

THE GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

by MinR Michael Bauer, Head of Division Protocol, Translation and Interpreting Service of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Representative of Parliamentary State Secretary Karin Kortmann.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the Panel, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me first express a greeting from the Bavarian Minister for European Policy, International Relations and federal Affairs, Mr. Söder, who is very sorry that he cannot attend this conference, because he has to attend the committee of the Bavarian parliament right now.

My name is Jörg Vogel, I'm working in the Bavarian Chancellery and I'm there the Director for European Policy and International Relations. It is a great honour for me that I can deliver today the speech of Minister Söder to you, and I will try my best to explain you the major lines of the Bavarian government concerning sustainable development.

The Bavarian government is very pleased that the "Policy meets Land Management" conference, which is highly regarded internationally, is taking place in Munich and that many guests from abroad are here with us in Munich. I would like to thank the Technical University of Munich, the German Technical Cooperation, and the Hanns-Seidel Foundation for the organisation of this event. Thank you, Professor Magel for the invitation. For four years you headed the International Federation of Surveyors as its President and set important accents during this time. You are active in this field, far beyond the borders of Germany, and have always been a good ambassador to Bavaria as well. You therefore deserve our gratitude and appreciation.

Ladies and gentlemen, today we are dealing with a subject that has great significance for all of humanity, the Millennium Development Goals. The agenda encompasses a multitude of efforts to reach a hundred and eighty-nine member states of the United Nations and leading international organisations committed themselves on September 18th in the year 2000. The objective is to create a better and a more just world by the year 2015. Half of this time period is over already. We should now take stop at midterm.

As the most important goals of the international community, a priority was placed on the fight against poverty, the preservation of peace, and the protection of environment. In order to reach these goals, contributions of many sides are necessary. An important contribution

comes from land management. Land plays a central role for all three goals. First, a lack of property ownership and the unequal distribution of land are causes of poverty. Second, a lack of legal security for land and unresolved issues of ownership are causes for disputes ranging all the way to armed conflicts. Third, a lack of sustainability and land use is a serious cause of environmental pollution and destruction. These examples show very clearly the important tasks that surveyors, land developers, and geo-information scientists must fulfil throughout the world. Their work provides the central basis for legal, economic, and technical action. Good land management recognises the plurality of interests and balances competing claims for use in a dialog with all parties concerned. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to land and makes a substantial contribution for a sustainable development of cities and rural areas through a combination of land administration, land registry, land law, surveying, cartography, and geographic information systems as well as spatial planning.

The Bavarian cabinet, our council of ministers, discussed the draft of a Bavarian geodata infrastructure law just last week. The technically harmonised recording and the internet-based provision of geodata will improve access for everyone in our state. There is hardly an aspect of human life to which the surveying profession has not made a contribution. Even Galileo Galilei made this demand during the age of renaissance. "Measure, what is measurable, and make measurable, what is not". In Bavaria and in Germany surveyors made outstanding contributions to the development of our country: in the state surveyor offices, in agencies for rural development, in the cities as independent professionals, or in the universities and research. And I know that they enjoy great esteem in this country and throughout the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, today's conference takes place in Munich, so you are meeting in Bavaria. I would like to briefly introduce my state to you. Bavaria is one of the sixteen states of Germany. However, Bavaria has had its own state structures for more than a thousand years. And according to the German understanding of federalism, we have a dual state. This is why Bavaria has a government, a parliament, and legislative powers. We have our own concept of the state. We emphasise and live our sovereignty. Our area of 71000 km² roughly corresponds to the size of Ireland. With our population of 12.4 million people, we have more inhabitants than countries, such as Sweden, Belgium, and Greece. And in terms of economic power, Bavaria belongs to the top ranks in Germany and in all of Europe. Even though we have a strong connection to our homeland and maintain our traditions in Bavaria, we also rely intensively on the exchange with partners throughout the world. We are concerned with securing Bavaria's international competitiveness and make our state an attractive partner in the world.

In addition to intensive contacts in Europe we have also been working more closely for many years with Quebec, in Canada, Shandong in China, Western Cape in South Africa, and Sao Paulo in Brazil, now also with Georgia in the United States. In terms of development cooperation, we are especially involved through our advising services. The focus of our work in Shandong is the promotion of vocational training and land management. Professor Magel heads successful projects there for village renewal and land reallocation and consolidation to counteract the migration of people from the rural areas. In the Western Cape province, preventive health care is in the foreground. Especially the fight against AIDS, because AIDS usually also means poverty. And in Sao Paulo, our focus is on environmental protection, issues of waste removal and recycling, as well as water pollution control. As you can see, Bavaria is involved in three parts of the world and is making its contribution to the implementation of the Millennium Goals in the process.

