DEINE STIMME GEGEN ARMUT

German NGO Forum on Environment and Development

VENRO
ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOS

A New Policy for Global Justice
Civil Society's Demands for the German G7 Presidency

2015

Table of contents

2015 – Time for global justice! – 1

Regulating the global economy according to ecological and social principles – 2

The Post-2015 Agenda: promoting goals for sustainable development – 3

Economic empowerment of girls and women – 5

Expanding health care systems – 6

Ensuring world food security – placing small-scale agriculture at the centre of policies – 7

Marine protection means limitation of the use of the seas – 8

Promoting climate protection and adaptation to climate change – 9

Imprint – 12

Coverphoto: Participants of a demonstration for better climate protection in Melbourne, Australia.

2015 – Time for global justice!

The German federal government will host the summit of the heads of state and government of the group of seven most industrialised countries (G7) on 7 and 8 June 2015 in Elmau near Munich. International politics is presently marked by numerous conflicts, crises and uncertainties. The divide between rich and poor is widening continuously – among and within countries. The irresponsible exploitation of resources and the threat to biodiversity continue unabated. Food crises intensify. Climate change advances unchecked and leads to weather extremes and droughts, completely undermining the achievements of the fight against poverty. A new era of conflicts has begun: the civil war in Ukraine, the political ice age between the West and Russia and the rise of the militant terrorist group IS in Syria and Iraq are only a few of the key themes.

In order to meet these challenges, we cannot continue with policies that led to these crises. A growing number of people are protesting against cuts in social services as part of the austerity policy in the Eurozone and against trade and deregulation policies guided by the interests of multinational corporations. In 2015, important conferences of the United Nations (UN) will take place, where the task will be to adopt a course of sustainable development that focuses on justice, environmental protection, peace and security:

- In Addis Ababa, in July, the future financing of development cooperation will be on the agenda.
- At the UN General Assembly in September in New York, goals for sustainable development (Post-2015 Agenda) are to be set.
- At the end of the year, a new global climate protection agreement is to be adopted in Paris.

These processes have to be used to initiate a transformative change that is long overdue.

Although it does not determine world politics, the G7 is still a forum of the most important industrial nations. As an informal and moreover small group of countries, it lacks legitimacy and transparency – just as the Group of Twenty (G20), which at least comprises emerging countries.

Nonetheless, the G7 has a responsibility to support the above-mentioned processes at the UN level. Representing about 10.5 percent of the world population and 44 percent of the global gross national income, the G7 is responsible for around 25 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Its ecological footprint highly exceeds the global average and is far above a level that would be just and sustainable in the long run. In addition, the G7 accounts for 70 percent of public expenditure for development cooperation as well as for a large share of climate financing, and thus plays a key role in international cooperation.

We – the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO) and the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development – call on the German government to use its presidency to introduce a new policy: the German government has to place justice at the very top of its agenda. It has to perceive the G7 summit as a milestone for overcoming global inequality and for sustainable management in consideration of the planetary limits. The summit has to provide specific and constructive contributions to the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda as well as answers to the crisis of neoliberal austerity and trade policies, the globally increasing social inequality, the massive ecological crisis and advancing climate change.

Activities of civil society

VENRO and the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development are coordinating the activities of German civil society with regards to the German G7 presidency 2015 and are involving international civil society. They ensure that civil society demands are incorporated into the German G7 presidency. To this end, they are outlining their position in the framework of a Sherpa Meeting in March and organising the international Civil G7 Dialogue on 20 April 2015 with the participation of Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Regulating the global economy according to ecological and social principles

The G7 was founded in the mid-1970s as the "World Economic Summit". Today, its claim to regulate the global economy can no longer be maintained. Nevertheless, the political and economic influence of the G7 countries on – and therefore also their responsibility for – the global economy is very high. They continue to be the driving force for an unsustainable economic and development model. Its ecological and social consequences undermine its own foundations: the planet's ecological limits are put under increasing pressure, social inequality is increasing constantly. One percent of the world's population owns half of all the assets. This cannot work in the long run.

