

**Resolution of the 14th German Bundestag,  
adopted at its 236th session on 16 May 2002**  
Printed Paper 14/9052

**2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg:  
Helping Sustainable Development Achieve a Breakthrough**

**I. The German Bundestag notes that:**

1. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 ("Earth Summit"), five major documents were adopted by 176 heads of state and government:

- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,
- Agenda 21,
- the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC),
- the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and
- the Statement of Forest Principles.

Agenda 21 laid out a programmatic concept for action in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Its central theme is **sustainable development**. Sustainable development was defined by the 1987 Brundtland Report as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It stands for policies that respect environmental limitations, reconciles highly efficient utilization of natural resources with the legitimate interests of the states of the South in a fairer distribution of development opportunities, and achieves social justice.

It can thus contribute to eliminating important causes of the global threats to peace and security: unequal competition for scarce resources, and especially for drinking water and petroleum, has long given rise to conflicts and wars. The precarious economic and social situation of most of humanity and the resulting lack of future prospects provide fertile soil for the growth of fanaticism, violence, and terrorism on a new scale.

Consequently, sustainability is not merely an aspect of national and international environmental and development policies. It is also becoming the guiding principle of a new global domestic policy. This is geared toward lastingly preserving peace, justice, security, prosperity and democracy and promoting cultural diversity. It is an answer to challenges that are looming larger as a result of globalization processes.

2. The Earth Summit in Rio marked the optimistic start of a decade of global environmental politics. Especially by achieving agreement on new, promising conventions and a worldwide agenda for the environment and development, Rio became a milestone calling for us all to move toward a sustainable global society. This development has gone hand in hand with successful efforts to solve and mitigate many regional and national environmental and development-related problems.

The positive developments of the 1990s included the end of the bipolar world, which was supplanted by a more open global system. This was associated with the spread of universal societal principles and agreement on human rights and democracy. Good examples of this

are the transformation of South Africa and the democratization processes in some Latin American and African countries.

Some densely populated newly industrializing and developing countries, most of them in Southeast Asia and East Asia, were spectacularly successful in combating poverty, despite setbacks suffered as a result of serious financial crises.

But the overall balance of the last ten years is not satisfactory. As the European Commission (KOM(2001) 53) has stated, the obligations entered into in 1992 have been inadequately met: "Since the Rio conference, the environment and natural resources have come under even greater pressure, and poverty has continued to increase around the world."

- Over the last 100 years the global temperature has risen by about 0.6°C, and the climate system is changing due to human intervention. Although global energy consumption is rapidly increasing, one-third of the world's population still lacks access to an affordable and appropriate supply of energy.
- Fresh water reserves, which are unevenly distributed worldwide, are now being used up faster in some parts of the world than nature can replenish them. One billion people still have no dependable access to clean drinking water, and about two billion people are not connected to a hygienically unobjectionable wastewater and sewage disposal system.
- The amount of land used for growing crops per member of the world population is continuing to dwindle. Each year some five to six million hectares of cropland are lost worldwide as a result of soil degradation, and the problems associated with providing an adequate food supply are mounting.
- Many bodies of water are overfished, and the stability of the marine systems is in danger. About half of the world's fish stocks have already been fully developed, 16 percent are overfished, and another six percent have been completely decimated.
- The destruction of forests is continuing. Since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, about 150 million hectares of virgin forest have been lost — that is more than four times the land area of Germany.
- More and more species are dying out. About 25 percent of all species of mammals and some 11 percent of the world's bird species are acutely in danger of extinction.
- The world's population is still growing (although somewhat more slowly); by the year 2050 there will be about nine billion people living on the earth. This growth can be expected to have adverse social and environmental impacts.
- The gap between the poor and the rich (both between industrialized and developing countries and within nations) is widening. The number of people living in absolute poverty is steadily growing. One-fifth of the world's population must live on an income of less than one dollar a day. The number of countries in which more than 40 percent of the children are undernourished nearly doubled between 1992 and 1998.
- Regional "military" conflicts are on the rise.
- Economic power is increasing, and is becoming concentrated in the hands of a small number of corporations and banks. The influence of the global financial markets, which evade democratic controls and checks, is increasing.

