

: Programme

Bonn Symposium 2018 **Rethinking Local Development.** **How to make sustainability a success?**

Deutsche Welle, Bonn

28/29 November 2018

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



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Minister for Federal, European
and International Affairs
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Foundation for International Dialogue
of the Savings Bank in Bonn

BACKGROUND

The Bonn Symposium has become well-established over the past five years as a forum for dialogue on the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During this time, numerous projects, programmes and initiatives from various regions of the world have been showcased and discussed at the Symposium, providing a snapshot of the many practical ways in which sustainability is advancing at the local level all over the globe.

But there is more to Agenda 2030 than that – for it encapsulates the UN member states’ commitment to “transform our world” onto a sustainable path. One-off projects are not enough to achieve this. The ambitious transformation envisioned in Agenda 2030 can only be realised through radical social, political and economic change. Many governments have failed, thus far, to translate the Agenda vision into policy measures. Worse still, many countries are moving in the wrong direction, undermining the Agenda’s spirit and objectives.

Cities, municipalities and regions therefore have a key role to play in making a radical policy shift happen. SDG 11 mandates the international community to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Municipalities have already been pursuing this path on a wide range of issues; in fact, they are often several steps ahead of national policy. How can this local impetus be escalated to the other political levels? What impacts can local transformation achieve regionally and nationally? And will this transformation at the local level require new or different institutions?

There is still much work to be done, not only in policy-making but also at societal level. In the cities and municipalities, increasing numbers of people are developing innovative concepts and establishing extensive networks with the aim of shaping the process of change. But ultimately, it is down to each and every individual to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle. How can people be motivated to embrace and participate in change? With many of them worried that they may lose out in the process, what can be done to assuage their fears? What do young people expect from a sustainable society and from social and economic change? What processes are needed to support a local and regional economic shift towards sustainable development? The Bonn Symposium 2018 aims to stimulate ideas and inject fresh momentum into the debate about these issues, showcase new models and encourage dialogue and reflection.

: Wednesday, 28 November 2018

10.30 hrs

Registration

Symposium Chairs

Patrick Leusch

Head of European Affairs, Deutsche Welle, Bonn

Dr Merjam Wakili

Freelance Moderator, Trainer and Consultant, Bonn

11.00 hrs

Welcome

Renate Hendricks

Chairperson of the Executive Committee

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Dr Jens Kreuter

Managing Director

Engagement Global gGmbH – Service for Development Initiatives, Bonn

11.20 hrs

KEYNOTE

The shift to sustainability: Bottom-up or top-down? Which strategy leads to success?

Our present political, economic and lifestyle model is cost- and resource-intensive. Too many people are living at the expense of the environment, the climate and future generations. The major players at the various political levels have plenty of scope to promote a policy shift towards sustainable development. Equally, this transformation could be initiated from within society, but this would require people to be mindful of the negative consequences of their actions and adapt their lifestyles accordingly.

What should be the initial focus of a strategy aimed at sustainable development? Should it address power and vested interests in politics and the economy, or is it mainly about exerting leverage by creating a broad awareness of sustainable development within the public at large?

Namhla Mniki-Mangaliso

Executive Director, African Monitor, Cape Town

Member of the International Peer Review Group

for the German Sustainable Development Strategy

11.45 hrs

Q&A

12.15 hrs

SPOTLIGHT: TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH

The Knowledge of Others: Research as a Community Task

Transformative research for sustainable development also focuses on knowledge that originates outside the scientific community. The practice of transformation at the local level enters into a dialogue with “classical” research. What insights can be gained from this for sustainable management, quality of life and urban transformation? How can we succeed in using structural change worldwide for more sustainable development?

Professor Ulli Vilsmaier

Interim Professorship for Transdisciplinary Methods
Leuphana University of Lüneburg

Q&A

12.45 hrs

Lunch

14.00 hrs

YOUNG DECISION-MAKERS NEEDED

Fresh ideas for social change

Young people are the decision-makers of the future. They shape the future in their cities and regions by networking, planning actions and developing creative concepts to improve their daily lives. Very often, however, they have no desire to participate in local politics in the conventional sense.

How do young people from various regions of the world envision the transformation of society and the economy? What do they want from a society that acts on its global responsibility? What can be done to motivate more young people to engage for global sustainable development?

Dr Simon Bujanowski

Chair of the SPD group, Köln-Porz District Council, Cologne

Claire Gillette

Freelance Researcher, Paris

Member of the Young European and French Cooperators' Network (YECN, Jeunes2Coop)

Nick Ngatia

Founder, Nairobi Urban Creators, Nairobi

Q&A

14.45 hrs

THE ECONOMY IN FOCUS

Businesses: pioneers of change

The transformation of society towards more sustainability can only succeed if the economy changes as well. More and more companies – from major corporations to SMEs – are rethinking their approach. Through their corporate action, they are taking responsibility for the sustainable use of resources. They also have a lead role to play in raising consumer awareness.

How holistic is the business response to the issue of sustainable development? What are companies doing to promote local producers and markets? How are they cooperating with local policy-makers? What has to happen for sustainable development and global responsibility to be viewed as competitive advantages? And what role do the SDGs play in this context?

