

German-LAC cooperation on the Post – 2015 Development Agenda

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2015 marks an important milestone for the international community. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will replace the Millennium Development Goals, which have formed the basis of our work over the past 15 years. In September the international community will come together in New York to sign the draft that has just been tabled, setting out the goals for sustainable development. We will then have a framework for international development cooperation of an entirely new quality.

The Millennium Development Goals focused mainly on social and economic aspects – and were exclusively targeted at developing countries. Since those goals were adopted, however, globalisation has drawn the countries of the world closer together. What we now need is a new set of goals allowing us to take a holistic approach to social, economic and ecological questions. Developing new climate technologies and environmental technologies, for instance, not only helps to protect the environment but also contributes to sustainable economic development and helps to create new employment opportunities, which translates into better social development. That, of course, does not depend solely on how wealthy a particular country is. And that is why the new goals will apply for all countries worldwide – industrialised countries, emerging economies and developing countries alike.

Our partner countries in Latin America, notably Mexico and Colombia, played an active role in shaping the discussion about the goals for sustainable development right from the start and brought it forward politically. The goals are a direct result of the summit declaration that was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro. Latin America has become a pioneer when it comes to global challenges of the future. Many Latin American countries stand out for their special efforts on climate protection and sustainable development and for playing an especially constructive role in the international negotiations. That is why Latin America is such an important partner for us if we want to make progress on the pressing global challenges we are facing.

In a new global partnership we are assuming shared responsibility for our planet. The key elements in this are ensuring that we engage as equal partners and upholding the principle that the goals should be universal. As it stands today, our cooperation with Latin America is already exemplary in these respects. We now want our partnership to evolve into an interest-based and values-based partnership for sustainable development. We feel that the focus of our development policy work in Latin America needs to be on

climate and environmental protection in particular. That is precisely where we are faced with challenges that have a global impact. Individual states on their own cannot develop sustainable solutions to these problems. Germany's G7 Presidency has once more highlighted the contribution Germany is making to international climate policy. In a global partnership, we must increasingly move away from the old paradigm of dividing the world into donors and recipient countries.

It is much more about passing on lessons learnt to each other – and this should work in all directions. South-South cooperation is an important new form of collaborating and several countries in Latin America are already engaged in such partnerships. As for us, we can draw on our 50 years of experience to help answer the question of how best to organise international cooperation. Helping our partners to build institutions for development agencies – as Mexico is doing with AMEXCID – directly reflects this partnership-based approach. Triangular cooperation arrangements, too, are one of the instruments that place a greater focus on mutual learning.

The triangular cooperation fund that we have developed together with Latin America is an innovative instrument which will allow us to promote cooperation between various countries (including Germany) working together as equal partners. The main idea here is that countries within a region should share their experience with their neighbours.

All players need to do their part when it comes to mastering the global challenges determining our future – states, i.e. governments and administrative bodies, civil society and the private sector. Every individual person, too, can make their contribution to sustainable development, for instance by being a responsible consumer or using resources and energy responsibly. That is precisely what the 2030 Agenda is about: it puts people at the centre of sustainable development.

Together with our Latin American partners, the churches and civil society we want to explore new paths – such as, for instance, public-private partnerships in the fields of environmental protection and climate protection, sustainable economic development, food security, health and education and municipal climate partnerships. In particular, we wish to encourage the private sector to get involved in the Agenda. Every investment must follow the principle of sustainability. Environmental technologies and climate technologies, in particular, offer huge business opportunities.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda by the heads of state and government at the summit in September will be a historic milestone. The Agenda is a pact on the world's future for people and planet in the 21st century. It will serve as a shared framework for the next 15 years and offers a unique opportunity to move the entire world onto a sustainable

development trajectory.

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