

: Programme

Bonn Symposium 2019 **Making the Case for Sustainability** **in Municipalities and Regions Worldwide**

Deutsche Welle, Bonn

27/28 November 2019

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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Foundation for International Dialogue
of the Savings Bank in Bonn



#BoSy19

BACKGROUND

The FridaysforFuture movement and the election successes achieved by the Green parties in Europe have been a wake-up call for politics and large sections of the public and have generated fresh momentum and support for the transition to sustainability. Rarely has the need for a more sustainable lifestyle dominated public debate to such an extent in so many countries, and rarely has there been so great an opportunity to encourage individuals and institutions to take an interest, and to win them over to the cause. This opportunity must be utilised to the full.

Persuading people and organisations, then, is still a key task in embedding the SDGs at local and regional level. This year's Bonn Symposium therefore aims to progress the dialogue on best practices in awareness-raising and mobilisation at the local and regional levels. It will showcase examples from various regions of the world and explore some of the challenges arising in urban areas and in the local economy and politics. In all cases, it will focus on how to communicate effectively with stakeholders and involve groups and individuals – including those who are initially sceptical about local infrastructure projects that aim to transform our energy and transport systems, for example, or who reject the idea outright. The fact is that the transition to sustainability cannot happen without society's acceptance.

How should local projects and initiatives be designed so as to attract as much active support from as many citizens and stakeholder institutions as possible? Which activities and arguments are effective in building partnerships and coalitions, minimising scepticism and assuaging concerns? In the search for answers to these questions, we are interested not only in practical experience but also in the findings of research about barriers to change within groups and organisations – and the factors which make these processes a success.

: Wednesday, 27 November 2019

- 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
- 11.10 hrs Opening
- Dr Heinrich Bottermann**
 State Secretary
 Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection of the
 State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf
-
- 11.20 hrs **INTERVIEW: THE SDG SUMMIT IN NEW YORK**
 OUTCOMES AND OUTLOOK: THE MUNICIPAL PERSPECTIVE
- On 24-25 September, heads of state and government met in New York to follow up on
 progress and discuss the challenges arising in the implementation of Agenda 2030. The
 Summit was the first major high-level meeting since the adoption of the Sustainable
 Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. How should the outcomes be assessed from
 a municipal perspective? And how can towns and cities contribute to the political process
 and take it forward?
- Ashok-Alexander Sridharan**
 Mayor of the Federal City of Bonn
 President of ICLEI
 Member of the Board of Trustees, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
- followed by Q&A

12.00 hrs

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: INFLUENCING POLICY-MAKERS AND THE PUBLIC
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Thanks to the FridaysforFuture movement, the need for climate action has dominated the debate in many countries in Europe and beyond for months. The petition in Bavaria on preserving species diversity, which secured approximately 1.75 million signatures in just two weeks, is equally impressive. But why are these two initiatives so successful compared to other campaigns and movements? How do the traditional environmental organisations fit in with or alongside high-profile initiatives such as these? Which lessons can and should these different forms of organisation learn from one another? And how should they respond to the growing pressure on civil society in many regions of the world?

Mithika J. Mwenda

Executive Director & Secretary to the Continental Executive Board (CEB)
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Nairobi

Luca Samlidis

Fridays for Future, Bonn

Nikolaus Teixeira

Head of Campaigning, Referendum „Save the Bees!“ and
„Referendum fair rents in Bavaria!“
Solo-Entrepreneur and Co-Founder of the „Food Hub Munich“

followed by

Q&A

12.45 hrs

Lunch

14.00 hrs

**INTERVIEW: PARTICIPATION – THE KEY TO TRANSFORMATION
DEMOCRACY AND SUSTAINABILITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

Without public support, the transition to sustainability cannot succeed. This is apparent from the expansion of renewable energies or sustainable water management and the associated local political controversies, for example. How should municipalities and regions react? Which democratic procedures can be used to reconcile particularist and broader interests? How can social transformation benefit from citizen engagement and expertise?

K. J. Joy

Founding Member and Senior Fellow
Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune

followed by

Q&A

14.30 hrs

DISCUSSION: WINNING OVER BUSINESSES AS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS
PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVES

Many businesses already make an active contribution to ecological and social transformation; others are still lagging behind. Which leverage and strategies can be applied by cities and municipalities in order to motivate local companies to switch to more sustainable business models? What role do financial incentives play, e.g. in the context of sustainable procurement policies? How important are reputational issues or knowledge transfer? Which innovative tools have proved their worth? And what forms of public-private sector partnerships are emerging worldwide?

Gero Böhmer

Group Director Corporate Affairs, Politics & NGOs
Wilo SE, Dortmund

Councillor Kye Dudd

Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport & Energy
Bristol City Council

Ntomboxolo Cynthia Ngxesha

Senior Director: Supply Chain Management
Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality
Procura+ Africa Network

followed by

Q&A

15.15 hrs

SHORT PRESENTATION: MOBILISING PUBLIC AUTHORITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE USING THE LEGO METHOD

In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on a local scale, they must be translated into practical action by the public authorities. But like any major organisation, these administrations are affected by high levels of inertia. This can be overcome by top-down management. However, more playful change management methods are often more promising and can mobilise active support for reform efforts at all organisational levels.

