

*Check against
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Speech by the State Minister for Federal and European Affairs in the Bavarian State Chancellery and Representative of the State of Bavaria to the Federation, Dr. Markus Söder, for the International Conference “Policy Meets Land Management: Contributions to the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals” at the Technische Universität München on April 17, 2008 in Munich

Topic: “Bavaria’s Commitment to the Achievement of Sustainable Development”

- Ladies and Gentlemen -

Welcome

Grüss Gott – which means “hello” in Bavaria - and a warm welcome to our state! I am 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.

Thanks

I would like to thank the Technical University of Munich, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ - Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation for the organisation of this event. Thank you, dear Professor Magel (conference organiser), for the invitation. For four years, you headed the International Federation of Surveyors FIG (Eédération Internationale des Géomètres; gesprochen F – I – G) as its president and set important accents during this time. You are active in your field far beyond

the borders of Germany and have always been a good ambassador for Bavaria as well. You therefore deserve our gratitude and appreciation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

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 which 189 member states of the United Nations and leading international organisations committed themselves on 18 September 2000. **The objective is to create a better and more just world by the year 2015.** Half of this time period is over already. We should now **take stock at midterm.**

Prioritized goals

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 the environment.

In order to reach these goals, contributions from many sides are necessary.

Role of land management

An **important contribution** comes from **land management**. Land plays a central role for all three goals:

- A lack of property ownership and the unequal distribution of land are causes of poverty.
- A lack of legal security for land and unresolved issues of ownership are causes for disputes ranging all the way to armed conflicts.
- A lack of sustainability in land use is a serious cause of environmental pollution and destruction.

Importance of surveying

These examples show very clearly the important tasks that surveyors, land developers and geoinformation scientists must fulfil throughout the world. Their work provides **the essential basis for legal, economic and technical action**.

Good land management recognises the plurality of interests and balances competing claims for use in a dialogue 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.

BayGDIG

The Bavarian Cabinet discussed the draft of a **Bavarian geo-data infrastructure law** just last week. The technically harmonised recording and the internet-based provision of geo-data will improve access for everyone in our state.

Quote from Galilei

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 the Renaissance: *“Measure what is measurable, and make measurable what is not.”*

Acknowledging the achievements of surveyors in Germany

In Bavaria and in Germany, **surveying engineers make outstanding contributions to the development of our country** – in the state surveyor’s offices, in agencies for rural development, in the cities, as independent professionals or at the universities and in research. And I know that they enjoy great esteem in this country and throughout the world.

Brief introduction to Bavaria

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Today’s conference takes place in Munich. So you are meeting in **Bavaria**. I would like to briefly intro-

duce my state to you: Bavaria is one of the 16 states of Germany. However, Bavaria has had its own state structures for more than 1,000 years. And according to the German understanding of federalism, we have a **dual statehood**. 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 71,000 square kilometres** roughly corresponds to the size of Ireland. With our **population of 12.4 million**, 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.

International relations

Even though we have a strong connection with 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 making 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 Québec in Canada, Shandong in China, Western Cape in South Africa

and Sao Paulo in Brazil. 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,

Sustainable policies in Bavaria

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.**

Some examples for sustainable policies in Bavaria are:

1. Environmental Protection

The **active preservation of the creation** is a very important concern in terms of ethics. The ethicist Hans Jonas once said:

Quote from Jonas

“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.**

**Cooperative
nature
conservation**

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 in order to achieve lasting success. **Cooperative nature conservation has a long tradition in Bavaria.** In this process, we rely on **cooperation in a true spirit of partnership** with land users, the business community, the nature-conservation associations and the many thousands of volunteers who are active in nature protection. **Personal responsibility and voluntary commitments** are the key to success.

**Preservation of
biological
diversity**

The preservation of biological diversity is currently 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 19 to 30, 2008, Germany will be the host of the 9th UN Conference on the Environment. The preservation of biological diversity will play a central role there.

2. Climate Protection

Challenge for all of humanity

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 advancing climate change, we stand before global challenges that we can only cope with through international cooperation.