This is not a new insight but a fact that was already acknowledged by the countries of the world in 1992 with Agenda 21 at the Rio Summit. But this unsustainable economic model continues to act as a guide for politics and economics throughout the world. The G20 summit in November 2014 in Brisbane made this abundantly clear. The summit's message was: economic growth solves all the problems. The more the fixation on endless economic growth enters an actual crisis, the more intensely the world's heads of government hang on to it. More than 800 approved individual measures are expected to raise common growth by 2.1 percent above the previous forecasts by 2018. An additional economic output of two trillion dollars is to be generated by this. Not a trace of sustainability or more social justice – which makes this clearly a counterpoint to the intended Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The financial markets still represent a threat to the global economy. They damage international society and democracy. In spite of the reforms that were adopted and partly implemented by the G20, the risks remain immensely high, e.g. with respect to the size and dominance of individual banks, the derivatives business or highly unregulated bank-like businesses ("shadow banking"). At the same time, a part of the adopted reforms is already under lobby pressure from the financial sector and is being called into question by debates, mainly between the EU and the USA, not least in the context of the Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement (TTIP).

We expect the German government to push for the following:

1. Change of policy towards sustainable development

There is an urgent need for a change of policy: more ecological sustainability and more social justice instead of focusing on growth only. This is not merely a domestic issue for all G7 countries; it is above all a task for the trade policy of the G7 countries, which are trying in numerous rounds of negotiations on bilateral, regional and sectoral trade agreements to anchor in international law a deregulated economic order marked by the neoliberal spirit of the last decade. This is the goal of TTIP, of the free trade agreement between the EU and Canada (CETA) and of other agreements currently being negotiated. But we do not need less regulation and more power for corporations, but a policy that shapes actively and regulates differently: a policy that actively reduces the enormous ecological footprint of the G7 countries, reduces poverty through redistribution and leads to more social justice. The bilateral and multilateral negotiations on new trade agreements therefore have to be replaced by multilateral negotiations on fair trade.

2. Binding standards for supply chains

The social and ecological shaping of supply chains in a globalised world economy, which is part of the agenda of this year's summit, also requires the willingness of politics to intervene formatively. A limitation to voluntary commitments is not an adequate answer to the problem. Binding transparency requirements and human rights due diligence for supply chains are a minimum requirement and should especially be in the interest of those companies that are willing to do more voluntarily. Only binding social and ecological minimum standards can ultimately prevent companies from obtaining unfair competitive advantages through social and environmental dumping. In future, it is imperative to prevent that agreements on the protection of investment give transnational companies special rights to bypass national laws and sue governments in international arbitration tribunals against such minimum standards.

3. Regulation of financial markets

The G7 should make it clear that the internationally agreed regulation, for example in the case of banks' equity capital, only represents a minimum standard, from which individual countries can only deviate upwards by applying stricter regulations. The G7 should rapidly conclude the standards that still remain open, like the ones regarding shadow banking and failed banks. Furthermore, the G7 should fill the regulatory gaps. This concerns mainly a clear separation of the businesses of banks and a reduction of the use of derivatives. Finally, the G7 should base its financial systems on the whole on ecological and social criteria, e.g. through strict requirements on the provision of loans by all banks and for investments in all investment funds.

The Post-2015 Agenda: promoting goals for sustainable development

At the UN summit in September 2015, the heads of state and government of the G7 must make a contribution to the adoption of sustainable development goals (SDGs) that will initiate a change towards more global justice and sustainability. The German government has announced that it will support the negotiations in favour of a Post-2015 Agenda within the scope of the G7 and intends to push for concluding a global partnership. We need SDGs that can tackle global challenges such as the realisation of human rights, the elimination of poverty, food security, gender equality, averting climate change, solutions for the dramatic environmental crisis, sustainable economies and overcoming the increasing inequality within and among countries.

Within the scope of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) of the UN General Assembly, a first proposal on a future set of global goals was adopted in July 2014. Despite a few weaknesses in the areas of human rights and linkage of poverty reduction, sustainability and environmental protection, it represents an adequate compromise between countries that addresses the structural causes of global inequality and specifies exact responsibilities. Thus, the proposal of the OWG offers a solid basis for the new goals, which the new agenda must definitely not fall short of.