Ladies and gentlemen, because of Germany's federal structure, Bavaria has far-reaching political options for action. We take advantage of this wide scope. A trademark of Bavaria is sustainability in many fields and in the further course of this speech I will give you some examples for sustainable policies in Bavaria.

First, I want to mention environmental protection. The active preservation of the creation is a very important concern in terms of ethics. The ethicist Hans Jonas once said, "act so, that the consequences of your actions are compatible with the permanence of true human life on earth". These words hold a mandate for each one of us. We have the responsibility today for how our world will look tomorrow. All of us have a responsibility to ensure that the future of our children and grandchildren, the future of our planet is worth living and fit for human beings. Our approach in Bavaria is nature conservation cannot just be decreed from above. It is a true collective task in which all social groups must participate; this is an important issue in environmental protection. The preservation of diversity begins on the regional level. However, like climate protection, it is also a task of international significance. The world community wants to reduce the global loss of biological diversity as much as possible by 2010. This was decided by the heads of state and government at the world summit for sustainable development in Johannesburg in 2002. From May 19th to 30th in 2008 Germany will be host to the 9th UN conference on the environment. The preservation of biological diversity will play a central role there.

Second point: climate protection. Al Gore, winner of the Nobel Prize, has described climate change as a moral and spiritual challenge for all of humanity. In the face of the advancing climate change, we stand before global challenges that we can only cope through international cooperation. But we also know, climate protection begins at the regional level.

This is why we in Bavaria have decided to tackle the challenges with a climate protection programme. We want to further reduce CO₂ emissions. For this purpose, we will invest 350 million euros in climate protection over the next four years in addition to the regular budget (I'm talking about the Bavarian budget here). Whether at the regional, national, or international level, a sense of responsibility, solidarity, and sustainability are supporting pillars for functioning climate protection. Framework conditions can be set for this purpose. However, we ultimately do not rely on decrees from above in Bavaria, but on persuasive efforts and voluntary commitment. We also want to exploit the possibilities of technological progress for effective climate protection. Bavaria is providing 42 million euros for a climate research programme. Its main focus is on the effect of climate change in Bavaria as well as resource sparing technologies. We believe that technological innovations are the essential approach to climate protection. Bavaria is strong in this respect and we can also offer our expertise in this field worldwide. It is also very important to me, that all of the consequences are always well considered in advance. What we need is a sensible balance between climate protection goals and other important goals. This becomes very clear in the example of bio-fuel. The increasing use of grain for the production of bio-fuel has raised the cost of this basic food so much, that it is no longer affordable for people in developing countries. This situation demands that we have a sense of proportion and take responsible action. This is how we see it: the plate must come before the tank. We will continue to exercise our responsibility in Bavaria and play the role of a trailblazer for a climate protection policy with sound judgement.

My third point is on energy policy. A responsible energy policy, that is oriented towards the imperative of sustainability, is a core component of far-sited climate protection. What is ecologically necessary, must be achieved in a manner that is also economically efficient and socially compatible. We, in the higher developed industrial nations, have a special responsibility for the preservation of the natural basis of life. If not, who else will ensure that new energy concepts are developed, that existing energy technologies are optimised, and energy is used efficiently and sparingly.

A very important peasant measure is the increased use of renewable energies. Germany already covers 14 percent of its energy production from this source and Bavaria's position is even better. We produce almost 20 percent of our electricity from renewable energies. Half of the German solar energy comes from Bavaria. Hydropower plays an important role and we also lead in the field of biogas. More than every third facility is located in Bavaria.

But we are not satisfied with all this. We want to further increase the share of renewable energies in the overall primary energy demand. We plan on doubling this share by the year

2020. Another important element of forward-looking energy policy is nuclear energy. Despite of all of our ambitions it will not be possible to completely cover our needs in the next decade through regenerative energies. We will not be able to do this without nuclear energy in the near future. We will not be able to achieve the climate protection goals without nuclear energy. An entire series of new nuclear power plants are being built all around the world. The former German federal government, under chancellor Schröder, passed a resolution stating that Germany would forego nuclear energy in the medium term. We need a correction of this resolution. We want to extend the remaining life for German nuclear reactors. In this process, we plan to obligate the operators to allocate a proportion of their economic profit for research and the development of renewable energies. However, the important thing about modern climate protection is the increase of energy efficiency and the saving of energy. We are also relying upon modern technologies in this area, from the development of more economical car engines, to rigorous insulation from home construction, to the industrial production facilities.

