

TOGETHER

GROW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

In the federal elections on February 23rd, you, dear citizens, are faced with an important decision. It is about who will take government responsibility for our country in these challenging times.

Now it depends on the strength of our coexistence, in which people contribute and achieve so much even in these challenging times. We take this strength as a mandate for politics, to make our country better, fairer and simpler for people in the coming years. As a mandate to ensure that things simply work here and that everyday life is affordable. As a mandate to assume our responsibility in a future government.

Germany has many great strengths. With the power of you, the citizens, who keep the shop running every day despite the great challenges. At work. In the family. With a lot of commitment and dedication. With a strong welfare state, successful companies and an equally strong middle class. With effort and innovation, diversity and solidarity. It is also the strength of our country as an immigration country. Many people here have contributed to the development of the region for many generations. contribute to our common prosperity, get involved and help shape our coexistence.

It is now a matter of taking up this power as a force for the future: in solidarity^o ecological and^o economically, and in a European way. As a force that faces the challenges and solves the problems. With a confidence that comes from working together.

Because the challenges at this time are great. Many people are under pressure and have Worries. Prices have risen and the wages of many people's own work have been used up by rent, heating and the most basic expenses. Our peace is threatened by Putin's war of aggression. Authoritarianism and populism have noticeably gained in influence. Anyone who does something for our democracy is increasingly confronted with hatred and hostility. The climate crisis continues to worsen despite the efforts of many and the nature in which we live continues to be destroyed. Delayed trains, poorly equipped daycare centers and paperwork wars with the authorities are wearing on people's nerves. Years of standstill followed by ongoing conflict within the traffic light government has cost people trust in politics as a whole.

A policy that solves problems and changes things for the better can only succeed if it listens to the citizens. If it does not talk about people, but with them – like that happens every day all over the country at our kitchen and dining tables.

We have taken on our governmental responsibilities over the past three years. In challenging years with new crises. In a difficult government constellation. We have We have used the years to gain momentum and solve problems. Problems that had been accumulated by grand coalitions for many years. We have freed ourselves from dependence on Putin. We have given renewable energies a big boost. We are now actually on course to achieve the climate goals. We are investing in our German and European security and are working on new partnerships. We have started to strengthen the future strength of our economy through more skilled workers, more innovation and less bureaucracy. We have also finally invested again in the preservation of nature, in sustainable agriculture. We have contributed to the success of the European Green Deal. We have provided better support for children and families.

We therefore advocate continuing the path of renewal, not putting obstacles in its way again or even dismantling it - as has already happened. With this program we are making it clear what is important for our country now.

Let us take our ^o ecological and ^o economic future in our hands! Let us grow into the future!

In this program, we are relying on our country's economic and innovative strength. But confidence in the economy also gives rise to the mandate to remove the obstacles to the future. We want our economy to grow into the future: climate-neutral, innovative, competitive in a common Europe. Companies can only develop their strength if they are given space for uncomplicated and pragmatic solutions - and at the same time can rely on clear goals and frameworks. This requires politicians to stay the course. Establish reliability. Simplify rules and standards - whether from the European Union or home-grown.

In short: enable more.

The protection of our climate and our ecosystems is of paramount importance.

Only if they are intact can our security, our freedom and our prosperity be intact.

Responsibility means taking this into account. And shaping the necessary renewal in solidarity. Each and every one of us with our own opportunities, experiences and strengths.

With our future agenda, we are setting the course for investment and innovation, for renewal in fairness and solidarity, for dynamism instead of bureaucratic paralysis. With the "Germany Fund", we will mobilize the necessary funds at federal, state and local levels for investments in this future. It will strengthen our shared infrastructure, which society and the economy so urgently depend on. We are proposing a "pact for a modern Germany" for this investment fund - to which all political levels are invited: federal, state and, above all, local authorities. During this time, let us come to a new understanding of how we can get our country back on track in the service of the people - together and not against each other!

Let us take our social future into our own hands! Let us ensure that everyone is treated fairly and the things of everyday life are affordable!

In our program, we build on the social strength of our country. This trust in people gives us the mandate to make a serious contribution to ensuring that everyone can participate. And that everyday life is affordable again. We make electricity cheaper, ensure affordable mobility and affordable rents.

Good education, good jobs, reliable mobility and affordable housing are the key factors where people's life chances are decided. A fair tax system is a prerequisite for this. We are committed to strengthening our daycare centers, schools and universities so that they offer all children a chance of a good start in life. We support good work through fair wages and a higher minimum wage. Through equal rights for women, including in the labor market. And we make housing more affordable by limiting rent increases, supporting social housing and presenting a realistic new construction strategy.

Let us take our social and democratic future into our own hands! Let us secure our peace in freedom!

In the program, we rely on the social and democratic strength of the citizens of our country, on the strength of our common republic in all its diversity. But this democratic trust in the citizens also requires a new mandate for politicians to keep our democratic institutions and our democratic coexistence alive and to strengthen them.

Our democratic power arises when people meet as equals, when

free exchange of different views, the competition for the better solution becomes visible and differences are resolved: a good school; good ^o strengthen public spaces. The common places where agreement jobs; a strong

and diverse media landscape; strong and culture. ° public spaces that connect us in diversity, sport
All of these places are the prerequisite for our democratic cohesion in diversity.

Precisely because the strength of our country comes from the fact that everyone belongs, regardless of their origin, we also need a new force of integrative society. What we mean by that: together in diversity. What this requires: opportunities for advancement, respect in disputes, the ability to compromise and the ability to form coalitions in the democratic center. Civic responsibility, but also a new responsibility of democratic institutions and elected representatives to solve the problems and contribute to the functioning.

And just as we have to secure our freedom and our coexistence internally, so it is important
This time, to secure our peace in freedom towards the outside world. Right now, in our own interest, we need a new initiative at the top of the government for a strong, common Europe. We can only muster diplomatic strength, the committed search for robust solutions, if we, as a free Europe, also show that we are strong enough to act. The geopolitical balance of power in the world is changing rapidly - and this has not just started today. In

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a threat to the European peace order and our democracy as a whole - therefore, support for Ukraine is also
our best self-protection. Just as our European neighbors were there for us so that we in Germany can live reunited in freedom in the heart of Europe, we are also there for our neighbors. Together we must secure peace in freedom. Together with the many states around the world who also know that standing up for a rule-based order is the best protection.

Dear citizens,

Only if we transform our strengths into future strength will we be able to maintain and strengthen what is dear to us. We emphasize this because we have seen in recent years how tempting it is in politics to simply gloss over the losses of failure to change, according to the motto "Nobody needs to change here," or to just dwell on the past.

With Robert Habeck, a person is running for the leadership of the next government who makes this difference. He combines a policy of listening with orientation, government experience with the willingness to learn for oneself, honesty with the willingness to tackle, future strength with the power to create broad social connections. He is concerned about the whole of society and sees this as a responsibility to lead into a strong future. Together with Annalena Baerbock, the

Foreign Minister of our country. Her attitude shows where others hesitate. She stands up for our values and interests with humanity, partnership and strength.

We therefore ask for your trust and your vote in the upcoming federal election!

Let's take our future into our own hands! Let's grow together!

CHAPTER 1

GROWING INTO THE FUTURE

ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC

The people of Germany are rightly proud of what they achieve, of the quality of their work, of their performance, of their experience and competence. Germany must build on this strength in order to tackle the major structural challenges we face: Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the systemic conflict between liberal democracies and authoritarian states in China's vicinity require a reorientation of economic security

and trade, supply chains and sales markets. We will only win this competition in economic terms if we make the most of the great advantage of liberal democracy: that people have new ideas and can freely discover and develop things. In the next government, we want to continue working to eliminate the structural weaknesses of our location. We will ensure that Germany and Europe are at the forefront of future innovations. To achieve this, business must become simpler and more reliable, opportunities must be opened up fairly and everyone must be fairly paid. We cannot remain in the status quo for this. Instead, we need more space and enthusiasm for the willingness to take risks with new ideas and technologies. Our goal is to noticeably strengthen our country's innovative strength.

In order to renew our prosperity and not just manage it, we need a country that simply works - a state that makes it easier for people and companies to implement their ideas, not harder: one click to the solution instead of a dozen forms in the paper war. We have made this breakthrough in the last three years: we have set a record pace in the expansion of renewable energies, laid the foundations for the modernization of industry, the immigration of skilled workers, the acceleration of planning and approval procedures, and the strengthening of investment. But our country now needs a joint effort so that we can make successful progress on this path. The race for technological development means that new ideas and innovations must become reality more quickly.

If we strengthen the German and European location in this way, we will also strengthen the idea of the socio-ecological market economy – and an economy that takes responsibility for society and the environment, offers secure jobs and is anchored locally: an economy

in the service of the people. A strong economy is not only a condition for our prosperity, but also a prerequisite for internal cohesion and stability, for our weight in the world and, last but not least, for tackling the climate crisis.

Our prosperity is based on justice, climate neutrality, quality of life and precaution. Its renewal is closely linked to the fight against the climate crisis, which, together with the crisis of biodiversity, is the great task of our time. Because we want to preserve a planet on which people can live in freedom and security. We will not remain indifferent to the increasingly frequent extreme weather, but will fight with all our might to stabilize the climate. This requires major investments, for example in the expansion of inexpensive renewable energies, which has been delayed for years. For this we need intact ecosystems, healthy forests, clean seas and respect for animals as fellow creatures. If we want to protect the environment

protects us too. Climate protection is human protection and at the same time a key competitive issue of our time. The path back to fossil technologies leads to economic stagnation.

We will ensure that all people in our country can follow the path that leads to a

good future. We ensure that even tenants on a tight budget get modern heating and improved insulation. We ensure that access to electric mobility makes getting around more comfortable and cars more affordable. We ensure that climate adaptation protects homeowners' property and preserves their productivity.

A. A STRONG ECONOMY FOR SECURE JOBS **For a competitive Location**

Companies need good competitive conditions and a good investment climate, above all clear framework conditions and planning security. For our economy, we ensure permanently cheap energy, increase private and infrastructure, simplify, digitize and accelerate government procedures and ^o public investment in innovation and processes and work to increase the skilled labor potential in and for Germany to increase.

A safe, clean and affordable energy supply is a decisive location factor.

Facilitating self-generated electricity production and promoting long-term purchase agreements ensure that the economy has direct access to affordable energy. The further reduction of taxes and duties on electricity is also important for the economy. That is why we are taking over the network charges for the supra-regional power lines from the Germany Fund and reduce the electricity tax to the European minimum. We will continue to support measures to increase energy efficiency. We are also committed to a permanent and broader design of electricity price compensation for energy-intensive companies that are in global competition. We will quickly build up the hydrogen core network, promote the production of green hydrogen in Germany and secure new import sources.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular suffer from complex bureaucracy and often overly complicated rules. We have accelerated the expansion of renewables

This is made possible largely by the abolition of bureaucratic hurdles such as applications for individual plugs. We must take the same path in all areas. With the practical check, we have introduced a pragmatic and successful instrument for reducing unnecessary bureaucracy in Germany, which we will scale up in the next legislative period. Sector by sector, those affected from companies, administration and civil society are involved, unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles are identified and practical solutions for their reduction are identified without reducing social or logical protection standards. We will now roll this ^o co-out systematically and across all sectors.

and also implement them in advance in the legislative processes. Ease of implementation must be the focus of every piece of legislation. A key means of reducing bureaucracy is the digitization of administration: We want centralized processes to be bundled in one place and data to only have to be submitted once. We ^o public services for companies will simplify and reduce notary obligations in order to reduce costs and save time. So that more companies can benefit from the SME exemption rules, we will raise the thresholds for the definition of SMEs.

Germany has been driven to the point of wear and tear by previous governments for years.

there is too little reliable ^o public investments. Behind every ^o public in-investment in real economic value creation. We want to provide the economy with a strong, resilient and reliable infrastructure by strengthening and expanding it using European ^o public investments for this from national Union (EU) funds. To this end, we will also sensibly modernise the debt brake.

However, the majority of investments come from companies and other private players. Those who invest in Germany should have an easier time with taxes: To this end, we are introducing a five-year

A temporary, unbureaucratic investment premium of 10 percent for all companies and all investments with the exception of building investments. This premium is offset against the company's tax liability; if the premium exceeds the tax liability, it is paid out.

It is absolutely crucial that we not only develop good ideas, but also that they lead to strong new German companies are being created. Compared to the USA or China, we have so far had a great weakness in access to financing. We are therefore facilitating access to venture capital by continuing the WIN initiative in order to give young, innovative companies easier access to private capital through improved tax, legal and financial framework conditions.

Competitiveness also depends on well-qualified employees. Trade unions, employee participation and the social partnership with its strong collective bargaining agreements are a strength of our location.

For more workers and equal employment for women

The lack of workers and skilled workers is one of the greatest challenges for the economic development and modernization of Germany. Whether it is trade, gastronomy or large corporations - everyone is affected. In order to close this gap,

It is about removing barriers and creating incentives so that people can participate in the labour market.

Germany has 2.9 million young people without vocational qualifications, while many training places remain unfilled. We must help to ensure that young people find their way into the

Find a job and increase the attractiveness of vocational training. With measures such as the qualification allowance, we support people who are already in working life and want to reorient themselves or gain further qualifications. We will offer older employees incentives to work longer beyond the normal retirement age.

If all women with children could work as they wished, we would have up to 840,000 additional workers in Germany. In order to make it easier to combine family and work, we want to create a legal framework that enables flexible solutions and at the same time offers companies tailor-made regulations that do not overburden them. A good and reliable range of childcare places is the basis for this. Childcare costs should be more tax deductible. In its current form, the income splitting system for spouses represents an obstacle to employment for women.

That is why we want to reform it fundamentally in a gender-equitable way by making new marriages

introduce individual taxation with a transferable basic allowance. For existing marriages

^a Nothing changes. By enabling women to participate equally in the workforce, we strengthen their independent security, protect them from poverty in old age and at the same time strengthen the economy.

Germany must be attractive to the best workers from all over the world. We want people who want to work here to be able to apply for their work visa online and only need one contact person. A digital immigration agency should modernize and speed up the immigration process. We are committed to making it even easier to communicate with offices and authorities in English. The recognition of

We are significantly simplifying the recognition of foreign professional qualifications and creating a central recognition office for them. We are further reducing the obstacles to work for refugees, not least because they are being integrated into our society more quickly via the labor market.

For a strong European economy

The European internal market with its 450 million inhabitants and 17 trillion euros in economic output is a historic achievement. Only with more Europe can we compete with the USA and China, overcome our shared weakness in growth and innovation and once again become a driving force in technological progress. This also creates and secures prosperity and good jobs in Germany.

We want to further deepen the European internal market and add a deeper digital union: so that the companies of the future can also grow in Europe. And we want Europe to pool its strengths in research and innovation. Strong networks of European universities, shared data centers and research agencies can make us the frontrunner in future technologies again.

Europe is already the world market leader in clean, sustainable technologies such as wind turbines and electrolyzers. The European Green Deal provides the framework for fair competition in Europe with climate^o ecological goals and policy and guard rails. If implemented pragmatically, Europe can

This will make us the market leader for sustainable electrical engineering, chemicals, mechanical engineering and services. By protecting the climate and resources, we will secure good jobs in the industrial sector - an important future market. To achieve this, we now need stable framework conditions for future technologies instead of anti-innovation discussions about a rollback or slowdown of the European Green Deal.

We support the expansion of the Green Deal to include an industrial dimension. We must benefit more economically from climate protection measures and develop our climate-neutral European innovative strength into a global competitive advantage. To this end, we want to create the appropriate instruments in the next EU financial framework and back them up with the necessary resources. This also includes strengthening the EU's state aid law as much as possible.