We expect the German government to push for the following:

1. Universality and human rights

The SDGs have to be universal. This implies that they apply equally to all countries, and that they are only to be seen as fully implemented once they have been achieved for all people in the world. Universality also means that the SDGs have to be based on human rights. Poverty reduction and sustainable development are, after all, only possible through the comprehensive realisation of human rights, which includes equally the human rights of women and girls, of children and of people with disabilities.

2. Global partnership and financing sustainable development

The global partnership has to be constructed on the principle of "common but differentiated responsibility" in order to do justice to the historical responsibilities and the different capabilities of the countries.

A central cornerstone for the creation of the global partnership will be a successful conference on financing in Addis Ababa in July 2015. Sufficient financial resources for the coming years are a crucial prerequisite for the adoption of an ambitious SDG agenda. The G7 has to adopt effective measures in the fight against illegitimate financial flows that also especially benefit the developing countries, stop blocking the ongoing UN process for the establishment of orderly and fair sovereign default

procedures and instead actively support it, and fulfil its Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments. G7 countries which have not yet attained the 0.7 percent goal should stipulate before the conference in Addis Ababa by when they will attain this goal. As host of the G7, Germany is under a special obligation in this context. In our view, a significant increase of ODA funds in the year of the G7 presidency is a logical consequence.

3. Secure peace permanently

The promotion of democracy and constitutionality, the strengthening of social cohesion and the obligation to settle conflicts non-violently are central conditions for successful sustainable development. These include creating legal certainty and overcoming corruption in administration and economy. The contribution of industrial countries to wars and violent conflicts must be stopped by forbidding the export of arms, especially to crisis areas and countries which systematically violate human rights. The massive negative effects of trading in people, arms and drugs and of land grabbing on local conflicts must be addressed.

Wars and conflicts, growing inequality, social dislocation, hunger and poverty, environmental damages and the destruction of natural resources as well as the increasing political polarisations cause flight and migration worldwide and must be overcome. Respecting human dignity in dealing with refugees is an important condition for a permanent peaceful development of societies.

4. National implementation

From September 2015, the SDGs have to be nationally implemented. The G7 countries have to specify ambitious and binding national goals that fully reflect the list of objectives of the SDGs. The national implementation plans should specify tangible and achievable intermediate targets. They have to identify especially those areas in which the G7 still has to improve significantly with respect to the realisation of global sustainability, such as consumption, the use of resources and the enforcement of social and ecological standards in production. Moreover, the specification of the national implementation strategies offers the opportunity to finally establish the hitherto frequently lacking coherence between different policy areas with respect to integrating the dimensions of sustainable development.

5. Review mechanism

The SDGs have to be implemented with binding and transparent accountability based on clear principles. Reviews must be carried out regularly on the basis of indicators yet to be worked out and must be subject to democratic monitoring. The participation of civil society in the implementation and review of the SDGs has to be ensured in all areas and at all times.

Economic empowerment of girls and women

While all over the world women and girls are expected to provide unpaid family care, work that holds society and the economy together, their opportunities to engage in economic activities and to operate in the public sphere are more or less strongly regulated and restricted depending on continent and region. Women in the global South are disproportionately affected by economic inequality and exploitation. In rural areas, the working conditions for women and girls are even worse than in urban contexts. Due to their disadvantages, women depend more and under worse conditions than men on the insecure informal sector in order to generate income. Under the heading "Empowerment of Women" the G7 presidency is planning an initiative for the vocational education and training of girls and women. Their discrimination in this area is to be eliminated and their prospects in the labour market and in the economy improved.

In this context, it must be observed that the disadvantage of women and girls is due to structural factors and cannot be ended by improved vocational education and training alone. Women must have the same legal status and the same access to and control over resources as men. This is an important topic of the Peking+20 Conference in New York in March. This conference focuses on the implementation status 20 years after the International Women's Conference in 1995.

