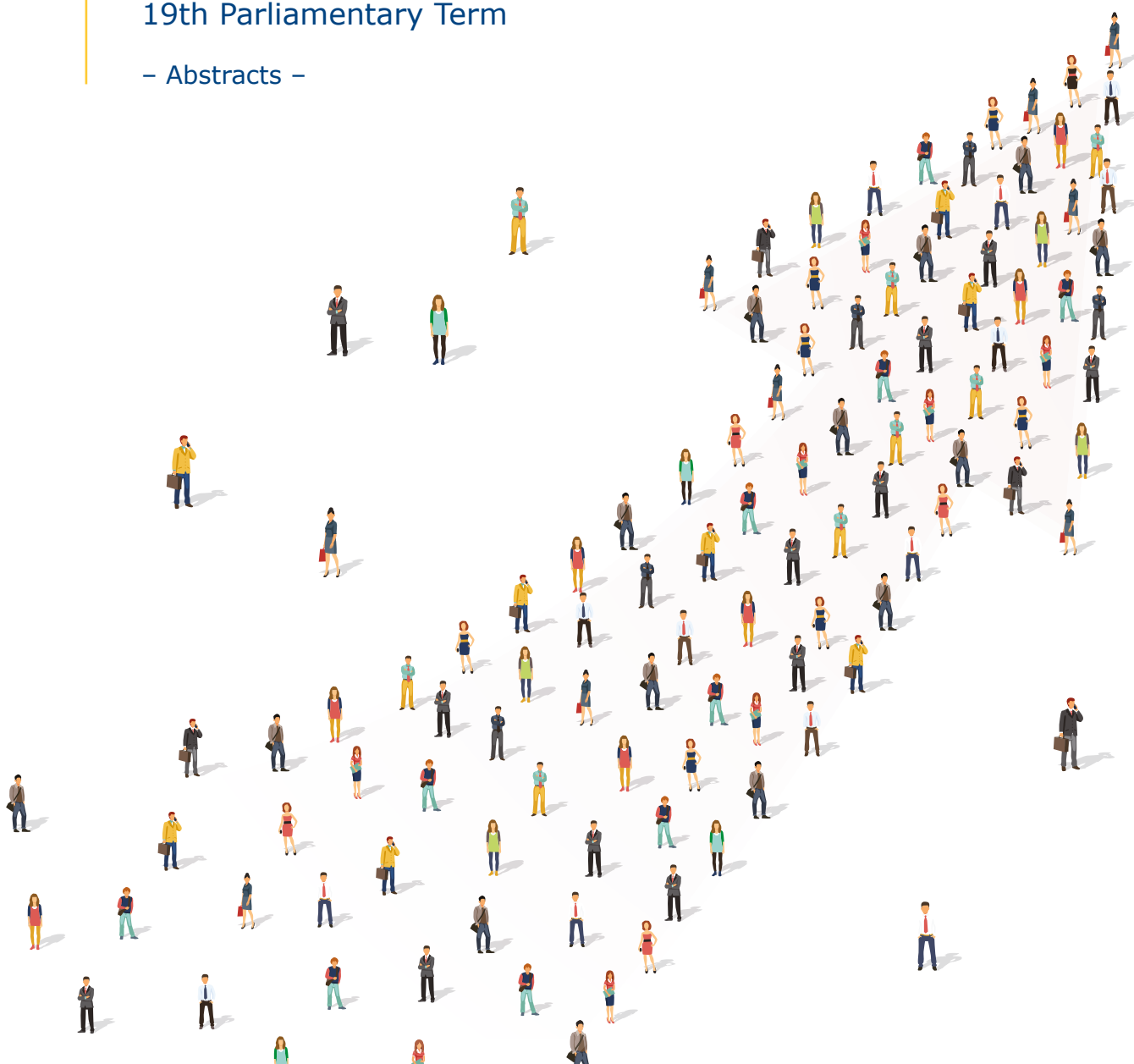


A NEW AWAKENING FOR EUROPE
A NEW DYNAMIC FOR GERMANY
A NEW SOLIDARITY FOR OUR COUNTRY

Coalition Agreement between CDU, CSU and SPD
19th Parliamentary Term

– Abstracts –



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FOREWORD

The coalition agreement between the CDU, the CSU and the SPD as a basis for the governmental work of the new federal government has also attracted great international interest. Under the title "A new departure for Europe. A new dynamic for Germany. A new cohesion for our country" the ruling parties agreed on the priorities of the new coalition for the next few years on the 14th of March. Due to numerous requests from the international sphere regarding the foreign policy focus of the new government, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung hereby presents both the preamble of the treaty and the chapter on Germany's responsibility for peace, freedom and security in the world in an English and French translation.

Brussels, May 2018

PREAMBLE

We are living in a new political era that poses diverse challenges for Germany both at home and abroad. Germany is a respected global partner, but its long-term peace, safety and prosperity can only be guaranteed through a new awakening for Europe. The European Union must safeguard and renew its values and its promises of prosperity. A strong European Union is the only guarantee for a future of peace, safety and prosperity.

We want Germany to have a fresh new dynamic. This is the only way for us to maintain and expand on our achievements. Our starting point is very good. The economy is booming; we have never had so many people in employment and occupation. This is also the outcome of the joint governmental cooperation of the CDU, CSU and SPD. Our currently strong economic position opens the possibility of ensuring long term social justice. Our aim is sustained and inclusive growth which everyone can benefit from. We want to mobilise the creative potential that exists in Germany and maximise opportunities for digitalisation. Germany needs economic and social progress in which everyone has a role.

We want this prosperity to be shared with everyone. The election results showed that many people are neither satisfied nor secure. Based on these results, we have made the following decisions as part of this coalition agreement and its policy. We want to preserve all that is positive while simultaneously showing that we are not afraid of political debate that leads to regeneration and progress.

All our citizens have a strong need for a sense of community, and safety in everyday life, the maintenance of their cultural identity, stability, good cooperation and active policies that bring people together as equals. Millions of people in Germany are involved in social, cultural and local movements and in municipal and city councils, county councils, churches and religious communities for the benefit of our community. We want to work with all of them to make our country better, safer and fairer.

We will deal with the problems that affect people's lives and are setting ambitious targets for the next four years. We are working to achieve stability and solidarity, for renewal and safety, and for equal living standards in our country. We consider the specific challenges in East Germany to be an undertaking for all of Germany.

We want to reinforce the social solidarity in our country and repair the rifts that have occurred. We take people's concerns very seriously and want to deal with them head on through collaborative work. We are giving equal educational opportunities to all children and young people, so that hard work and ability decide their futures, not social class. We are creating new employment prospects and more security in retirement.

We want people to be able to avail of a multitude of opportunities with us and to live in security. We are making families stronger and working to promote improved integration of family life and work.

Our joint vision is one of full employment in Germany. For this reason, we want to create a better work-life balance and modernise our social security systems. We plan to make further improvements to health and long-term care insurance, old-age pension and unemployment assistance and adapt them to the changes in society, to safeguard the futures of our citizens.

We are working towards the regeneration of our country, by investing in the future and promoting innovation to maintain and expand our prosperity.

We are investing in our country. We are providing enough day-care places, digitally equipped schools and fast Internet access in urban and rural areas. We are transforming Germany into the most energy-efficient economy in the world. We are expanding our security agencies and thereby guaranteeing the best possible security measures.

We will construct the digital transformation of economy, work and society in such a way that we all benefit from it. We aspire to making social progress through technological innovations.

In the future, we plan to better manage and organise migration while promoting and supporting the integration of immigrants in our society more inclusively. In so doing, we will respond to international migration movements on the one hand and the demands for skilled workers on the other.

We want to make a greater contribution on an international level, to contribute to better living conditions throughout the world while restoring and maintaining peace.

We seek to further reinforce our citizens' confidence in the capacity of politics to effect change by focusing our efforts on regeneration and solidarity. We want to build a stable and effective government that makes the right choices. At the same time, we aspire to a political approach that encourages public debate, illustrates differences and in so doing advances democracy.

I. A NEW AWAKENING FOR EUROPE

The European Union is a historically uniquely successful peace project and must remain so in the future. It links economic integration and prosperity with freedom, democracy and social justice. The core of this European vision is that the EU uses its collaborative political and economic power to establish peace abroad and to create security and prosperity internally.

Germany must be eternally grateful to Europe. For that reason, we are also committed to its success. A strong and united Europe is the best guarantee of a good future for Germany in peace, freedom and prosperity.

While the successful history of European unity is completely unique - its future is by no means clear. The challenges faced by the European Union are huge. The United Kingdom has opted to exit the EU. The challenges of evacuation and migration are putting European partnerships and solidarity under considerable pressure. While growth and employment are gaining momentum in Europe, the consequences of the recession are not yet completely surmounted. Youth unemployment is still worryingly high in parts of Europe. We need to defend the fundamentally liberal and democratic principles that are an intrinsic component of European agreements, against attack from political parties and movements.

In addition: The global balances of power have fundamentally changed in recent years, politically, economically and in the military. The USA's new prioritisations, growth in China and Russian policies make it clear that: more than ever, Europe must take control of its own destiny. The only way for the EU to have a chance of asserting itself in this world and progressing its common interests is through collaboration. Only by working together will we be able to defend our values and society based on a social model of solidarity, which is intertwined with the social market economy. Our response to the challenges of our time must be a strong, democratic, competitive and social Europe of the people.