^a Change that there is a short-term

comprehensive support for the decarbonisation of industry and the reduction of dangerous dependencies on autocracies.

For functioning and sustainable financial markets

Functioning financial markets are an essential component of stable economic conditions and sustainable investment dynamics, which are essential for climate-neutral renewal. In order to prevent financial crises, banks, but also insurance companies and other financial market players, need sufficient liable equity. We want to relieve small banks and financial market players in particular of unnecessary, fragmented bureaucracy.

Despite the common currency, the capital markets of the EU member states are still often based on national borders. The inconsistent regulation inhibits investment from abroad and restricts financing options for companies based in the EU. But small and medium-sized companies also suffer, for example from the comparatively underdeveloped European market for equity instruments and bonds. We will work at a European level to ensure the rapid completion of the capital market and banking union. To this end, we want to harmonize contract and insolvency law for financial market players across Europe.

We want to make sustainable financing easier for financial market players. Sustainable finance makes an important contribution to making investments in fossil fuels uneconomical and investments in future technologies more affordable. Germany should play a leading role in improving of sustainable finance regulation. We are committed to greater consistency and simplification in sustainable finance regulation at European and international level, with a focus on impact and efficiency. All state investments should be made according to sustainability criteria.

more innovative power

Germany and Europe must be at the forefront of the innovations of the future. Because these innovations are not only crucial for our economic future, but also for tackling the major social challenges of our time - from the climate crisis to geopolitical assertion against authoritarianism.

German research should remain world-leading. We want the state and companies to invest at least 3.5 percent of economic output in research and development. Our research policy includes free basic research as well as mission- and application-oriented research and the transfer to market-ready products. We will therefore continue to expand the assessment basis for the research allowance and thus better support companies in research. At the same time, we need adequate basic funding for science. With the German Agency for Transfer and Innovation (DATI), we want to work together on innovative solutions at regional innovation centers. The Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovations (SPRIND) does not promote innovation in the traditional way through funding programs, but through so-called challenges. We want to expand this approach and fund it at the ^o ecosystems in which science, society and the economy

European level. We are also creating more experimental spaces such as real laboratories in which new technologies can be tested and introduced into the

can be applied.

We will facilitate the digitization of the economy and the development of digital business models. To this end, we want to specifically promote the use of artificial intelligence (AI), the establishment of robust cybersecurity standards and the strengthening of digital skills in companies and reduce data protection bureaucracy. We are also creating suitable framework conditions for interoperable standards and for secure and efficient data exchange along the entire value chain. The state should, as a trustworthy reference customer, use its market power as a buyer to promote innovative digital products.

In doing so, it should pay particular attention to open source applications and products from start-ups and SMEs.

To achieve the necessary innovative strength, Germany and Europe need a new start-up culture.

We will make it easier to start a business by simplifying the law and by offering founders support and advice from a single source in one-stop shops. We want to support start-ups in all their diversity. To do this, we are giving female founders and sustainable start-ups a boost, for example through improved financing offers. We will make it easier for spin-offs from universities, expand the EXIST university funding to more universities and strengthen the transfer mandate for universities and non-university research institutions.

For the climate-neutral modernization of industry

Our aim is for Germany to remain a strong industrial location, because industrial companies create identity in their regions and are important employers. We want to support our industry in its climate-friendly modernization, keep it here and prevent production from moving to countries where there is still no CO2 price and only lax environmental and social standards. In a world in which crises, conflicts or power-political aspirations can disrupt or break supply chains at any time, we need our own production capabilities in essential areas in order to avoid fatal dependencies.

In order to ensure that the climate-neutral modernization of industry succeeds, we rely on an efficient mix of market-based instruments such as the CO2 price, targeted support, especially for investments, and – where necessary – regulatory law that is as unbureaucratic as possible. Where investment hurdles are too high at the beginning and the CO2 price does not provide enough

Incentives are set, we rely on competition-oriented instruments such as climate protection agreements. We will expand the scope of the climate protection agreements

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and thus financially support those companies that save the most CO₂ per euro. In order to guarantee sufficient demand for climate-neutrally manufactured products, we will establish green lead markets in sectors such as steel and cement across Europe. For example, we want to

- Introduce a minimum quota of green steel in public contracts, which is constantly increasing. Due to emissions in certain production processes that are difficult to avoid, the complete climate neutrality of industry will only be possible with the capture, storage and use of CO₂ (CCS/CCU). We therefore enable the use of this technology and support the development of the necessary infrastructure. We reject the storage of CO₂ in marine protected areas.

Globally, the competition between combustion engines and electric cars has long been decided. For companies in the automotive industry, the largest branch of industry in our country with its medium-sized suppliers, planning security is crucial: that we stick to only allowing new climate-friendly drives from 2035 onwards. We support the specific goals of the EU fleet limit regulation and reject any weakening. Possible fines should be extended if necessary and used to ramp up e-mobility through European programs. We are accelerating the ramp-up of electromobility through targeted funding for the charging infrastructure and socially balanced purchase and leasing incentives.

We only want to provide funding to those who produce in Europe with its high socio-ecological standards: in Europe, for Europe. With targeted research programs and the expansion of regional transformation networks, we support the further development of business models, especially in the areas of connected driving and battery cells.

Through greater openness and support in key areas such as AI, quantum technology, microchips, biotechnology, robotics and space travel, we want to remain competitive and
In particular, we will support the development of production capacities for key technologies such as micro-

chips and batteries. We are committed to a competitive European space industry in order to strengthen our strategic sovereignty through satellite communication and navigation, new space, (climate) research and earth observation.

The step towards climate neutrality is also an innovation driver. From the latest power plant technology to electrolyzers to the production of hydrogen, from electric cars to the reusability of materials, new future technologies are emerging in which German industry can be at the forefront. We want to enable these future technologies, promote them and support their market launch - and thus secure jobs and prosperity for tomorrow. To this end, we want to implement the EU's European Net-Zero Industry Act in Germany as quickly and comprehensively as possible.

For the strengthening of small and medium-sized businesses and crafts

The ◦ The economic strength of our country lies in the diversity of its companies. The energy and innovative capacity of craft businesses, the self-employed and freelancers as well as SMEs are the driving force of our economy. They drive climate protection and provide jobs and stability, especially in rural areas. We want to give a boost to the development of this strength.

In a sustainable economy, the skilled trades offer jobs that are safe from crises. We want to improve the framework conditions by reducing bureaucracy, supporting successors and promoting training in the skilled trades. The main goal is to maintain and ensure the future viability of the skilled trades.

To make skilled trades even more attractive, we are focusing on sector-specific minimum wages and greater equality between professional and academic training. The master craftsman's certificate should be free of charge. We are committed to ensuring that female skilled tradespeople

and self-employed people are financially protected in the weeks surrounding the birth through maternity benefit.

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We stand for a strong German and European competition policy with the independent Federal Cartel Office and the EU Commission at the centre. Competition law needs a

Further development to protect SMEs and consumers more effectively from monopolies. At the European level, we want to revive the New Competition Tool already proposed by the Commission, primarily to protect domestic companies from unfair practices by large global companies. Conversely, small takeover and merger cases in Germany and Europe should be relieved of bureaucratic procedures.

We will use competition law to reduce unfair and expensive practices by online platforms that are detrimental to small and medium-sized businesses and consumers. Large online retailers are supplying us with goods that do not comply with European standards. New, unfair and manipulative practices are constantly emerging on the Internet. We are committed to ensuring that large platforms - just like the shop around the corner - must assume product responsibility.

In order to relieve the contracting authorities, especially those of local authorities, and the economy of administrative costs of over one billion euros, we are modernising the procurement law comprehensively in order to simplify sustainable procurement and make it the norm. In order to relieve the contracting authorities, especially those of local authorities, we will significantly increase the direct order limits. We will take into account Start-ups are better at awarding contracts.

In order to offer family businesses and start-ups further succession options, we want to introduce a new, attractive legal form for companies with tied assets.

In the future, companies that serve the common good should receive the same support as all other founders. We will use money from orphaned accounts to strengthen social innovations and companies that serve the common good. We will continue the National Strategy for Social Innovations and Companies that Serve the Common Good.

The economic strength and

Quality of life in rural areas is crucial. By expanding the joint task of regional economic development (GRW), we ensure that people and companies can develop everywhere in the country.

The potential for ambitious climate protection and forward-looking economic policy lies particularly in regions affected by structural change, such as Lusatia. The challenges are great, but we still want to see structural change as an opportunity to pave the way to a sustainable future with new infrastructure, economic development, renaturation and investments in future technologies. It is important to us to involve local people through transparent decision-making processes, but also by supporting local ideas and wishes.

Tourism is a driver of growth and employment in Germany, particularly in rural areas. We will continue to develop the National Tourism Strategy and make Germany a more sustainable, socially just and innovative tourism location.

For us, prosperity is more than just the growth of gross domestic product. For the first time, we have therefore included the state of the environment and climate as well as social factors in the annual economic report.

We want to expand this comprehensive measurement of prosperity.

For economic security and sustainable foreign trade

Our prosperity and our economic resilience and security depend, in addition to the European internal market, on robust international partnerships and global trade. In view of geopolitical conflicts, protectionist measures and increasingly fierce international competition, we need a future-proof trade agenda that is committed to

everyone pays off.

Balanced trade partnerships not only open up new sales markets for German companies, but also strengthen their supply chains.

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A broader spread of our economic relations also helps to reduce dependencies in critical areas. The focus on individual sectors and targeted agreements for certain goods and services promises rapid negotiation success. High standards of social justice, climate and nature conservation as well as human rights simultaneously protect the domestic economy from harmful undercutting competition and protect against exploitation or environmental destruction in other countries. We negotiate in accordance with the following principles: legally binding and enforceable economic, social and environmental protection, anchoring of the precautionary principle, binding anchoring of the Paris Climate ecological standards, a Agreement, the key occupational health and safety conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, an end to the misuse of arbitration courts and the limitation of future investment agreements to direct expropriation and discrimination.

The EU Supply Chain Directive is a great achievement: consumers in Europe can be sure that products they buy here are free from exploitation and child labour.

We will ensure that the Supply Chain Directive is transposed into German law in an unbureaucratic manner.

Unfair trade practices and market distortions require decisive action - that is why we are lobbying the EU Commission for countervailing duties where necessary, for example on steel. We are supporting the EU Commission in its negotiations with China on the dumping of electric cars in order to protect the interests of European industry. The loopholes in customs law must be closed through which Asian online retailers such as Temu in particular smuggle unsafe disposable products past customs and undercut European manufacturers. Anyone who permanently imports illegal products into Europe on a large scale must be sanctioned under the EU Digital Services Act. We will improve the European CO2 tariff CBAM by expanding the scope of application, taking into account the manufacturer's total emissions in the country of origin and using standard values of practical

and make it more effective. So that it compensates for the competitive disadvantages that European industrial companies face compared to manufacturers from countries without a CO2 price.

We will protect strategically important sectors from takeovers with a new investment review law. In order to ensure our independence and undisturbed supply chains, we will proceed with tenders in sectors with a high level of dependency in accordance with the resilience requirements of the Net-Zero Industry Act. In the future, we will grant state subsidy programs for the purchase of products such as electric cars for products that are largely also available in Europe with its high social and ecological standards.

For Raw Material Security and Circular Economy

A sustainable, independent and competitive economy requires both a secure supply of raw materials and the transition to an effective circular economy in line

with the planetary boundaries, which saves resources and avoids waste. We also depend on a reliable supply of raw materials to achieve the climate goals.

Our approach to increasing raw material security is based on four pillars. Firstly, we want to reduce the consumption of primary raw materials and halve it in the long term. The key to this is the phasing out of the combustion of fossil fuels, raw material efficiency and - where possible - the replacement of raw materials, as well as the targeted use of recycled raw materials. Secondly, we promote recycling and the development of an effective circular economy. Thirdly, we rely on domestic and European mining, including with modernized, environmentally friendly mining law. And fourthly, we are developing a sustainable foreign policy on raw materials and entering into new raw material partnerships.

Nobody wants to constantly throw things away and produce large amounts of waste. The circular economy turns this into an economic opportunity with new business models, from water bottles to smartphones to living rooms.

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house. It needs the right regulatory and material ^o economic framework, more standardization and a level playing field for recycled material. A digital Product passport creates better information about the materials used in a product. We will now implement the circular economy strategy for this purpose. We have successfully campaigned at European level to ensure that products are manufactured to be durable and easy to repair.

For strong consumer protection

Fair contracts and enforceable consumer rights – consumers must be able to rely on these. Especially in times of rising living costs, consumer protection can and must help make life easier and protect people from unfair prices, lack of transparency and fraud.

GMO-free food is important for many consumers. To ensure that this remains possible, everyone who wants to work without GMOs must be able to do so in the future. It is crucial that there are no patents on life: plants, animals, seeds and genes may not be patented, not even in digital form. And there needs to be a labeling requirement for genetically modified seeds and food.

Rising energy prices and the necessary energy and heating transition are posing major challenges for consumers. We will introduce effective protection against heat and electricity cut-offs. To make it quick and easy for electricity customers to see whether they are paying too much for their electricity month after month due to an overpriced old contract, we are making it mandatory for new customers to display the average electricity price on their energy bills. Then everyone will know when a switch is particularly worthwhile. This will act as a brake on electricity tariffs.

When it comes to money, transparent and easily understandable information is particularly important. This is why financial consumer protection requires particularly high standards and fair and independent financial advice.

The focus is on protecting small investors. We also want to hold the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) accountable for protecting against greenwashing of financial products. We also rely on transparent and easily understandable minimum standards and norms for sustainable financial products.

We want to make the high costs of payment transactions for German companies and consumers – for example when using credit cards – more affordable with the help of innovative competitors and competition law.

B. A MODERN AND DIGITAL COUNTRY

For a state that works for the people

We want to better position our state for the challenges of today and tomorrow and are offering our democratic and federal partners a hand in state reform. What we mean by this is, among other things, that the tasks and roles in some areas of our federal state are redistributed, bundled and made clearer, for example in the area of social benefits. We are committed to constructive cooperation instead of duplicate structures and opposition.

The federal government should transfer more responsibility for implementing laws and funding programs to states and municipalities instead of regulating everything in detail themselves. States and municipalities need more scope for independent action

as well as for specific cooperation. Conversely, the federal government should provide a digital service for nationally regulated benefits such as parental allowance or housing benefit, which states and municipalities can use to provide services locally. Through such central service units, the federal government can perform routine tasks centrally so that the local administration can concentrate on advising can concentrate. The discussions in a citizens' council could provide the starting point for these reform processes.

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Federal legislation must be made more practical and less complicated. We want to expand the digital and practical checks to achieve this. In new legislative projects, the underlying main law must be modernized, services must be standardized, and experimental rooms and real-world laboratories must be provided. We want to streamline the federal budget regulations and their annexes without encouraging the misuse of public funds.

Through modernization and automation, including the use of AI, the workload for administrative processes can be reduced. In this way, we are also reducing the federal ministerial administration and strengthening the implementation responsibility of the subordinate federal authorities. This is urgently needed in times of a shortage of skilled workers and vacant positions.

For a service-oriented administration

We will ^o Consistently modernize and digitize public administration and align it with people's needs.