"Empowerment" – the power to act – requires extensive initiatives that support women and girls in expanding their possibilities for action, so that they can become equal economic players and realise their human rights. To this end, the recognition of care work must be increased and the possibility of combining care work with occupational work must be improved, also by a fairer distribution between the sexes.

We expect the German government to push for the following:

1. Enable good work

The creation of sufficient, fairly paid employment and working relationships with adequate social security for women in the formal as well as the informal sector has to be a concern of the G7 that should be realised world-wide. Human rights and labour standards have to be implemented in the process. The social security of women and girls throughout their entire life cycle has to be improved. Vocational education and training can contribute to the improvement of women's chances in the labour market. However, the importance of a good basic and secondary education for women and girls as a basis for vocational education and training must not be ignored. Additionally, more must be invested in teaching women to read and write, as two thirds of all illiterate people world-wide are still women and girls. Women and girls also need access to academic and technical occupations in order to overcome the existing gender disparity in these fields.

2. Combatting violence against girls and women

Violence against girls and women is a human rights violation that affects 35 percent of all girls and women world-wide. For those affected, it constitutes first of all a danger to life and limb resulting in death or life-long injuries and traumas. Violence against women generates not only suffering but also high costs – not only for the affected women themselves but also for the economy and for companies, e.g. due to the absence of affected women from their workplace. Therefore, the reduction of economic inequality of women and girls also requires combatting violence against them. The G7 countries have to make combatting violence against girls and women a priority in their development cooperation. This includes the financial support of women's organisations that campaign for the rights of girls and women and their protection from violence. It also includes consistent implementation of existing statutory provisions, including corresponding criminal prosecutions. In many cases this also means qualifying the responsible bodies responsible for criminal proceedings, including victim protection.

Expanding health care systems

A maximum degree of health and social security is fundamental human right. The Ebola epidemic shows how rapidly poor living conditions and weak health care systems can evolve into humanitarian and economic crises. In addition to health care regulations, efforts thus have to be strengthened to provide all people – in particular disadvantaged people – with general and close access to comprehensive health care without getting into financial difficulties, in accordance with the concept of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Sufficiently qualified health care staff are a vital component of effective health care systems. The G8 agreement adopted in 2008 in Hokkaido, Japan, on raising Africa's supply of medical staff was not fulfilled. The number of countries ranging below the World Health Organisation's (WHO) threshold value of 2.3 health care personnel per 1,000 persons has even increased between 2008 and 2013.

A further key element is solidarity-based financing, regulated by law, of health care systems. Its establishment and expansion have to be subsidised by the international community.

The high rate of maternal mortality can be reduced by better local health care systems, sexual education and access to contraceptives as well as medical care during pregnancy and delivery. The G7 can make a significant contribution to the implementation of sexual and reproductive health and rights and commit itself to the elimination of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030.

The world-wide increase of non-infectious diseases such as diabetes, cancer, obesity and cardiovascular disease poses completely new challenges to the countries' health care systems. This makes the promotion of care systems as well as health policy regulations and targeted educational work a necessity.

Public investment in research and development of improved diagnostics, prevention options as well as treatment and rehabilitation possibilities for neglected, poverty-related and associated diseases (including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria) – also in reaction to the increasing development of resistance by many pathogens – must be urgently reinforced and must yield sustainable and affordable solutions. Private companies lack the economic incentive to engage in research on such diseases, since often people with low purchasing power are affected, though globally more than 1.4 billion people are suffering from them. In order to face this market failure, a stronger commitment is required by the public sector, which should also push for affordable access through socially compatible licensing.

With bilateral agreements, the EU and the USA are trying to undermine the safeguard clauses offered by the international Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) – parallel imports, compulsory licences, extensions for especially poor countries – and to impose stricter patent laws on poor countries ("TRIPS-plus" agreements). This is directly at the expense of the poor: high vaccine prices, bureaucratic obstacles and insufficient manufacturing capacity prevent poorer countries from exercising their rights. International solidarity-based financing of providing people with essential pharmaceuticals and vaccines has to be ensured. At the same time, technology transfer, setting up local production as well as investment in education and training should increasingly be undertaken in order to help people help themselves.

