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
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
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
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
Poliy 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

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 Tfvala**

Moderation
**Marlene Haas**
Executive Director, Lust auf besser leben, Frankfurt/Main

**17.15-17.30 hrs**
**PLENARY**
*Lessons learned from the break-out groups*

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**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 110 – Antigua

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

Group E – German 108 – Trincomalee

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
New municipal structures for global sustainable development

Ahmed AbuLaban
Dr Maja Göpel
Roman Mendle

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