Citizens should be able to communicate with the state digitally and on an equal footing. That is why we will be introducing the Germany app together with the states and municipalities, in which all state administration services will gradually be available in a secure, barrier-free and user-friendly manner. In the future, you will be able to apply for an ID card or register your new apartment with just a few clicks in this app. The app serves as a simple user interface for citizens and as a target image for German administrative digitization. In the background of the app

We are building a modern, modular and standardized IT architecture in which the administrative domains of the federal government, states and municipalities interlock sensibly.

The employees in the authorities are motivated, they get to work and want to improve processes. Our aim is to relieve them of their burden and enable greater efficiency: We are moving forward with a culture of innovation in the administration that is open to application-free procedures, risk-taking decisions,

A spirit of experimentation and the use of modern technology. To achieve this, we are increasing the discretionary powers of decision-makers. We are enabling the use of automation and AI applications wherever they are helpful and useful. To ensure that data does not have to be collected again and again, we are driving forward the modernization and networking of registers. The authorities should provide data tools where citizens and companies can only

have to enter it once. Then the various levels of administration have to access it themselves. This streamlines personal reports, reporting obligations and control data in agriculture. For this we also need our own secure cloud in Germany.

For rapid and comprehensive digitization

Shaping digitalization is central to our coexistence and our prosperity.

So far, this has not been sufficiently successful in Germany. This is also due to the fragmentation of responsibilities and the lack of pooling of resources. This is why responsibilities, authorities and budgetary responsibility need to be pooled. In this way, we are focusing on expanding the digital infrastructure, European and international digital policy and developing an open source strategy. For the digital state, we want to promote central digital services such as the BundID and the Germany app. We are continuing to develop the digital check as an active and accompanying instrument of legislation and are shaping digitalization in a sustainable way.

The key to accelerating Germany's digitalization lies in overcoming the boundaries of the different IT systems of companies, authorities and research institutions through interoperability. Only then can processes be handled digitally without manual work or media disruption. This type of networking has been neglected too much. We will promote open standards and always involve developers, civil society and SMEs. These standards should be freely usable without license fees. We are thinking further about interoperability and digital cooperation, namely as a necessary basis for

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to strengthen the competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of our economy.

In order to leverage the great potential of data collaboration for innovation and productivity, the implementation of data protection must become simpler and less bureaucratic. The General Data Protection Regulation must be implemented more efficiently and uniformly - also to avoid double regulation and unclear responsibilities. A reform of data protection towards uniformity, reliability and simplicity is necessary, for example by bundling responsibilities for certain sectors or research with individual supervisory authorities.

Germany needs fast internet in cities and rural areas. We will create better conditions for the private sector expansion of fiber optic and 5G mobile communications by accelerating approval processes, facilitating alternative installation methods and promoting open access.

We will increase the state's gigabit subsidy for rural areas and structurally weak regions. We will strengthen consumers' rights to fast internet by gradually increasing the minimum bandwidth and making it easy to prove inadequate internet and get better access.

For a Germany Fund and a Reform of the Debt Brake

In government, we will be determined to make investments in sustainable infrastructure that our country so urgently needs. The black zero in the budget was bought with a loan from our country's future viability. We will therefore set up a Germany fund for the federal government, states and municipalities. From this we will build the tracks on which trains will take people to their destinations on time, renovate the daycare centers and schools that create opportunities for everyone, finance the research that will form the basis for the technologies and prosperity of tomorrow, and give companies the space to invest in their future.

The investment backlog in Germany is in the three-digit billion range. The debt brake in

its current form prevents investments and other measures that will stimulate our stagnating economy. In order to make the necessary investments in infrastructure, in decarbonisation

We want to reform the debt brake in order to finance the economic recovery of our country and a strong, future-proof economy. In doing so, we will create new financial leeway, which we will distribute appropriately between the federal government and the states. At the same time, we will ensure that total debt remains sustainable in the long term. This is also the advice of leading economic institutes such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Bundesbank and the Federal Government's Council of Experts.

After the grand coalition ruined the country for almost two decades, we in the federal government have initiated a turnaround. Until a reform of the debt brake is implemented, we want to use the Germany Fund to guarantee the younger generation a modern, functioning and climate-neutral country and a competitive economy, instead of leaving them with deferred burdens and dilapidated infrastructure. We want to enable citizens to participate in these investments.

Investments in climate and environmental protection as well as in transport, energy, education and research infrastructure and in national security are our priority. It is also clear:

The current strict rules remain in place for so-called consumer spending. This means, for example, that the energy-efficient renovation of school buildings can be financed with loans, and the salaries of teaching staff must come from the regular budget. This way we do not leave the younger generation with unnecessary debts and at the same time avoid hidden debts. Because neglected investments are also a burden for the younger generation.

The Germany Fund helps to increase the scope for urgently needed future investments. However, it is no substitute for the task of setting stronger priorities in the budget and dealing more efficiently with existing income. Because many important issues such as better education or

Greater security also requires consumption expenditure. We want to ease the burden on the budget by increasing

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We want to get refugees and more people receiving the Citizen's Allowance into work. We also want to streamline administration through further digitalization. And we want to reduce subsidies that are harmful to the climate and the environment.

The distribution of taxes between the federal government, the states and the municipalities must correspond to the actual tasks and investment needs in order to enable equal living conditions in all parts of the country. We will retain the current system of federal-state financial equalization in its current form.

C. A CLIMATE IN WHICH WE CAN LIVE

WELL For a stable and safe climate

With the Paris Climate Agreement, the international community has agreed to contain the climate crisis. All major countries with high greenhouse gas emissions have embarked on this path - that is what matters. The EU is currently the third largest emitter of climate-damaging emissions after the USA and China. So our joint action is also important.

We in the EU have therefore committed ourselves to a common goal: Europe should become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

With the European Green Deal, we have made great progress over the past three years towards a stable and safe climate and at the same time started to modernise the European economy and industry. This is working: the EU is on track to meet its climate targets.

Now the economy needs planning security. The Green Deal and the "Fit for 55" package must now be implemented consistently and as unbureaucratically as possible across Europe. We oppose further procrastination and watering down.

Germany plays a crucial role in this. The grand coalitions had agreed on high climate protection targets, but had not developed any plan or measures to achieve these targets. For the first time, we have brought Germany and Europe together on

a path to closing this gap. It depends on the decisive action of the next federal government whether it takes advantage of this opportunity and achieves its goals.

The changes required for this are demanding and have therefore triggered many heated discussions, worries and fears and raised new questions. It is clear: we must do more to ensure that the path is reliable and that everyone can follow it. We are making climate protection simpler and more affordable and solving implementation problems pragmatically. To do this, we are using a variety of instruments in a targeted manner - from market-based incentives such as emissions trading to targeted support for businesses and households and even regulatory law.

The efforts are paying off: climate-damaging emissions are falling. For the first time, Germany is on course to achieve its climate goals. It is now important to stay on course in order to continue to ensure reliability and planning security and to provide guidance for the climate-neutral modernization of our entire continent.

According to scientific advice, Europe must now reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent by 2040 compared to 1990. This requires determined efforts and a significant contribution from Germany as the largest member state with the highest emissions and a high level of prosperity. We are therefore sticking to the legally stipulated goals of climate neutrality by 2045 and the binding interim targets. We are continuing the energy transition as well as the switch to climate-neutral heating.

The transport sector has the greatest need to catch up in achieving climate targets. We are therefore increasing the momentum by further intensifying the expansion of the railways and accelerating the switch to e-mobility. To ensure this, we will, as legally required, evaluate the current climate protection law and strengthen the responsibility of sectors in which

Climate protection is making too little progress. If targets are missed, Germany faces expensive fines and higher CO₂ prices in the future, both of which we want to avoid for public budgets and citizens.

For socially just climate protection

We are shaping the path to climate neutrality as a path to a fairer society: people who cannot afford a car will particularly benefit from affordable and comprehensive public transport. Electromobility, walking and cycling contribute to

contribute to better air quality for everyone. Well-insulated houses and climate-neutral heat protect people from rising heating costs.

The path to climate neutrality is associated with many advantages, but it also requires large investments - be it in the installation of new heating systems, thermal insulation, the installation of an energy storage system or the switch to an electric car. Investments need planning security and

Trust, especially with regard to the availability of funding. We want to return to that with a predictable budget policy. Many people will not be able to afford these investments without support. Financing investments in climate-neutral renewal is a generational task that is crucial for long-term human life on this planet and should therefore be financed in part through borrowing.

We pay particular attention to ensuring that everyone can keep up with the necessary modernization. In order to make climate-friendly alternatives affordable for everyone, we want to further expand funding programs in the future and tailor them to people with low and middle incomes in particular through social stratification. We have already taken the first steps in this direction, for example with the socially designed funding programs for the modernization of

Heating systems and the renovation of apartments and houses. We also want to encourage people with low and medium incomes to switch to e-mobility, especially in rural areas. To this end, we propose state support for the purchase of a low-consumption e-car, which also meets the European

Automotive industry supports this. It consists of a charging card for refueling at charging stations, a tax^o public incentive for small and medium incomes and a social leasing program. We are also putting an end to excessive prices at charging stations through strict application of EU law and strengthening consumer protection so that electricity and heat become more affordable through more competition.

We make a security promise: All people with low and middle incomes will receive a large part of the revenue from the CO₂ pricing of building heating and transport as climate money. The climate money is to be introduced as quickly as possible in the next legislative period and will then be paid into the account directly and without prior application. We want to protect tenants permanently and reliably from the CO₂ costs being passed on to them unilaterally.

The state currently subsidizes behavior that is harmful to the climate. We will gradually reduce this and use the financial resources released for social equality and climate protection.

We will support those affected in adapting, ensure social balance and provide planning security. As a first step, we will reform the company car privilege so that

with it creates even clearer incentives for climate-neutral mobility.

The climate crisis and associated extreme weather such as floods or droughts lead to

At the same time, oil companies, which are responsible for the world's CO₂ emissions, are

We will work to ensure that these polluters contribute to offsetting the costs of the climate crisis and that citizens, farmers and companies are not left alone with ever greater damage.

In Germany, the polluter pays principle clearly applies to us. This means that, for example, the subsequent costs of coal mining must not be borne by the general public.

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Worldwide and at home: It is the poorest who suffer most from the consequences of an escalating climate crisis. The climate crisis is an accelerator of inequality, and we are countering this with socially just climate policy and our international commitment to climate justice.

For affordable, reliable and climate-neutral energy

Cheap electricity from renewable energies such as wind, sun, hydropower, geothermal energy and environmentally friendly bioenergy secures our prosperity. It is also the basis for an affordable life, because heat and mobility are increasingly becoming electric. We are staying on course with the record expansion rate we have achieved and are expanding the infrastructure so that cheap electricity reaches people and companies.

In recent years we have made huge progress on this path: in 2024, around 60 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources, in 2021 it was only 40 percent. We want to reach 80 percent by 2030; in 2035, the electricity will be produced completely climate-neutrally. Owners, tenants, companies and municipalities should be able to use their own energy or participate in energy projects without major bureaucratic hurdles. To this end, we will continue to support decentralized producers of solar and wind energy as well as storage facilities and electrolyzers through consistent bureaucracy reduction, planning security and profitable business models. With Energy Sharing

we will make it even easier to distribute cheaply generated renewable electricity to the public.

to divide economically and communally.

Renewable energies provide electricity at extremely low prices, but not consistently. We therefore need to coordinate supply and demand in the best possible way and in a decentralized manner. We can achieve this through cost-efficient network expansion and better network utilization, decentralized price signals without dividing the bidding zone, storage of all types, a new generation of hydrogen-capable and flexibly deployable power plants and the efficient use of the enormous flexibility potential.

of industry, commerce, transport and private consumers

We are committed to an efficient European internal electricity market and are expanding the electricity grids to our European neighbors. We are also committed to the consistent digitization of the energy sector. With digital and flexible electricity grids and dynamic electricity tariffs, citizens will in future be able to store electricity in a system-friendly manner using batteries or heat pumps, run the washing machine or charge the electric car in times of high wind and sun. This means that everyone can save money and benefit directly from the advantages of the renewable electricity world. At the same time, costs in the overall system will fall.

New rules are also needed for how our electricity market works. Long-term security for Investments in power plants, for example in the context of capacity markets, must be accompanied by intelligent short-term incentives for efficient electricity consumption. This will enable an increasingly self-sustaining expansion of solar, wind and storage as well as other infrastructure and will ease the burden on electricity prices and the federal budget.

Precisely because the conversion to a climate-neutral electricity system requires high investments, we pay particular attention to costs. We reduce financing costs through long-term, secure framework conditions, guarantees and intelligent regulation. For new high-voltage direct current lines to be planned, we will make the simpler overhead lines the standard again and only use underground cabling in special cases. We will continue to use the method of not passing on ^o local requirements. At the same time, we are implementing the the costs, but instead financing them in other ways, thus making electricity cheaper for consumers and companies. The levy from the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) has already been abolished for consumers and is now fully financed from the budget. In the next step, we will reduce the electricity tax to the European minimum.

We are also reforming the financing of network expansion in order to reduce network charges.

Fossil energy production is a phased-out model. Precisely so that the coal regions can have planning security and the structural change has been organized

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can be supported, we are committed to phasing out all remaining coal-fired power plants from 2030

We stand for a final rejection of gas extraction throughout Germany - on land and at sea. A return to nuclear power is neither necessary for achieving climate targets nor for security of supply - in any case, new nuclear power plants are not a realistic option due to the extremely long planning and construction times, the high financial risks and the perpetual costs. The long-planned and cross-party decision to phase out nuclear power has made our country safer. The search for a reliable final storage facility remains a challenge that the entire country must face.

For reliable and affordable heat

The transition to reliable and climate-friendly heat has been neglected for years. Now the right course has been set. Over the next few years, we want to work with local authorities to pave the way for everyone to gradually switch to climate-friendly and affordable heating.

With the existing Building Energy Act and a subsidy of up to 70 percent for the installation of fossil-free heating systems, we are giving homeowners, businesses, tenants and landlords the necessary planning security for the purchase and installation of modern, climate-friendly heating systems, such as heat pumps, by 2045. We will expand support in this area. We will also expand energy advice. We also want to further strengthen the climate component in housing benefit.

Heating networks are an important building block on the way to climate-friendly and affordable heating for everyone. Especially in densely populated areas, they can help to heat many houses at the same time.

with climate-friendly heat. We want to secure the expansion and conversion of heating networks by extending and strengthening the funding for efficient heating networks (BEW), optimize approval processes and also increase the production of electricity by reducing electricity costs.

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At the same time, strong consumer protection is a prerequisite for this. By introducing price control, we want to improve consumer protection in district heating, which is primarily by rented households. We want to limit possible price increases for district heating in line with the regulations in the Building Energy Act. We will also activate private capital for the expansion of the heating networks and reduce financing costs through guarantees.

The heat transition can rely on a variety of technologies. What is crucial for us, however, is that consumers can rely on climate friendliness, reliability and affordability and that they do not invest in heating technologies with false promises that will land them in a cost trap a few years later.

For precautionary adaptations to a changing climate

Droughts and heat waves, forest fires, floods and heavy rain cost human lives, destroy homes, roads and bridges, and damage agriculture and our food production. By making our economy and our lives climate-neutral, we are combating their

Causes. But in the face of the worsening effects of the climate crisis, we must take much greater precautions. The extent of the damage caused by the climate crisis also depends on how well we have prepared for it. Adaptation to the climate crisis is therefore a social, core economic and social task of the coming years and decades.

With the Climate Adaptation Act, we have committed the federal government, states and municipalities in Germany to to tackle this task. Municipalities bear the brunt of the adjustments that will affect us as a whole.

That is why we want to make climate protection a joint task of the federal and state governments and provide more federal funds for adaptation.