The deterioration of the social and environmental situation in many regions indicates that the community of states has not yet succeeded in separating economic growth and resource utilization from environmental consumption. The only area in which progress has been made in the affluent countries is in reducing the release of certain pollutants while sustaining economic growth. In many cases, however, efficiency gains are more than cancelled out by further growth.

The results of the globalization processes that have been accelerating since the early 1990s are, in their current form, not suited for the future either environmentally, economically, socially, culturally, or democratically. The term “globalization” refers to the trend toward increasing worldwide economic, political, and cultural interconnections. It is resulting in profound changes in both national and international policies.

Globalization offers substantial opportunities. It promises prosperity and stability. But its benefits are very unevenly distributed today. To an increasing extent, problems and undesirable conditions are appearing that are attributable to globalized economic and material flows and universal consumption patterns. This misguided globalization is failing to respect the limitations of human beings and nature, despite the fact that there has been a phase of important global learning processes in connection with sustainable development since Rio. Criticism of and resistance to uncontrolled globalization have grown, and counter-movements have arisen. Global environmental policies are also associated with competition for innovative environmental protection approaches, the spread of more advanced environmental protection technologies, and the raising of environmental protection standards around the world.

Nevertheless, the inequalities are increasing. The intensification of competition has tended to encourage rather than mitigate social and environmental dumping practices in some countries. The severe financial crises of the 1990s cancelled out some of the development successes previously achieved. The susceptibility to crises of some industries, countries and regions has been aggravated by a growing focus on short-term profits, which has inevitably had repercussions on the stability of entire national economies.

3. Fundamental political reforms are needed in order to make progress toward globally sustainable development. The principal elements required are a fair international financial system, equitable access to markets by developing countries, an offensive to promote environmentally sound technologies, effective technology transfer, and greater participation of affected parties in national and global decisions.

In the future, prices charged for energy, land use and raw materials must “tell the environmental truth”. State action must be consistently geared to the principle of sustainable development. This applies in particular to financial and budgetary policy. By introducing the Environmental Tax Reform and resolving to charge motorway tolls for trucks, we have taken a first, important step toward including nature and the environment in our taxation system. The entire system of taxes, levies and fees must be gradually reformed based on environmental criteria in order to provide financial incentives for environmentally friendly production and consumption and reduce environmental burdens. This process must also be conducted in a socially compatible manner and organized in a way that permits industry to calculate the associated costs.

In a global and regional context, it is imperative to take creative approaches to combating the negative repercussions on financial systems and the environment while at the same time enabling funds to be raised for mastering international challenges — especially, as suggested by the WBGU, for funding global public goods. At the European level, the aim must be to achieve uniform taxation of energy; at the global level, the introduction of earmarked utilization fees for air and/or sea transportation should be placed on the agenda, as the German Bundestag has already unanimously urged in the past.

The central task of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is to design globalization for compatibility with political, environmental and social goals. The pace at which policies and the rule of law are globalized must be adjusted to match the speed of economic globalization. Here the EU should take the lead in defining the general social and environmental prerequisites for sustainable development.

In December 2000, the 55<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations resolved to hold a "World Summit for Sustainable Development" in the year 2002. This conference will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 26 to September 4, 2002. It represents an opportunity to intensify cooperation at the international level and achieve a modicum of international harmonization on behalf of sustainability.

The Federal Government is called upon to fully live up to its international responsibility by advocating at the national, European and international levels that substantial progress be made toward achieving sustainable development.

A signal for "global partnership" between the North and South must emanate from Johannesburg. Success is only possible if both sides make concessions: the North must shoulder greater environmental-policy and social responsibility than has so far been the case and reach agreements that treat the South as a partner with equal rights, in accordance with its own identities and traditions. The South, in turn, must be willing to tread new sustainable paths and also to accept greater responsibility for coping with global problems. In Rio, Agenda 21 was drawn up to formulate these goals. In Johannesburg, the aim must be to practically implement them.

