The Role of the German Council for Sustainable Development

Pre-HLPF Workshop on 8 July 2019 - UN HQ

Session 3

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A huge challenge,
Germany still underperforming.

The political momentum for SD is increasing.

Carbon neutrality is the central benchmark,
and not the only one.

No easy blue print, a risky journey ....
that is why modernizing governance is key.

Chancellor appoints 15 high level stakeholder, 3-years term, strong office
As element of the overall SD architecture in administration, Parliament, RNE

RNE is an internal advisor and facilitator (design and details)

RNE as agent ——-> society at large

Independant agenda setting and good communication, ties and skills

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relevance and clout are increasing

2001 2003 2006 2009 2013 2016

RNE internal advise helps Gov’t shaping the NCSD (RNE impact not always made known to the public)

- **Introducing targets, refocussing NSDS, managing issues**
- **Making top commitment multi-level operational**
- **SD action benefits from informed debate, the earlier the better**
- **Positive policy cycle learning**
- **Encouraging SDG skills**

Engaging the private sector:

tools, multi-stakeholder engagement, issue debates

The most prestigious GS Award helps mainstreaming best practice and creates a cultural momentum.

The SUSTAINABILITY Code

The SD CODE is a reporting tool, easily accessible, offering a data context.

It is shareware: Internat'l application is possible.

The Code meets human rights standards and the EU legal reporting obligation.

Localizing the SDGs

- Low budget approaches with high political reward

  - Since ten years Lord Majors Dialogue
  - SD grassroots Action Week
  - Engaging in debates on Länder level.

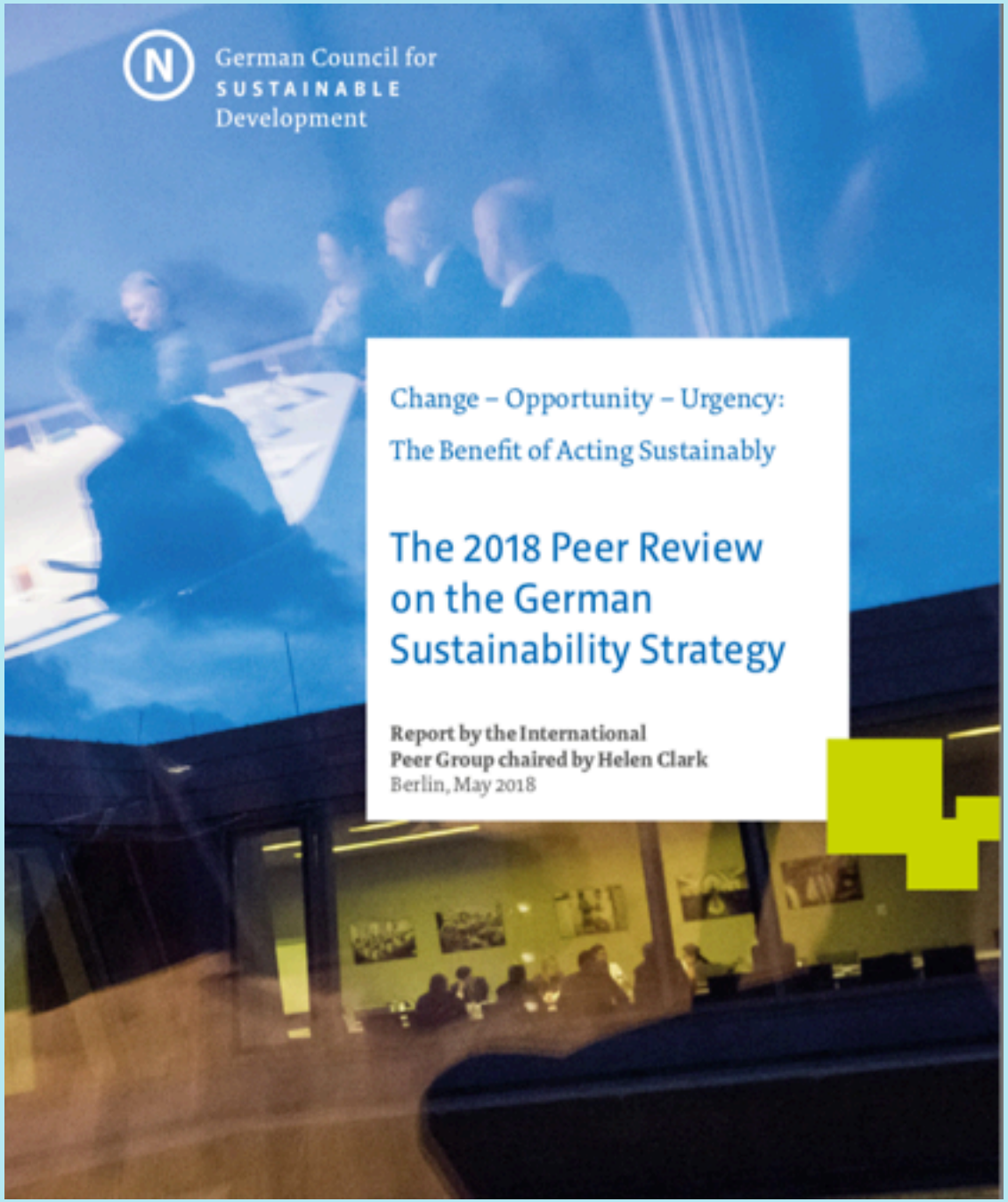
- 4 regional hubs

  - Overcoming silos in all parts of Germany
  - RNE facilitating and coordinating

- Seed money grant

  - Operated by RNE
  - Conceptual calls for cultural dimension

SD Action Week
with ever greater outreach



Peer Reviewing NSDS is a new tool

Chancellor to mandate and owns it
RNE as facilitator and producer

Impact, adding value, getting traction

Open SDGclub Berlin

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RNE can do what Government can’t

- **Engaging the private sector and encouraging bold action**
- **Creating a next level of mutual acknowledgment (GSA)**
- **Intertwining civil society and private sector involvement**
- **Building trust and debating legitimacy, options and limits to SD**
- **Encouraging new alliances**

A Platform to overcome our limits ……

- Need-to-know: What are others doing ?
- Councils to catalyze out of the box thinking
- Councils to ensure continuity when government change

My elements of a vision

- A worldwide SD Code ?
- Peer Reviews in mutuality mode along trade networks ?
- Mushrooming SDGclub.XYZ ?
- Audacious ways to SDG implementation ?
- Brokering sustainable finance options by innovative beyond-the-usual solutions ?

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