The devastating Ahr Valley Flood in 2021 or the devastating floods in Eastern Europe in 2024 showed us

how vulnerable our society is, especially in the face of flood disasters.

That is why we will improve flood protection together with the states. We also need investments in natural floodplains such as alluvial forests or alder swamps.

We will strengthen rivers and their natural floodplains in the interests of flood protection and, wherever possible, give them more space through renaturation. But we also need flood protection systems such as strong dykes, functioning retention systems and well-equipped disaster protection. We will expand insurance protection against natural hazards in a socially acceptable manner.

Especially people in densely built-up cities need to be better protected from heat waves and heavy rain.

We ensure this with more soil sealing, fresh air corridors, building greening, urban greenery, water features and public drinking fountain. They are supposed to be sponge cities

absorb and store more water in the future and have a cooling effect in summer.

D. A MOBILE SOCIETY – CITY

AND COUNTRY TOGETHER

For fast, sustainable and safe progress

Rails, roads and bridges are the lifeblood of our country, but they have been worn out over decades. We all feel the consequences in our everyday lives: delayed trains, detours and traffic jams. This is damaging to people, the economy and the environment. At the same time, our transport system is still a long way from making its contribution to achieving climate goals. We are changing that by offering an efficient range of buses and trains and by sending a clear signal towards climate-friendly e-mobility.

We want to improve mobility for everyone. We need a fundamental overhaul of our transport infrastructure. We have greatly accelerated planning and approval procedures. Now it is important to finance this reliably with the Germany Fund

and to make it a reality that the transport sector can meet its climate targets. While our rail network needs to be significantly expanded throughout Germany, the road network is already well developed across the board and therefore needs renovations rather than new construction. To this end, we want to develop an integrated federal mobility plan that will form the basis for climate-neutral and environmentally friendly mobility by 2045. We want to maintain and renovate transport routes, massively expand the rail network, and reactivate disused railway lines - especially in rural areas and modernize and finance a nationwide network of cycle superhighways.

In order to modernise air and shipping in a climate-neutral way, we support the production of sustainable fuels from renewable energies, such as e-kerosene, and promote technologies for Fuel savings and the rapid development of a climate-neutral energy supply in ports, in particular a climate-neutral shore power supply. We want to make domestic flights more economical by improving the railway.

We want everyone to be able to travel cheaply, safely and in a climate-friendly manner in town and country, regardless of the means of transport. In many places, being mobile in the country requires having your own car. We want to

◦ Develop public transport so that it becomes a suitable alternative to the car in rural areas. On-demand buses and other concepts such as digitally networked minibuses can supplement regular services in rural areas. We want this to become a reality in at least ten rural districts by the next federal election.

We want to ensure that there is a functioning coexistence in traffic and that everyone reaches their destination safely. This can only be achieved if excessive speeds are reduced. In the government, we have created the opportunity to make it easier for municipalities to impose a 30 km/h speed limit and to increase pedestrian and bicycle traffic by reforming road traffic law. Germany is the only country in the world that allows unlimited speeding on motorways - to the detriment of human life and the environment. A safety speed limit of 130 km/h on motorways as a general

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Speed limits are therefore overdue. We want to increase the fines for serious traffic violations to European level.

In order to make traffic areas more attractive, to increase accessibility and to increase traffic safety, especially on school routes, we want to promote urban redevelopment more strongly and to replace outdated

Renew regulations. Our guiding principle is Vision Zero, i.e. the complete avoidance of traffic fatalities.

For a reliable and affordable railway

With the Deutschlandticket, we have cleared the tariff jungle in (O PNV), relieved^o local public transport millions of customers and developed an attractive offer: buses and trains in local transport are now cheaper than ever before. We want to continue this success story and continue to offer the Deutschlandticket at a reasonable price for everyone. Our goal is to ensure a ticket price of 49 euros together with the states. We welcome it if

States and tariff associations should make arrangements to allow young people to use public transport for free or at a greatly reduced rate. We want to expand such offers nationwide.

We will continue to improve local transport services in Germany in order to double the number of passengers on climate-neutral buses and trains by 2040. We want to continue to increase federal funding for local transport, together with higher spending by the states and municipalities. In the medium term, local transport should guarantee a service suitable for everyday^o public use with reliable regular services throughout the country. Our medium-term goal is to connect all villages at least once an hour between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Germany should become a railway country in which people can travel cheaply, comfortably and in a climate-neutral way. There is still a lot to do here, but the beginning has been made: more and more people are taking the train, intervals are being improved and new trains are being introduced. Our goal is the Germany timetable, which will provide cities and regions with regular and reliable services.

We will continue to work hard to renovate the rail network, which we found to be in a state of disrepair, and expand it as necessary. We also want to expand capacity for rail freight transport, for example in combined transport, and promote the shift from road transport to rail.

For equal living conditions

Much of our country's strength lies in the rural regions. Some are home to companies that are world market leaders, others are characterized by unique natural treasures. They all have their own regional culture and local traditions. It is important to protect their diversity and improve the equality of living conditions.

In order for initiative, entrepreneurial spirit and energy to fully develop, a modern infrastructure is needed in every village, throughout the country. Renewable energies and climate protection can make a profit locally. The municipalities earn money from the local energy production from wind and solar power and thus gain their own financial flexibility. They decide for themselves whether the swimming pool is renovated or the community center is expanded. A state-of-the-art digital infrastructure is indispensable for economic innovation - just as it is for social participation. And that means: fiber optics in town and country and mobile communications without dead spots.

Digital standards can connect and strengthen regional economic cycles.

Everyone must be able to rely on good, accessible medical care everywhere in our country. Community health centers where doctors, nurses and therapists work under one roof can strengthen the range of services available in many regions.

Lively town centres and open community centres are often the prerequisite for voluntary commitment and strengthening coexistence. Lively regions are created by suitable framework conditions for coexistence and good infrastructure – also for young families and

^a Older people. We want to support and encourage them.

E. A NATURE THAT WE PROTECT **For an intact nature**

By restoring and protecting nature, we protect ourselves: today and in the future.

With the Natural Climate Protection Action Programme, we have tackled this task vigorously and have multiplied nature conservation funding in Germany. We want to consolidate this, expand it and develop it further in terms of content, thus increasing the funds for natural climate protection beyond 2028.

Europe has achieved a milestone: a law to restore nature. We will implement this on 20 percent of the land and sea by 2030. To this end, we will make areas available for the restoration of nature with a legal guarantee, because they are also in the overriding interest of society. We also want a boost for nature conservation: effective measures against further land consumption, unbureaucratic and faster designation of nature reserves and connected biotope networks and large-scale conservation areas based on the model of the East German large-scale conservation area program after reunification. Free-flowing rivers, near-natural streams and wild pastures play a central role in this and must be preserved or restored wherever possible. We reject the unnatural expansion of rivers, as is planned, for example, on the Middle Elbe or in the Oder Valley.

Our responsibility for particularly typical habitats such as the Wadden Sea, beech forests and We will protect orchards and particularly endangered species such as the wildcat or fire salamander through species protection programs and special protection measures. We will continue to strengthen the Federal Nature Conservation Fund.

In order to implement all this, more support is needed for civil society, especially in rural areas. The success of the action programme shows that the people and the community

People want more nature – it is the committed people and organizations on site that are very often the driving force behind nature and species conservation.

Two years ago in Montreal, the international community agreed on a global agreement for the protection of nature and biodiversity with ambitious goals - this is also a clear mandate for us to work for the preservation and restoration of intact ecosystems. We will implement these goals nationally with a binding National Biodiversity Strategy.

Where we have already achieved sustainable success through species protection, we are also open to pragmatic approaches to do justice to existing conflicting objectives. For example, by simplifying the rules for shooting wolves in problematic cases, we are increasing the acceptance of species protection as a whole.

Our forests are important for biodiversity and are allies in climate protection. At the same time, they are recreational areas and the basis for forestry use. But we are experiencing a second forest dieback. Climate change, drought and pest infestation have now led to forests emitting more CO₂ than they absorb. We will therefore plant near-natural forests with native and

preserve and restore tree species suitable for the location. In order to preserve the forest ecosystem, we rely on a modern Federal Forest Act that makes nature- and climate-compatible wood use the standard.

For a healthy environment

Increasing pollution and littering is, alongside the climate and biodiversity crisis, the third major challenge for the protection of our natural resources. With clean soil, fresh air and places to retreat where you can enjoy some peace and quiet,

We are committed to improving the quality of life. Whether it is dirty air or noise, we want to make the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) the legal standard for a healthy life in Germany and Europe. With a more preventive approach, we are bringing the protection of our soil into the 21st century.

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hundred. This means less toxic residues in the soil and an overall more considerate approach by all users in order to unleash the power of our soil.

Our aim is to effectively reduce packaging waste and stop the littering of the landscape and waterways. We will make plastics manufacturers contribute more to the environmental costs of their products. By 2045 at the latest, there should no longer be any avoidable packaging waste.

We want to make faster progress in reforming the European instrument for the safety of chemicals (REACH regulation). We support a risk-based approach that takes into account the interactions between chemicals. It is important to us to speed up the procedures and improve the possibilities for sanctions. We are paying particular attention to substances that cause long-term damage to humans and ecosystems, such as so-called perpetual chemicals. We want to quickly phase out their use wherever they can be easily replaced, and especially in consumer products.

The polluters should pay for the consequences of water pollution. To this end, we want to make the manufacturers of substances that are hazardous to water more accountable. We want to counteract the pollution of rivers and seas through wastewater management, reduce nutrient inputs and successfully conclude negotiations for an international plastics agreement. We are also protecting the seas by ending oil and gas extraction in the North and Baltic Seas by 2035. We want to promote technology that enables the recovery of old munitions in the North and Baltic Seas and the environmentally friendly removal of waste from the sea.

For clean water and living seas

Clean water is central to our health, our quality of life and the functioning of our ecosystems. Pollution and the climate crisis threaten our water resources. We ensure that we continue to have clean drinking water,

that agriculture is supplied and our rivers, lakes and seas remain intact.

With the National Water Strategy, we have presented a master plan for how we can achieve these goals. We want to create the financial and human resources conditions so that we can implement them effectively - together with the states, but also beyond our national borders.

We want to restore the natural water balance. To do this, we want to use and design cities and landscapes in such a way that they can absorb water, store it and release it again when needed. By charging fair fees, especially for intensive users, we want to steer use and encourage companies to save water.

The vulnerable ecosystems of our seas need special protection – that is why we are developing an ambitious marine strategy and thereby creating real refuges for schools of fish and

Marine mammals. Nature is to remain completely untouched in one tenth of the German North and Baltic Seas, while new protection rules will also preserve marine life in the remaining waters.

We continue to campaign for a moratorium on deep-sea mining worldwide. The income from the sale of marine fuels for wind turbines should continue to flow directly into marine conservation - in this way we combine environmentally friendly power generation with the protection of the oceans.

We feel particularly committed to protecting the Wadden Sea. The Wadden Sea is one of the most bioproductive ecosystems in the world. It is not only a habitat for porpoises and seals,

but also an irreplaceable source of food for numerous migratory bird and fish populations.

This natural treasure must not be destroyed by gas drilling around Borkum.

F. A FUTURE-PROOF AGRICULTURE

For strong farmers

In order to ensure food security in the long term, we need crisis-proof companies that can adapt to changes and are a reliable partner in protecting the natural resources. On the way to a future-proof agriculture, we rely on the commitment, entrepreneurial spirit and knowledge of farmers.

Agriculture receives a lot of financial support, especially the money from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It must become the financial basis for the protection of natural resources. For us, the following applies to the upcoming redesign from 2027: Services.

- ° public funds for
- ° public

The competitive position of farmers compared to other actors in the value chain should be strengthened. That is why we are introducing the requirement to purchase at cost-covering prices along the entire food chain and anchoring binding written contracts in the Agricultural Organizations and Supply Chain Act. We want an antitrust review to ensure fair producer prices and competition in the oligopolistic food trade.

The rewetting of moors is an important contribution to climate protection. We will therefore shape the framework conditions in such a way that agricultural areas become more economically attractive through rewetting. We are promoting additional earning opportunities for farmers, for example by expanding agri-photovoltaics and strengthening the use of hemp and reed as insulation in the construction sector. And we are supporting companies in gaining a foothold in new, innovative markets such as alternative and plant-based proteins.

Animal owners in Germany need an answer to changing consumer habits

and the steadily declining consumption of meat, which is taking place for reasons of animal ethics, health, environmental and climate policy. A good premise for both companies and animals is: keep fewer animals better. To this end, we have promoted the conversion of pig barns to animal-friendly husbandry more strongly than any other federal government before. We are committed to ensuring that there are sufficient funds in the next legislative period to improve the living conditions for all animal species. We have introduced husbandry labeling for pork, thus enabling consumers to make an informed purchasing decision. We will also extend this labeling to other animal species and to out-of-home catering. We will exempt small catering establishments.

Regional products are also in demand among more and more consumers. That is why we want to bring agricultural businesses together with regional food artisans - for example by promoting regional value chains.

For the natural foundations of our nutrition

The effects of global warming, insect extinction and our treatment of healthy soil are key challenges for our food security. Future-proof agriculture faces these challenges. This requires not only more appreciation but also sufficient value creation. We will actively reduce unnecessary bureaucracy without reducing necessary standards in environmental and consumer protection.

This requires the most economical and careful use of pesticides and fertilizers possible.

Pesticide use is to be halved across the EU by 2030 in order to implement the EU Farm to Fork strategy. We are focusing on innovation, digitalization and income-generating

Rewards for environmental services. And we rely on market-based solutions such as a pesticide tax, which is effective and unbureaucratic. We also create enough protected refuges for nature. We bring agroforestry systems out of the

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niche and into the area. We support farmers in growing trees and arable crops
In doing so, they contribute to protecting soil and biodiversity.

An important role in protecting natural resources is played by environmentally friendly^o organic farming.
production methods that have an advantage over production methods that have a strong environmental impact. We therefore support them and continue to work towards the goal of 30 percent organic farming by 2030.

We also need to be more careful with valuable agricultural land. To do this, we are introducing priority land for food production in planning law. When it comes to biomass, we are focusing on careful cascade and multiple use. Overused and damaged soils are a threat to healthy nutrition. They store less water and lose important nutrients. We want to prevent this with a new soil protection law.

For good nutrition

Everyone can decide for themselves what they want to eat. But not everyone can eat the way they would like. This is also a social issue: where people are socially disadvantaged, diet-related illnesses are particularly common. That is why we want to shape the framework in such a way that freedom of choice in food is improved.

To achieve this, we are building on the Federal Government's nutrition strategy "Good Food for Germany" and creating a better nutritional environment. We are paying particular attention to communal catering - from daycare centers to canteens to care facilities. We will also protect children from advertising for unhealthy foods and ban flavors for e-cigarettes from the market, which entice young people in particular to consume them. In addition, soft drinks with a high sugar content contribute significantly to overweight, obesity and secondary diseases. In the interests of child and youth protection in particular, we are committed to effective measures to reduce the sugar content of soft drinks.

And we will continue to work to ensure that less and less food that is still good is thrown away. We therefore want the rescue and distribution of food to become standard.

For improved animal welfare

For us, animal welfare is a question of attitude. The animals that we use, slaughter and eat should not suffer. This begins with breeding and ends with husbandry. We want to promote the breeding of animals that do not suffer and end cruel breeding. This includes turkeys, whose breast meat is so quickly
growing so large that they can no longer stand on their feet and dogs that can barely breathe.