€350 million programme in Bavaria

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.**

Pillars of climate protection

Whether at the regional, national or international level – **a sense of responsibility, solidarity and sustainability** are the 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.**

Technical progress

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 effects 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.

Balance between climate protection and food supply

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 biofuel 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 judgment.**

3. Energy Policy

A responsible **energy policy** that is oriented towards the imperative of sustainability is a core component of farsighted climate protection.

Magic triangle

What is **ecologically necessary** must be achieved in a manner that is also **economically efficient and socially compatible**. We in the highly-developed industrial nations have a special responsibility for the preservation of the natural basis of life. If not us, who else will ensure that:

- New energy concepts are developed
- Existing energy technologies are optimized and
- Energy is used efficiently and sparingly.

Renewable energies

A very important measure is the increased **use of renewable energies**. Germany already covers 14% of its energy production from this source. And Bavaria's position is even better: We produce almost 20% of our electricity from renewable energies:

- Half of the German **solar electricity** comes from Bavaria.

- **Hydropower** plays an important role.
- And we also lead the field for **biogas**: More than every third German facility is located in Bavaria.

But we are not satisfied with all of 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.

Nuclear energy

Another important element of a forward-looking energy policy is **nuclear energy**. Despite 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 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 around the world.

Revise phase-out decision

The former German Federal Government under Chancellor Schröder passed a resolution stating that Germany would forgo 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 portion of

their economic profit for research and the development of renewable energies.

Energy conservation

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 for home construction to the industrial production facilities.

4. Water

Importance of water

Water is the **element that is the foundation of human life** and inseparably linked with the development of human civilisation. 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 many people in our latitudes - a matter of course. Bavaria is an especially 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.

Water shortages worldwide

But viewed globally, water is a scarce resource.

In view of the dynamics of climate change, the situation for the water supply in the water-poor regions of the world will worsen over 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.

5. Sound State Finances

Sustainability in 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 at the expense of future generations – which is a strong contradiction to sustainability. Financial ex-

perts also view high national debt critically. David Ricardo, one of the first great political economists, already called national indebtedness “*one of the worst scourges that was ever invented to plague a nation.*”

Balanced budget in Bavaria

We have stopped the march to becoming a debtor state in Bavaria: Since 2006, we have **achieved a balanced budget**. This means that **we stopped creating new debts in 2006!**

Start of debt repayment

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 a **debt repayment in the amount of 200 million euros** in 2008. This step alone saves us about 10 million euros in interest per year on a permanent basis. These are funds that we can invest directly in Bavaria’s future.

Plan for provisions

In addition to this, we have our **plan for provisions for the future**. We are entering new ground in budget policy with this plan. To brace Bavaria against times of a 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 farsighted and precautionary manner.

AAA

Our efforts have been recognised: Bavaria has once again achieved the **top rating of Triple A** from the rating agency Standard & Poor's in 2008 with a stable outlook. Bavaria has undergone the strict audits by Standard & 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.

6. Rural Development

Rural areas

A strong migration from the rural areas to the major urban centres can be observed throughout the world. This can produce undesired developments. A trend toward **uninhabited rural areas** and **overpopulated cities** contradicts the principle of sustainability.

Equal opportunities for the future

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.

Bavarian development programme

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:

Two guidelines

First, we have firmly established the **goal of equal living and working conditions in the cities and in the rural areas**. In any case, we will adhere to this on a continuing basis. 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.

7. Education

High quality of education in Bavaria

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 terms 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.

Example of Land Management and Land Tenure at the TU München

A good example is the **masters course in Land Management and Land Tenure** by Professor Mangel at the Technical University of Munich, which is unique in all of Germany. It is especially aimed at students from developing, newly industrialised and transformation countries. The course of study trains future experts, who take their knowledge from Bavaria back to their homeland and form the nucleus for sustainable land development there.

Sustainable education

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.

**Creating
responsibility
through
education**

One more point is very important to me: **Knowledge creates a sense of responsibility.** This is why we are increasingly relying on **environmental education** in Bavaria, starting at a young age – in the preschools, 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.

Closing words

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.