My fourth point will be on water. Water is the element that is the foundation of human life and inseparably linked with the development of human civilization. Unfortunately, people in the western industrial nations forget the value of this precious resource much too frequently. Clean drinking water in sufficient amounts is the most normal thing in the world for people in our latitudes. Bavaria is a most privileged region when it comes to water. We have never had any water shortages because almost all of our rivers and lakes have drinking water quality. But viewed globally, water is a scarce resource. In the view of the dynamics of climate change, the situation for the water supply in the water-poor regions of the world will worsen in the next decades according to many experts. Companies from Bavaria are world-leaders in water technology. In many regions, suffering from water shortages they are making valuable contributions to the quality of life for the people living there. High-tech will play a decisive part in solving the world's environmental problems. Bavaria is ready to contribute its expertise.

My fifth point will be on solid state finances. Sustainability is not just limited to the area of environmental protection for us in Bavaria. We believe that sustainability is a regulating principle that we want to implement in all important policy fields. Sustainability plays an especially important role in state finances. Unfortunately, the national debt has reached alarming proportions in many countries of the world. As a result, today's generations are living on the expenses of future generations, which is a strong contradiction to sustainability. Financial experts also view high national debts critically. David Ricardo, one

of the first great political economists, already called national indebtedness one of the worst sorges that was ever invented to plague a nation.

Since 2006, we have achieved a balanced budget. This means, that we stopped creating new debts in 2006. With the 2008 supplementary budget we have taken another big step forward. We will now reduce the debt burden according to schedule. As a result, we are starting with debt repayment in the amount of 200 million euros in 2008. This step alone saves us about 10 million euros in interests per year on a permanent basis. These are funds that we can invest directly in Bavaria's future.

In addition to this, we have our plan for provisions for the future. We are entering new ground in budget policy with these plans. To brace Bavaria against times of the less favourable economy, we have created a future reserve of 400 million euros. This is how we can ensure a reliable financial policy also in the future without new debts. We can only ensure a balanced budget for future generations, especially in times that are difficult economically, if we act now in a far-sited and precautionary manner.

Our efforts have been recognised. Bavaria has once again achieved a top rating of triple A from the rating agency "Standards and Poor's" in 2008 with stable outlook. Bavaria has undergone the strict audits by "Standards and Poor's" since 1998 and has received the top grade for the tenth time in a row now. The triple A honours our sound and forward-looking course of stability and sustainability.

My next point will be on rural development. A strong migration from the rural areas to the major urban centres can be observed throughout the world. This can produce undesired developments. A trench towards uninhabited rural areas and overpopulated cities contradicts the principle of sustainability.

During the past decades, Bavaria has succeeded in providing the people in all of its regions with good and equal opportunities for the future. And, we will continue to positively develop the competitiveness, quality of life, and outlook for the future in the rural areas. We want a well-functioning interaction between the city and the countryside – partnership on equal terms.

One of the crucial instruments for this purpose is our state development programme. It is the decisive link between the political objectives and the concrete implementation of measures in the practice. I would like to especially emphasise two guidelines of the Bavarian development programme. First, we have firmly established the goal of equal living and working conditions in the cities and in the rural areas.

Second, we have introduced a principle of priority for rural areas that require a special degree of support in their development. This means that we are setting clear political priorities in support of structurally weak areas.

My seventh and last point will be on education. Bavaria is especially ambitious in terms of education policy. International studies, such as the PISA study, show that the Bavarian schools are among the best in the world. Our eleven universities and 17 universities of applied sciences have a very high-standing and don't have to fear competition with those of other countries in term of quality. This is why our institutes of higher education are attractive to students from around the world. This applies to engineering and natural sciences in particular.

A good example is the master course in "Land Management and Land Tenure" by Professor Magel at the Technical University of Munich which is unique in all of Germany. It is especially aimed at students from developing, newly industrialised and transforming countries. The course of study trains further experts who take the knowledge back to their homeland and form the nucleus for sustainable land development there. Bavaria also relies on sustainability in education. This is why we place increasingly more value on basic knowledge, on methodological competence, and problem solving. Factual knowledge, specialised knowledge, and knowledge of details, all of this can assume somewhat of a background role in the age of Google.

One more point is important to me. Knowledge creates a sense of responsibility. This is why we increasingly rely on environmental education in Bavaria, starting at a young age: in the pre-schools, in the schools, and at the universities, but also beyond the classic institutes of education. This is now showing results. The Bavarian population places a high priority on environmental and climate protection and acts accordingly. For example, we have achieved one of the highest rates in the world for waste separation.

Ladies and gentlemen, this conference is an important conference. It deals with topics that are very significant for the life of human beings throughout the entire world, today and above all, in the future. I am pleased that we can offer the guests from around the world a good forum here in Munich for the conference. I am certain that it will have a sustained success. I wish all of the participants interesting conversations and a pleasant stay in Munich. Thank you.