Cruelty to animals should be punished decisively. We want all people who keep animals to have access to the necessary knowledge. Since animals cannot enforce their rights themselves, we are committed to better legal and political representation of their interests. To achieve this, an animal welfare officer - this office was created in this legislative period - must be made mandatory and a collective right of action must be introduced for recognized animal welfare organizations.

Most animals in Germany are kept in agricultural facilities, many of which still have too little space and are not kept in conditions that are appropriate for the animals. That is why we are committed to ensuring that fewer animals are kept in better conditions, that they can move around freely and live their natural lives.

We want to effectively limit the duration of animal transport to four hours across Europe,

Ban ports from the EU and prevent ways of circumventing them through new transit countries.
We want to improve slaughter methods in the interests of animal welfare.

We want to reduce animal testing and replace it – wherever possible – with innovative, animal-free methods. This will also strengthen Germany as a modern research location.

Animal shelters nationwide are at their limits; they need better financial support and relief.

Illegal animal trade harms animals and creates health risks for humans and is

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therefore ended. Wild animals belong in the wild and not in circuses, they should not be offered on commercial online sites and wildlife exchanges. We want to end commercial imports of wild animals.

CHAPTER 2

JUST BE THERE

FAIR AND AFFORDABLE

The strength of our country is based on the fact that all people can contribute and develop with confidence. That their performance, their experience and their skills count for something and that their efforts are worthwhile. The strength of our country is based on the people who tackle things every day, in factories and offices, in hospitals and nursing homes, in daycare centers and universities.

It is about transforming the current uncertainty into a new sense of security. Because many people feel overwhelmed: rising rents and living costs are making life almost unaffordable for many. Too few daycare staff and places, the time-consuming search for a doctor's appointment or lengthy administrative procedures make life exhausting and complicated. People want to create, build something for themselves, provide for their families, using their own strength. They deserve good conditions for this. Everyone must be able to rely on the state to provide the institutions that support them.

A good education system is the key to a good future for our country in several respects. This is where individual freedom, the opportunity for personal self-determination and social participation develop. Education determines the life chances of young people: This begins fundamentally with kindergarten and extends to training or university studies - and must not end there. And

This applies regardless of whether you work in trade, science, the service sector or industry later in life. Education also determines whether we can prepare our country for the demands of the new era.

We equip young people with skills that are indispensable in the new, digital and climate-neutral world of work. It is time to finally take this into account in federal politics - hand in hand with states and municipalities in a modern federalism. We are strengthening our education systems so that they can better serve children with a migration background and from socio-

° provide economically disadvantaged families with equal opportunities for participation and advancement.

Good work and fair wages are the basis for building something for yourself – in material security. Work is the place where people spend a lot of their lives, where they measure their contribution to society, where they express pride – or lose it. Bringing this pride into the

To support the future - in a society in which people can get involved, in which efforts are rewarded and the safety net works for everyone. That is our goal.

The question of housing is crucial for the circumstances of our lives. The choice of a job, the possibility of starting a family and the design of the social environment depend to a large extent on housing. Making it affordable is therefore a crucial social

Challenge. We accept it, effectively limit rents, facilitate construction and access to property.

We want people to have appropriate and straightforward social security that covers the basic things of a life in dignity. This applies to a good and solidarity-based health system that is there for everyone. This applies to a care system that is reliable and affordable and

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all people are able to reach old age with dignity. This is especially true for children and young people, whose future must not depend on the lottery of their social circumstances. It is true for people who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. And it is important to have social security in old age that recognises achievements and removes the fear of poverty.

A. STRONG PARTICIPATION: GOOD WORK, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, FAIR WAGES

Good work and fair wages are crucial for people to provide for themselves and their families that they can contribute and be proud of the prosperity they have achieved together. We want everyone to have access to good work: through good training, further education and training, through better integration into an inclusive labor market and by making it easier to take up work or by removing work bans.

Fair wages require a fair minimum wage so that performance is also recognized. In order to compensate for the inflation of recent years, we now need a minimum wage of initially 15 euros in 2025, which also applies to those under 18. This also corresponds to the requirements that must be met when implementing the European Union's (EU) minimum wage directive. And we need stronger collective bargaining. Because those who work according to a collective agreement earn more on average and under better working conditions. That is why we want to make it easier to declare collective agreements generally binding. By means of a collective bargaining law, we will generally award contracts to companies that pay^o Federal public contracts in according to a collective agreement.

Co-determination is democracy in action. It makes employees active participants in shaping their working environment. If employees can get involved, if

they can help shape their working conditions, then even in times of change,

processes build trust and acceptance. We will therefore strengthen co-determination in the company and expand it to include co-determination rights in matters of climate and environmental protection, qualification measures and equal opportunities in the company. We want to take decisive action against bogus self-employment, for example in platform companies, the misuse of work contracts and illegal work. In sectors affected by illegal work, we ensure that working hours are recorded digitally and in a way that is tamper-proof.

Equal pay for equal work of equal value: This slogan will become reality when women can put their right to equal pay into practice. That is why we will implement the EU Pay Transparency Directive quickly and fully. We want to make the rules more binding and easier to enforce, thereby effectively promoting equality. We are improving employment opportunities for women through equal pay and flexible working time models and through the right to return to full-time work. Good childcare is an essential prerequisite for the employment of all parents. It is important to us to make work and family more compatible and to distribute care work more fairly.

We want to gradually convert mini-jobs into employment subject to social insurance contributions, with exceptions for pensioners, schoolchildren and students. This is because they lead to

and in combination with the splitting of income between spouses, it becomes a part-time trap because it creates an incentive to work less and without social security. This also exacerbates the shortage of workers and poverty in old age. In order to increase salaries at the lower end using market-based means, we want to make salary offers in job advertisements fundamentally transparent.

For Affordable Housing

Affordable housing has become one of the most important social issues of our time. Unfortunately, the last legislative period failed to provide the necessary remedy.

People from all parts of society are faced with questions such as: Can I get a job in my place of residence?

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Start a family? Can I afford an apartment where I have a job offer? How can I live when I'm older? We want people in Germany to find affordable housing and not have to worry about staying in their homes. We need more apartments, smart and socially acceptable modernization and protection against excessive rent increases in existing properties.

About half of the people in our country live in rented accommodation and spend more and more money on it. The rent cap must be extended. It should also put a stronger limit on rent increases above the local comparative rent. To do this, we want to significantly extend the period of observation for determining the comparative rent. We also want to apply the rent cap to apartments that are more than five years old. And we will close loopholes, for example when apartments are not offered at fair prices but at an overpriced price as furnished apartments or holiday homes. We also want to allow a regional stop to rent increases above the local comparative rent for very tight housing situations. In existing rental relationships, including with graduated and index rents, we will ensure that people are not driven out of their apartments by very sharp rent increases.

Homelessness should not occur in a rich country like Germany - having your own home is an important prerequisite for a life of dignity and for social participation. With the Housing First approach, we can place homeless people directly into their own apartments.

We want to better protect tenants, especially against the misuse of terminations due to personal use or rent arrears. Many people are interested in exchanging their apartment because their living circumstances have changed. This would allow living space to be used more effectively. We want to support people in these plans by removing legal hurdles and adapting and making funding instruments more flexible.

Having your own house or apartment gives you security and freedom. That's why we want to make it easier for people to have their own home. We want to encourage people to buy their own home and modernize empty apartments and convert them into affordable housing. We are reducing the additional costs such as broker and notary fees. A housing subsidy, the amount of which increases with inflation and includes a climate component, also makes it easier for people with low incomes to gain access to home ownership.

If tenants want to take over their home together, for example through a cooperative, we want to support this in an unbureaucratic way through favorable loans or guarantees.

For fast, affordable and climate-friendly construction

Where there is a lack of living space, we want to create the framework conditions for rapid, inexpensive and climate-friendly construction.

This requires a realistic strategy. The best way is to use existing potential: add floors to existing buildings, convert unused office space into living space,

Expand attics and reactivate empty buildings. Several million apartments could be made available in this way. There is no need to lay new infrastructure, which makes building easier and cheaper. This has often failed so far due to legal hurdles and bureaucracy. We want to use this potential. To do this, we will simplify building regulations, digitize procedures and harmonize them nationwide - all forms of building will benefit from this. We will reduce excessive requirements for building standards to a reasonable level. We want to make it easier for the renovation of apartments to be combined with the addition of a storey or extension.

Housing and construction must not be an object of speculation. Tax loopholes in real estate transactions, such as share deals, must therefore be closed. Instead, we are strengthening the right of first refusal of municipalities. Supporting social and non-profit housing

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We are doing this by increasing federal funding for social housing. We want to provide special support to non-profit and cooperative housing companies. We want to further strengthen the new non-profit housing sector.

Climate-friendly construction and renovation not only benefits the climate, it also reduces future housing costs. To ensure that these positive effects also reach tenants, we want to provide clear incentives for landlords to actually use available space. There are many ways to do this: sometimes it is new technologies, sometimes it is a return to proven building traditions that provide the key. The circular economy in construction is also crucial so that construction waste can be avoided, raw materials can be conserved and materials can be reused. We are reducing regulations that stand in the way of this. To make it easier to finance climate-friendly renovations, we want to make it easier to recognize renovated buildings as taxonomy-compliant. Comfortable, inexpensive and climate-friendly construction requires technical and legal innovations

– it also enables new forms of coexistence. As a society, we should try out this new interaction in a straightforward manner using the real-world laboratory tool and learn from it.

For a fair tax system

Germany is a wealthy country. Many people are doing well. But there are also those who can hardly afford anything other than rent and food. These people have suffered particularly from the inflation of the past few years. And the prosperity in our society

is unequally distributed. The richest one percent of Germans own more wealth than 90 percent of society combined.

In particular, when it comes to the concentration of very high levels of wealth, there is a great need for action in Germany, even in international comparison. The following options are available to address these major gaps in justice: a global billionaire tax, a fairer inheritance tax, fair property taxation without loopholes or a national wealth tax. We want to

Goals of bringing together justice, financing of the common good and the preservation of companies, their investment opportunities and their jobs.

This is anything but easy, but we want to finally achieve something. That is why we are focusing on the following measures: effectively addressing the inheritance tax exemptions for exceptionally large inheritances, actively campaigning for the introduction of the global billionaires tax and closing other obvious gaps in justice in the tax system, especially in real estate taxation such as share deals and the gap in the taxation of

labor and capital income.

In order to reduce the bureaucratic and financial burden on employed people, we will increase the employee allowance in the income tax return. We want to increase it to 1,500 euros. This will mean that more than half of employees will no longer have to collect receipts for their tax return. Those who have higher expenses can declare them in their tax return as usual.

In order to provide targeted and unbureaucratic relief for low incomes in particular, we are introducing tax credits. This is one building block for increasing work incentives in the citizen's income system.

We are providing relief to single parents through a tax credit. We are increasing the basic tax allowance.

We will integrate the solidarity surcharge into the income tax tariff.

B. A GOOD EDUCATION FOR GOOD OPPORTUNITIES

For good and reliable daycare centers

Good daycare centers and all-day education are the crucial foundation for the future of our children.

A good and reliable childcare infrastructure with a strengthened educational offering offers children equal opportunities from the start and enables parents to better combine family and work. A benefit for our society as a whole.

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Unfortunately, our country is far from living up to this expectation. There is a shortage of daycare places in large parts of the country. Where parents manage to get a place for their children, operations are regularly restricted or closed down completely due to a shortage of staff. There is already a shortage of educators, and we know that many are already working at or beyond their limits.

That is why we invest in good daycare centers and in recruiting educators and support staff. We are also committed to tuition-free training, part-time recognition procedures, faster recognition of foreign qualifications and more flexible further training and retraining. Because only if sufficiently well-qualified specialists have enough time for their work can our daycare centers provide long-term education and care at a high pedagogical level.

With the Daycare Quality Act, the federal government is currently investing around 2 billion euros in good daycare centers. We are continuing on this path by legally establishing nationwide quality standards in the daycare sector and by increasing federal investments

Increase and consolidate investment in early childhood education. We are paying particular attention to daycare centers with a high proportion of socio-economically disadvantaged children. We want to provide special support there. And we will introduce tax incentives for companies that create daycare places themselves or in cooperation, so that employees' children can be looked after in the immediate vicinity of their workplace.

For strong schools with strong children

Schools are, alongside the family, the centre of young people's lives. This is where their personality develops, where they live and laugh. It is therefore so important that everyone feels they belong there and are accepted. Schools also enable children and young people to shape their own self-determined and sustainable future. Therefore, every young person has the

deserves the best education – regardless of origin or place of residence.

We in the Federal Government have given the starting signal for an educational awakening: As the largest

As the first federal-state school program in the history of our country, we have jointly provided a powerful boost for greater educational equity with the Start-Up Opportunities Program worth 20 billion euros.

But our country needs much more: a joint education initiative to reach even more schools, children, young people and adolescents. With a "future investment program for education" we want to work hand in hand with states and municipalities nationwide to ensure more opportunities and generational equity.

In this way, we ensure modern and barrier-free school buildings with airtight roofs, functioning toilets and digitally equipped classrooms. We create more positions for school social work, school psychology and inclusion. We strengthen the skills and achievements of children and place an emphasis on the acquisition of basic skills that are essential for a successful educational path. We promote digital skills, media skills, education for sustainable development and political education. We see the digitization of our schools as an ongoing task for the federal, state and local governments, in which we will continue to invest. Just like in the expansion of good all-day education and care offerings.

This support should go where it is most needed. Instead of just funding according to the Königstein key based on population size and financial strength, we want to align funding more closely with actual needs. We need closer cooperation between the federal government and the states in education policy. Where constitutional restrictions currently prevent reliable and necessary investment in education, we will agree on common goals and viable solutions with the states in order to successfully overcome the major challenges in the education system together and also talk about new joint tasks in the Basic Law.

We will also place a special emphasis on language acquisition. Because language is the key to success. We want to achieve

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that all children can read, write and do arithmetic confidently at the end of primary school, because only those who understand and master the German language can participate in lessons and the community, develop and learn. Language development must therefore be designed as a continuous process that begins in the nursery and continues in school.

For a good education that is open to all

Our country needs further energetic steps to attract more skilled workers - in industry and trades as well as in daycare centers, schools and nursing. This is the only way we can cope with the necessary restructuring of the economy and demographic change. However, apprenticeships often remain unfilled and vacancies cannot be filled. And yet 2.9 million young people in Germany today have no professional qualifications.

A good education is an attractive promise for the professional future of young people. On the way there, we are creating good financial and legal conditions for trainees.

We will increase the attractiveness of training by significantly increasing the minimum training allowance. We also want to encourage trainees to obtain a driver's license and find a solution for a trainee Germany ticket. With a solidarity training levy, we will ensure financial compensation in order to encourage small and medium-sized companies to provide training. To support the skilled trades, we will continue to increase funding for inter-company apprentice training. We will also strengthen training associations in order to increase the number of suitable positions for trainees and companies.

We are improving career guidance for young people and providing information where young people are, especially in schools. This requires the active involvement of training companies and universities, parents and role models from vocational training. More practical offers can help to broaden horizons for career choices.

Vocational training or a degree course equally paves a strong path to a professional future. We do not want financial reasons or social background to decide which of the two paths is taken. After the biggest update to the BAfo G in this legislative period, we are now making it future-proof for studies and vocational training: The BAfo G should ensure a living, even with rising living costs. We are increasing the allowances for parental income and, if you want to become a master craftsman, we are reforming the advancement BAfo G and enabling part-time receipt, the promotion of equivalent further training qualifications and a fully digitalized application process.

