



German Council for  
SUSTAINABLE  
Development

# Sustainable development strategies. From design to monitoring: civil society's role The case of Germany

SDO meeting 30 November 2018

# Agenda



1. Presentation of German Council of Sustainable Development (RNE)
2. Civil society's role in design, implementation and monitoring of Germany's sustainable development strategy
3. Monitoring: the multi-stakeholder international peer review



# The German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)



- Founded by former Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in 2001
- Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel extends mandate by three years and appoints 15 members from civil society, science and private sector

## Three main tasks

- Advises the federal government on sustainability matters and the National Sustainable Development Strategy
- Fosters public debate on sustainability
- Specifies fields of action and supports sustainability projects

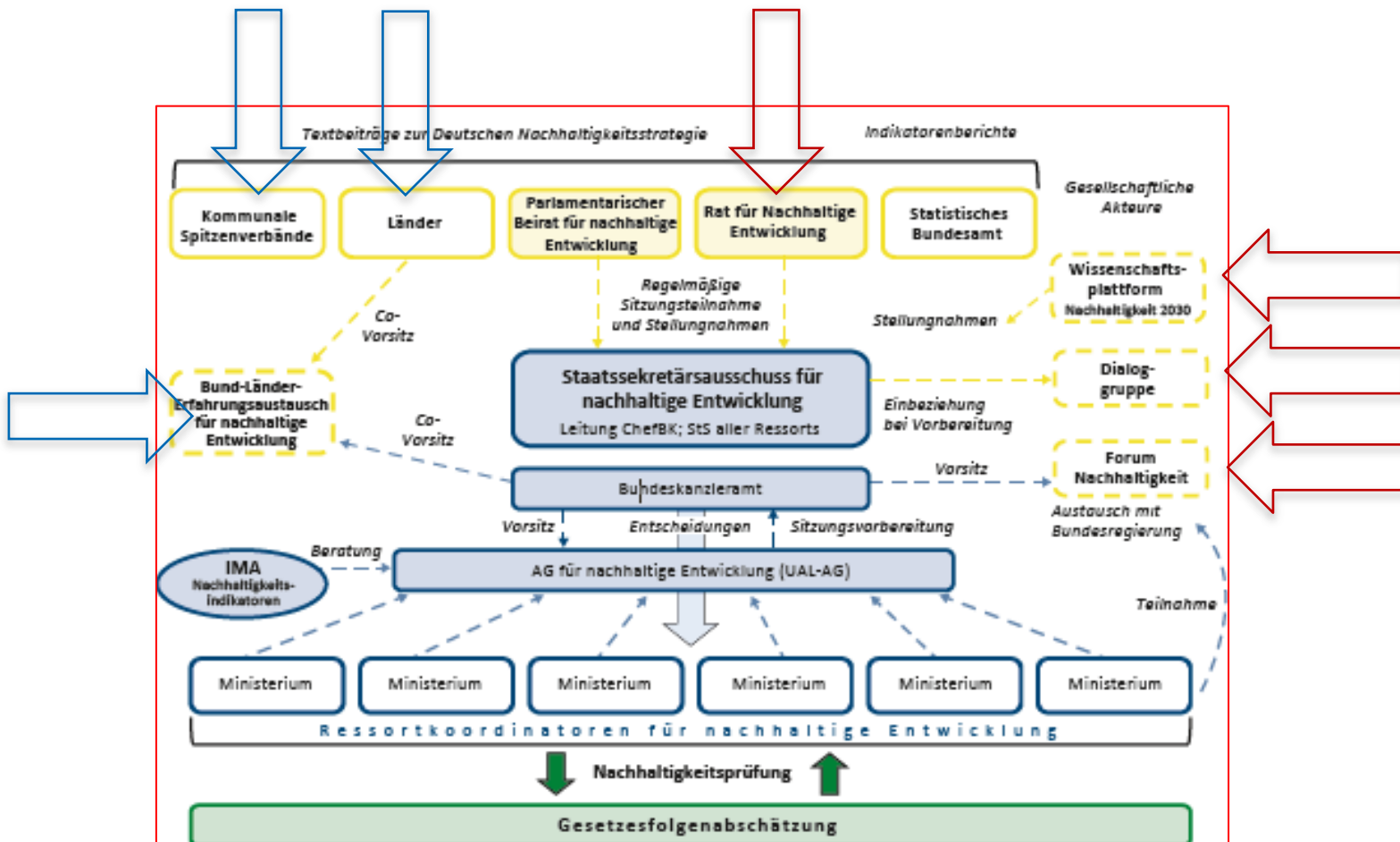




# RNE working methods

- Delivering opinions
- Dialogue with the government
- Contribution to the development of the Sustainability Strategy
- RNE projects





# German SD strategy and civil society: Designing



## Statement from the Dialogue on Sustainability

*"The central driver for achieving sustainability targets is cooperation between states, civil society and science with business practice. It is therefore especially important that this contribution from businesses, by way of innovation, investment and new products and services, is recognised nationally and internationally."*

*econsense, Forum for Sustainable Development of German Business*

- Government organized 5 dialogue conferences
- Online consultation platform
- Presentation of the Strategy draft at RNE Annual Conference
- Debate of the draft at day-long multi-stakeholder meeting with government
- Online consultation of the draft
- Written contributions included in Strategy



## German SD strategy and civil society: Implementing

- Civil society taking part in SD governance
- Implementation by civil society actors
- RNE projects supporting sustainability initiatives, showcasing best practice examples, connecting sustainability actors, facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue



# Regional Hubs for Sustainability Strategies (RENN)



- The aim of the regional hubs is (1) to link up the sustainability initiatives at federal, state and municipal level supra-regionally and (2) to establish new forms and platforms for sustainable development actors (civil society, academia, business, local authorities, etc.) to work hand in hand
- The four RENN currently resort to a network comprising 20 partners from the 16 German states
- RENN Coordination Centre is based in the RNE office
- Each individual RENN sets its own thematic focal points



<http://www.renn-netzwerk.de/>







# The international peer review on German SD strategy: A multi-stakeholder approach to monitoring

- Multi-stakeholder composition of the international expert group
- Consultation of civil society via questionnaire
- Face-to-face meetings with representatives of various stakeholders
- Presentation of the peers' recommendations at the RNE Annual Conference
- Peers' recommendations main reference point at sustainability forum 2018



# The international peer review on German SD strategy: A multi-stakeholder approach to monitoring



Peers' backgrounds: business, administration, academia, NGO, politics



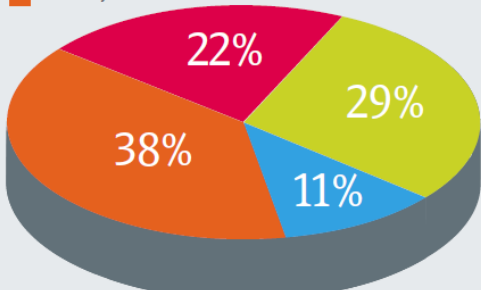


# The international peer review on German SD strategy: A multi-stakeholder approach to monitoring



**STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION**

- Academia 11%
- Administration 29%
- Business 22%
- Civil Society 38%



Number of participating organisations: 85

Consultation of stakeholders: written and face-to-face



# The international peer review on German SD strategy: A multi-stakeholder approach to monitoring



Presentation of report at RNE Annual Conference





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Thank you!

■ Verónica Tomei