Miriam Danne

Policy Officer, International cooperation, Local development cooperation
German Association of Local Utilities of municipally determined infrastructure undertakings and economic enterprises (VKU), Berlin

Colisile Tfwala

Local Economic Development Officer
Municipal Council of Mbabane

Q&A

15.30 hrs

Coffee

16.00-17.00 hrs

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION IN PARALLEL BREAK-OUT GROUPS

Group A – German

110 – Antigua

Transformation research for local sustainable development

Resource person

Professor Ulli Vilsmaier

Chair

Davide Brocchi

Transformation activist, Cologne

Group B – English

108 – Trincomalee

Young people and innovation for sustainable development

Resource persons

Dr Simon Bujanowski

Claire Gillette

Nick Ngatia

Chair

Dr Mischa Hansel

Research and Programme Coordinator, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Group C – German/English

Gremiensaal

A sustainable regional economy

Resource persons

Miriam Danne

Colisile Tfwala

Moderation

Marlene Haas

Executive Director, Lust auf besser leben, Frankfurt/Main

17.15-17.30 hrs

PLENARY

Lessons learned from the break-out groups

17.45 hrs

Group walk (20 minutes) to Museum Alexander Koenig

18.15 hrs

Short guided tours of the exhibition

19.00 hrs

Reception hosted by the City of Bonn, represented by

Stefan Wagner

Head of the Department of International Affairs & Global Sustainability

: Thursday, 29 November 2018

09.00 hrs Registration

09.15 hrs **MAYOR'S INTERVIEW: CITIES AS LEADERS**

How to convince the higher levels

Many cities are leaders on sustainable development and climate action, well ahead of regional or national policy. At the international level, too, sustainable development commitments are under pressure; many countries are failing to honour or actively fighting against. This has repercussions at the local level. How are progressive mayors responding to these setbacks at the national and international level? What are their strategies to defend their policies from this backlash from above?

Patrick Kunkel

Mayor of Eltville

10.00 hrs **EFFECTING POLITICAL CHANGE**

Opportunities to exert influence from the local to the international level

The municipalities are already driving the shift towards more sustainability on a broad scale across a range of issues. How can these local successes be escalated to other levels? Just how much scope is there locally? Which challenges must be overcome at national, regional or international level? How can the municipalities fulfil their global responsibility and channel their agenda into international processes?

Dr Nana Ato Arthur

Head

Local Government Service of Ghana, Accra

Werner Schweizer

Mayor of Klixbüll

Q&A

10.45 hrs Coffee Break

11.15 hrs

THE PERIPHERY IN FOCUS

Embedding global responsibility in rural regions

Rural regions are rarely the focus of innovation strategies or transformation research that is focused on the Agenda 2030 vision. What are the challenges facing sustainable development in rural regions?

What kind of strategy is required to promote sustainability and global responsibility in rural areas? What can be done to stimulate creative change processes here? What are the starting points, and which potential partners can be identified? How can the structural change currently taking place in rural regions be utilised to achieve more sustainability worldwide?

Kai Diederich

Head of Department for Development Education
forum for international development + planning (finep), Esslingen

Thorsten Krüger

Mayor of Geestland

Elke Selke

Agenda 21 Coordinator
Administrative district Harz (Saxony-Anhalt), Halberstadt

Q&A

12.00-13.00 hrs

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION IN BREAK-OUT GROUPS

Group D – English

Strengthening local impact at regional and national level

Resource persons

Dr Nana Ato Arthur

Werner Schweizer

Chair

Adolf Kloke-Lesch

Executive Director
Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Germany, Bonn

110 – Antigua



Group E – German

Sustainable rural development in practice

Resource persons

Kai Diederich

Thorsten Krüger

Elke Selke

Chair

Annette Turmann

Project Manager Global Sustainable Communities
Service Agency Communities in One World(SKEW)/Engagement Global gGmbH, Bonn

108 – Trincomalee



Group F – German/English

Gremiensaal

New municipal structures for global sustainable development

Resource persons

Ahmed AbuLaban

Dr Maja Göpel

Roman Mendle

Chair

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

13.00 hrs

Lunch break



14.00 hrs

PLENARY

Lessons learned from the break-out groups

14.15 hrs

INNOVATIONS FOR A PERMANENT TRANSITION

New structures for sustainable development

Agenda 2030 and the associated shift towards more sustainability and global responsibility require not only policy but also structural change. For this reason, there needs to be full cooperation between policy-makers and institutions, associations, initiatives and businesses at the local level in order to achieve “ownership” of the SDGs.

Are local political institutions equipped to embrace sustainable development in all its facets? Which innovative models exist to make the transition to sustainability a point of no return? Can any initial successes and challenges be identified?

Ahmed AbuLaban

City Director, Ramallah Municipality

Dr Maja Göpel

Secretary-General, German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU), Berlin

Roman Mendle

Program Manager, Smart Cities

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (World Secretariat), Bonn

Q&A

15.15 hrs

Wrap-Up

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Dr Stefan Wilhelmy

Division Manager

Service Agency Communities in One World(SKEW)/Engagement Global gGmbH, Bonn

15.30 hrs

Symposium ends