Open the BAfo G to more people. For employees who, for example,

In order to provide more affordable housing for trainees and students, we would like to continue to promote the construction of new dormitories through the "Young Living" program that we launched during the current election period.

We will expand literacy and basic education offerings and ensure that general continuing education is further strengthened as an important pillar of lifelong learning.

For a strong university and science landscape

Universities are places of education, science and research. They are the driving force of our society, developing ideas and solutions for the big and very concrete problems of our time. They are places of free and critical debate and productive friction, without which no scientific progress is possible. Good equipment and working conditions, gender equality and diversity guarantee fair access.

With an "Innovation Initiative Future Campus", we want to modernize lecture halls, laboratories and libraries, which are often dilapidated or outdated, together with the states and turn them into experimental spaces for sustainable, digital change. The existing federal-state pacts for

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We want to continue, further develop and specifically supplement higher education, science and research.

Adequate basic funding strengthens universities as places of education, good work and innovative research. If they are used correctly and cover the actual costs incurred, third-party funding can spark additional dynamism. In this context, we want to reduce and simplify bureaucracy so that scientists can concentrate on their actual work.

Good working conditions are crucial for fair, future-proof science.

We want to significantly reduce the proportion of temporary employees by defining scientific qualifications more narrowly and clearly as an objective reason, abolishing the collective bargaining freeze and, together with the states, guaranteeing more permanent positions in addition to professorships. We want to specifically promote women in science and counteract abuse of power and discrimination.

Even in times of increasing geopolitical tensions, we want to promote and simplify international scientific exchange, for example by issuing visas more quickly, strengthening intermediary organizations and providing better advice for universities and research institutions. We want to enable more people to participate in academic and professional exchanges through Erasmus+.

Scientific findings are the basis of responsible politics and it is also the task of politics to defend the freedom of science. We firmly oppose the disdain for entire research fields such as climate or gender research.

strengthen scientific communication and protect those affected from hostility.

C. IN THE MIDDLE OF LIFE – IN EVERY PHASE OF LIFE

For strong families

Rising rents and energy costs, changing demands in the world of work, the fear of not

to keep up - these worries affect families particularly. And the lack of childcare in many places is an additional burden. All families should therefore be able to rely on good and supportive conditions that suit their lives. This requires financial support that supports families and provides security in difficult phases of life.

Child benefit and child allowance are the basis for supporting families. With the largest increase in child benefit in the past 30 years and the introduction of the immediate child supplement, we were able to provide targeted relief to millions of families at the height of inflation. In the future, we will link the increase in child benefit to the regular increase in the child allowance and ensure that all children receive the same level of financial support.

– no matter how much their parents earn.

When starting family life, many couples already set the course for the later division of tasks. If parents divide their parental leave fairly, this often continues later in the

We are therefore making parental allowance more attractive and creating incentives for a more equal distribution of benefits. We want to increase the minimum and maximum amounts, which have remained unchanged since the introduction of parental allowance, to 400 and 2,400 euros respectively.

We will give fathers or co-mothers the opportunity to take time off work for the first two weeks after the birth of a child with a wage replacement benefit. This will enable parents to start family life together. By introducing staggered maternity protection, we want to better support women who suffer a miscarriage if they so wish.

For self-employed women, the leap into starting a family is often associated with a particular risk. But they also need security and protection when starting a family. We are committed to ensuring that self-employed women are also financially protected in the weeks surrounding the birth through maternity allowance. In future, self-employed women will also be required to participate in the levy funding provided for this purpose.

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Even beyond 2025, parents will be able to receive child sickness benefit for 15 days each, and single parents for 30 days.

Single and separated families live in a variety of constellations. Many single parents juggle childcare, work and household and can barely make ends meet financially. We want to reduce the tax burden of single parents by introducing an allowance and only counting half of their child benefit towards their maintenance advance. In this way, we will relieve the burden on single parents and

their children. We want to improve job market opportunities, especially for young single parents with small children - with legal entitlements to advice and training measures. If a child grows up in a separated family with both parents, we want to take the so-called additional contact requirement into account in tax and social law.

For the participation of the youngest – against child poverty

Child poverty means exclusion, discrimination and poorer educational opportunities. One in five children in Germany lives in poverty or is at risk of poverty. We are firmly convinced that it should not matter in which home a child grows up or where it comes from.

With the broader initiative we have initiated, we ^o public debate about child poverty in Germany have managed to ensure that more families than before are able to access the benefits they are entitled to, such as child benefit.

actually apply for and receive the allowance. Millions of families were also able to enjoy the largest increase in child benefit in the past 30 years and the introduction of the immediate child allowance.

However, since our social benefits are still not being used by all those entitled to them, they must become simpler, more digital, more citizen-friendly and more transparent. This applies in particular to the existing child supplement and the education and participation benefits. The aim of the basic child benefit is therefore clear: we want to bundle benefits, further streamline application procedures and

constantly automate so that children and their families actually receive the benefits they are entitled to. Parents must be informed of their entitlements from the very beginning, when their child is born. Our goal is to provide help from a single source, so that every family has just one central point of contact for federal, state and local benefits for families, which can be reached both digitally and locally. Applications and payments should be made as a flat rate and automated as possible and cost-effectively in order to facilitate access. Overcoming different legal systems and responsibilities at the various levels of government must take place automatically in the background.

We also want to use this approach as a template for the further modernization of our welfare state. The various social benefits must be better coordinated and interlinked. To achieve this, we want to create the necessary legal and technical foundations.

In addition to modernising the administration, we also want to recalculate the socio-cultural subsistence level for children and ease the burden on single parents when it comes to calculating maintenance and income.

For a good start for the young generation

During the pandemic, young people have acted responsibly and in solidarity with older and more vulnerable parts of our society, have given up their freedoms and have felt the great challenges of the past few years particularly acutely. That is why we are paying particular attention to making the younger generation heard, supporting and relieving them, strengthening their rights and expanding their opportunities for participation.

In recent years, many local child and youth work offerings have disappeared.

This has resulted in important meeting places being lost, particularly in rural areas. With a special program, we want to support municipalities over ten years in creating structures for children and young people.

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and to build up and strengthen youth work. We want to increase the resources of the children and youth plan and the so-called early help.

We want to provide targeted support to migrant youth associations and promote multilingualism as a valuable skill, thereby offering young people fair opportunities and participation regardless of their origin or residence status.

The mental health of young people has deteriorated in recent years. We take this seriously. The mental health coaches and their group offerings at secondary schools have created important contact points, which we want to expand. Proven contact points such as the Helpline and other advice centers need to be financially equipped to meet their needs.

It is important that we design improvements for young people together with young people and involve them more. So that young people can effectively contribute their ideas and rights and

We want to strengthen participation bodies such as children's and youth parliaments, especially at the local level. We want to work across party lines to

To finally write children's rights into the constitution and to lower the voting age to 16 at the federal level.

With the inclusive child and youth welfare services in SGB VIII, we ensure that all children and young people with and without disabilities have a central point of contact and are supported holistically and individually. We want to better support young people who leave youth welfare services in the transition to adult life and promote measures to support them during their training.

Young people also have the right to special protection. Protection and decisive action against sexual violence are particularly important. We will strengthen the existing structures for child and youth protection and think about measures from the child's perspective - through uniform child protection standards, legally regulated minimum standards for experts, a

legal basis for the work of the Independent Commissioner for Child Sexual Abuse, prosecution by the police online and offline, better reporting points and targeted deletion of images of abuse, as well as prevention in schools, youth welfare and families.

For an active and self-determined life in old age

Older people are in the prime of life - today more than ever. Older people are important pillars in our society. They share their time, experience and wisdom in countless clubs, neighborhood meetings and initiatives and contribute through their voluntary work. Grandparents help with childcare and in many families ensure that children and work can be combined well. We value and support that.

We want to expand engagement structures for older people so that those who have previously found it more difficult to get involved can also get involved. And we are making it easier for people to make the self-determined transition from working life to retirement by making transitions more flexible and investing in prevention and rehabilitation measures. This is also an important contribution to combating loneliness in old age. In recent years, we have succeeded in removing the taboo subject of loneliness. With the national strategy against loneliness, we are also involving states, municipalities and associations.

Multi-generational houses are important meeting places for young and old and ensure cohesion and community, which we want to support. But we also want to promote multi-generational living, which aims to enable several generations to live together.

We are ^a Older people can use the diverse possibilities of the digital world, work therefore also working on structures that can impart or renew digital knowledge. With measures such as With the Digital Pact for Age, we ensure that older people can continue to participate independently and actively in social life for a long time.

D. PROTECTED IN EVERY PHASE OF LIFE

For good healthcare everywhere

Many people today remain active well into old age. At the same time, older people are often dependent on treatment and care. This presents us with a double challenge: we need specialists to provide appropriate care and dignified nursing. And we have to shoulder the increased costs without the insured having to bear too great a burden.

We want patients to receive optimal care at the right time and in the right place, instead of spending a long time searching for treatment appointments and waiting for them. wait. That is why we want to strengthen primary care, especially by family doctors, in order to achieve better quality of treatment.

We want to provide greater support to underserved areas. The distribution of established doctors must be more closely linked to the hospital planning of the states. We want to overcome the existing separation of the financing systems for outpatient and inpatient care in order to promote better cooperation and coordination. Through regional associations (health regions) and joint care centers in which various therapy and

By bringing together nursing professions under one roof, we ensure good care locally. And we want to take measures to reduce inadequate and excessive care.

We want to relieve contracted doctors of unnecessary bureaucracy and increase the proportion of consultation hours for those with statutory insurance so that patients can get appointments more quickly.

We will improve the hospital reform, implement it together with the states and have not only the statutory but also the private insurance companies contribute to the costs. We will implement a good hospital reform together.

Our top priority is to ensure that everyone in our country has quick access to hospitals and the best possible basic care. We want to reform emergency care, the rescue service and the financing of pharmacies with a view to providing good, comprehensive and efficient care. We want to increase the skills of the health professions and thus achieve a better division of labour and cooperation on an equal footing. We also want attractive working conditions for midwives in obstetrics, especially in hospitals.

In rural regions - especially in eastern Germany - the average age has risen continuously in recent years. We must respond to this. We are therefore creating additional programs for community health nurses, formerly known as community nurses, and "medicine on wheels". We also want to make further progress in digitization in the healthcare system. Unnecessary bureaucracy, which could now be run digitally and more efficiently, must be reduced and the benefit for patients increased, also through the use of artificial intelligence. We have improved the use of data for research and care and will continue down this path.

For reliable and dignified care

All people in need of care should receive the care they need, whether from professionals or close friends, whether at home or in a facility. We want people to be able to rely on being treated with dignity when they need care. We want to promote services in the neighborhood, i.e. locally, and thus also prolong the need for care.

For us, it is important that care becomes affordable again. It is unworthy of a welfare state if people at the end of a long working life are dependent on social assistance because of their need for care.

We have increased the benefits of the care insurance and are continuing to provide urgently needed relief for those in need of care.

We want to improve the situation of people who are themselves relatives or close persons

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care. A task that can be fulfilling, but also takes energy and time, and without which the care of people in need of care in Germany would not be possible. Anyone who reduces their own working hours to provide care needs financial support in the form of a temporary compensation for lost income. The service should be designed in such a way that several people can share the care. Professional leave should be better and more flexible. We want to improve access to day care and expand the range of services available.

People in need of care should be able to access and combine care, therapeutic services or support with household management more flexibly than before, for example in the form of a care budget.

Nursing staff need working conditions that enable them to care for their patients. We want to win back skilled workers who have left their jobs due to overwork with a return offensive. Hundreds of thousands were prepared to do so if the working conditions improved - this also includes a better balance between family and work. We want to use this potential through advice, the further implementation of higher staffing ratios, more skills for the nursing profession and better opportunities for advancement. We want to improve the training conditions and standardize them for nursing assistants. And we want to reduce documentation obligations and bureaucracy in nursing to a minimum so that nursing staff have time again for what they chose their profession for: people.

For a solidarity-based health and care insurance

Our health and care system is there to heal sick people and to care for those in need. In recent years, however, many costs have been passed on to the insurance companies that should have been financed from tax revenue. We want to reverse this trend and relieve the insured and employers of non-insurance-related services. To this end,

heard that we finance the pension contributions of caring relatives or the contributions

for recipients of citizen's allowance, it should be financed more appropriately by the state. This also leaves more money in the system to invest in good health and care.

In times of rising care costs and insurance premiums, we must also ensure that

° Public and contribution-funded money stays in the care and works for the people. We

want to limit the influence of financial investors on our health and care provision.

That is why we want to ° Strengthen public and non-profit organizations and ensure affordable and ensure fairer health and nursing care.

We are committed to financing health and care in our society in a way that is more reliable and fairer than the status quo.

The basis for this is a fair participation of all insured persons in the financing. On the way to a citizen's insurance, we will include not only those with statutory health insurance but also those with private insurance in the solidarity-based financial equalization of the

In the area of nursing care, too, we want to ensure that everyone contributes fairly to the financing of the risk of care on the way to a citizen's insurance scheme with a balance between statutory and private nursing care insurance. In this way, insured persons with financially strong shoulders contribute more to the financing of care and health than those without.

people who only have low incomes. We will reform the assessment of contributions and, for example, also use capital income to finance our health and care system. In this way, we will also protect wages and salaries from higher contributions. In order to better protect voluntarily insured, low-earning or part-time self-employed people, we will reform the minimum assessment limit in statutory health insurance.

We will strengthen freedom of choice for civil servants.

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For a forward-looking health policy

A healthy society requires preventive policies that address the causes of disease

We want to pursue prevention and health promotion as a cross-cutting task in all policy areas. We want to strengthen the service and, above all, to help people in socio-economically disadvantaged circumstances in ° public health

take a look.

Mental health is a foundation for quality of life and physical health. It is unreasonable that many people in a mental crisis have to wait months for therapeutic help. We therefore propose a federal-state pact for mental health. All people, especially children and young people, should have low-threshold access to

tailored psychosocial and therapeutic services. We will expand therapy places, counseling structures and the training of specialist staff.

In view of the increasing number of people affected by ME/CFS and Long Covid, projects to research the causes and care must be adequately funded and promoted. Those affected have often been stigmatized for far too long - we want to ensure the best possible care based on the latest scientific findings.

We want to better prepare our health system for epidemics, major disasters and military threats. This includes, for example, the stockpile of medicines and medical products and regular disaster prevention exercises. We also want to further strengthen the health service. ° public

With the Cannabis Act, we have placed the protection of health, young people and consumers at the centre and are focusing on reason instead of criminalisation. This change in drug policy, which focuses on the ability to deal with risks independently,

We want to continue. We are committed to the goal of selling cannabis in licensed specialist shops.

and are committed to this at European and international level, also in order to further curb the black market and organized crime. In view of the enormous quantities of cocaine, crack and synthetic opioids that arrive in many German cities, we will strengthen the resources of the police and customs authorities, also with a view to combating the underlying structures of organized crime. At the same time, we want to expand the range of prevention, therapy and harm reduction services so that people do not become addicted in the first place or can be helped better if they are addicted.

For a future-proof and dignified pension

The security of their retirement provision is a crucial anchor of stability for many people, especially in times of crisis. The people of this country should be able to rely on stable pensions.

applies today and tomorrow, for current and future generations, and therefore also and especially for those who are now paying into their pension fund. At the same time, we will distribute the costs of demographic change fairly across the generations. Those who have been insured for many years in the statutory pension insurance system can expect an adequate pension in old age, so we will keep the statutory pension level at at least 48 percent.