Therefore, the EU needs regeneration and a new awakening:

We want a Europe based on democracy and solidarity

- We want to develop European solidarity based on its democratic and constitutional values on all levels and to enhance the principle of mutual solidarity.
- We want Germany to be an active participant in the debate about the future of the EU and the revitalisation of European integration and want citizens to take part in public discussions throughout Germany about the debate on reforms in Europe. As a result, we want to make Europe more citizen-oriented and transparent and gain new trust.
- We want a democratic European with a stronger European Parliament and a vibrant parliament at national, regional and municipal levels.
- The democratic and constitutional values and principles on which European unity is based must be enforced within the EU more consistently than before.

We want a Europe based on competitiveness and investment

- Investments in Europe are investments in a good future for our country. Growth and prosperity in Germany are closely linked with growth and prosperity in Europe.
- We want to increase the competitiveness of the EU and its growth strength in the context of globalisation, to protect and generate new future-oriented jobs: That is the basis of our future prosperity.
- The social market economy that is based on corporate responsibility, social partnership, co-determination and a fair distribution of the prosperity earned requires a renaissance, in this digital era.
- In the EU, we are reinforcing the strategic research policy, the capacity for innovation and are finalising the digital domestic market.
- In the process, we also want to increase the investment potential in Europe, so that we can progress and expand initiatives such as the European investment programme EFSI.
- We continue to need a strong EU cohesion policy in all regions, also in the hitherto transition regions and the more developed regions. We want to retain the major EU structural funds. This must also apply after the United Kingdom has left the EU.

We want a Europe based on opportunity and equality

- Europe must be a continent of opportunity, for young people. They are the future of Europe. We want young people to be able to place their hope in Europe. We want them to be able to find good jobs, to be able to move freely within Europe, to go on exchanges, make friends from other countries and live together in Europe in a practical way. For this reason, we want to expand exchange programmes such as Erasmus+ and combat youth unemployment through more EU funding.
- We want to consolidate fundamental social rights, the principle of equal pay for equal work in the same location in the EU, by means of a social agreement. We want fair basic conditions for employees and improved coordination of the labour market policy. The "Posting of Workers Directive" must be revised as soon as possible and ideally with other improvements.
- We want to develop a framework for minimum pay regulations and for national basic social security systems in the EU states. Anyone who fights against wage dumping and social inequalities in other European countries with weaker economies is also protecting the welfare state and the social market economy in Germany.
- We want to promote fair mobility but prevent improper immigration into social security systems.
- We want more comparability of education standards in the EU.
- We are against tax dumping, tax fraud, tax avoidance and money laundering, both international and within the EU.
- We support fair taxation of large corporations, especially Internet companies such as Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.
- Companies can no longer be permitted to evade their corporate responsibility, whereby they play EU states off against each other. Tax dumping must be prevented.
- We support a joint, consolidated basis for assessment and minimum rates for corporate taxes. Therefore, we want to launch a joint initiative with France to deliver a European response to international changes and challenges in this area, not least in the USA.
- We want to finalise the introduction of a substantial financial transaction tax.

We want a Europe based on peace and global responsibility

- Global challenges must be met with a European response. We are united in the emphatic rejection

of protectionism, isolationism and nationalism. We need more and not less international cooperation.

- Local challenges can only really be resolved locally. For this reason, we need practised subsidiarity, to also extend the discretionary powers of municipalities and federal states.
- The common European foreign and security policy must be reinforced according to the terms of a European peace power. In principle, it must give precedence to politics ahead of the military and must be oriented towards peacekeeping, easing tension and civil conflict prevention. We want to reinforce and invigorate the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).
- The EU Enlargement policy continues to be important to promote peace, stability and cooperation. At the same time, the EU needs internal reforms to ensure its ability to act. All countries in the Western Balkans have the prospect of accession to the EU. We support their joining of the EU and pay specific attention to the development of democracy and constitutionality. For the accession of the countries in this region to move forward, they must fulfil the proposed criteria.
- The EU must fulfil its humanitarian responsibilities in the refugee and migration policy, and at the same time must better manage and organise migration. We want to comprehensively deal with what causes people to seek refuge, to protect the external boundaries of the EU more effectively and to create a supportive and shared responsibility in the EU.
- We want to extend our cooperation with Africa on all levels via a cohesive Africa strategy. We support a Marshall Plan with Africa, to support the African Union in its implementation of Agenda 2063.
- We want an open and fair commercial policy that benefits everyone and targets growth, sustainability and equality.
- The EU must assume a leading role internationally in climate protection and advocate for an ambitious implementation of the Paris climate agreement.
- The EU needs a common foreign and human rights policy.

To achieve these objectives, we want to reinforce the EU's ability to act, also that of the European Parliament. We want to improve the EU's financial situation so that it can better discharge its duties. We will ensure this in the creation of the next multi-annual financial framework. In so doing, we also support the specific budgetary resources for

economic stabilisation and social convergence and for the support of structural reforms in the Euro zone, which can be the point of departure for a future investment-related budget for the Euro zone. We are prepared for Germany to make higher contributions to the EU budget. We want a budget that is clearly oriented towards future challenges with added value for Europe.

According to this, and in close partnership with France, we want to strengthen and reform the Euro zone in a sustainable way so that the Euro can better withstand global crises. In so doing, we will remain true to the stability and growth agreement in the future. Stability and growth are contingent on each other and form a single unit. At the same time, the principle that there is a link between risk and responsibility for liability must also apply in the future. We want fiscal monitoring, economic coordination in the EU and the Euro zone, and to promote the fight against tax fraud and aggressive tax avoidance. We will check the proposals on this submitted from the member states and the EU Commission. We want to develop the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) into a European monetary fund monitored by Parliament, which should be embedded in European law. The rights of the national parliaments remain unaffected.

Overall, we can be guided by the fact that the EU must represent solidarity between member states and for its citizens. The principle of mutual solidarity must also apply to the EU budget.

The regeneration of the EU will only succeed if Germany and France put their joint efforts wholeheartedly into achieving this objective. For this reason, we want to expand and renew German-French cooperation. A new Elysee Agreement is a first and important step in achieving this, which should also further strengthen European political cooperation. Germany and France must also be drivers of innovation and will demonstrate this in projects such as the research of artificial intelligence. We want to develop joint positions as far as possible on all important issues in European and international politics and lead the way in areas in which the EU, with 27 member states, is unable to act.

The German - Polish partnership is of particular importance to us. It is based on the reconciliation between Germany and Poland and Europe's joint responsibility for this. In so doing, we will not forget that Poles and Hungarians have laid the foundation for European and German reunification in freedom. On this basis, we want to expand

the cooperation with our neighbour Poland. The inter-societal discussion has now acquired tremendous importance. Therefore, we will further support agencies such as German Polish Youthwork, the German-Polish Federal Association, the German - Polish Institute and youth meeting points in Kreisau and Auschwitz. We will invest in cooperation with France and Poland in the "Weimar Triangle".

We regret the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. Even after its withdrawal, we would like to continue with trustworthy cooperation between the United Kingdom, Germany and the EU 27.

We jointly advocate for Germany to fulfil its European responsibility in a spirit of collaborative partnership and mutual solidarity.

II. A NEW DYNAMIC FOR GERMANY

We want Germany to be a country with a strong economy and social equality and we want everyone to have their share in it. We want to increase the budget in our country and ensure that citizens can live well and safely.

We want to modernise our country, unleash innovative forces and renew the promise of prosperity and security of our social market economy in the digital age.

Germany - that means more than 80 million people: We want to be able to offer them a good future. We want to make their days noticeably better, take their concerns seriously and offer them new opportunities. That is why for every political action we are guided by the question: What are we actually achieving for the citizens in our country?

We have therefore set ourselves ambitious and measurable targets for the next four years. Germany should be even fairer, economically stronger, safer and a better place to live in all regions by 2021. We want there to be a new awakening for Europe and a new dynamic for Germany - in all areas, including with the following actions, that are described bindingly in the subject chapters.

Families and children centre stage (Chapter III)

- **We are supporting families:** Increase in child benefit by 25 Euros per month and child and corresponding alignment of tax-free allowance for children.
- **We are improving the work - family life balance:** More money for expanding day care, support for parents, from those paying fees to those eligible for free day-care. Improved quality of childcare. Introduction of legal claim for all-day childcare at primary school age by 2025. Grants for household-related services. Promotion of family-friendliness.
- **We are combating child poverty:** Increase in and easier application procedure for child supplementary payment for low income families and one-parent families. Topping up of the school starter pack for school materials for children from low income families.

- **We are enhancing children's rights:** Enshrining children's rights in the Constitution. Revitalisation of the Children's Commission of the German Parliament
- **We are ensuring more equal opportunities:** Equal participation of men and women in management positions in public office by 2025. Better pay in the caring and social professions.
- **We are working to end violence against women and children:** Action programme for the prevention and support of women and children affected by violence. Needs-based expansion and adequate financial protection of the work of women's shelters.