## II. The German Bundestag welcomes the fact

that the Federal Government is increasingly basing its national and international policies on the principle of sustainability:

- It has complied with its pledge to devise a **national sustainability strategy**, which had been made at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and reaffirmed at the 19<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations ("Rio + 5").
- The Federal Government is meeting its obligations from the Kyoto Protocol and has ensured Germany's contribution to enacting the Protocol by having it ratified by the German Bundestag. The way is now also clear for its ratification by the European Union. The member states of the European Union have pledged to ratify it on time, in a corresponding resolution of the Council of Environmental Ministers adopted on June 1, 2002.
- An extensive **National Climate Protection Program** has been adopted. Its implementation will make it possible to comply with Germany's obligations in connection with EU-wide "burden sharing" and achieve the difficult but feasible climate protection target of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 25 percent by the year 2005. This target will be attained through a combination of state subsidies, regulations, and innovations by privately owned companies, for which these take responsibility.
- A **restructuring of national energy policy** has been initiated: the phase-out of nuclear energy, an ordinance on energy saving, a law on renewable energies, a cogeneration law, the environmental tax reform, promotion of high-efficiency gas and steam power plants, a program to provide market incentives for renewable energies, the "100,000 roofs" solar power program, investment support for achieving greater energy efficiency when building new homes and modernizing existing ones — all of these laws and

programs mark the course of this energy-policy renewal. In the liberalized European energy market, the prerequisites for fair competition with equal opportunities for all must be met. The internationalization of electricity and gas markets for calls for German energy policy to take a broader outlook.

- Initial steps toward restructuring the **transportation sector** have been taken with the still-ongoing review of the National Transportation Plan applying environmental criteria, the ecotax (which will principally affect the transportation sector), the initiated modernization of the railways, the master plan “Ride Bikes”, the planned motorway toll for trucks, and the introduction of flat-rate, distance-based tax deductions for business and work-related travel independently of which mode of transportation is used.
- In the field of **education and research**, the German Bundestag welcomes the progress already made toward establishing a new orientation based on sustainable development. Significant progress toward achieving an interdisciplinary educational and research policy has been made with new research programs and new model projects such as the program “Education for Sustainable Development” of the Bund-Länder Commission for Educational Planning.
- In the field of **housing and urban development**, a policy commitment has been made to the principle of sustainability. The program “Social City” and the urban restructuring program “East” are pointing the way. Major reform projects such as a reform of the financial assistance provided for paying rents, the Law on Promoting Social Housing, and a reform of tenancy law have been carried out. The new ordinance on energy saving will define sustainable housing construction as the new standard, both for newly built and existing dwellings. The Federal Government has also made available one billion euros for a comprehensive program for modernizing older buildings; over the next few years, it will reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improve the energy efficiency of about 330,000 housing units.
- A **reorientation of agricultural policy** has steered efforts to achieve preventive consumer protection, quality assurance, and sustainability in the right direction. The new agricultural policy is based on farming methods that do justice to the expectations of the market and consumers while acknowledging and rewarding the multifunctional role of agriculture in rural areas. Examples here include: strengthening of organic farming, a policy reorientation for conventional agriculture with a view to environmentally sound production, species-appropriate, ground-based animal husbandry, and a reorientation of subsidies to follow the principles of sustainability and enhance the quality of life in rural regions, also and especially by supporting alternative sources of income in rural zones, for example in connection with renewable raw materials and energies.
- Also at the European level, the Federal Government is attaching great importance to a vigorous policy of **environmental modernization and innovation**. It is supporting implementation of the European Commission’s proposals for a European sustainability strategy. In the future, the resolutions for sustainable development in Europe are to provide the basis for decisions by the Council of Europe and the European Commission.
- The Federal Government has devised a national action program titled “**Combating Poverty — a Global Task**”. This is the first time in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany that the task of combating poverty worldwide has been placed on the agenda for the entire federal government.
- The Federal Government has launched initiatives to resolve **crises in connection with water resources**. It sees a promising approach in combining a dialog with partner countries with concrete regional development projects. This approach was also advanced at the International Fresh Water Conference that was held in Bonn in December 2001

under the motto of “Water — a Key to Sustainable Development”. The conference relayed its recommendations for action to the World Summit in Johannesburg for further deliberation.

