

# **POSITION PAPER**

**Country:** Federal Republic of Germany



**Committee:** Economic and Social Council

**Agenda:** Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Fragile States

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## **Topic Background**

In 2015, 192 countries along with Germany, signed up to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These ambitious goals include a global commitment to end poverty, inequality and address climate change by 2030. Each year at the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF), governments and other stakeholders come together to review international progress on the SDGs and undertake Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of each country's progress. In this ongoing agenda, it is difficult operating in, crisis-affected and fragile areas. It's considered that SDGs are not for countries affected by crisis and fragility, at least not until the crisis in question is over. However, governments and citizens in countries that find themselves in these difficult situations stating precisely the opposite: that Agenda 2030 is of paramount importance for them and has to be implemented in their countries as soon as possible. In such unpropitious times achieving SDGs in fragile states with the help of developed countries like Germany spreads the message of world peace and togetherness.

## **Cause**

The Federal Republic of Germany believes, that achieving SDGs in fragile states must be the foremost task of the United Nations Developing Programme (UNDP). The countries with robust economies are already on par in dealing with situations but the motto of '*leaving no one behind*' can serve itself when the underdeveloped and developing countries elevate and prosper in their conditions. Fragility, a challenge in achieving SDGs prevails where Institutions and systems are fragile and when they exhibit chronically weak capacities to deliver their core functions, are susceptible to wholesale breakdown when they experience shocks and crisis, are slow to recover after the crisis and do not foster state-society relations. Fragility was arguably a key impediment to Millenium Development Goals (MDG) progress, as the worst performers on the MDGs were countries that were facing fragile and conflict-affected situations. It remains a major challenge for the 2030 Agenda. The number of people living in fragile situations has risen considerably, along with several people in those countries living in extreme poverty.

## **Country Policy/Contribution**

The Federal Republic of Germany supports the UN centre in Bonn, home to 18 UN secretariats and organizations, all contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In 2017, Germany contributed \$28M to unearmarked “core” funding enabling UNDP to help the poorest and respond quickly to a crisis. Provided \$208M for supporting post-conflict stabilization in Iraq and Afghanistan and \$34.5M embarked for environmentally sustainable development. 5% of UNDP’s vital core funding comes from Germany. Top 10 recipients of German funding through UNDP were Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Programme for Palestinian People, Libya, Turkey, Peru, Tunisia and Mali.

The comprehensive involvement of non-governmental stakeholders is a key concern of the German Government, and it is promoting this through a variety of dialogue formats. In keeping with the spirit of a new global partnership, the German Government is broadening the process of dialogue with these actors for the ongoing revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy

## **Solutions**

The adoption of Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a milestone in the recent history of the United Nations. This comprehensive and universal Agenda is an expression of the conviction that global challenges can only be tackled through concerted efforts and by systematically applying the principle of sustainable development across all policy areas and in every country.

Developed countries can invest in UNDP helping deliver better results for the world’s poorest and most vulnerable. Improvisation of Human Rights can help in stabilization in crisis-prone areas. In some of the most challenging developing context, financial support by developed countries can make a difference in people’s lives to stabilize societies and rebuild institutions.