The best means of ensuring reliable retirement provision and the lowest possible pension contribution rate are good wages and a broad base of those who pay into the pension. That is why we promote employment subject to social insurance contributions and, in particular, improve employment opportunities for women through equal wages, good childcare, flexible working time models, the right to return to full-time work and a fair distribution of care work. Through qualified immigration, we strengthen our economic power and increase contributions in

the pension. And we are creating incentives to ° Older employees are healthier and have longer working lives keep them. To do this, we are also investing in prevention and rehabilitation measures and enabling flexible transitions into old-age pensions. To strengthen pensions, we will also raise the minimum wage

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and reduce precarious employment, especially mini-jobs.

In order to make the pension system fairer and future-proof, we want the first step towards a citizen's insurance to be for MPs and, in the future, civil servants to pay into the statutory pension scheme, while retaining the alimony principle. We also want to include self-employed people who are not otherwise insured under fair conditions.

We are sticking to the retirement age of 67. But we are creating incentives and making it easier for people easier to work longer if they want to, even beyond the normal retirement age. We are therefore creating a more flexible transition to part-time retirement and benefits so that continuing to work alongside receiving a pension is even more worthwhile. In return, we will pay the employer's contribution to unemployment and pension insurance to employees if they decide not to make voluntary contributions to pension insurance.

We are creating the basis for the necessary supplementary capital cover in the statutory pension insurance system - by means of loans from the federal budget and the transfer of own funds from the federal government. To do this, we are introducing a system that takes sustainability criteria into account and is ^o publicly managed Citizens' Fund, which aligned with the 1.5-degree target of the Paris Climate Agreement. The Citizens' Fund will also invest in European and German start-ups and growth companies. We will use the resulting income to strengthen low and medium pensions, which will particularly support women and people in eastern Germany.

In addition, we want more people than before to benefit from private pension provision. For this, too, we are using the Citizens' Fund, which offers cost-effective access to the advantages of the capital market. To do this, we will increase the allowances for small savers, adjust them dynamically to inflation and focus on income. Anyone who does not want to participate can object. The Citizens' Fund ^o Public subsidy claim on low and medium

^o open

We also see this as a fair and transparent way for company pension schemes, so that even more employees, especially those in small and medium-sized companies, can benefit from company pensions.

We also support people with low incomes to acquire adequate pension entitlements and thus avoid poverty in old age. We will develop the basic pension into a guaranteed pension after 30 years of insurance, which will include significantly more people than before and financially better off. Income from the Citizens' Fund can also contribute to financing this instrument.

People who have paid into the pension fund for a long time but can no longer work for health reasons deserve our solidarity and support. That is why we want to improve the disability pension. For those who have been insured for a particularly long time, we want to keep the so-called pension at 63, which particularly benefits those who have reached their limit after decades of demanding and physical work.

For reliable social security

In difficult times, we need a reliable welfare state that helps people when they are in need. Because everyone has the right to social participation, to a dignified life. That is why we have overcome Hartz IV and replaced it with the Citizen's Allowance. It protects against poverty and enables participation in our society. Instead of playing unemployed and working people off against each other, we support them and at the same time ensure that there is good and decent work. That means that those who work should have more. For us, reliable social security also includes increasing the minimum wage and reducing precarious employment. In this way, we strengthen people in times of change, provide security and open up prospects for a self-determined life.

We are committed to ensuring that people receive benefits that ensure their livelihood and participation until they are employed. Our goal is to help as many people

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We aim to lead them into reasonable work or self-employment as quickly as possible. We support them on the way there through qualification, training, further education and, above all, through quick and sustainable placement. We demand their active participation in this. We want to give employment agencies and job centers the tools to fulfil this task.

We are improving the incentives to take up work and creating work opportunities to bring people back into the labour market. If people need additional support despite having a job, it should be even more worthwhile for them to increase their working hours than before.

Everyone should have access to the state social security systems - regardless of whether they are self-employed or employed. For the self-employed, we are therefore simplifying the Access to voluntary unemployment insurance.

CHAPTER 3

SECURING PEACE IN FREEDOM

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

Our democracy is the foundation of our country. It focuses on what holds us together: freedom and human dignity. Our democracy is unity in diversity and it is resilient. It thrives on a common democratic culture as well as on strong institutions. And it thrives on a strong Europe.

Democracy comes from the citizens - and therefore has the power of cohesion. Liberal democracy means free competition for the best idea and solution - and therefore has the power to renew, the power to solve the pressing problems. It thrives on mutual care, on

Disputes in respect, about the willingness to compromise and form coalitions among democrats. In the face of the threats to our democracy, this is what matters: As a country, we must refocus on our democratic strength. Strengthening our democracy means keeping it alive internally. Strengthening democracy means tackling the pressing issues of the future now.

Our country knows its strength as a country of immigration that welcomes people and offers protection - united internally and connected to the world, contentious among democrats, but with a clear stance against discrimination. Our democracy unfolds its strength when all people can participate on an equal basis and have a say.

A strong democracy combines freedom and security. It is based on a legitimate constitutional state, an independent judiciary. It protects our rights and our freedoms.

It is protected by democrats – and at the same time by effective security authorities, committed police officers and strong civil protection.

For too long, we in Germany have believed that our security in Europe was a given. But our security is being attacked from both outside and inside, and both dimensions are increasingly intertwining. Security in the 21st century means that our armed forces are well equipped, and also that we protect our railway lines, ports and power lines, avoid supply bottlenecks, prevent cyber attacks and make our democracy resilient.

Security means making us more independent from authoritarian regimes like Russia or China.

To achieve this, we need a strong, united Europe. The European Union is the most successful peace project since the end of the Second World War. Where we were once separated by front lines and barbed wire, and later by walls and border posts, we are now united by our commitment to freedom, the rule of law and democracy. That is why we want to strengthen, expand and reform the EU.

As the largest and economically strongest country, we bear special responsibility for this.

We are working on strong global partnerships - for a world of peace and freedom, in which cooperation prevails over competition and war and the strength of the law triumphs over the right of the strongest. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the conflict in the Middle East, humanitarian emergencies such as in Gaza or Sudan, but also the climate crisis require the utmost attention.

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China's ambition to become a world power is also a challenge for international cooperation.

With the full power of diplomacy, we are opposing cooperation and a rules-based international order to the dangerous model of autocracy.

We are committed to future-proof multilateralism and partnerships, increasingly also in the Global South.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is also an attack on the European peace order – and thus on our foundation of peace, freedom, democracy and human rights. We must uphold these values in a strong Europe and

in a strong NATO. We think of security as being based on every individual, whose dignity and freedom are at the centre of our policy. That is why peace is more than the absence of war. Peace creates space for freedom and prosperity, participation and self-determination.

A. A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

For democratic cohesion

Cohesion arises where people come together, at work or at school, playing sport or music, working for good causes or celebrating together. Democracy can come alive in the village community center, on the football field or in churches, mosques or synagogues. This also includes cultural institutions such as theaters, cinemas, libraries or clubs, which provide space for new encounters and shared experiences or projects.

In order for us to live well together, streets, parks and train stations must not only be functional and clean, but also be safe for everyone. We create a community because ^o Public spaces where people like they have access and feel comfortable. Cultural venues, shops and restaurants are also part of this: we want to protect these places from displacement in commercial tenancy law.

Diverse media are central spaces for social exchange and for our democracy. This is where a common information platform is created - locally and with the whole world. This is where criticism is expressed and solutions are sought. That is why we must secure their future under the new conditions of digitalization. We are committed to a lively regional media landscape - and specifically promote local journalism. Smart support, coordinated with the states, aims to support the work of journalists, strengthens media diversity and protects functioning markets - also through non-profit approaches. At the same time, we are making the journalism profession more attractive and secure in order to attract well-trained young talent for the future.

We appreciate the contribution of the churches and of religious and ideological communities to democratic and social cohesion.

For a memory that keeps us awake

We must keep our memory alive – so that it keeps us and our democracy awake.

We bear responsibility for our history – also because it offers the chance for a good future

That is why good history teaching in schools is the foundation of our democracy. That is why we look after our places of remembrance - where we learn about the crime against humanity of the Shoah, but also about democratic awakenings and civic courage.

The mass crimes of National Socialism are a warning to us: never again! That is why it is important to provide the concentration camp memorial sites with sufficient resources. Especially after the disappearance of the contemporary witnesses, they are important places for conveying a critical awareness of history to future generations. That is why we want to make it possible for all schoolchildren to visit a Nazi memorial site once during their school years and also support this financially.

We are intensifying our work on antiziganism and the historical injustice resulting from it that those affected have experienced. In doing so, we are also explicitly addressing the ongoing

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Injustice after 1945. We will continue to investigate the crimes committed in German history against people with disabilities and compensate the victims appropriately.

We also want to develop and support new forms of remembrance. We are committed to the realization of the planned documentation center "Second World War and German Occupation" and the "German-Polish House" project. The confrontation with the GDR injustice

we will continue consistently and push forward the construction of the memorial for the victims of communist tyranny. The victims of the SED dictatorship are still suffering from the often serious consequences today and they must be better supported. We want to include victims of the GDR doping system in the circle of those entitled to benefits.

At the same time, we remember Germany's unique luck in having achieved the peaceful revolution, which is why we can now live in a united Germany in the heart of Europe. We want to support the Future Center for German Unity and European Transformation in Halle as a place of appreciation, exchange of experiences and research.

In the Federal Government, we have pushed forward the process of coming to terms with Germany's colonial past in dialogue with the countries concerned and want to bring this into society through a learning and remembrance centre and with the help of local initiatives.

We want to further prepare the German culture of remembrance for the reality of the immigration society
° open and permanently record the memory of the victims of right-wing violence.

For municipalities capable of taking action

State services must function – from medical transport to kindergartens. In the municipalities, it is immediately apparent whether the state is adequately fulfilling its duties and providing citizens with reliable services. If this task is successful, it strengthens people's trust in ° public infrastructure and social services. If democracy. The power of our

The country's responsibility lies primarily with the municipalities and the local people.

Currently, every second municipality is no longer able to finance necessary projects. Across the country, 186 billion euros are missing just to maintain and renovate municipal infrastructure, including roads, swimming pools, youth clubs, sports fields and cultural facilities. Through the Germany Fund, we are finally giving municipalities the opportunity to finance these urgently needed investments.

Many financially weak municipalities are stuck in a vicious circle. In order to give them a new perspective

We are committed to fair support for municipal debts. Tasks transferred to municipalities, such as the provision of rescue services, accommodation for refugees or youth social work, must be taken over entirely by the federal and state governments.

The municipalities should decide on local needs - not just the requirements from the capital cities. We have strengthened the opportunities for municipalities to benefit from energy projects and will continue to expand them. We will therefore continue to simplify funding programs for municipalities and design them according to clear rules. By making the funds available directly to the municipalities in the future and strengthening the untied municipal funds, the programs will be more closely aligned with the actual needs on site. We are expanding the funding database to ensure more transparency in the handling of funding.

For a strong democratic society

The foundation of our democracy is strong institutions and a vibrant civil society.

The shared support of our democracy depends on citizens who inform themselves and get involved. This opportunity requires time and resources – and is therefore also a question of justice. By reliably supporting democratic civil society, we strengthen our democratic culture. The protection of democracy is a central task of the state, which is why

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We want to safeguard programs such as “Live Democracy!” with a Democracy Promotion Act.

People who are involved in civil society or local politics are repeatedly the target of attacks and hostility. We all, the state and society, must protect these people better. Slander, defamation and threats must be punished more severely both in everyday local politics and on the Internet.

Political education is of crucial importance for democratic debate. In addition to the state centers, the Federal Agency for Civic Education plays an important role, and we want to strengthen its independence and impartiality. Political foundations also make an important contribution to political education work in our pluralistic democracy, as long as they stand on the common ground of our democratic basic order.

Citizen councils provide the opportunity to obtain the advice of people as “everyday experts” in a representative process. This also needs to be strengthened.

Anyone who permanently resides in Germany must have the opportunity to participate equally in elections, votes and all other democratic processes.

Therefore, as a first step, we want to introduce the right to vote in local elections for third-country nationals.

We are convinced that transparent and comprehensible politics strengthens the common good, and for this to happen, possible financial interests should be disclosed and waiting periods for departing government members should be increased. We stand for a strong parliament. We want to make parliamentary work and legislative procedures more transparent and lobby meetings of the government like in the European Commission visible. The meetings of the specialist committees should take place as a rule and be streamed. We ° public want to cap party donations and sponsorship with an annual maximum amount.

The systematic support of organisations to parties should be regulated more clearly so that the essential transparency rules for parties also apply to these organisations.

As long as there is no legal regulation, we apply the provisions of our donation code that go beyond the party law.

For the support of voluntary work

In Germany, almost 30 million people are involved in voluntary work. They are involved in sports clubs, organize cultural events or support neighborhood assistance. They are volunteer in the volunteer fire department or the Red Cross. Many young people decide to devote a year of their lives after school to serving society.

All this commitment from the people in our country is what makes our coexistence possible. It holds us together and strengthens our democratic community in diversity.

We therefore want to support commitment and recognise achievement. If expenses are paid to volunteers, they should be tax-free. Together with

We want to introduce a nationwide volunteer card in the states and municipalities to make visits to swimming pools and cultural institutions or the use of local public transport cheaper. We will also improve access^o public to voluntary work for people with low incomes, migration backgrounds or disabilities.

We want to establish a right to volunteer service and provide sufficient and reliable funding for places in the Federal Volunteer Service. Many people - young and old - want to get involved in volunteer service and we need to keep opening the doors for this. To do this, we also want to improve the conditions for volunteers.

Civil society organisations are responsible for the charitable work. We want to relieve their work of excessive bureaucracy.

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we are expanding the catalogue of charitable purposes. We will also clarify by law that charitable purposes can also be pursued through participation in politics and that organizations may occasionally make^o public opinion formation political statements outside of their charitable purpose.

For sport that connects

Sport is an outstanding pillar of social coexistence. Movement and sport connect people, create and convey regional identities and contribute to health.

Sport conveys basic values of democracy, tolerance and promotes integration.

We support a German bid for the Olympic and Paralympic Games because major sporting events must also have a future in the democratic countries of Europe. We want to show that human rights and sustainability goals must be an integral part of sports policy. We want to use an agency to effectively combat corruption in international sports associations and create more transparency.

By expanding the federal program to renovate sports facilities and swimming pools, we will strengthen popular sports and create good conditions for swimming instruction or training on site. We specifically promote the interests of girls and women as well as inclusion with our sports policy. With a national top-level sports strategy, we want to improve the support of competitive athletes and make the allocation of funds more transparent. We want

e-sports receives greater attention and recognition.

Sport depends on fair play – measures against doping and corruption in sport must be expanded and consistently enforced.

Fans are essential. That is why we want to support the work of fan support groups. Fan projects play an important role, particularly in the fight against right-wing extremism.

For good justice and an effective constitutional state

Trust in our constitutional state arises when the judiciary is able to act, makes quick decisions and enforces the law effectively. This requires enough judges and prosecutors, well-equipped courts and a decisive digitalization of the judiciary.

With a new edition of the Pact for the Rule of Law, we want to work together with the federal states to We want to continue modernizing our justice system. We want a nationwide online procedure for civil proceedings that works seamlessly from the complaint to the verdict. With the class action lawsuit, we want to make it possible for several plaintiffs to enforce similar claims together against a defendant and to relieve the civil courts in mass proceedings. Together with the states, we want to create more specialist public prosecutors' offices that specialize in complex legal fields. Environmental crime is becoming increasingly important and is an important field of activity for organised crime. We are tackling this with a national action plan.