Campaign for education, research and digitalisation (Chapter IV)

- **We are investing in better education at a record level:** 2 billion Euros for the expansion of all-day school and care services. Digital Agreement school with 5 billion in five years for a strong digital infrastructure in all schools, common Cloud solution for schools and training of teachers. Adaptation of the legal basis in the Constitution as a prerequisite for being able to support federal states when investing in the educational infrastructure.
- **We are developing vocational training:** Modernisation of vocational education agreement with digital facilities campaign for vocational schools. Better support through advanced BAföG (Federal Law on Support in Education) for equality of academic and vocational education. Higher grants for technicians, master craftsmen and business administrators. Introduction of a minimum apprenticeship pay. Jobs requiring vocational training are being modernised.
- **We are developing colleges and courses:** More investment in college places and quality in research and teaching including continuation of the College Agreement. Significant development and expansion of BAföG (Federal Law on Support in Education).
- **We are investing in Research and Development:** Target of 3.5 per cent of the gross domestic product for research and development by 2025. Agreement for research and innovation with more funding for research organisations. Further development of high-tech strategy, including with focus on digitalisation and artificial intelligence.
- **We are introducing the Gigabit networks to all regions:** 10 to 12 billion Euros for nationwide fibre optic networks, preferably direct to the house. Elimination of existing dead zones. Lead role in the expansion of the real-time 5G mobile communication standard. Free WLAN in all

public buildings and Deutsche Bahn trains and train stations.

- **We are creating a citizen-oriented, digital administration:** Digital citizen portal for citizens and companies, that makes all administration services electronically available in a practical way. "Digital First" principle: Prioritisation of digital administration services over needing to be physically present or submitting a written form.
- **We are supporting workers in this digital transformation:** Development of national further education strategy with social partners which provides responses to the digital transformation of the workplace. Legal framework for mobile working. Guaranteeing Employee Data Protection.
- **We are promoting digital innovations:** Support of young, innovative companies in the growth phase. Funds for games development. Provision of more open data.
- Ensuring good work, broad relief and social participation (Chapter V)
- **We want to achieve full employment:** Target of full employment and reduction of long term unemployment. 4 billion additional Euros for new opportunities in a social labour market for long-term unemployed citizens.
- **We are enabling lifelong learning and promoting professional development:** Greater alignment of the accord on education and further education to digitally advanced and further education. Right to advice on further education at the Federal Labour Office. Right of initiative for works councils for further education will be increased.
- **We have achieved a real breakthrough in negotiations on unfounded fixed term contracts and successive contracts:** Possibilities of fixed-term employment are reduced. Unfounded fixed term contracts are the exception once more, the indefinite work agreement is to become the norm again in Germany. Endless fixed-term contracts will be abolished.
- **We are creating a right to temporary part time work:** In companies with more than 45 employees, following part-time work new entitlement to return to former working hours.
- **We are creating broad financial relief in particular for lower and medium incomes:** Removal of the solidarity tax is a significant first step for approx. 90 per cent of those paying solidarity tax through a tax exemption limit. No increase in the tax burden for ordinary citizens. Relief for workers by restoring parity in health insurance. Reduction in the contribution to unemployment

insurance by 0.3 percentage points. Relief for low-earners in social contributions.

Successful Economy for Prosperity Tomorrow (Chapter VI)

- **We are helping Germany's medium-sized companies and its economic situation:** Gigabit connections for all industrial regions. "Digitalisation of the Medium-Sized Sector" innovation programme. Reduction of bureaucracy including through 1:1 implementation of EU guidelines, standardisation of threshold values and "one-in-one-out" also at a European level.
- **We are speaking to Industry:** Strategic industry and innovation policy. Expansion of industry 4.0 activities. Support of key technologies, in particular aerospace travel, maritime industries, microelectronics, battery cell production, lightweight construction, new materials.
- **We are promoting innovation:** Tax concessions for research activities, in particular for small and medium sized research companies. Accord for faster conversion of research results to marketable products.
- **We are focusing on free and fair trade:** Sign modern and fair-trade agreements with non-member states. Consolidate transatlantic trade relations. Rapid implementation of the digital domestic market.
- **We are developing dual vocational training:** Reduction of financial hurdles for starting careers ("Advanced BAföG") Full or partial reimbursement of fees applicable for the Master's examination ("Master's premium").
- **We are supporting the start-up culture:** Tax incentives for mobilisation of venture capital. VAT exemption in the first two years following start-up. Debureaucratisation through "One Stop Shop" for application, approval and taxation procedures.

Finances and Taxes

- **Our target is stable finances:** The aim continues to be a balanced budget - no new debts. No increase in the tax burden for ordinary citizens.
- **We are gradually eliminating the solidarity tax:** Removal of the solidarity tax in a significant first step for approx. 90 per cent of those paying solidarity tax through a tax exemption limit.
- **We are advocating for a common framework for corporation tax in Europe:** German-French initiative for joint basis for assessment and minimum tax rates for corporation tax.
- **We are combating tax fraud and tax avoidance:** Fair taxation of Internet corporations. Prevention of tax evasion by closing tax loopholes and tax havens.

- **We are developing Germany's financial centre and protecting taxpayers against risky financial market speculations:** Attractive basic conditions and leading role in FinTech. Lessons learned from financial market crisis: Verification and revision of regulatory policies; in future no financial market players, no financial product and no market should be allowed to operate without appropriate regulation. New international initiative for supervising of hedge funds and shadow banks.

Energy

- **We are proceeding with the clean, safe and affordable energy system transformation:** Purposeful, efficient, grid-synchronised and increasingly market-oriented expansion of renewable energy. Under these conditions: Increase in the share of renewable energies to 65 per cent by 2030. Modernisation of the power grid.
- **We are designing the energy transformation in conjunction with people, municipalities and companies:** Better integration of nature conservation and valid citizen interests including through more underground cabling. Safeguarding of a multiplicity of activities. Participation of municipalities in value creation. Guaranteeing competitiveness of energy-intensive industries.

Transport

- **We are investing in our infrastructure at a record level:** Continuation of the infrastructure investment ramp-up. Planning Acceleration Act including for simplification of procedures and digitalisation of plans and construction. An additional billion in funding for regional transport (GVFG). More investment in noise prevention for citizens. Rail development with Rail Accord 2030 and electrification of 70 per cent of the rail network by 2025.
- **We are building the bridge to Mobility 4.0:** Development of nationwide eTicket in local public transport. Installation of new digital test fields for automated travel. Legislative requirements for testing and further development of automated travel on all modes of transport. Opening of regulatory framework for new mobility services such as carpooling with taxation opportunities through the municipalities.
- **We are improving the air pollution control in towns and want to avoid bans on vehicles:** Incentives for low-emission mobility (flat-rate company car taxation of 0.5 per cent for e-vehicles). Development of clean local public transport. Promotion of car sharing and alternative

power units. Investment in electromobility including in hydrogen and fossil fuel cells. Support of battery cell production in Germany. Installation of charging infrastructure with 100,000 charging outlets by 2020.

Agriculture

- **We are developing domestic agriculture:** Clear commitment to farming and regionally-based agriculture. Nationwide ban on additional genetic engineering. Expansion of organic farming. Utilisation of the potentials of digitalisation. Further development and debureaucratisation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
- **We are taking the lead on animal welfare:** Further development of livestock strategy taking into consideration animal and environmental protection, quality and market orientation. Introduction of animal welfare label. Promotion of better housing conditions.
- **We are promoting good foodstuffs and healthy nutrition:** Maintenance of the variety of producers and high-quality foodstuffs. More transparency and information on nutritional values and ingredients. Containment of foodstuff wastage.

Structuring social security fairly and reliably (Chapter VII)

- **We are ensuring the stability of retirement benefits:** Protection of the statutory pension to current level of 48 per cent by the year 2025. Limitation of the contribution rate of 20 per cent. Appointment of a Pensions Committee for long-term stabilisation of contributions and level of retirement benefit for post-2025.
- **We are honouring lifetime achievement and combating old-age poverty:** Introduction of a basic pension, which is 10 per cent above the basic pension, for everyone who has worked all their lives, considering parental and carer leave. Better exemption regulations for own-use residential property. Better acknowledgement of parental leave through Mütterrente II (mother pension). Improvements in the disability pension. Integration of the self-employed in the statutory pension scheme with opt-out solution and pension plan obligation.
- **We are increasing the participation of people with additional needs:** Investments in the expansion of accessibility in public areas and all areas of daily life.
- **We are making notable improvements to Care:** Immediate Care programme with 8,000 new skilled workers and improved pay. "Concerted Care Action" with better personnel ratios and training initiatives for carers. Reduction of fi-

nancial obstacles to undertaking carer training. Support of children of parents requiring care. No recourse to income up to a minimum annual threshold of 100,000 Euros. Development of outpatient geriatric and medical care in rural areas.

- **We are creating fairer financing of statutory health insurance:** Restoration of parity in contributions to statutory health insurance. From 1st January 2019, equal health insurance contributions will be made by employers and employees.
- **We are creating an excellent nationwide healthcare system:** More investments in hospitals. More college places to study medicine and better country doctor ratios. Abolishment of fees for all health-related professions. Promotion of telemedicine. Introduction of electronic patient files by 2021. National health portal for fast and reliable information on medical questions.
- **We are improving the care of people with statutory insurance:** Fixed allowances for dental restoration are being increased. Surgery hours are being extended. Extra support for doctors who are practising in more economically disadvantaged and underserved rural areas, through regional supplements. Both the outpatient fee structure in the statutory health insurance (EBM) and the fee structure of the private health insurance (GOÄ) must be reformed.
- **We are supporting local pharmacies:** Application for a ban on mail-order prescription-only medications.