We expect the German government to push for the following:

1. Access to health care

A commitment by the G7 to substantially support governments with technical expertise and financial subsidies in establishing and expanding sustainable and effective health care systems that focus on the needs of the local people and are affordable, inclusive and accessible to all. The commitments already made by the G8 in 2008 regarding medical staff must be honoured.

2. Improvement of child and maternal health

Substantial financing in order to improve child and maternal health, with a stronger focus on sexual and reproductive health and the rights of adolescents.

3. Increased investment in research and development

Increased investment in research and development of improved diagnostics, prevention options as well as treatment and rehabilitation possibilities for neglected and poverty-related diseases as well as against antimicrobial resistance. In the process, alternatives to the present research and development paradigm are to be created and promoted, such as presented by an expert commission of the WHO in 2012. Substantially higher financing of Product Development Partnerships (PDP), which Germany have been promoting since 2011, should be an integral part.

4. Access to pharmaceuticals in the area of HIV/AIDS

Exerting pressure on the pharmaceutical and medical engineering industry to increase their contribution to the Medicines Patent Pool. This allows cost-effective generics, product development for improved treatment adherence and particularly more paediatric formulations in the area of HIV/AIDS to be generated. Furthermore, the manufacturers of diagnostics have to be convinced to drastically lower the prices for essential viral-load testing units.

Ensuring world food security – placing small-scale agriculture at the centre of policies

For its G7 presidency, the German government has resolved to "ensure food security". Given that more than 800 million people are starving and two billion people are considered malnourished, this is more necessary than ever. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) created the special initiative "One World without Hunger" in order to place topics such as food security, rural development and agriculture prominently on the political agenda.

But it is the G7 whose initiatives such as the "New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition" so far focus primarily on increasing production and promoting private sector investment. This is to be accelerated by structural reforms in the participating African countries that benefit agricultural companies. There is a risk here that under the guise of the fight against hunger and poverty the economic interests of the international agricultural and food industry are catered to first and foremost. This is to the detriment of small farmers. Their access to seeds is threatened, and there is a danger that they will be driven from their land and thus lose their livelihoods. Quite in contrast to the private sector, they were not and still are not involved in the development and implementation of the projects. Moreover, the further globalisation of an industrial model of agriculture and food is not ecologically sustainable.

The demands and needs of the 1.5 billion small-scale farmers must be at the centre of a socially just and ecologically sustainable agricultural and food policy. For they are not only the largest and most significant investors in agriculture – although they are frequently discriminated against, they produce the largest share of our food. The livelihood security of small producers and farms requires fair producer prices and secure distribution chains. Therefore, we need to abandon the politically forced, exclusive world market orientation and the concomitant growth in imports and exports. In return, regional markets and value chains, rural infrastructures as well as national demand-orientated production have to be strengthened by corresponding policies.

Free trade and investment agreements must not undermine progressive policies in the field of agriculture and food. A basic realignment of agricultural and food policy is necessary.

We expect the German government to push for the following:

1. No development funds for agricultural corporations

Agricultural corporations such as Bayer, BASF and Monsanto must not be further supported within the scope of official development cooperation. In order to actually eradicate hunger and malnourishment, public investments have to be significantly raised after L'Aquila, and the interests of small-scale producers and their strategies for livelihood security have to come first.

2. Strengthen the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The CFS is the globally recognised and legitimate framework for conducting a participatory process to develop strategies for the fight against hunger as well as a socially just and ecologically sustainable agriculture. It is the responsibility of the G7 governments to support the CFS in this regard.

3. Make agriculture more ecological

Agriculture must use less agricultural chemicals and fertilisers and produce less wastefully in order to be able to tackle crises in the future. Thus, agroecological practices and cultivation methods have to be promoted more effectively. The use of antibiotics in animal keeping has to be minimised. It is therefore absolutely necessary to also restructure animal keeping in a more species-appropriate way.

