed at including not only the partners in the South in the necessary process of change, but also especially the people in their own countries intensively and at all levels. Without the participation of the population and without transparency concerning the necessary processes of change, these aims will not be realized, either in the North or in the South.

The "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development" defines the future development goals in principles and specifies the political priorities and the responsible structures in the so-called "Agenda 21".

The joint development process that was agreed upon at the UNCED requires the willingness to jointly develop adapted as well as environmentally and socially sustainable life models for future generations of humans living together on this planet. Therefore, development cooperation has to become a cross-sectional task that aims to achieve coherence in the major areas of public policy.

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States wish to fully support this innovative stimulus, thereby contributing to a sustainable, socially fair development of our One-World.

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States offer their cooperation in the processes following the UNCED and expect the Federal Government to promote the necessary implementation process after this conference. In addition, they expect the Federal Government to do everything in its power to actively include the Federal States, municipalities and social groups including non-governmental organisations in this process, especially in Germany's reports to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATES: 28.10.1988

The cooperation with the developing countries has gained increasing economic, social and cultural importance.

Regardless of the basic jurisdiction of the Federal Government in the area of development policy, the Federal States have made a significant contribution to establishing and fostering relations with the developing countries through their various achievements.

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States consider the relations between the industrial and developing countries to be an important part of a policy that is aimed at international cooperation. It is in the interest of both parties to expand and deepen this cooperation. However, the policy is exposed to growing qualitative and quantitative challenges.

Despite global efforts, the situation of a large number of developing countries has deteriorated over the last years. International indebtedness, budget deficits, inflation, increasing poverty, further damages to the environment and the insufficient efficiency of state institutions are at the same time the causes and the effects. The gap between many developing countries and the industrial countries has increased. The Minister Presidents of the Federal States demand that the Federal Government and the European Community make joint proposals with the developing countries for a sustainable expansion of their relations and create appropriate framework conditions for improving the economic and social development of Third World countries.

Within their constitutional competences and possibilities and in coordination with the Federal Government, the Federal States are willing to contribute to solving current problems of North-South relations.


The Minister Presidents of the Federal States confirm their willingness to continue the cooperation with the developing countries based on their resolutions of 3-4 May 1962 and 26-28 October 1977.

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States state that the focus of the development cooperation work of the Federal States should continue to be the promotion of:

- Vocational education and training for skilled workers and professionals both in Germany and in the respective countries;
- Personnel aid (Knowledge transfer)
- Implementation of projects in developing countries
- Development education and information work

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States consider these measures to be a significant contribution to the independent development of Third World countries and their participation in world trade.

Considering the global economic and social changes, the Minister Presidents of the Federal States deem necessary to expand the cooperation between the Federal States and developing countries in the following areas:

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- Cooperation in education including vocational education
 - Scientific cooperation
 - Academic research with relevance to developing countries
 - Technical cooperation including development and transfer of appropriate technology
 - Promotion of small and medium-sized businesses, craft industries, and cooperative associations
 - Environmental protection and resource conservation
 - Rural and urban development
 - Performance enhancement of public services and of business development facilities
 - Health promotion
 - Cultural cooperation

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States believe that cooperation with developing countries is not to be borne by the Federal Government and the Federal States alone but also by the civil society. Therefore, the Federal States welcome and encourage the active participation of NGOs and churches in development cooperation work as well as the involvement of municipalities and civic initiatives.

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States plan to promote a more intensive integration of development policy into education and information work both in and outside the classroom in order to increase awareness and understanding of the problems in Third World countries. To date, the Federal government and the Federal States have informed each other about their respective development policies, which has proven very useful. However, with regard to the entirety of development policy activities of the European Communities, the German Federal Government and the Federal States, this communication needs amplification and improvement in terms of its content. The Federal States agree to expand the exchange of information about important projects concerning development policy.

The Minister Presidents of the Federal States welcome the proposition of the Federal Government to establish an information system within the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and further express their willingness to work together on this system. The information system will serve as a focal point for development policy projects of the Federal Government and the Federal States.

The Federal Government is asked to inform the Federal States in a timely manner on new measures and modifications that might concern the focus of the development policy of the Federal Government, its institutions dealing with development work and international organisations.