Immigration - taxation, promotion of integration and support (Chapter VIII)

- **We are upholding our statutory and humanitarian responsibilities:** The basic right to asylum is not in question. Recognition of the Geneva Refugee Convention, of the obligations arising from EU Law, of the processing of each asylum application and of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- **We want to avoid a repeat of the situation of 2015:** For that reason, efforts for appropriate taxation and restriction of migration, including improvement of development efforts, expansion of humanitarian commitments, extension of peacekeeping commitments, fair trade agreements, increased climate protection and no export of arms to troubled regions.
- **We note that the immigration figures** based on the experiences of the last 20 years, and in view of the agreed policies and the directly taxable percentage of immigrations, are not exceeding

a rate of between 180,000 and 220,000 annually.

- **We are regulating immigration:** Clear regulations for family reunification and regulation of hardship cases. Combating the reasons people seek refuge in development cooperation. Expansion of the list of safe countries of origin. Effective protection of domestic borders and development of European border and coast guards (Frontex) to a genuine European border patrol police force.
- **We are working on fast, comprehensive and legally secure procedures:** Creation of acceptance, decision and repatriation institutions for the acceleration of asylum proceedings. Independent and comprehensive advice on asylum proceedings. Improvement of voluntary return and subsequent deportation of enforceable orders for those obliged to leave the country. Differentiation of those obliged to leave the country following an attributable or non-attributable obstacle to deportation e.g. on receipt of benefits.
- **We are regulating the immigration of skilled workers:** Skilled worker immigration act, which regulates the increasing demand for skilled workers through labour migration in a new and transparent way. Orientation for economic requirements as well as a qualification, age, language, evidence of an actual job and safeguarding of subsistence costs.
- **We are focused on successful integration:** Nationwide strategy based on the principle of "Encourage and Support". Continuation of the programme to support states and municipalities. Improvement of quality and efficiency of integration and language courses. Enhancements in education and labour market integration that have been sanctioned for several years.

Towns with good quality of life, attractive regions and affordable accommodation (Chapter IX)

- **We are investing in regional development:** Joint national, federal and municipal committee for "Equal Living Conditions". New all-Germany support system for economically underdeveloped regions. Long-term grouping of regional subsidies for the financing of on-site regional projects. Continuation of municipal relief measures, including for urban development, immigration and integration.
- **We are launching a housing campaign:** 1.5 million new apartments and private homes. Piloting of tax allowances for families for first-time purchase of residential property without affecting the federal financial compensation. 2

billion euros for construction of social housing. Funding of energy-related building renovation. In the affordable rental sector, tax incentives for private new residential construction.

- We are supporting families in purchasing their own homes: **Baukindergeld (child home support) of 1,200 euros per child annually.**
- **We are ensuring affordable rents:** Moderation of rent increases including extension of the commitment period of the qualified rent index. Decrease of the modernisation allocation to 8 per cent. Adjustment of housing benefit to individual living conditions. Cap limit for increase of rents with modernisation policies.
- **We are developing civic engagement and volunteering:** Debureaucratisation of volunteering. Setting up of voluntary foundations. Expansion of multigenerational houses. Revitalisation of national and youth volunteer services.
- **We are setting a fixed-basis property tax:** Safeguarding an important source of revenue for municipalities.

A country that is stronger and better able to act for a free society (Chapter X)

- We are making Germany safer: **Accord for the Constitutional State with 15,000** new positions for safety authorities at a national and federal level and 2,000 new positions in the justice system. Better measures to combat small-scale crime. Better equipment for the police, consistent digitalisation, expansion of DNA analysis. Effective and modern processes in all areas. Better and faster
- law enforcement. Equal value competencies in the Internet and beyond. Expansion of cyber defence. Improved cooperation of the authorities in combating terrorism such as through better cooperation of security forces in Europe. Model police law for nationwide uniformly high standards. Expansion of the programmes to counter any form of extremism.
- **We are improving the rights of victims of crime and terrorism:** New regulation of victim compensation. Better protection of children on the Internet. Establishing the post of a permanent commissioner for victims and their families.
- **We are consistently working to combat financial crime, burglary and organised crime:** New power to impose sanctions for companies. Higher fines. Enhancement of the KfW (Development Loan Corporation) programme "Crime prevention through anti-theft devices".
- **We are enhancing consumer rights:** Introduction of model declaratory action: Setting up of a nationwide consumer information portal. More

transparency in digital products and services.

- Responsible utilisation of our resources (Chapter XI)
- **We are still leaders in climate protection:** Commitment to the national, European and international climate targets 2020, 2030 and 2050. Reduction of the shortfalls in climate protection by 2020. Law on compliance with climate targets 2030.
- **We are jointly designing the transformation with the regions involved:** Setting up of a committee for an action programme to achieve the 40 per cent target, to reduce coal-fired power generation and to ensure the required restructuring.
- **We are preserving our environment for future generations:** Promotion of the protection of biological diversity. Effective commitment against the killing of insects. Initiatives for clean air and the protection of water, soil and the ocean, including against littering.
- **We are committed to our withdrawal from nuclear energy:** No EU support for new nuclear power stations. Termination of all participation in state funds to nuclear power stations abroad.

Germany's responsibility for peace, freedom and safety in the world (Chapter XII)

- **We remain committed to peace:** Ensuring that globalisation is fair for everyone. Sustainable development policy. More international cooperation and commitment to disarmament. Further restriction of arms exports.
- **We are committed to our global obligations and alliances:** Acknowledgement of international alliances with NATO, UN and OSCE and with transatlantic partnership. More funds for development cooperation, civil crisis prevention, humanitarian aid, defence and German armed forces - supplementary financial support for these areas should be prioritised in the 1:1 ratio.
- **We are increasing our German armed forces and the European defence structure:** More personnel, the best training and modern equipment in the German armed forces through a higher defence budget. Expansion of the European Defence Union with PESCO European Defence Funds and additional steps on the way to a "European Army".
- **As part of the EU expansion, we are prioritising rigour over speed:** Clear expectation of compliance with criteria prior to EU accession of the West Balkan states. In the EU accession process for Turkey, no chapter is closed, and no new chapter is opened. No visa liberalisation for

Turkey until requirements have been complied with.

- **We are creating opportunities in-country and combating the reasons that people seek refuge:** More funding for development cooperation. Implement Marshall Plan in Africa, to create more opportunities and employment. Promote fair trade. Investment in combating the reasons that people seek refuge and implementation of the returnee programmes. Expansion of "Cash for Work" programme, that makes it possible to earn good incomes in the native countries.
- **We are committed to human rights and religious freedom in the world:** Consistent implementation of the National Action Plan for the Economy and Human Rights. Appointment of Governmental Commissioner for global religious freedom.
- **We want fair trade globally:** Germany as a leader for fair EU trade policies: Advocacy for binding social, human rights and ecological standards in the EU trade, investment and economic partnership agreements. Global sustainability strategy agenda 2030 as the guiding principle of Germany policy.

Budget and renewal - Stimulating the democracy (Chapter XIII)

- **We are creating a cultural policy for the entire country:** "Agenda for culture and future" with states, municipalities and civil society. New "Culture in the Regions" programme for contemporary art and culture.
- **We want strong cultural regions and better access to art and culture:** More support for libraries and urban district cultural centres. Regular free entry state supported cultural institutions.
- **We want to keep the memory alive:** Combating anti-Semitism. "Young people remember" programme - visits to memorials and workshops. More support, as well, for small civil society initiatives.
- **We are committed to media and press freedom:** Development of professional confidentiality and right to information. Development of the Deutschen Welle.
- **We are building the creative, film and media position:** Continuation of the film support with comprehensive support of audio-visual contents. New "Cinema Future Programme". Introduction of games support on an international competitive level. Improvement of the social protection of artists.

Mode of operation of the Government and Parliamentary Parties (Chapter XIV)

- **We are developing the Bundestag (German Parliament) as a central location of political and societal debate:** Reform governmental consultation, regular consultation by the Prime Minister, orientation debates in the plenum on the major domestic and international political topics.
- **We are verifying compliance with the Coalition Agreement:** In the middle of the electoral term, evaluation of the coalition agreement and a decision as to what new plans should be agreed.

III. GERMANY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEACE, FREEDOM AND SAFETY IN THE WORLD

German foreign policy is committed to peace and firmly anchored in the United Nations and the European Union. We are advocates for long-term peaceful, stable and fair safety requirements for nuclear power plants. We are pursuing a comprehensive and networked approach in collaboration with our partners. In so doing, we also focus on diplomacy, dialogue and cooperation in addition to development cooperation. In this context, the German armed forces remain an essential component of German security policy - as explained in the 2016 White Paper. Our policy is based on our values and serves our interests.

