Bonn Symposium 2017
Local partnerships. Working together to implement Agenda 2030 worldwide

Deutsche Welle, Bonn
5-6 December 2017

Conference languages
German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

Cooperating partners
Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)/Engagement Global gGmbH
Minister for Federal, European and International Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

With financial support from
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

With support from

Sponsored by
Foundation for International Dialogue of the Savings Bank in Bonn
BACKGROUND

The Bonn Symposium series

The Bonn Symposium has become well-established over the past four years as an international forum for dialogue on the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides a platform for the sharing of innovative ideas about the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on the exchange of experience among representatives of the municipal level from various world regions. The Symposium also fosters dialogue among local, national and international stakeholders.

This year’s Symposium

This year’s Bonn Symposium will focus on the role of local partnerships in SDG implementation. What are good examples of partnerships within and between municipalities worldwide? What can be done to build on existing partnerships? Which factors determine the success of local partnerships for sustainable development, and what are the specific challenges? What can be done to facilitate better knowledge sharing among municipalities worldwide – and how can networks of cities make a contribution here? These are the key questions to be explored at the two-day Symposium.

A radical shift towards more sustainability can only succeed if society commits all its energies to the pursuit of this objective. Indeed, a partnership-based approach to SDG implementation is enshrined in SDG 17 as a self-standing goal. At the international level, knowledge and technology transfer – between all regions of the world – is the main focus of attention here.

But at the local level too, cities and municipalities, civil society groups, the academic community and business must work together with citizens in the interests of sustainable development. In practice, numerous local partnerships for sustainable development have existed within and among cities, municipalities and regions for a very long time, involving a range of stakeholders and covering various policy fields. Very few of these alliances identify specifically as partnerships within the SDG framework. In most cases, the primary motive for establishing the partnership is pragmatic: to cut urban traffic congestion, save energy or reduce waste. Nevertheless, these innovative models involving a range of stakeholders working together offer great potential for local engagement in SDG implementation.

In terms of the one world concept, international partnerships between cities are a very valuable resource for shared creative thinking about ways of implementing the SDGs at the local level. Increasing numbers of municipalities are also actively engaged in regional or international networks of cities and are thus helping to shape policy at these levels.

At the Bonn Symposium, experts from various regions of the world will discuss how Agenda 2030 can be implemented through local partnerships. We hope you will join us.
Tuesday, 5 December 2017

10.00 hrs  Registration

Symposium Chair
**Patrick Leusch**
Head European Affairs
Deutsche Welle, Bonn

10.45 hrs  Welcome

**Christian Gramsch**
Director
DW Akademie, Bonn

**Renate Hendricks**
Former Member of the Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia
Chairperson of the Executive Committee
Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn

**Dr Jens Kreuter**
Managing Director
Engagement Global gGmbH– Service for Development Initiatives, Bonn

11.00 hrs  Opening

**Dr Stephan Holthoff-Pförtner**
Minister for Federal, European and International Affairs of the
State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf

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**KEYNOTE**

IMPLEMENTING THE SDGS THROUGH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS IN COMMUNITIES AND REGIONS?

11.20 hrs  **Professor Gesine Schwan**
President, Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform
Co-Chair, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Germany, Berlin

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**KEYNOTE**

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS: A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO AGENDA 2030 IMPLEMENTATION?

11.40 hrs  **Mariam Yunusa**
Former Director, Partners and Inter-Agency Coordination UN Habitat
Former Director, World Urban Forum, Abuja

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**INTERVIEW**

WHAT DO THE OUTCOMES OF THE BONN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE MEAN FOR MUNICIPALITIES?

12.00 hrs  Interview with

**Ashok-Alexander Sridharan**
Lord Mayor of the City of Bonn
First Vice-President, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
SPOTLIGHT
DANCING AND FIGHTING. LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SDGS

14.00 hrs Input

Martin Herrndorf
Co-Founder
Colabor | Raum für Nachhaltigkeit, Cologne

PLENARY
BEST PRACTICE: LOCALISING THE SDGS – THE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

The advantages of local partnerships for sustainable development are self-evident: even ambitious goals can be reached if a variety of stakeholders bring their particular strengths to the process. Are there any good examples of local partnerships for sustainable development within municipalities or metropolitan areas around the world? In which policy areas are they particularly effective? And how can these partnerships be coordinated, made more systematic and, if appropriate, integrated into an institutional framework?

