

The Federation of German Industries (BDI)

The Confederation of German Trade Unions (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund – DGB)

Forum on Environment and Development

Association of development and humanitarian aid non-governmental organisations (VENRO)

Statement at High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

11 - 20 July 2016, New York City

I am delighted to be here for the first time as a representative of German civil society, trade unions and industry, and speak at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. I would like to thank the German Government for giving me this opportunity. We are pleased and recognise that by signing the 2030 Agenda, the German Government has committed itself to playing its part in sustainably shaping our world to ensure dignified lives for all people, today and in the future, and at the same time preserving our planet and its ecosystems.

In its report the German Government states that the 2030 Agenda is calling for resolute action to achieve a transformation towards sustainable development - Germany must also answer this call. The debate on how to do this concerns many, and often very different, interests across various countries and within our own country.

These various interests are represented by civil society stakeholders, trade unions and industry. We have a range of tasks to carry out which often gives rise to differing positions and demands for action to be taken by the government. This is also the case for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, what unites us is the profound belief that this implementation process can only succeed by involving different stakeholders in society and within a democratic framework which facilitates constructive debates.

The signatory states and their governments are responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda. We welcome that the German Government made reference in its report to the important role played by non-government players and also made it clear that they will be allowing us to comment on and supplement the report here today. In future, we expect the German Government to create structured and binding options for participation, through which we can also accompany the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda with our contributions.

Germany has already taken first steps in the implementation process. However, there is still a long road ahead. Key tasks for implementing the SDGs, in our opinion, are as follows:

1. Eradicating poverty, reducing social inequality and increasing equal opportunities
2. Conserving resources, respecting planetary boundaries
3. Sustainably using the industry's innovation and productivity capacity
4. Promoting good work and education for all and ensuring workers rights

To help carry out these tasks we need the support of the international community. We are prepared to play our part, together with the German Government, in implementing the 2030 Agenda in Germany and beyond.