

**The German Trade Union Confederation (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund – DGB)  
German NGO Forum on Environment and Development  
Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid Non-Governmental  
Organisations (VENRO)  
German UN Youth Delegates on Sustainable Development**

**Statement at High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)  
5-16 July 2021, New York City**

Ms Vice-President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,

I am delighted to speak to you as a representative of German civil society organizations. We would like to thank the German government for giving us the opportunity to be part of its VNR presentation.

In recent years, the German government has taken important steps to promote sustainable policies. However, in view of the scope of current challenges, this is not enough. We need to see ambitious action now!

**First, inequalities need to be fought more resolutely worldwide:**

We are witnessing increasing inequalities, both within and among countries. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this trend. In order to leave no one behind, we call on our government to tackle the structural causes of inequality nationally and internationally, to pursue proper taxation of transnational corporations, and to implement effective measures against tax avoidance. We also need more commitment by the German government to provide just access for all to the COVID-19 vaccines.

**Secondly, the German government needs to promote decent work:**

In Germany, precarious working conditions, income poverty and unequal distribution of income and wealth are still a reality. We need an appropriate minimum wage and a transition strategy to ensure decent and sustainable jobs in the future. The Supply Chain Law is a first step towards holding companies accountable for working conditions along their supply chain. However, there are still significant gaps in the law's provisions. We call for further amendments to comprehensively safeguard human rights and the environment.

**Thirdly, Germany must do more to live up to its responsibility for its part in causing the climate and biodiversity crises:**

All people and generations have the right to live in dignity within the planetary boundaries. We call on the German government to intensify investments in the ecological modernization of industry and infrastructures, to take much more ambitious action for fossil fuel phase-out in all sectors, to adopt ambitious policies on a circular economy and resource use, as well as to commit to higher international climate financing.

We are willing to be part of the SDG implementation. However, participation is not an end in itself, but must be politically relevant. Especially the younger generations need to be involved more inclusively.

The German government claims that the 2030 Agenda is the guiding principle of German policies. For this to come true, we need political coherence, global solidarity and effective measures to tackle the multiple crises.

Thank you.