In recent years, the world has become more unpredictable and uncertain - and this also applies to Germany and Europe. International rules and fundamental principles such as multilateralism, public international law and the universality of human rights are under pressure and at risk of being eroded. We are challenged by the consequences of climate change, the risks of trade wars, arms races and armed conflicts, instability in the Near and Middle East, migrations of refugees, and new aggressive nationalism in Europe and elsewhere, all factors that are affecting our society.

In this situation, it is the primary job of German politics to improve and develop international cooperation, institutions and organisations based on policies as the foundation of peace, safety and stability. Our objective is equitable globalisation in terms of the 2030 Agenda, that allows everyone to live in safety and with dignity. We aspire to strong partnerships and alliances. At the same time, the focus is on joint European trade and the creative power of the EU.

Europe can only be politically and economically successful if it honours its responsibility to the world. At the moment, Europe is not maximising its political and economic potential with enough

self-confidence. We need a new culture of responsibility that raises Europe's credibility as a partner in the Western world and improves our position with emerging powers.

In this situation, Germany is pursuing two central objectives: Europe must become more independent internationally and have a better capacity to act. At the same, we want to strengthen our links with the USA. We want to remain transatlantic and become more European.

We need a resolute and substantial foreign, security, development and human rights policy that is integrated and cohesive. We want to significantly improve the resources available for this purpose to overcome the immense international challenges.

The increase in global crises also poses enormous challenges for Germany - both in terms of foreign and defence policy and for development cooperation. In future, our country must assume more autonomous responsibility jointly with our neighbours in Europe for its safety and defence capabilities. At the same time, we are being challenged more than ever in joint initiatives in the United Nations, in the EU or also in bilateral relationships with other countries. Delivering humanitarian aid in wars, civil wars, famine and emergencies is part of our political self-image. But we are also following a comprehensive security plan. We know that military defences against violence and terrorism can be necessary. However, we are also aware that the sustained generation of living prospects in the countries involved is central to resolving conflicts. This applies in particular to young people. Therefore, Germany wants to make appropriate increases to the resources allocated for these tasks.

As part of the annual budget preparation from 2018 to 2021, the Coalition will use any extra budget surplus that may arise above all, to increase, in addition to defence spending, spending for resources for crisis prevention, humanitarian aid, foreign culture and education policy and development cooperation based on the 51st Finance Plan, in a ratio of 1:1 to the defence budget, for spending within the context of the ODA quota (crisis prevention, humanitarian aid, foreign cultural and education policy and development cooperation). The purpose of these increases is to close the shortfalls in capability of the German armed forces and to bolster European cooperation in defence while also reinforcing the civil instruments

of foreign policy and development cooperation as part of a comprehensive joint peace and security policy. With this budget policy and the combination of defence spending and ODA- quota-enabled spending, Germany will adhere to the target range of the NATO agreements and comply with international undertakings for further increase of the ODA quota. A decrease in either must be prevented in 2018.

The additional (non-ODA-quota-enabled) appropriate financial allocation of the Foreign Service remains unaffected. This includes Consuls and spending for the protection of diplomatic missions, full implementation of the Foreign Service Act, and for the development of a standardised foreign IT system for all federal authorities, in particular for diplomatic representations abroad.

1. European foreign and security policy

We want a European Union that is successful internally and at the same time protects our interests and represents our values to the world. For this to happen, it needs a powerful common foreign, security, defence and development policy, which speaks with one voice far more powerfully than before and works with well-designed and synchronised military instruments.

In return, the foreign policy decision-making mechanisms within the EU must be expanded. Similarly to the Permanent Structure Cooperation in military departments (PESCO), we also want to create a comparable civilian structure and will launch an initiative in relation to this. It is equally vital to progress the structures of the EU development policy.

We will revitalise the European Defence Union. In the process, we will accelerate the projects introduced in PESCO and use the new instrument of the European Defence Fund. We are advocating for an appropriately equipped headquarters for the EU for the management of civil and military missions. We want planning processes within the EU to be more efficiently coordinated and harmonised with those of NATO. Within the context of this cooperation, the German Armed Forces is also a parliamentary army. We will take further steps towards an "Army of Europeans".

Together with France, we are committed to progressing the agreed projects of the Franco-German roadmap ("Feuille de Route"). The same applies to the German-Dutch and German-Norwegian cooperation projects that we want to expand.

For cooperation involving capacities and weapons to operate more efficiently within Europe, we want to plan, develop, procure and operate future military capacities more cohesively. In so doing, a single design should be developed based on consistent capacity requirements and one country should take the lead in the implementation of the project. Furthermore, the value creation should occur where the best corporate and technological competency in industry and medium-sized industry is located.

Ensure foreign, security and developmental policy trade and strategy capabilities

Given the challenges posed internationally, Germany must increase its strategic analysis capabilities and build on its strategic communication. Therefore, the German government will invest in the expansion of foreign, security and development policy expertise and develop existing institutions such as the National Academy for Security Policy (BAKS), the German Institute for Development Policy (DIE), the German Association for Foreign Policy (DGAP), the German Foundation for Peace Studies (DSF), the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK), the Hamburg Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH), the Munich Security Conference (MSC), the Centre for Eastern Europe and International Studies (ZOIS) and the Science and Politics Foundation (SWP).

We support the idea currently under discussion in EU member states such as France and Poland of a "European Council on Global Responsibilities", to strengthen Europe's capacity to act. As an independent institution, the Council should formulate initiatives that encourage European competitiveness and innovation and help to highlight our interests more confidently in the formulation of new Safety Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants.

The support of partners in fragile regions is a central tenet of German security policy. Consequently, we want to expand the national allocation of funds managed by the Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence and continue to meet the needs of our partners by providing advice, training and resources. We are advocating that for upgrade proj-

ects in Security on an EU Level (CBSD), a special financial instrument be established immediately in addition to EU development financing.

2. International and European alliances and partnerships

Strengthen the United Nations

The United Nations (UN) are the foundation of our rule-based international order. Germany wants to assume more responsibility for peace and security, including adopting a permanent seat in the Security Council. We are seeking a temporary seat in the Security Council for the years 2019/2020. In the future, we will aim for a permanent seat for the European Union.

We are prepared to strategically align and increase our voluntary UN contributions. We will continue our commitment to fully support the United Nations peacekeeping efforts, in particular by providing high-value capacities for peacekeeping missions according to the rotation principle. We also want to reinforce the UN location Bonn as the basis of a new host country law.

Consolidate transatlantic partnership as a community of values and interests

A powerful community of shared values and interests connects us with the USA and Canada. Only by working together can we overcome the challenges that we face locally and those that are posed by globalisation. This principle guides us in our relationships. They also continue to be of great economic significance for Germany's and Europe's prosperity and competitiveness.

The USA is undergoing fundamental change that also poses significant challenges for us. We will therefore align our policies accordingly. We want to respond with dialogue and increased offers of cooperation. We advocate for an open and constructive dialogue with the US Administration, Congress and representatives of the US federal states and we are intensifying our efforts to ensure that German and European viewpoints are listened to in Washington. This includes a greater and consistent presence of German and European decision-makers in the USA.

To consolidate the mutual understanding and trust of future generations in one another, we seek to increase the number of exchanges between our

countries, including exchanges outside of the political and economic centres in the USA, and we want to support specific institutions which offer a platform for this dialogue.

We will use the "Year of Germany" in the USA in the year 2018/2019 to consolidate the social dialogue in all directions and to make new contacts.

We want fair and durable trade relationships with the USA. Protectionism is not the right way.

Germany as a reliable partner in NATO, OSCE and the Council of Europe

NATO remains an essential guarantor and is the foundation of our safety. Germany is and continues to be a reliable partner in the alliance.

We want to consolidate the European contribution to transatlantic partnership and are advocating for closer cooperation between NATO and the EU. We want to achieve the agreed NATO capacity goals and close capacity shortfalls.

In the future, Germany will also make an appropriate contribution to the retention of the alliance's deterrent and defence capacities and to a strong European defence. NATO also remains open to dialogue.

We welcome the resumption of regular consultations as part of the Russia-NATO Council and will advocate in the future for increased use of this instrument to build trust and resolve conflict.

OSCE

We are affirming the central role of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for pan-European security and confidence-building and for the resolution of armed conflicts in Europe. We are advocating for a consolidation of the special observer mission SMM as a central component for the implementation of the Minsk Protocol in the Ukraine.

The Council of Europe

Especially in an era of new challenges, we want the Council of Europe to continue to be the guardian and protector of fundamental basic and human rights. To perform its functions efficiently, the Council requires an adequate financial basis to which we wish to contribute. We are playing our part in enabling the Council of Europe to continue with clear value-based work. All members working with equal rights is our long-term goal.

3. Disarmament and restrictive arms export policy

Arms controls and disarmament are still priorities of German foreign and security policy. We want to avoid a new conventional and nuclear arms race on our continent. Germany will therefore embrace new initiatives for arms control and disarmament. We are strong advocates for global verifiable disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction.

The goal of our policy is a world free of nuclear weapons. We therefore support regional initiatives for zones that are free of weapons of mass destruction. Our aim is for compliance and continuous and responsible development of the non-proliferation and monitoring regime.

In the nuclear sector, we are advocates for strict compliance with the INF agreement (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces). Complete verifiability is essential. A breach of the agreement by Russia, for which there are justifiable concerns, would have serious consequences, because these types of weapons could reach every target in Europe.