- The Federal Government most recently advocated protecting the last remaining large expanses of virgin forest at the 6<sup>th</sup> conference of the signatory states of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** and also within the framework of the UNFF. It has fulfilled its promise to support projects for protecting tropical forests and utilizing renewable energy sources.
- The Federal Government was actively involved in drawing up the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which prescribes the equal status of environmental and economic interests in an agreement that is binding under international law and provides global validity to the principle of prevention. Germany has also become the first country in the world to begin putting the Protocol into practice, with an initiative for the developing countries. Implementation of the **Convention to Combat Desertification** has also been advanced.

The German Bundestag stresses the special importance of the **diverse activities being carried out at the local and regional levels** for sustainable development. The numerous communities and regions in Germany that have been working on the local Agenda 21, some of them for many years, constitute an important basis for successfully practicing an appropriate sustainability policy in Germany. The Federal Government is supporting these local activities with a nationwide service office for the local Agenda 21 in Bonn.

The German Bundestag welcomes the increasing willingness of **German industry** to make sustainable development the guiding principle of corporate management. Sustainable corporate policies take advantage of the opportunities and innovation potentials that are opened up when this principle provides the basic orientation. This includes, for example, participation in the initiative to improve environmental protection in connection with foreign investments. The German Bundestag is confident that exemplary approaches will encourage more and more German companies to follow suit.

### III. The German Bundestag calls upon the Federal Government:

The German Bundestag sees the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg as presenting an enormous opportunity to achieve a breakthrough in the reorientation process that was begun at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and set standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> century with new policy initiatives for which the entire world shares responsibility. It supports the Federal Government in its endeavors to continue taking account of the Federal Republic of Germany’s **global responsibility** within the context of its national sustainability strategy.

1. In the highest-priority areas, which are also being addressed by the Council for Sustainable Development, namely “climate protection and energy policy”, “environmentally sound mobility” and “environment, health and nutrition”, it is necessary to identify **possibilities for action that extend in scope beyond the national arena**. For national implementation of these, effective measures and concrete goals need to be defined that can be carried out and achieved within a reasonable period of time. This will send out signals for the international discussion and the strategies of other states.
2. At the next meetings of the **Council of Europe**, the Federal Government is called upon to press for concretization and further development of the European sustainability strategy. With a view to the World Summit in Johannesburg, it will be particularly important to emphasize more emphatically the global dimension of EU policy for sustainable development, in order to approach more closely the objective of international

trade and environmental policies that mutually support one another. Within this context, the German and European sustainability strategies must be harmonized with one another.

3. In connection with the ongoing efforts to implement the National Climate Protection Program, in order to achieve **climate-policy goals** the Federal Government is called upon to urge other European member states to intensify their own climate protection activities. It must also continue its efforts to achieve timely **entry into effect of the Kyoto Protocol** by the start of the Johannesburg conference and, in particular, its ratification by other important states such as Russia and Japan. It must also continue its diplomatic endeavors to get the United States to take a constructive stance in the further negotiations. Long-term global climate protection is inconceivable without the United States.
4. In the future, national climate protection goals and those existing in all other member states of the EU must explicitly take into account the use of the **project-specific mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol** (the “clean development mechanism” for developing countries and joint implementation with countries transitioning to a market economy), in order to strengthen economic- and development-policy and technological cooperation with these countries and private industry in the field of sustainable development. Trading of emissions is an interesting economic instrument for advancing climate protection with the national and European context. However, the achievements already made in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions must also be taken into consideration.
5. In order to offset tendencies toward undermining parliamentary powers by shifting policy decisions to supranational levels, the Federal Government is called upon to urge greater **involvement of the parliaments** at all decision-making levels.
6. Germany’s system for **promoting foreign trade** (exports and investments) must be modernized based on environment criteria, and promising technologies (e.g., renewable energies) and small and medium-sized companies in particular must be supported. Environmentally harmful projects should be identified at an early stage by a binding and transparent assessment procedure based on World Bank criteria and not supported with public funds or backing.
7. The reorientation of the policies on **agriculture** and rural areas can only succeed if substantial progress toward further reforms is also made at the European level. Agricultural subsidies should be uncoupled to an even greater extent from production and rearranged to foster the **sustainable development of rural areas**.