14.15 hrs Round table discussion

Abdiyakim Yusuf Ali
Principle Founder
iRise Hub, Mogadishu

Gabrielle Guimarães
Senior Advisor for Multilateral Cooperation and Planning
Rio de Janeiro City Hall

Stine-Lise Hattestad Bratsberg
Chief Executive Officer, Pure Consulting, Oslo
Principle Adviser to the Mayor of New Asker

Dr Peter Pluschke
Deputy Mayor for Environment and Health, City of Nuremberg
Executive Director, Forum Climate Protection and Sustainable Development Metropolitan Region Nuremberg
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS
LOCALISING THE SDGS – WHO ARE POTENTIAL PARTNERS?

The Small Group Discussions will offer an opportunity to showcase innovative projects and strategies, followed by an interactive discussion in which participants can outline some of the challenges arising in their own work and devise new solutions.

16.00 hrs

GROUP A

Producing municipal sustainable development strategies – the partnership approach (German)

Many municipalities are currently producing their own sustainable development strategies. Others did so many years ago. Some municipalities have also introduced “low-threshold” programmes, often with the same objectives. What has changed as a result of Agenda 2030? How can global responsibility be built into sustainable development strategies and other documents? How successful is a collaborative approach to developing targets and actions for sustainable development within municipalities? Are there any good examples of participatory, inclusive and strategic engagement for sustainable development at the local level?

Ariane Bischoff  
Office of the Mayor, Division for Sustainable Development  
City of Solingen

Evelyn Wurm  
Division of Participation  
City of Solingen

until 17.30 hrs  
Chair  
Annette Turmann  
Project Manager Global Sustainable Communities  
Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)/ Engagement Global gGmbH, Bonn

GROUP B

Collecting local data and developing indicators – the partnership approach (English)

The statistical information required to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level is rarely available. How can local partnerships support data collection and the development of suitable indicators? Above all, how can the global responsibility that is built into Agenda 2030 be quantified and measured? Do any innovative data collection strategies exist? And does “open data” offer opportunities for creative dialogue between municipalities and local citizens?

Melika Edquist  
Program Manager  
Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), New York

Camilo Andrés Gamba Gamba  
Bogota’s Public Innovation Lab - Mayor’s Office Bogotá
A transformation of our energy systems plays a key role in the transition to sustainable development. In Germany, this “energy turnaround” – the Energiewende – is being driven and funded to a large extent by citizens themselves. Cooperatives and citizens’ initiatives see themselves as key pillars of an independent, local and renewable energy architecture.

How does the funding of local sustainable development work in practice? How are these cooperatives and citizens’ initiatives working together with the municipalities? Which of the lessons learned can be transferred, if appropriate, to other policy areas?

**Tasneem Essop**
Founding Director
Energy Democracy Initiative South Africa, Johannesburg

**Ramon Kempt**
Managing Director, Board Member
Energiegewinner eG, Cologne
<p><strong>Wednesday, 6 December 2017</strong></p>

09.00 hrs Registration

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Symposium Chair  
**Patrick Leusch**  
Head European Affairs  
Deutsche Welle, Bonn

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**PLENARY**  
**BEST PRACTICE: IMPLEMENTING THE SDGS THROUGH CITY TWINNING**

Many cities have well-established twinning partnerships, while others are fairly new. Regardless of duration, topic and distance, city twinning can play an important role in enabling municipalities to work with local citizens to achieve the goals they have set themselves. Which new opportunities do the SDGs offer for existing partnerships between cities? How can these partnerships help to fill the local SDG agenda with life? And how can knowledge sharing be established on a more systematic basis and utilised for the benefit of other cities as well?