As long as nuclear weapons play a part as a deterrent in NATO's strategy, Germany is invested in participating in the strategic discussions and planning processes. Successful disarmament discussions create the prerequisites for a withdrawal of the nuclear weapons positioned tactically in Germany and Europe.

We want to ramp up OSCE's "structured dialogue", to discuss perceptions of threat, to revitalise security cooperation and improve the monitoring of conventional arms.

We support the explicit outlawing of explosive weapons in densely populated regions, as occurred in the brutal warfare in Syria where barrel bombs were used.

We are opposed to autonomous weapons systems that can operate without human intervention. We want a global ban on these types of weapons.

In the future, Germany will also support the inclusion of armed unmanned aircraft in international disarmament and arms control regimes.

In support of a restrictive arms export policy

We continue to restrict the export of arms for third countries which are neither members of NATO or the EU nor their equivalent. As a supplement to the light weapons policies of May 2015, light weapons should in principle no longer be exported to third countries. In 2018, we are refining the arms export directives from 2000 and thereby responding to the changed circumstances.

With immediate effect, we will no longer approve exports to countries that are currently involved in the war in Yemen. Companies are assigned protection of legitimate expectation insofar as they demonstrate that supplies already approved remain only in the recipient country. We also want to agree this restrictive export policy regarding Yemen with our partners as part of collaborative European projects.

On this basis, we are also aiming for a common European arms export policy and want to cultivate a common EU viewpoint.

4. Bilateral and regional cooperation in Europe and globally

Western Balkans

We support the EU accession prospects of the Western Balkan states. A condition for acceptance to the accession negotiations or of EU accession is that the states in the region completely fulfil the proposed criteria. This includes, in particular, comprehensive, sustainable and irreversible reforms in the development of rule of law and in the combating of organised crime and corruption.

We support giving even greater support to the reform efforts in the Western Balkan states. Furthermore, the German government will in the future also definitely support cooperation in the region, in particular within the context of the "Berlin Process".

Russia

Germany has a keen interest in good relationships with Russia and close cooperation to consolidate peace and regulate major international challenges.

Russia is our largest European neighbour, with whom we want to ensure peace in Europe, the integrity of national borders and the sovereignty of all countries solely based on OSCE principles. There is huge potential in terms of commerce, and in civic terms close cooperation could deliver great benefits.

That is why we regret that Russia's policies, including their human rights position, represent a step backwards. Russia has violated the European peace plan by its annexation of Crimea and its invasion of Eastern Ukraine, in contravention of international law. This current Russian foreign policy demands our careful attention and resilience.

Germany and France will continue to work tirelessly for the resolution of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine and for the implementation of the Minsk Protocol. To begin with, compliance with the ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine and the withdrawal of all heavy weapons and all armed units from this region are the focus of these efforts. These developments should be safeguarded by a United Nations mission. Both Russia and the Ukraine must meet their obligations under the Minsk Protocol.

We are prepared to reduce sanctions in the implementation of the Minsk Protocol, and will enter talks with our European partners on the subject. We are committed to the vision of a joint economic area from Lisbon to Vladivostok. Both sides and all of Europe could benefit from this.

The aim of our policy towards Russia is still to return to relationships based on mutual trust and peaceful reconciliation of interests that enable a close partnership once more.

We will increase the civic cooperation with the states of the Eastern Partnership and with Russia, including as part of the Petersburg Dialogue, and want to increase funding for this.

Ukraine

We are committed to supporting the Ukraine in the restoration of their territory and in promoting stability and further development of their society. We anticipate and support the consistent implementation of the Reform Agenda in the Ukraine, in particular counter-corruption measures, with the aim of significantly modernising the country. We will only guarantee our financial support subject to strict conditions.

Germany is prepared to make considerable contributions to the rebuilding of the Donbass region as soon as significant progress in the implementation of the Minsk Protocol allows this.

Turkey

Turkey is an important partner to Germany and an EU neighbour with whom we have a multifaceted relationship. For this reason, we are extremely motivated in maintaining good relations with Turkey.

The status of democracy, of rule of law and human rights has deteriorated for quite some time in Turkey. For this reason, we are seeking neither to close a chapter or open a new one as part of the accession negotiations.

Visa liberalisation or an extension of the Customs union are only possible if Turkey fulfils the necessary criteria.

Near and Middle Eastern regions, Gulf region and North Africa

We acknowledge Germany's special responsibility towards Israel as a Jewish and democratic state and its security. Israel's right to exist is incontrovertible and a pillar of German policy. Our objective is that everyone living in the Near and Middle East can do so with dignity and without fear.

Germany will continue to advocate for a solution to the Near Eastern conflict based on a two-state solution. The status of Jerusalem will be clarified in the same way as other conclusive status issues only during negotiations, to be accepted permanently and sustainably. Israel's current settlement policy conflicts with current international law and we do not support it, as it is an obstacle to the two-state solution.

We will take an initiative in the EU to provide adequate and sustainable financing and to reform the relief and works agency of the United Nations for Palestinian refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). We also condemn any incitement to violence and agitation. Israel's right to exist must not be called into question. We call for an immediate end to any actions, regardless of from whatever side, that are contrary to a peaceful resolution. Democratic advances are needed in the Palestinian regions at all levels.

The Near and Middle East is characterised by political instability, inter-state conflicts and regional tensions. The war in Syria is not over; IS terror-

ism has not been defeated. These crises directly affect Germany and Europe in the form of refugee movements and through terrorist attacks.

It is of key interest that we should be involved in formulating the political process to resolve the Syrian conflict in cooperation with the international partners. In the process, we abide by the principle of Syria's and Iraq's territorial integrity. We are prepared to further ramp up our stabilising, humanitarian and development policy commitment in both states. Germany will also commit to helping people return to their homelands by developing voluntary repatriation programmes among other projects.

We will continue and adjust our commitment as part of the anti IS coalition.

We will continue our efforts to resolve tensions and rivalries within the region. We welcome those initiatives such as those by our partners in the region to promote reforms for modernisation and openness (e.g. "Vision 2030" in Saudi Arabia). We are simultaneously awaiting the improvement of the alarming human rights situation.

We are advocating for the preservation and full implementation of the nuclear agreement with Iran (JCPOA). This covers, among other things, strict compliance with their nuclear technology regulations and the dismantling of specific obstacles, which impact Iran's economic activities.

Iran's role in the Near and Middle East continues to be problematic. We have concerns regarding the ballistic missile programme and Iran's activities in its region. We want to develop policies in conjunction with our partners to tackle these issues.

In countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia, we will promote economic and political stability and support resilience against the risks of terrorist structures. In addition, we will support Libya's unity government, the UN process and the development of institutions there including in the legal field.

Africa

No other region in the world demonstrates the changes in international politics as dramatically as Africa. Cooperative partnership with the African countries are a central undertaking in our time. It is in our own interests in terms of our economic

policy, security policy and migration policy, to help reduce the developmental and wealth gap.

Our African policy currently adopts a broad approach, in which multiple departments are involved. It will also find its expression in the progression and further development of our African policy directives, in which all relevant departments participate under the leadership of the Foreign Office.

Based on the direction set by the previous legislative term, we must develop both our German and European approaches through decisive, far-reaching actions in central areas: with new approaches for good governance, for setting up and expanding the architecture for peacekeeping and security in Africa, for the support of sustainable private investment that promotes development, for building infrastructure, for our support in education and in the creation of decent working conditions as well as in support of security sectors.

We seek to support, including financially, efforts by the African Union (AU) and regional organisations towards greater integration.

In collaboration with our European partners, we will increase cooperation with the G5 Sahel Region within the framework of an inclusive political approach of improved civil and security policy cooperation. We support the development of the newly established intervention force of the G5 Sahel states.

Latin America

Latin America and Europe have many points in common and share strategic interests. We want to promote our trade relations, in particular, thereby bringing the current EU negotiations with Mexico and MERCOSUR to a speedy conclusion. In addition to trade issues, climate policy, environmental protection, social justice, equitable globalisation and security and peace are the central facets of our cooperation.

Asia

Asia's unchanged dynamics continue to offer tremendous opportunities for Germany and Europe. However, there is also evidence of massive changes in international order in the region. Through a multitude of unresolved conflicts, Asia is dealing with huge potential conflict. We are therefore advocating for strong economic, social and security policy commitments in Asia from Germany and Europe.

We want to maintain and develop our close and trusted friendship and valued partnership with Japan that has endured for decades. This also applies to South Korea.

Based on India's geostrategic location, its size and its dynamic development, we have a great interest in consolidating our strategic partnership.

China's politics and future development are also of great importance to us. Its geostrategic role will continue to grow. We will also expand our strategic partnership. China's economic development is a particularly great opportunity for the German economy. That is why we need to pay careful attention to how we manage our relationships. In the opening of their markets, Germany and Europe must follow the principle of reciprocity and define where our common strategic interests lie and how they can be safeguarded. The Silk Road Economic Belt initiative by China is an example of the potential opportunities and risks. We want to develop a European response to this, to protect our own interests and better equip and package our financial tools.

At the same time, in our talks with China on the diverse Chinese power and impact projections, we will emphasise the importance of a rule-based international order for stability and a functioning global economy. In so doing, we will insist equally on the protection of human rights and rule of law.