In addition, the German Bundestag deems the following measures to be urgently needed **during the run-up to the Johannesburg conference**, and requests the Federal Government to initiate, implement and support them within the framework of its financial-policy guidelines:

8. Broad publication and debate of the national sustainability strategy, which defines ambitious medium- and long-term goals. The petition by the parliamentary coalitions titled “Sustainable Development — a New Approach to Shaping Globalization” formulates the key requirements for modernizing the state, the economy and society and the aspects that need to be considered until the first progress report is submitted.
9. The Federal Bundestag calls upon the Federal Government to formulate **additional national climate protection targets**. The German Bundestag refers in this context to the final conclusions of the Study Commissions assigned to investigate the climate, which regard it as necessary for the industrialized countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions further. The target formulated there of diminishing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 40

percent below the level of 1990 by the year 2020 has recently been stressed once again by the recommendations of the Federal Government's Council for Sustainable Development, the Scientific Advisory Council for Global Environmental Issues, and the Council of Experts on Environmental Issues. A prerequisite for this, however, is that the announced further development of climate protection policies also take place within the EU.

10. In view of the "Bonn Guidelines" on "access to genetic resources and benefit sharing" adopted at the 2002 conference of the signatory states of the Convention on Biological Diversity in The Hague, and on the basis of the Treaty on Phytogenetic Resources, work to implement these and other already achieved results to flesh out the Convention must be stepped up. The prerequisites for ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Biosafety Protocol), the text of which was adopted in Montreal in January 2000, must be met without delay.
11. Consistent **incorporation in international legal instruments of the principle of prevention, liability for endangerment, and the obligation to insure environmental risks**. The Cartagena Protocol, the Basle Agreement on the Control of Cross-Border Movement and Elimination of Hazardous Waste and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can serve as models for this.
12. Speedy ratification of the Aarhus Convention (UN-ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters) by the Federal Republic of Germany. Having been ratified by Estonia as the 16<sup>th</sup> signatory state, this convention has now entered into effect. Initial steps toward ratification of it by Germany have already been taken here in the form of the Article Act (for adjustment of the Environmental Information Act and strengthening public participation in procedures for granting permits and approvals) and the incorporation of provisions for class action suits into the Federal Nature Conservation Law. This process must be continued and accelerated.
13. The Federal Government is requested, in keeping with the resolutions taken by the Council of Europe in Göteborg and Laeken, to increment each year the public funds made available for promoting development so that they reach at least 0.33 percent of the gross national product by 2006, and to take the first concrete steps in this direction in advance of the World Summit in Johannesburg. In addition, the UN target of 0.7 percent of the gross national product should be achieved as swiftly as possible by attaining a series of intermediate targets. Use could be made of new funding and debt relief instruments for this purpose.
14. Further development of the initiatives for **sustainability and poverty alleviation** and implementation of the program "Combating Poverty — a Global Task". The goal is still to halve the share of the world's population that must live on a per-capita income of less than one dollar a day by the year 2015. This goal can only be achieved in a spirit of partnership. The developing countries themselves must attach greater priority to combating poverty, and the industrialized states must fulfil their obligations while coordinating their activities.
15. A German initiative for a **technology offensive** and the transfer of sustainable technologies and management and funding instruments to the developing countries, especially for achieving **more efficient production and use of energy and resources**. Within this context, the international catalog of examples of successful sustainable development announced by private industry is welcomed. The German export initiative "Renewable Energies" is a good contribution to ensuring that German technologies for utilizing renewable energies are used around the world more extensively than has so far been the case.