4. No expansion of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition must under no circumstances be expanded. With respect to the existing projects, effective and broad participation of international and national civil society – particularly of the groups directly affected – as well as a review of human rights compliance and a revision of the planned structural reforms in the cooperation agreements have to be ensured. Seed reforms that jeopardise existing informal seed systems, and thus the access of small farmers to seeds, must not be introduced. Large-scale land allocations are to be abandoned, and the guidelines for responsible governance of tenure of land, fishing grounds and forests must be verifiably implemented.

Marine protection means limitation of the use of the seas

Maritime policy has for the first time become one of the key topics of the G7 summit. Governance on the high seas, the pollution of the oceans with waste, nutrients and harmful substances as well as the regulatory framework for deep-sea mining are the specific issues to be addressed. In the last few years, the European countries, but also the USA, have already started a whole series of maritime policy initiatives. These aim on the one hand to generate so-called "Blue Growth", and on the other hand to take influence on the distribution of resources and the global balance of power by regulating maritime policies. In this context, the remaining limits are being transgressed, new sources of raw materials are being tapped, and previously largely untouched natural areas are being conquered. This has led to a race for the maritime treasures and to the rise of several resource allocation conflicts. From the point of view of environmental and development policies, these plans have to be questioned. It is imperative to discuss maritime policy extensively and critically in public. The G7 governments are called upon to initiate a broad public debate on the protection of the seas and the limits to their use.

We expect the German government to push for the following:

1. Consistent expansion of marine reserves and the protection of the high seas

The demand of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to place 10 percent of marine areas under protection until 2020 is an essential prerequisite for effective marine protection. By 2030, the area of the reserves should increase to 20 percent of the marine areas. These reserves and their management have to be defined transparently on the basis of the requirements of environmental protection. The reserves must have sufficiently financed management plans in place that are designed in a participatory manner, preserve the rights of the local population and involve it in the determination of area-specific protection goals.

For the protection of biodiversity on the high seas and of the ecosystems of their water bodies, a separate implementation convention – a "High Seas Biodiversity Agreement" – that envisages marine reserves to an appropriate extent has to be adopted within the scope of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. In order to

achieve an effective management of the areas outside the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), this agreement, however, also has to be institutionalised and sufficiently funded so that the necessary monitoring tasks can be performed in the future.

2. Reduction of marine pollution

Taking into account the "good environmental status" in accordance with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the discharge of waste into the sea must be reduced by at least 50 percent by 2020. In order to reduce the discharge of land, effective measures in the fields of resource efficiency, product design and waste and recycling management have to be developed. A special emphasis has to be placed on the discharge of persistent and non-retrievable substances, such as radioactive waste and plastic. The amount of nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) in areas affected by over-fertilisation must also be reduced by 50 percent by 2020 as compared to the amount in 1985. Discharges via air and water have to be taken into account. Ending industrial mass production of livestock is thus a vital contribution to the reduction of nutrient discharges. Similar to the case of marine pollution with waste, over-fertilisation has to be tackled first of all at its sources.

3. Moratorium on deep-sea mining

A moratorium on the extraction of ores in the deep sea must be declared for nationally as well as internationally administered areas. A first prerequisite for ending the moratorium is the establishment of international standards by the International Seabed Authority for all stages of exploration, development and production of deep-sea resources, as well as their general recognition as binding minimum requirements for the extraction of raw materials in the EEZs. Furthermore, the affected coastal communities have to approve the respective projects in the course of participatory processes, and the potentials of recycling metals and more effectively using and saving resources have to be fully exhausted. The national governments as well as the International Seabed Authority have to introduce binding liabilities, environmental impact assessments, compensation measures and deconstruction concepts in the run-up to mining projects.

Promoting climate protection and adaptation to climate change

The G7 has a special responsibility to promote the shift towards low-emission models of prosperity through its own tangible actions. Therefore, it has to work towards just and ambitious global framework conditions for climate protection and climate adaptation. In addition to the respective UN processes within the G7/G20, this includes a dialogue with other key countries on measures for accelerating the global energy transition away from fossil energy. But this should also include the clear advocacy of human-rights standards and principles as part of the Paris Convention.

