

# **German Civil Society Participation in the National Implementation of the 2030-Agenda**

Input at Together2030-Webinar:  
One Year After: Where are we with the implementation of the  
2030-Agenda, December 13, 2016

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# Agenda

1. Implementing the 2030-Agenda in Germany
2. Civil society participation (2013-2016)
3. Evaluation of civil society participation
4. Ideas on how to participate as civil society

# Implementing the 2030-Agenda in Germany

- The German Sustainability Strategy (GSS)
  - introduced in 2002 with the aim to reach sustainable development in Germany. It covers the following core areas: ecology, climate protection, education and health
  - criticism: lack of international perspective, i.e. the effects of German policies abroad; is being revised at the moment to match the ambition of the 2030-Agenda (first draft Juli 2016; final draft December 2016/January 2017)
- Government institutions of sustainable development
  - State Secretary Committee on Sustainable Development
  - Parliamentary Committee on Sustainable Development
  - Council on Sustainable Development

# Opportunities for civil society participation (2013-2016)

- The German government has advocated for civil society participation regarding the implementation and the monitoring of the 2030-Agenda on the national and international level.
- Civil society was included on four different levels:
  - Sustainability Dialogue (Oct. 2015 to Feb. 2016)
  - Dialogue Forum of the ministries on development (BMZ) and environment (BMUB)
  - Official hearing at the chancellory
  - Commentation of GSS-draft

# Assesement of civil society participation (2013-2016)

- The German government is making an effort to include civil society in the implementation of the 2030-Agenda. However, it still falls short with regard to basic requirments of civil society participation. CSOs active in the mentioned processes are struggling with how to treat and navigate the governments offers for particiaption.
- Three challenges remain regarding:
  - Transparency: meetings with no or only tentative agendas; intransparent invitation policy; no documenation of meetings
  - Substantiality: no publicized criteria on how inputs are processed and whether they find their way into policy documents
  - Comprehensiveness: no definition of who is/should be invited; no right of civil society to recommend participants
  - Definition of civil society: Who counts as civil society?

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## Ideas on how to participate as civil society

- Participiaption of wider civil society
  - annual conference on implementation status (organized by the chancellory)
- Participation of organized civil society with the chancellory
  - institutionalisation of a transparent, substantive and comprehensive civil society participation format with the state secretary committee on sustainable development (with standing working groups/dialogue groups)
  - regular meetings with high-level representatives from the chancellory
  - appointment of an ombuds person in the chancellory
  - opportunity to comment coherence and progress reports on the GSS in oral and written form

Thank you very much for your attention!

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