North Korea's military nuclear programme is currently one of the greatest threats to world peace. That is why sanctions have been justifiably imposed on this country. We believe there can only be a diplomatic solution.

Afghanistan

We firmly believe that there is a need to continue to provide support to Afghanistan, so that it will have the security structures to be able to manage security independently itself in the future. Our objective is a peace and reconciliation process led by Afghans with constructive input from regional players, Pakistan in particular. We are prepared to continue with our civil and military commitments, in particular in the North of the country, jointly and in agreement with our allies.

5. Foreign economic policy and foreign cultural and educational policy

Germany's economic power is the foundation of our prosperity and a condition for the importance of our foreign policy. The strengths of the German economy are that it is highly competitive and has strong international connections.

In the coming years, decisions will be made on the trade standards and rules, climate and energy policies that will be embedded in the international order. In an era of increased protectionism, international trade and economic policy has gained in importance in terms of foreign policy.

Therefore, we want to strengthen central institutions of a rule-based, multilateral economic and trade system such as the World Trade Organisation, OECD and the International Energy Agency, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and enter into additional free trade agreements with high, contractually binding standards and subject to civil society.

Support Political Foundations

The political foundations make an indispensable contribution to international dialogue and in so doing enhance the reputation of the Federal Republic of Germany. We want to support and legally safeguard the international work of the political foundations in the future.

Develop Foreign cultural and educational policy

The global competition for minds, ideas and values is intensifying and demonstrates the important task of Foreign Cultural and Education Policy (AKBP) for Germany's reputation and influence in the world. It is an integral component of our foreign policy. We want to increase funding for Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy in this parliamentary term.

We want to better use the opportunities provided by the AKBP, by developing international exchanges, in particular in the areas of science, culture, education, languages and sport. The Goethe Institute network should be expanded, especially for the French-German cooperation; its IT needs to be updated and developed and opened to new forms of cooperation. The network of German schools abroad and international school partner-

ships should be expanded and strengthened. We are supporting the activities of our intermediaries such as the Germany Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations.

Europe is also a cultural project. Therefore, the European dimension of the AKBP must be more closely considered on all levels including with a view to the German EU presidency in 2020.

Especially in crisis regions, we will increase our operations for the protection of cultural property and the conservation of cultural heritage through the German Archaeological Institute, and programmes for the protection of persecuted artists, scientists and journalists.

We want to strengthen strategic foreign communication and increase our cooperation with the Deutsche Welle and update it to the digital era, to promote a realistic vision of Germany. This is also necessary to survive in the contest between narrative and values and to gain the upper hand over hybrid falsification of information in different regions throughout the world.

We want to increase cultural cooperation with Africa and promote stronger cultural exchanges, in particular through the reappraisal of colonialism and the construction of museums and cultural institutions in Africa.

We want to provide resources including for the exhibition of the "Landshut" aeroplane in memory of its hijacking in 1977 and for the urgently needed cleaning of the Abbey of the Dormition in Jerusalem.

We want to actively support the required UNESCO reforms. For this reason, we will develop the work of the German UNESCO commission and provide for it appropriately.

German ethnic groups and minorities

German ethnic groups and minorities are a part of our cultural and historical identity; they enrich the cultural diversity in our country and represent an important strand of the link between Germany and our partner countries. We want to support and promote them.

6. Human rights, crisis prevention and humanitarian aid

Human rights are universal and indivisible.

We are firmly against the increasing and targeted restriction of civil societies "Shrinking Spaces", that represent democracy, rule of law and the preservation of human rights.

We consistently advocate for the abolition of the death penalty and a ban on torture, for advancing women's rights, especially in violent conflicts, the protection and strengthening of the rights of children, workers and trade union rights. We are fighting against human trafficking, illegal trading of organs and marginalisation and violence based on sexual orientation.

We want to continuously improve the human rights protection structures in the United Nations, the European Union and the Council of Europe. We are committed to and focused on the work of the International Court of Justice and the ad hoc tribunals of the United Nations and their support through the international community of nations and we participate in the further development of the humanitarian international law. We are committed to the European Convention on Human Rights. Furthermore, we will improve the human rights cohesion between the individual policy areas and reinforce the human rights structures in Germany.

For the protection of persecuted members of Parliament and defenders of human rights, we want to reinforce the successful parliamentary sponsorship programme of the German Parliament "Parlamentarier schützen Parlamentarier" (*Parliamentarians protecting parliamentarians*).

Our aim is the ratification of the supplementary protocol to the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and ILO Convention 169 for the protection of indigenous people.

Religious freedom is a basic human right that is being increasingly restricted throughout the world or completely questioned. This applies globally for many religious minorities. Our solidarity applies to all religious minorities experiencing discrimination. This includes a persistent commitment to

several million Christians experiencing persecution.

We will create an office of Federal Government Commissioner for global religious freedom. We will update the governmental report on the global status of religious freedom every two years and through a systematic country-based approach.

We are advocating for a consistent implementation of the National Action Plan for Economics and Human Rights (NAP) including public procurement. If the effective and comprehensive review of NAP 2020 finds that the voluntary self-commitment of the undertaking is insufficient, we will introduce national legislation and advocate for EU regulation of this area.

Crisis prevention and humanitarian aid

We will consistently implement the guidelines ratified in 2017 for crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peace promotion as a reference framework for Germany's commitment to crisis prevention and peace promotion.

We are implementing the second National Action Plan for UN Resolution 1325 for equal participation of women in crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peace building.

We will develop the Civil Peace Service and the Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) as a centre of competence for peace operations. In the medium term, our aim is to also empower the ZIF to develop and maintain a civil intervention reserve to be available at short notice.

We will make a commitment that corresponds with the increasing importance of humanitarian aid and expand it accordingly, while increasing the preservation of international humanitarian principles and the UN system. This is both in terms of helping people to survive as well as minimising conflict. We will better coordinate humanitarian aid more efficiently with the challenges of crisis prevention, stability, catastrophe risk provisioning and peace promotion, and integrate it better in the implementation of the decisions of the World Humanitarian Summit 2016 with capacity-building development cooperation.

7. Modern German Armed Forces

The Armed Forces guarantee our safety. In conjunction with our partners, they make crucial contributions to the protection and defence of our country and our allies. Their comprehensive and integrated operations are committed globally to peace and security.

We emphasise the nature of the German Armed Forces as a parliamentary army. It is subject to the German Parliament, which thereby bears a particular responsibility for our soldiers. So that the German Armed Forces can appropriately fulfil the commissions assigned to them in all dimensions, we will provide our soldiers with the best possible equipment, training and support - this also applies particularly to the area of personnel equipment.

For this purpose, we will continue to support the trend changes in personnel, materials and finances introduced in the German Armed Forces. The current security situation simultaneously requires greater focus on territorial and alliance defence. The foundation of the German Armed Forces must be able to deal with this situation.

Adapt current foreign operations by the German Armed Forces

Foreign operations by the German Armed Forces always occur within the framework of a political plan, which is subject to continuous review.

The German Armed Forces mission in North Africa was successful; IS is militarily defeated there to a large extent. For this reason, we can allow the training mandate in North Africa to phase out and terminate. The upper limit of the anti-IS mandate for the support and assistance of our allies, especially France, can be significantly reduced. In a further step, we want to progress this mandate for the comprehensive stabilisation and sustainable combating of IS terrorism in particular through capacity building.

We want to continue our membership of the RSM mandate (Resolute Support Mission) in Afghanistan without any changes to this mandate. As part of this multilaterally agreed security plan for North Afghanistan, we will increase the number of soldiers deployed for the protection of instructors. The UN-mandated mission MINUSMA in Mali will

be continued. We will make a small increase in the upper limit when taking over responsibility for the military camp from the Netherlands.

For the people in the German Armed Forces - an attractive employer

The central mission statement of Inner Leadership and soldiers as "Citizens in Uniform" is and remains the standard. We want to reinforce this foundation through a process of "Inner Leadership". Political training is therefore of crucial importance. A future-oriented tradition exemption law will primarily highlight the unique history of the German Armed Forces.

The focus of the operational readiness and all capacities of the German Armed Forces is sufficient, qualified and highly motivated military and civilian personnel. For this reason, in the future, the German Armed Forces must also remain a modern, competitive, demographically aligned and attractive employer, with sufficient resources at all times. Good working conditions are a basic requirement for job satisfaction and high-performance soldiers and civilian employees.

We will also develop the ideas of the Attractiveness Agenda and the personnel strategy of the German Armed Forces and increase its competitiveness.

Where this necessitates legislative action, we will submit draft legislation this year for sustained reinforcement of the personnel operational readiness of the German Armed Forces with the objective of competitively formulating the salary and grading structures, to make the service law more flexible, to better reconcile the high costs associated with the high mobility requirements and better social protection for members of the German armed forces, in particular also upon accessing the statutory health insurance following the end of service of the soldiers to meet the eligibility criteria and thereby to close the gaps in provision and to improve vocational development.

Accommodation must be suitable for the needs of personnel and provided for soldiers who are not obligated to sleep on base.

We will evaluate, review and improve the training structures of the German Armed Forces and its leadership and training culture in a complete "Training Review". Where useful, we want to restore the structures of the former basic training to

a large extent to the unit. The Defence Committee is integrated in this process.