According to the German government's G7 programme, "momentum for the decisive phase of the international climate negotiations is to be created." The role of the G7 leadership regarding the 100 billion for climate financing is also emphasised. Furthermore, it will be essential "to demonstrate the credibility of the G7 and its will to act concretely." The German G7 presidency will be measured with respect to these in principle quite laudable goals.

We expect the German government to push for the following:

1. More climate protection

Greater efforts to combat climate change by the G7 are necessary. The G7 countries should commit themselves now to decarbonising their power sector before 2050 through a transition to renewable energies, and to developing scenarios for a coal phase-out. Furthermore, they should speed up the reduction of subsidies for fossil energy and commit themselves to the application of coherent rules that are ambitious in terms of climate policy for all foreign investments (e.g. by development banks). They should try to reach corresponding agreements with developing and emerging countries (e.g. at the G20 or in Paris). This can be complemented with specific initiatives for expanding renewable energies in developing countries.

2. Paving the way for a fair and ambitious climate agreement

The G7 should confirm that the agreement to be adopted in Paris must support the goal to limit global temperature increase to below 2 or 1.5 degrees. For this purpose, emissions from fossil energy must be reduced to almost zero by the middle of the century. The present climate protection goals of all G7 countries are insufficient for this. They should acknowledge their responsibility for making their fair contribution to an ambitious agreement on climate protection and the management of the effects of climate change.

3. Clarity concerning climate financing

Before the climate summit in Paris, the G7 should commit itself to presenting individual growth plans for reaching the 100 billion by 2020. These plans should indicate, based on the respective fair shares of the countries, the envisaged public contributions. Given the high financial demand for addressing the climate crisis, the 100 billion should be generated from public contributions. The G7 should promise that it will not provide this climate financing at the expense of the necessary increase in ODA to 0.7 percent of gross national income, and that it will review the implementation on a yearly basis.

4. Strengthen climate adaptation

The G7 should send a signal to the especially vulnerable developing countries to show that they will be more strongly supported in coping with climate effects. Specific adaptation initiatives of the G7 should focus on the needs of the poorest social strata and frequently marginalised groups – women and children in particular – in the poorest countries, e.g. in the areas of food security and social security systems.

VENRO

VENRO is the umbrella organisation of development and humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Germany. The association was founded in 1995 and consists of more than 120 organisations. Their backgrounds lie in independent and church-related development co-operation, humanitarian aid as well as development education, public relations and advocacy.

www.venro.org

German NGO Forum on Environment and Development

The **German NGO Forum on Environment and Development** was founded in 1992 after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and coordinates the activities of German NGOs in international policy processes on sustainable development. It is legally represented by the German League for Nature, Animal Protection and Environment (Deutscher Naturschutzring, DNR), the umbrella organisation of German nature conservation, animal and environmental protection associations.

www.forumue.de

'Your voice against poverty – development needs participation'

The VENRO project 'Your voice against poverty' encourages debate about sustainable development. The aim of the project is to develop a sustainable understanding of development together with other social actors and anchor this understanding within politics and society. The project organises nationwide campaigns that are particularly intended to motivate young people to actively support the implementation of development goals.

www.deine-stimme-gegen-armut.de

Imprint

Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO)
VENRO-Project: Your voice against poverty – development needs participation
c/o VENRO
Stresemannstr. 72
10963 Berlin

Telefon: +49 (0)30/2 63 92 99-10
Fax: +49 (0)30/2 63 92 99-99

E-Mail: sekretariat@venro.org / deinestimmegegenarmut@venro.org
Internet: www.venro.org / www.deine-stimme-gegen-armut.de

German NGO Forum on Environment and Development
Marienstraße 19–20
10117 Berlin

Telefon: +49 (0)30/6 78 17 75-93
Fax: +49 (0)30/6 78 17 75-80

E-Mail: info@forumue.de
Internet: www.forumue.de

Editors:
VENRO: Dr. Bernd Bornhorst, Anke Kurat, Prof. Dr. h. c. Christa Randzio-Plath, Nina Schröder
German NGO Forum on Environment and Development: Marie-Luise Abshagen, Kai Kaschinski, Jürgen Maier, Jan Urhahn
Final editing: Michael Katèrla

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