



From Politics to Implementation

A platform for global transformation

The global community is gearing up for a paradigm shift beginning in 2015. The Millennium Development Goals, which have focused primarily on developing countries, will be replaced by a new agenda for sustainable global development that will apply to all states, whether developing countries, emerging economies or industrialised nations. This post-2015 agenda is designed to drive comprehensive global transformation towards sustainable development in all its facets.

The transformation envisaged in the post-2015 agenda involves a global and structural move towards sustainable social, economic and environmental development with a view to improving the living conditions of all people. Such a change requires a shift in thinking on our part to where we reflect critically on materialistic lifestyles, focus on sustainable business practices within sensible environmental limits, and ensure that interests are reconciled fairly, both within and between states and societies.

Shaping and implementing this transformation will require a fundamental change in structures, systems and institutions, but most of all a change in convictions, values and interests, which are not altered overnight. This is because transformation processes affect all areas of both public and private life. They are a puzzling mix of dynamics, complexity, uncertainty and inconsistency. As such, they do not follow a blueprint, making them difficult to plan and manage. An effective marriage of the necessary political will and of the many different practical approaches and solutions at local level is crucial to the success of the post-2015 agenda. Integrating these approaches and using them to address common global challenges will form a key part of a global partnership.

How can we succeed with such an ambitious endeavour? What are the common interests that the different stakeholders have in fundamental transformation? These are the kinds of questions and challenges that the **Bonn Conference for Global Transformation** will discuss. With this new conference series, the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH aim to provide an opportunity for experienced decision-makers from all over the world to exchange ideas on strategies and solutions while building new networks and alliances.

Beginning in 2015, the **Bonn Conference for Global Transformation** will take place every two years, bringing together experienced actors and decision makers from Germany and abroad who wish to work on solutions for a fundamental transformation and to share what they have learned from working in the fields of international cooperation, in foundations, civil-society organisations, the private sector, associations and trade unions, academia and education, in policy-making, administration, culture, and the media. Free of political protocol and the pressing need to act, the **Bonn Conference for Global Transformation** provides a platform for participants to jointly develop ideas and concepts for shaping global transformation, for innovative approaches to their work, and for forging new alliances.

Bonn Conference for Global Transformation 2015: From Politics to Implementation

The first conference in this new series will take place at the World Conference Center in Bonn from 12 to 13 May 2015. Its theme, 'From Politics to Implementation', is closely linked to the following major development-policy events in 2015: the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa (July), the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in New York (end of September) and the 21st Conference of the Parties on Climate Change 2015 in Paris (December).

Food for critical thought, model solutions, lively discussion sessions and practical workshops will be at the forefront of the **Bonn Conference for Global Transformation 2015**. The conference's core content is divided into two thematic blocks: Green Transformation and Inclusive Transformation.

The block addressing 'Green Transformation: Achieving Sustainable Energy' will reflect on the environmental and economic aspects of social transformation. The conservation and sustainable use of natural resources is from this perspective not simply an additional demand, but rather a prerequisite for long-term, sustainable (economic) development. The discussion in this context will focus on the key topic of energy supply.

The block on 'Inclusive Transformation: Reducing Inequalities' will consider the socio-economic dimension of sustainable development, examining the increasing inequality within and between societies. In this context, qualitative economic growth, progressive taxation systems and innovative social security systems are just as important as issues of fair distribution in a world of finite resources and limited space.

Numerous workshops conducted by partners from Germany and around the world will be at the heart of the conference. Under the motto 'Implementing Transformation', the workshop sessions will highlight approaches to realising the post-2015 agenda. The **Bonn Conference for Global Transformation** will in this context ask key questions concerning the extent to which existing experiences and approaches can be applied in other areas and which alliances and models of cooperation will prevail in future.

The hosts

German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia

The geographic centre of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Ruhr Region, underwent a process of deep structural transformation in the second half of the 20th century. Once a region heavily reliant on mining, it has emerged to become a modern technological and industrial centre; a development which has been the source of profound social upheaval.

As a densely populated urban area, Germany's industrial heartland, Europe's number-one energy region and a major European transportation hub, the federal state has faced particular challenges in tackling global issues of transformation. Against this backdrop North Rhine-Westphalia aims to share its experience and contribute its expertise to shaping global transformation and to benefit from the ideas of other regions of the world in guiding its own transformation process.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. Most of our work is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. GIZ operates in more than 130 countries and has long-standing experience of shaping societal transformation processes, from promoting good governance and economic development to securing food supplies, health care and basic education. Our priority areas include environmental and resource conservation and climate change mitigation. In Germany, our company maintains a presence in nearly all the federal states, with over 16,500 staff around the globe.

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