

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Building Sustainability at the Local Level

The municipality

welcomes the 2030 Agenda adopted by the United Nations (UN) on 27 September 2015, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained therein, which are addressed to the member states of the UN, and which should be filled with life through participation and responsibility on the part of local authorities.¹

welcomes the acknowledgement of cities and other local authorities as key actors for sustainable development through the inclusion in the UN development agenda, for the first time, of the so-called 'Cities Goal' – SDG 11: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

supports the stronger focus contained in the 2030 Agenda on the joint responsibility of the North and the South for greater justice in our One World, and the link it describes between sustainability and development.

welcomes the calls made by the Bundestag to the German Government to press for municipalities worldwide, as key actors for inclusive and participatory urban development, to be given greater income and budget autonomy, as well as support in establishing democratic and effective autonomous local government, and in their international and development cooperation activities.²

calls on Germany's federal and state governments to: involve local authorities and their representatives as equals when developing strategies to achieve the SDGs; to recognise the importance of municipal engagement for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda; to include local authorities more than hitherto as actors for sustainability and global responsibility, also in the context of their own sustainability strategies; and to create frameworks to enable all this. The financial burden faced by local authorities when implementing international obligations should be compensated by the federal and state governments.

1 www.un.org/ga/search/View_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.85&Lang=E (page 14)

2 See the Resolution of the German Bundestag 'Entwicklungspolitische Chancen der Urbanisierung nutzen' [Using the opportunities for development that urbanization presents] of 18 June 2015.

The municipality _____

will use the means at its disposal to work for sustainable development in concrete ways, and raise the profile of its own activities both within and outside the municipality. It will drive this process forward in a broad alliance with local actors and citizens.

By resolution of _____ adopted

Place, Date

Title, position

Signature

Municipalities can make a special contribution through the following (optional) measures:

I. Information and awareness-raising

- Perform municipal activities and support third parties in disseminating information on the SDGs among citizens, and raise awareness of the challenges they entail at the local level.
- Using practical examples or appropriate council documents, present/discuss how the United Nations SDGs can be implemented at the local level. One example relevant to municipalities is Goal 11: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' ([link](#)).
- Ask the adult education centres, training institutes and administrative schools responsible for the area to provide information offerings on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- Take stock of existing thematic activities/measures of the municipality with special links to global sustainability strategies.

II. Networking and lobbying activities

- Promote and support a broad alliance of local actors such as associations, initiatives, schools, universities, businesses, the trades, trade unions and churches as well as locally/regionally engaged NGOs, in order to mainstream the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs it contains.
- Participate in regional/national sustainability networks.
- Play an active part in UN projects to strengthen autonomous local government worldwide, to organise local government interests on a global basis and to provide local governments with a global voice to articulate their concerns.

III. Transferring the 2030 Agenda to the local level

- Link existing or new measures or strategies for social, environmental, economic or political/cultural sustainability at the local level with one or several of the 17 SDGs, and raise their profile nationally and internationally.
- Mainstream and focus on local sustainability strategies as a cross-cutting task for policymakers and administrators (for instance SDG 11).
- Work to encourage the development of sustainability strategies in all areas of municipal activity, such as in municipally owned companies, municipal businesses, schools or in local authority housing provision (for instance SDGs 4, 9, 7, 13).
- Broaden and deepen the network of city-to-city partnerships and project-based cooperation with municipalities in countries of the Global South. Support structures of autonomous local government and municipal knowledge transfer through development cooperation projects (for instance SDG 17).
- Harness the potential of migrants as bridge-builders to their countries of origin, also to help improve life prospects in those countries (SDG 17).
- Develop a culture of welcome as migration to Europe increases (SDG 17).