The employer's responsibility, which applies to the soldiers through an oath of service for life, does not end when they leave the armed forces. This applies equally to the immediate family of soldiers who have been harmed during interventions on behalf of our country. This also includes fast and non-bureaucratic processing of applications for military service compensation according to statutory provisions.

All soldiers in the German Armed Forces are owed special recognition by society for their service in upholding peace and freedom. This appreciation also applies to civilian employees of the armed forces.

Overall, infrastructure must be provided quickly and promptly in the right location to allow proper performance of duties. In so doing, the armed forces work in close cooperation with the federal authorities. In addition, processes must be evaluated and optimised, responsibilities sorted, and the competence of the German Armed Forces must be strengthened.

Prior to any final relinquishing of properties owned by the armed forces, we will review the future needs against the backdrop of trend reversals. We will also review our needs regarding properties that have already been relinquished.

The German government will make a timely and comprehensive report to the Defence Committee on military communications.

Modern equipment for German Armed Forces

The Armed Forces gets what it needs and not what it is offered.

Transparent, effective and optimised armaments processes are the basis for ensuring our soldiers are provided with the best possible equipment. Consequently, we will continue the renewal, modernisation and expansion of the German Armed Forces that commenced in the last parliamentary term and in so doing ensure that processes, especially procurement, are speeded up.

In addition, this requires an update to the armaments framework conditions, parts of which have remained unchanged for decades in Germany.

By the end of 2019, we will investigate the ways the procurement organisation in the German Armed Forces should be amended at its locations in its organisational form.

In addition to ensuring the continued financing of the armed forces, we will create the necessary conditions to guarantee multi-year planning and financial security for investment in arms.

The differentiated representation of defence projects in the budget plan and the biannual defence reports have resulted in much higher levels of transparency to Parliament.

To more quickly cover the requirement for interventions or missions that equate with interventions, we will provide interpretations for the waiver to the EU- wide competitive bidding (§ 12 Award of Public Contracts for Security and Defence). To retain national sovereignty in key technologies, we will use existing legal procurement latitudes more consistently, provide interpretations and establish to what greater extent the exception of Art. 346 of the contract regarding the operation of the European Union can be used in procurement practice. Furthermore, we will make the necessary legal amendments.

To ensure technological innovation leadership, we will establish an "Agency for Disruptive Innovations in Cyber security and Key Technologies" (ADIC) under the leadership of the German Ministry of Defence and the German Ministry of the Interior, in addition to establishing an IT security fund for the protection of security related key technologies.

Opportunities and risks of digitalisation are also a decisive future topic for the German Armed Forces. Digitalisation of the German Armed Forces must therefore be more consistently pursued and supplied with the required resources. Digitalisation is characterised by a high rate of innovation - the German Armed Forces must also measure up to this. The development paths defined in the 2016 White Paper for the German Armed Forces in cyber security must continue to be consistently met.

We will continue the development of the Euro drone as part of the European Defence Union. The HERON TP drone will be leased as an interim solution. The German Parliament will make a separate decision on the procurement of weapons following detailed evaluation of international law, constitu-

tional law and ethics. The German government will prepare a separate presentation on this and submit it to the German Parliament.

The conceptual basis for their deployment must be provided, prior to future procurement of weaponised drones.

We are opposed to killings that violate international law, including by drones.

8. Development policy for fair globalisation

Globalisation must be fair. The gap between rich and poor that exists worldwide cannot be allowed to grow even more.

Our mission is to implement the development policy Summit commitments (G7 and G20), of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations with their 17 sustainability targets and the Paris Climate Agreement with the participation of civil society.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the promotion of sustainable development are a measure of good governance. We want to continuously and ambitiously develop the National Sustainability Strategy.

To be able to manage the global challenges we are facing, we need a triad of public resources, sustainable private investment that promotes development and a new fair-trade policy. New governance by our partners is a basic requirement for success.

We are advocating for closer consideration of the interests of developing countries in international finance and fiscal policies, for sustainable financial mechanisms and the development of effective and fair taxation systems.

Fair Trade

Fair and sustainable trade needs common rules and clear guide rails. The best framework for this is the United Nations with its trade organisations (UNCTAD) and development organisations (UNIDO), in addition to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In conjunction with our partners, we will introduce new initiatives for a development-oriented policy effective conclusion of the WTO world

trade round and a new venture for fair trade relations.

We want to be leaders for a fair-trade policy with Africa. We will also review the EU's Economic Partnership Agreement with the African countries to verify that it helps economic and social development. We are also advocating for the agreement of binding social (including ILO - core labour standards), human rights and ecological standards in EU trade, investment and economic partnership agreements and complaint, review and response mechanisms. This also applies for the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (APS and APS+). We will support the African Union in the development of a standardised pan-African free trade zone.

We will soon implement the EU Directive on trade with conflict minerals in national law with strong enforcement provisions and are advocating for the abolition of exemption limits and the expansion of the entire supply chain.

Implement Marshall Plan with Africa

As part of the Marshall Plan with Africa, we will expand and specify the cooperation with reform partners and G20 Compact Countries. A steering group under the leadership of the Federal Ministry will be formed for economic cooperation and development. The focus will be a medium-sized enterprise support and start-up programme, to create more opportunities and employment with decent working conditions and to contribute to an improvement of African opportunities, a programme for educational partnerships and to the installation and promotion of decentralised renewable energy sources.

We are supporting the transformation processes of the southern Mediterranean and want to gradually integrate the Maghreb states with the European economic area.

In the negotiations for the next multi-year financial framework of the European Union, we are targeting an increase in the resources for our cooperation with Africa. We will actively organise the post-Cotonou negotiations involving civil society.

Equal rights and education as key to future-oriented development

The equal rights of men and women and the promotion of the rights of girls and women continue to be the basis of our development cooperation. We want to promote good education and training options for everyone along the entire education-

al path. We are therefore developing this area in all partner countries and want to significantly increase our corresponding budget by the end of the parliamentary term. Furthermore, as a new initiative, we want to link investment projects from the regional development banks with professional training. Moreover, we are increasing funding for development policy education at home. We also want to use the opportunities provided by digitalisation for development phases. The focus points are support in the development of digital centres, the promotion of e-learning and e-health measures.

Promoting the expansion of social security and health systems

We will advocate for the successful implementation of the development and expansion of universal social basic protection systems, involving trade unions and non-governmental organisations. This also includes healthcare systems in particular.

We want to invest in public research, to combat neglected and poverty-related diseases. We want to provide adequate funding to international partnerships such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS/HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and to fulfil our commitments.

For a world without hunger and poverty

Overcoming hunger and poverty in the world is an essential part of our development policy. We also want to develop rural areas as part of the special initiative "A World Without Hunger" and are prioritising the promotion of small farmers, local sustainable solutions and collective approaches. The support should prioritise the production of foodstuffs for local and regional markets.

We are opposed to any form of irresponsible speculation with foodstuffs. We are reiterating our promise (G7 Summit 2015 in Elmau), to lead 500 million people from hunger and malnutrition. We are advocating for fair access to land, water and fisheries for the local population and we will not accept land grabbing.

Improve climate protection and adapt to climate change

We want to support developing and emerging countries in their climate protection and the adaptation to climate change and in the protection of biological diversity. We consistently support the promotion of renewable energies, decentralised supply, in particular in rural areas, and for access

to clean, affordable and safe energy. We will also enter into additional partnerships with developing and emerging countries.

We want incentives for investment for climate protection projects in developing and emerging countries that improve structures for a green economy and the expansion of renewable energies. We want to support the development and expansion of recycling management systems through multi and bilateral development cooperation.

Combat the causes of flight - create future prospects

Existential emergencies lead to flight and migration. We want to reduce acute and structural causes of flight, and make a crucial contribution to reconstruction, contribute to refugees returning home and provide further support to host countries in the management of their challenges. Consequently, we are primarily expanding our "Cash for Work" programme and additional programmes.

Expand development funding and sustainable investment

We will significantly increase our spending in the areas of development cooperation, humanitarian aid and civil crisis prevention. Our goal is to reach the ODA quota of 0.7 per cent.

We will meet the commitment, to provide 0.15 - 0.2 per cent of the gross national income for the least developed countries (LDCs), as soon as possible.

We will review options to establish a fund based in Germany using private capital for development policy purposes.

We want to adapt the instruments of the German Investment and Development Company.

The use of state funds for the mobilisation and securitisation of private capital can only be allowed if the projects are verifiably compliant with internationally recognised social, labour and environmental standards. For the promotion of sustainable private investment by medium-sized enterprises, we are reviewing the preparation of a development investment law, with close parliamentary supervision. In the process, we want to consider the specific challenges in fragile and the least developed countries.

Strengthen our cooperation partners

We want to promote the commitment from civil society and support non-governmental organisations, churches, trade unions, political and private foundations and partnerships with the economy and with municipalities. We want to expand exchange programmes such as the "World Experts Service" and the "weltwärts" development volunteer service.

Improvement of the effectiveness of development cooperation

We want to increase the effectiveness of development work by verifying implementation provisions, updating them in a timely manner and coordinate better regarding ODA-relevant projects.

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