9.30 hrs Round-table discussion  
**Dr Gabriele Goldfuß**  
Head of Division International Cooperation  
City of Leipzig  
**Desiree van de Ven**  
Coordinator International Affairs  
City of Utrecht  
**Igor Viktorovich Yurkewich**  
Deputy Chairman  
Minsk City Executive Committee

followed by Discussion

10.45 hrs Coffee break
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS
CITY PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS IN PRACTICE

The Small Group Discussions will offer an opportunity to showcase innovative projects and strategies, followed by an interactive discussion in which participants can outline some of the challenges arising in their own work and devise new solutions.

11.00 hrs GROUP D ROOM 104 – KIGALI
Local partnerships for sustainable development: a shared pathway towards Agenda 2030 (German)

In local partnerships for sustainable development, two cities, municipalities or districts work together on a regular basis and in a structured way on practical aspects of Agenda 2030. In addition to sharpening the strategic focus, the two partners implement a pilot project on a priority SDG. Which initial results have been achieved and which lessons have been learned from these partnerships? And what advice would stakeholders give to other municipalities interested in this approach?

Theobald Abenstein
Chairperson of the Bavarian Working Group Democratic Circles, City of Pfaffenhofen

until 12.30 hrs Chair
Vera Strasser
Project Manager Municipal Partnerships for Sustainability
Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)/ Engagement Global gGmbH, Bonn

11.00 hrs GROUP E GREMIENSAAL
Municipal climate partnerships: how does technical collaboration work? (German/English)

Municipal climate partnerships offer German cities an opportunity to work with local governments in the Global South on the more technical aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The municipalities concerned develop joint policy programmes with targets, actions and allocated resources. Which initial results have been achieved and which lessons have been learned from these alliances? How can this form of technical collaboration be integrated into existing partnerships? And what advice would stakeholders give to other municipalities interested in this approach?

Eckhardt Huber
Head Public Utility
Horb am Neckar

Bernard Nenghabi Tosam
Mayor of the City of Belo

until 12.30 hrs Chair
Joël Kossivi Agnigbo
Project Coordinator for Municipal Climate Partnerships
Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)/ Engagement Global gGmbH, Bonn
Ecomobility is a challenge for cities and municipalities around the world. Environmentally friendly mobility is not only about cutting emissions: it is about making the switch to local public transport, cycling and vehicle sharing as easy and appealing as possible. Are there any good examples of partnerships working for more ecomobility within municipalities? What role do networks of cities play in fostering dialogue on shared challenges and best practice?

**Heinrich Bruns**  
Head of Department Green Spaces, Environment and Sustainability  
City of Münster

**Mirko Heid**  
Head of Dtrategy Department  
SWB - Stadtwerke Bonn GmbH, Bonn

until 12.30 hrs  
Chair

**Monika Zimmermann**  
Deputy Secretary General  
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Bonn

12.30 hrs  
Lunch break with light refreshments
PLENARY
SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIPS, CLIMATE PARTNERSHIPS, ECOMOBILITY

13.15 hrs Lessons Learned from the Small Group Discussions

PLENARY
BEST PRACTICE: PROGRESSING THE SDGS VIA NETWORKS OF CITIES

Regional and international networks of cities offer a valuable opportunity for the sharing of experience. Joint projects can support local partnerships. In addition, networks of cities are important voices in the international dialogue on SDG implementation. How can the experience gained with local partnerships for sustainable development in city networks be utilised in a more systematic manner and integrated into an institutional framework? How can networks of cities support local partnerships? And what are these networks’ demands in the international dialogue on the implementation of Agenda 2030?

13.30 hrs Round-table discussion

**Stacey-Leigh Joseph**
Executive Manager Governance & Communications
South African Cities Network, Johannesburg

**Laia Vinyes Marcé**
Project Officer
Platforma. Local & Regional International Action, Brussels

**Monika Zimmermann**
Deputy Secretary General
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Bonn

followed by Discussion

INTERVIEW
WRAP-UP

14.45 hrs Interview with

**Dr Michèle Roth**
Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn

**Dr Stefan Wilhelmy**
Head of Division
Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)/Engagement Global gGmbH, Bonn

15.00 hrs Symposium ends