16. In the three-year **world trade** negotiations that are now about to be initiated on rules for the worldwide exchange of goods and services and for protecting intellectual property, the deliberations on the agricultural sector (improvement of market access, further reduction and eventual cessation of export subsidies, and reduction of trade-distorting internal support) must be quickly begun, also including special rules for developing countries, so that they can be completed by the deadline on January 1, 2005 as agreed in Doha. Protection of the environment, consumer interests, and basic socially just rights for employees must be ensured, as well as better harmonization of the WTO rules with international environmental protection agreements. The developing countries require legal support in the negotiations on investment and competition rights, which are difficult for them. They can insist that the North demonstrate fairness in opening its markets.
17. In connection with **green genetic engineering**, top priority must be given to protecting consumers and the natural environment against any possible harmful effects. For assessing risks, granting permits and utilization in agriculture and food production, the yardstick must be the contribution that it can make to sustainable production. Comprehensive and clear labeling of genetically altered products must ensure their traceability, transparency and freedom of choice for consumers. In connection with protection for biotechnological inventions, for the sake of sustainable development there must be legal safeguards to ensure that patents are granted only if they do not restrict general access to natural resources and cause them to come under the sway of individuals.

The Federal Government is requested **to advance the following key issues at the Johannesburg conference** and urge that corresponding resolutions be adopted:

18. Rapid upgrading of the **United Nations bodies** responsible for the environment and sustainable development. The World Summit for Sustainable Development must become the starting point for strengthening the UNEP in Nairobi and providing it with better funding. Until the goal is achieved of strengthening the Environment Program with prospects of developing it further into a Global Environmental Organization (GEO) or a United Nations Environmental Organization (UNEO), the **Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF)** should be given the role of driving and coordinating global environmental protection. While doing so, the independence of the existing UN special organizations and multilateral environmental agreements must be maintained. This must also be associated with strengthening of the international governance structures for sustainable development, including more extensive appropriate representation of nongovernmental organizations in the institutional structures of the United Nations.
19. **Development of new financial instruments** able to help solve international environmental and development problems: for this purpose, the worldwide introduction of fees for the use of global environmental goods by the EU and other industrialized and developing countries and the use of the resulting revenues to protect these global environmental goods by implementing measures in developing countries should be considered. The possibility of introducing a **currency exchange tax** should also be assessed in an open, transparent process at the EU level and within the context of the world economy. The Federal Government is called upon to urge its coordinated international introduction if the findings are positive.
20. The Federal Government is requested to advocate, among the international community of states and within the framework established by the relevant financial-policy guidelines, that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) receive adequate funding for performing its tasks.

21. Development of a **global energy strategy** for frugally and efficiently using energy and for promoting and strengthening renewable energy sources, based on the principle of sustainable development. Subsidies for environmentally nonsustainable technologies, which include nuclear energy, must be replaced by incentives to develop and utilize energy-efficient, nonfossil technologies. To reduce information deficits, it is advisable to internationally extend and network consulting on energy matters. The German Bundestag requests the Federal Government to advocate, in consultation with the EU member states, the establishment of an international institution for promoting and providing advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.
22. Upgrading of the Declaration on Forest Principles called for in Rio in 1992 into a **Forest Protocol** to the Convention on Biological Diversity with the goal of achieving as quickly as possible globally effective protection of forests, especially the species-rich tropical rainforests and boreal forest zones of the Northern Hemisphere.
23. Intensification of the efforts to ensure that humanity's basic needs are met, and especially a supply of **water** for the poorest parts of the world population. Due to progressive global environmental changes, which are affecting the developing countries particularly severely because of their lesser capacity to cope, these problems are becoming more acute. There is therefore a need to strengthen capacities and financial resources to comply with the recommendations of the Bonn Conference on Water and the goals of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Summit.
24. Addressing of the global threat to land resources, these being the basis for a secure and sustainable supply of food for the world. This calls for the trend toward the deterioration and loss of soils to be interrupted and for sustainable land use to be enabled.
25. Within the scope of the preparations for the World Summit, a possible consensus is taking shape among the community of states for strengthening the UN structures for sustainable development as part of a reform of the existing structures, and especially of ECOSOC and CSD. Within the context of the current discussions, the possibility of the United Nations setting up a Global Commission on Sustainability and Globalization" should be examined. Modeled after the "World Commission on Environment and Development" led by Gro Harlem Brundtland and drawing on the Brundtland Report submitted by this commission in 1987, a new World Commission could combine the North-South dialog and the topics of sustainability and globalization and explore new possibilities for action and policy approaches that could yield more democracy, codetermination, participation and assumption of responsibility. Sustainability and globalization are the two central challenges facing the new century, and they must not be treated separately from one another.