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATES: 26.-28.10.1977

On the basis of the resolution of 3-4 May 1962, the Minister Presidents of the Federal States express their general willingness to continue the cooperation between the Federal Government and the Federal States concerning development aid. According to this resolution, the Federal Government is asked to inform the Federal States regularly about the baselines of the development policy and measures in the area of capital grants, aid for trade and technical aid. This includes questions of extraordinary political significance in talks between the German Chancellor and the Minister Presidents of the Federal States, as well as other politically significant questions arising in the concerned conferences of the ministers, especially during the conference of the Ministers of Economy and the conference of the Ministers of Finance.

RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATES: 03.-04.05.1962

On 26 January 1961, the Minister Presidents of the Federal States acknowledged that the development policy comes within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. They further declared the willingness of the Federal States to contribute to development aid within the framework of their responsibilities and capabilities. Starting from these basic ideas, the Federal States Commission for Development Aid (Länderkommission für Entwicklungshilfe), appointed by the Minister Presidents of the Federal States, has discussed the question of the cooperation between the Federal Government and the Federal States and negotiated the terms with the Federal Government. On the strength of these discussions, the Minister Presidents of the Federal States agreed to the following resolution:

1. In the opinion of the Minister Presidents of the Federal States, carrying out measures of development aid abroad is principally the responsibility of the Federal Government. In accordance with the Federal Government and its development policy, the Federal States will provide technical support in developing countries, especially educational and vocational aid. In any of these actions by the Federal States, the Federal Government will be the official representative agency.
2. The Minister Presidents state that close cooperation between the Federal Government and the Federal States is vital to ensure the involvement of the Federal States in development policy. This includes regular and full reports by the responsible federal offices, especially the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, on the broad lines of the federal development policy and federal measures in areas such as capital injections and aid for trade, and especially in the field of educational and vocational training support.
3. General questions regarding this cooperation will be discussed in the Federal States Commission for Development Aid (Länderkommission für Entwicklungshilfe). For the ongoing cooperation between the Federal Government and the Federal States, the Minister Presidents of the Federal States suggest creating a Federal States Committee for Development Aid (Länderausschuss Entwicklungshilfe) within the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.
4. The Federal States are prepared to help establish information and knowledge centres about the states as well as a central institution for professional support and employment. The questions of location, areas of jurisdiction as well as organizational structures are to be left to the Federal States in consultation with each other as well as with the Federal Government. In this context, the objectives set by the German Foundation for International Development are generally welcomed.
5. The Minister Presidents of the Federal States attach special importance to the work in the area of educational and vocational training support. The Federal States will provide suitable personnel for these tasks. The principles outlined in the enclosure shall be applied individually.



Appendix

Principles for the work of the Federal States in the field of educational and vocational training support.

1) When providing personnel for development aid tasks, the following information shall be taken into account:

a) The Federal States are to reserve an adequate number of positions for public servants who have been temporarily transferred abroad in order to enable them to return to their previous positions upon completion of their assignments. In that respect, the Federal States expect that the salary of personnel sent abroad within the framework of federal measures will normally be paid by the German state for the time in question. Civil servants both on a federal and state level shall be treated equally. Corresponding guidelines for this equal treatment will have to be worked out.

b) For personnel outside the civil service, questions concerning their demands shall be dealt with using the same standards.

c) In order to enable the Federal States to meet with the expected contributions in the form of personnel in the requested time, the Federal Government has to inform the Federal States at the earliest possible stage about any planned measures and the corresponding staff needs.

2) The Federal States support citizens of developing countries who come to Germany for their vocational training.

When choosing trainees who will be invited by the Federal States and whose training will be financed by them, the Federal States agree to work together with the Federal Government on questions of the sending country and training measures. So called free trainees (that is to say, trainees who do not come to Germany through inter-governmental agreements) are also eligible for funding by the Federal States. The Federal Government should, however, bear the entire lodging, training and personal support costs for trainees it invites. In the future, the selection of trainees should become more demanding and better language training should be ensured.

3) Subsidies by the Federal States for organisations worthy of financial support - because they dedicate themselves to supporting trainees and students in general and also because they set up contact with citizens from developing countries residing in Germany - shall be co-ordinated between the Federal States.