



The Bremen Senate adopted in March 2015 the „Development Policy Guidelines of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen“. They are the result of a broad participatory process with the civil society and form the basis for the future action of the Bremen Senate in development issues.

All social and political sectors in Bremen are called upon to review and align their policies in terms of promoting development, sustainability and equitable conditions in order to encourage a common perception of responsibility for Our World, in which the Global North also needs to make steps towards fundamental political, social and economic changes.

With its development policy commitment Bremen wants to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to combating poverty, human rights violations, social inequality and environmental destruction. To achieve these purposes, the Senate of Bremen commits itself also on the national and EU level.

The three main thematic focus areas of Bremen's development policy are currently: the developmental information and educational work; international projects that promote sustainable social, environmental and economic development; the promotion of Fair Trade in Bremen and at the European level. Since 2011, Bremen has been carrying the title of „Fair Trade Capital“. Since 2014 Bremen and Bremerhaven are both Fairtrade Towns.

An important basis and foundation of Bremen's development cooperation is the civic engagement of numerous developmental initiatives and associations. Bremen therefore promotes projects of these partners in the field of development educational work as well as participatory project approaches in the countries of the Global South which support local sustainable development.

Twin and friend towns are also an important part of Bremen's international relations. They promote exchange and mutual learning on an equal footing. For many years Bremen has been cooperating with the cities of Durban / South Africa, Windhoek / Namibia and Pune / India. Environmental and resource protection, education for sustainable development as well as cultural and youth exchange are hereby essential aspects.