



**First United Nations Environment Assembly
Ministerial Plenary on SDGs and Post 2015 Development Agenda, including
sustainable Consumption and Production, Nairobi, June 26, 2014**

German Statement

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Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety**

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Mrs. President,
Excellences,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This first session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly marks an important milestone for the global environment. It is our task to live up to the strong mandate given to this body at the Rio Conference in 2012.

The Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015-Agenda will shape the international cooperation on sustainable development for the next decades.

Therefore it is the right moment to raise the voice for the global environment.

We consider there to be four main strategic areas of the Post-2015 Agenda:

- First, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, which are key issues when we commit to finishing the job on the Millennium Development Goals and leaving no one behind,
- Second, preserving the natural resource base and ensuring its sustainable use,
- Third, the creation of decent jobs and adequate income through ecologically sound growth and
- Last but not least: good governance.

All dimensions of sustainable development -social, economic and environmental – are equally important. In a nutshell this means: The Agenda has to ensure sustainable prosperity and well-being of all people -women and men, young and old, around the world today and in the future.

This can only be achieved if we realize a paradigm shift to advance a profound structural transformation.

Promoting drivers for an inclusive sustainable economic growth and creating decent green jobs while respecting the ecological carrying capacity of the Earth is key in this regard.

A responsible and efficient use of natural resources through sustainable consumption and production will be a main task for any society. There is ample evidence that resource efficiency can strengthen economic growth, create jobs, alleviate poverty and contribute to environmental protection.

This is why we need to decouple growth from resource use. And we should take every opportunity to speed up this process. Sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency must therefore figure very prominently in the Post 2015 Agenda.

We must not compromise the right of future generations to enjoy their life on this planet. Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources is a question of fairness – and so is the protection from climate change.

The poorest populations are the first victims of a changing climate. Natural disasters and man-made hazards threaten human lives leading to more recurrent food crises and higher risks of pandemics and insecurity. We have to face the expectations of our children and grandchildren and need to take urgent action and therefore prominently integrate climate change into the Post 2015-Agenda.

Also the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and ecosystem services is key to sustainable development, human livelihoods and the eradication of poverty and thus should form an integral and prominent part in the structure of the Agenda. It should build on the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity which as such is a comprehensive roadmap towards sustainable development in itself and which has been agreed by virtually all UN member countries in 2010.

Furthermore, the Post 2015 Agenda will have to promote

- the protection of soil, water and the marine environment as well as
- the circular economy

as necessary preconditions for sustainable development.

For the effective implementation of the agenda we need a new global partnership which goes beyond the traditional North-South divide. The existing economic, ecological and social interdependencies in and between all countries require all states and all stakeholders to assume joint responsibility for the global common good.

The Sustainable Development Goals will set the ambition at the global level. Each country will then have to define its contribution at national level. This will be challenging for all of us – for all countries and all societies. The implementation of the goals should be monitored at the international level, be based on mutual

accountability and, given their important role, also include civil society and the private sector.

Let me conclude: The adoption of an ambitious agenda in September 2015 has to be a turning point for the wellbeing of humanity. Future generations will not forgive us a failure on this one.

Thank you for your attention.