Dr Merjam Wakili

Freelance Moderator, Trainer and Consultant, Bonn

15.30 hrs

Coffee break

15.45-17.00 hrs	<p>INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION IN PARALLEL FORA</p> <p>The fora (with the exception of forum C) provide opportunities for more in-depth discussions on the topics of the preceding panels and interviews. Speakers will be available for questions and respond to feedback as ‘resource persons’. The goal is to benefit from the diverse experience of the participants and to work together on actionable policy suggestions.</p> <p>Forum A – German/English Gremiensaal Influencing the public and policy-makers Moderator: Livia Pichorner</p> <p>Forum B – English Room 102 – Nauen Winning over businesses as partners for the transition to sustainability Moderator: Karsten Wittke</p> <p>Forum C – German Room 108 – Trincomalee Workshop: Mobilising public authorities using the Lego Method Instructor: Dr Merjam Wakili</p>
17.00-17.15 hrs	Coffee break

17.15-17.30 hrs	<p>PLENARY LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PARALLEL FORA</p>
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EVENING PROGRAMME	
17.45 hrs	Transfer (20 minutes) to Beethoven House Bonn
18.15 hrs	Short guided tours of the exhibition
18:50 hrs	Group walk to Old Town Hall
19.00 hrs	Reception hosted by the Mayor of the City of Bonn, represented by Deputy Mayor Reinhard Limbach

: Thursday, 28 November 2019

09.00 hrs

Registration

Symposium Chairs

Patrick Leusch

Head of European Affairs, Deutsche Welle, Bonn

Dr Merjam Wakili

Freelance Moderator, Trainer and Consultant, Bonn

09.15 hrs

PRESENTATION: "CHANGE YOURSELF, BUT CHANGE THE WORLD TOO"

INSIGHTS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Abandoning or changing ingrained lifestyles and consumption habits is not an easy task, not only for organisations but for each and every individual. Broadly speaking, there is a great deal of support for social and ecological transformation in many countries, but this abstract understanding is rarely translated into practical action. What is stopping us closing this gap? What narratives could be helpful in this regard? And what triggers our participation in collective action?

Professor Sebastian Bamberg

Professor of social psychology and quantitative research methods
Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences

followed by

Q&A

10.00 hrs

SPOTLIGHT: LEARNING THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE

SOCIAL EXPERIMENTS AND MODEL CITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Cities have always been a laboratory for social experiments. All over the world, various initiatives are piloting new forms of low-carbon mobility, social participation and decentralised energy supply systems, either in model districts or on designated topic days. How do these initiatives come into being, and are they able to inspire the local community? How can successful model projects or experiments be integrated into regular local policy-making and planning? And how can they find imitators in neighbouring local authorities or further afield?

Mariana Alegre

Executive Director
Ocupa tu Calle, Lima

Hiroataka Koike

Policy Researcher
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Kamiyamaguchi

Wilfried Roos

Mayor of Saerbeck

10.45 hrs

Coffee break

11.15 hrs

**DISCUSSION: PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY
PR ACTIVITIES IN MUNICIPALITIES AND COMPANIES**

One of the greatest challenges in transforming society is identifying images and narratives with the power to persuade. Is it possible to “sell” sustainability more effectively than the messages coming from the consumer industry, which for decades has promoted a reckless attitude towards finite resources? What are the winning formulas for communicating the need for change, rather than reinforcing existing patterns of behaviour? Four years after the adoption of Agenda 2030, there are many examples of successful campaigns, particularly at the local level.

Hassaan Hakim

Founder and Managing Director
Y00L GmbH & Co. KG, Gießen

Simon Kærup

Press Officer
Secretariat for Management and Communication
City Hall, Copenhagen

Katrin Meissner

Project Manager Initiative BikeCULTURE (RadKULTUR)
Ministry of Transport of Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart

followed by

Q&A

12.00-13.00 hrs

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION IN PARALLEL FORA

The fora (with the exception of forum G) provide opportunities for more in-depth discussions on the topics of the preceding panels and interviews. Speakers will be available for questions and respond to feedback as ‘resource persons’. The goal is to benefit from the diverse experience of the participants and to work together on actionable policy suggestions.

Forum D – German

The individual in focus

Moderator: Joël Agnigbo

Room 104 – Kigali

Forum E – German/English

Local experiments

Moderator: Dr Till Winkelmann

Gremiensaal

Forum F – English

PR activities

Moderator: Adolf Kloke-Lesch

Room 108 – Trincomalee

Forum G – German

Workshop: Mobilising public authorities using the Lego Method

Instructor: Dr Merjam Wakili

Foyer – Gremiensaal

13.00 hrs

Lunch break

14.00 hrs

PLENARY
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FORA

14.15 hrs

OUTLOOK: SUSTAINABILITY IN AN OPEN SOCIETY
IS DEMOCRACY READY TO EMBRACE SUSTAINABILITY?

In many countries, far-right populist movements are attempting to turn the popular mood against climate action, international cooperation and the integration of migrants. Some even go so far as to issue personal threats against local politicians who are committed to these fields of work. Others see democracy as posing too many barriers to a radical shake-up of politics. And yet democracies continue to be vibrant breeding grounds for new ideas, as the initiatives showcased at the conference demonstrate. Can we learn broader lessons from them? How should we deal with threats and resistance to social change? What opportunities for democracy might arise from Agenda 2030 at the local level?

Dr Andreas Hollstein

Mayor of the city of Altena

Member of the Board of Trustees, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Dr Sanskriti Menon

Senior Programme Director

Centre for Environment Education, Pune

Norma Tiedemann

Researcher and Lecturer in Political Theory

University of Kassel

followed by

Q&A

15.15 hrs

WRAP-UP

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Dr Till Winkelmann

Project Manager Municipalities for Global Sustainability

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

15.30 hrs

Symposium ends