

**Intervention by
Ambassador Hans-Peter JUGEL**

Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and other International Organizations, Geneva
(UNECE Regional Forum, 21 March 2019)

- The German government is a firm believer in multilateralism, and we acknowledge the importance of the United Nations and its High-level Political Forum, as the central platform to review and exchange on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in this regard.
- Analysis of the progress of the implementation efforts at the national level – as a key element of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) - is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Germany submitted its first VNR as one of the first 22 countries during the HLPF in 2016. It dealt with national challenges of SDG implementation as well as global effects of domestic actions and Germany's efforts to support other countries in the achievement of the SDGs.
- Germany's VNR was compiled and presented in consultation with and with inputs from all relevant stakeholders.
- And we are sure, that the active participation of all stakeholder groups, including NGOs and private Sector, is crucial for the efficiency, legitimacy and accountability of the VNRs!
- Additionally, our Sustainable Development Strategy has again been peer-reviewed in 2018 by a group of international experts, whose backgrounds cover the diverse aspects of sustainability. It has been the third time that Germany has opened up to an international peer group and asked for their independent advice.
- The peer review highlighted critical areas where further action is needed, e.g. climate change, biodiversity loss and nitrate pollution. The report suggests also a range of procedural improvements in sustainable development policy.
- Germany views the report as an encouragement to make further progress in the implementation of sustainable development in all policy areas and also as an important input for the preparation of our next VNR in 2021.
- Moreover, to support countries worldwide with the preparation of their VNRs, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development jointly engaged in the "Partners for Review" Initiative

- Finally let me emphasize, that looking back to last HLPFs, it is crucial to keep in mind, that VNRs aim to cover all 17 SDGs, since they are indivisible in nature and shall be implemented in an integrated manner.
- Additionally, VNR-processing countries should illustrate how they ensure that no one is left behind (LNOB) by acknowledging this as a key principle of the 2030 Agenda.