We want to continue working to ensure that the interests of children as victims or witnesses are better taken into account in court.

The independence of the judiciary is a valuable asset. To protect it, we will make the ministerial right to issue instructions to public prosecutors transparent. Instructions must be free from political influence. A good judiciary must also be resilient against extremists.

We will therefore implement constitutional regulations to protect the judiciary from enemies of the constitution. is protected.

People should not end up in prison because they cannot pay small fines.

We are modernising criminal law with the aim of easing the burden on the judiciary. To this end, we want to examine which minor offences can be regulated outside of criminal law.

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We are making Europe a strong and common area of law. To this end, we are strengthening the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and harmonizing law on the basis of high constitutional principles.

For digital civil rights

Civil liberties and civil rights must also be enforced in the digital world. The rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI) create great opportunities, but also risks. We want to use AI within the framework of our shared values in order to leverage great innovation potential and to ensure effective protection of human rights and freedom from discrimination. With the AI Regulation, the European Union (EU) has laid an important cornerstone of regulation. This must now be implemented as unbureaucratically as possible.

Freedom of speech is the basic prerequisite of a free democracy. It finds its limits when criminal offenses such as insult or incitement are committed. Such hate speech must be consistently deleted and accounts that spread hate speech must be blocked more quickly. We are ensuring this with a digital violence protection law and are strengthening the rights of users. We are targeting the algorithmic amplification of hate and incitement. With the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA), we have laid important foundations for a democratic network. We advocate consistent implementation and - where necessary - improvements in Europe and Germany. We want the police and public prosecutors to pursue crimes on the Internet persistently and in accordance with the rule of law.

We stand for effective and practical data protection. We will reduce excessive bureaucracy. We rely on instruments that protect civil rights, such as the so-called quick freeze for the prosecution of criminal offenses. We reject the storage of data without cause and chat control.

we off.

For a diverse society without discrimination

Germany thrives on its diversity and the coexistence of different people. We stand for that all people can develop and be equal members of our society.

We want to overcome anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia and hostility towards people with disabilities because they weaken our cohesion.

So that people who experience discrimination in the housing market or at work, for example, know that the rule of law is on their side, we will reform the General Equal Treatment Act, expand the scope of application and close gaps in protection. This also includes protection against discrimination by state authorities. Germany should abandon its reservations about the 5th European Anti-Discrimination Directive. We want advice centres and self-organizations to be secured and expanded in the long term and the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency to be strengthened. We want to implement an effective anti-discrimination policy with a National Anti-Discrimination Action Plan. With the creation of the Commissioner for Anti-Discrimination, Queer Life, Anti-Racism and Anti-Gypsyism, we have anchored the political strengthening of diversity even more firmly. We want to support their work and that of the other Commissioners.

for further strengthening social diversity.

We are taking decisive action against the increasing anti-Semitism in our society - regardless of who is responsible for it. We ensure that Jews can live in safety and that their institutions are protected. Anti-Semitic incidents must be consistently pursued and documented. We want to provide stronger social security for the older Jewish generations.

We are taking action against discrimination against Muslims with an action plan against Islamophobia. We are promoting the training of imams in Germany and thereby strengthening the independence of Islamic communities.

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In order to combat antiziganism, we will implement the recommendations of the Expert Commission on Antiziganism and conclude a state treaty with the minority at the federal level.

The diversity of our society should also be reflected in its institutions. We are therefore committed to ensuring that diversity - both in terms of personnel and structure - is strategically and consistently promoted in authorities and are also creating the legal basis for this. With a federal participation law and a participation council, we are strengthening the participation of people with a migration background.

for women's rights

A fair society enables all people, regardless of gender, to lead self-determined lives. Feminism and the fight for women's rights are essential to this. Only if discrimination, sexism and misogyny are consistently combated can women take advantage of all opportunities. Precisely because backward-looking forces are becoming stronger, we must secure what we have achieved and continue to move forward.

Our priority is to make life fairer and better for women. This means enforcing equal pay for equal work and work of equal value. This includes ensuring that female-dominated professions are not paid less than male-dominated ones. Women do most of the care work and therefore often work part-time, which affects advancement and income. We promote a better balance between family and work through reliable care and high-quality educational institutions. On the street, on the subway and especially at home: all women must be safe and be able to feel safe. But in everyday life they are threatened by misogyny, sexism and violence every day.

In order to better protect those affected by domestic violence, domestic violence and gender-based violence, all those affected and their children should have a legal right to protection and advice. Through federal involvement, we are working with the states to ensure free assistance such as women's shelters, advice centres and shelters across the board. This must also be the case

include an expansion of offers for people with disabilities or with language barriers.

After a separation, domestic violence must be taken into account in custody and access proceedings. The judiciary and police must be comprehensively trained for this. The use of electronic ankle bracelets can be a useful tool for better monitoring restraining orders in cases of domestic violence. Victims of rape need comprehensive, qualified emergency medical care - including anonymous evidence collection and the "morning after pill."

Many women and girls who have fled are affected by violence before, during and/or after their escape, which is why all reception facilities must establish appropriate protection concepts. Women whose residence status depends on their violent partner should receive an independent residence permit.

Human trafficking for sexual exploitation is a serious human rights violation that primarily affects women. We want to implement and further develop the cross-departmental National Action Plan.

We will strengthen the rights and health care of sex workers. Because the current situation cannot remain the same. Targeted support, especially for prostitutes in precarious situations, must also be strengthened through outreach assistance and counseling, especially when leaving prostitution. Prostitution venues must be more strictly controlled, the standards for operating licenses must be raised and

the powers of customs should be expanded to ensure legally prescribed working conditions and to ensure the self-determination and safety of those affected. Criminalizing and stigmatizing those affected does not protect them, but relegates them to illegality, where they can hardly be reached by offers of help.

For Self-determination

Women make up over half of the population, but are still far from half of the economic

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away from economic and political power - in leadership positions, in business and society, but also in parliaments and local councils. We are therefore in favor of women's quotas on supervisory boards and executive boards of large companies. We want to further develop and strengthen the existing regulations where they prove to be insufficiently effective.

Self-determination over one's own body is a basic right that must apply to everyone. This includes the right to access safe and legal abortions. We want self-determined abortions to be regulated outside of criminal law. We advocate that the necessary advice is guaranteed by a secure range of advice centers with a variety of sponsors. In addition, there must be enough facilities that carry out the procedure using the desired method, because the range of abortions available has halved in recent years. The costs should be covered by health insurance companies and telemedical care should be expanded.

Self-determination over one's own body requires a gender-equitable health system: research, education and medical practice must take gender-specific aspects into account in order to improve women's health. We also want to get more women into management bodies in the health sector through quotas and better working conditions.

For queer life: safe and self-determined

As a society, we are united by the desire to live freely and independently. Politics must create the framework for this. Lesbian, gay, bi, trans*, inter* and queer people (LGBTIQ*) still experience violence and discrimination too often. We will not accept this.

With the action plan "Living Queer", we have presented a plan to strengthen queer life in the federal government. We want to make this a permanent reality. For further implementation, we want to provide the necessary funds with a federal funding program.

In this way, we strengthen queer advisory and project structures. We want to enshrine protection against discrimination based on sexual identity in Article 3 of the Basic Law and resolutely combat hate crimes against LGBTIQ*. To this end, we are improving the recording of anti-queer crimes.

Queer people have a right to good and non-discriminatory health care. Therefore, there should be a right to medical measures necessary for a transition, and the costs should be covered by health insurance companies, and counseling services should be expanded. We are closing the legal loopholes to prohibit unnecessary operations on intersex children. In addition, we want to finally recognize the injustice against trans and intersex people whose physical integrity has been violated or whose marriages have been forced into divorce. We will close loopholes in the ban on so-called conversion therapies and increase education about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

communicable diseases and current treatment and prevention options among doctors. We enable non-discriminatory access to reproductive medical services for all.

Family is where people take responsibility for each other. This also applies to rainbow families. We are therefore adapting family law and ending discrimination against

Rainbow families in the law of descent and take into account the parenthood of trans*, inter* and non-binary people. We improve the legal situation of families with more

than two parents. We also make it possible for people to legally care for each other outside of marriage. We will also focus more on queer life in old age. In this way, we want to take the needs of people in need of care into account better so that they can participate in old age without discrimination. ^a older LGBTIQ* people also in elderly care and in the

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For equal participation of people with disabilities and an inclusive society

We want to create an inclusive society in which people with disabilities can participate on an equal and self-determined basis. We are committed to making this right a reality.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the benchmark for our actions. To achieve this, we are setting up an Inclusion Commission of Inquiry, which will develop comprehensive proposals with the participation of those affected.

Accessibility should finally be implemented consistently in all areas: we want to make federal buildings accessible within ten years. Providers of publicly accessible offers and services should also take precautions to ensure accessibility, whereby we protect small companies with an overburdening clause and support them with a digital accessibility tool.

We want people with disabilities to be able to use their potential on an equal basis in the primary labor market and to contribute to our prosperity. We therefore want to develop the current exclusionary workshop system further towards inclusive companies, in which

where people with and without disabilities work together, are paid at least the minimum wage and can acquire pension entitlements. We also want to promote inclusive training and further education. We want to make the additional advice centers available in all regions.

The integration assistance with its interfaces – especially with social assistance, treatment and care – we want to improve and simplify so that those affected can access it quickly and easily.

to receive benefits. This also includes accelerating the enforcement of social rights to participation in authorities and courts. We want people with disabilities to be able to decide for themselves where and how they live. This is another reason why we want to promote and encourage the development of inclusive forms of housing and improve advice on this. Obstacles that hinder the desire and

We want to reduce restrictions on the right of people with disabilities to vote. That is why we are strengthening the personal budget, which allows people with disabilities to receive cash benefits or vouchers instead of services or benefits in kind. We are taking further steps towards exemption from income and assets.

People with disabilities are more frequently affected by violence than non-disabled people. We want protection from violence to apply to all people and are expanding protection against violence in facilities for people with disabilities.

For Living Art and Culture

Art and culture are about what defines us as people - about reality and other possibilities, about thinking and feeling, about memories and futures. A free culture is therefore an indispensable part of our democratic coexistence. Against anti-democratic movements that wage an ideological battle against our open society, we work for the independence and freedom of culture, artists and their various forms of expression - whether literature, film, music, theater, dance or fine art, whether fashion, architecture or design, whether club or opera, whether and creative industries. By anchoring a state goal of culture in the Basic Law, we strengthen art and culture comprehensively and across the board.

- ° public institution or part of the major cultural

Clubs and live music venues are cultural venues. We are creating the framework to enable them to contribute to an attractive cultural offering in inner cities. We want to strengthen the large federal cultural institutions as anchors of stability in the cultural landscape and continue to

- ° Open. It comes

It is important to make this diversity of culture accessible to people. That is why we will be expanding the culture pass. This will give 18-year-olds credit to discover culture. At the same time, we are stimulating demand and supporting various cultural providers in the city and country. Through the Green Culture contact points that we have successfully launched, we are supporting the entire spectrum of the cultural landscape in the transition to sustainable operations.

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Cultural producers need not only freedom, but also security. We are helping the independent scene by expanding the Federal Cultural Fund. We will complete the reform of film funding that has begun to ensure reliable, fast and adequate financing through an investment obligation and a tax incentive. We are also strengthening Germany as a games location with a tax-based games subsidy. We will introduce a publishing subsidy for small publishers. At both national and European level, the diversity of small and medium-sized cultural companies is part of our European identity and must therefore be strengthened by the right political framework.

Culture is also hard work. That is why we want to improve the social situation of artists and cultural producers.

We want to sustainably improve the quality of life of artists by making the social insurance for artists future-proof, improving social security for the self-employed and perpetuating the minimum fee limits in federal cultural funding introduced by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media in this legislative period.

In copyright law, we will continue to fight for fair remuneration for artists.

We have strengthened the position of authors in the EU AI law. When using artistic works as training data for AI systems, we want to examine how authors can be appropriately remunerated, for example through licensing models.

For the design of the immigration society

Germany is and remains a country of immigration. Immigration is part of our social and economic strength. It is therefore a task for us to shape and take on.

We are not isolating ourselves, especially not in Europe.

We are dependent on the immigration of urgently needed skilled workers and labor in order to secure our prosperity and remain attractive as a business location. We are committed to also in the international competition for specialist and

Workers, which is why it was so important to finally create an immigration system that was up to date. We have laid the foundation for this with the Skilled Immigration Act and numerous simplifications for refugees' access to the labor market. To ensure that skilled workers and workers choose our country, after decades of isolating our labor market, we are finally turning the digitization of visa issuance on its head. This means completely digitizing visas and shortening waiting times. We want to build on this by making it even easier to recognize more professional and educational qualifications and reducing the bureaucracy and simplifying the recognition of professional experience - for a real welcoming culture. By introducing modern citizenship law, we have finally taken the reality of our diverse society into account. Citizenship ensures participation and belonging for people who have lived here for a long time - for example the generation of guest workers.

—, a permanent bond of legal equality,

A fundamental distinction must be made between flight and labour migration, as they follow different logics. Labour migration follows the demand for workers, the admission of asylum seekers follows humanitarian obligations. At the same time, we support the pragmatic approach of “changing lanes” wherever it makes sense. In addition, both – labour migration and asylum law – require effective integration instruments. With the right of opportunity to reside, we have taken many well-integrated people out of tolerated status, given them a real prospect of staying and at the same time greatly relieved the immigration authorities. We want a functioning and

pragmatic refugee and migration policy that combines humanity and order. To this end, we want to incorporate scientific expertise more strongly into political decisions and set up an advisory body with experts from science, research, local practice and those affected.

An immigration society must create prospects and enable people to settle in. But it also places demands on those who come to us.

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men, as well as to all those who have been living here for a long time, and it will only succeed if we come together and take a common path. For this to succeed, we also need permanent structures.

The challenges have increased particularly in areas where there was already a lack of affordable housing, childcare staff and public authorities. The situation is challenging for many, and overwhelming for some. We want to provide more affordable housing and provide stronger and more reliable financial support to local authorities through an integration initiative.

This includes the offer of needs-based and good integration and language courses.

We want to create digital offers for language learning from day one. The federal government, the states, municipalities and civil society have worked hard in recent years to provide accommodation and care for the people who come to us. In particular, the

Those responsible in politics and administration of the municipalities as well as the many volunteers have done an invaluable job.

The strongest drivers of integration are work and employment. Because where people achieve something together, our society grows together. Anyone who can work should be allowed to work.

We have changed that and will continue to reduce existing work bans and streamline the procedures simplify and accelerate. If employers and refugees agree, the state should not stand in the way with unnecessary bureaucracy. That is why we will introduce short deadlines after which work-related permits are deemed to have been granted if the immigration authorities do not actively object. In this way, we will also create planning security for employers and refugees.

With early advice and a skills check, we want to ensure that people have good prospects and can contribute their qualifications.

For a country that offers protection

More people worldwide are fleeing crises and conflicts than ever before – most of them within their own country or in neighboring regions. Added to this is the worsening climate crisis and economic and social circumstances that are making people

to leave their homeland. That is why we want to combat the causes of flight. With forward-looking diplomacy, reliable and sufficiently financed humanitarian aid in crisis situations, sustainable development cooperation and fair trade conditions, we are making a contribution to

to our contribution and are committed to ensuring that other countries assume the same responsibility.

Germany offers protection to many people fleeing war and persecution. Just as other countries have become home to Germans, we defend the basic right to asylum today and stand by our obligations under international law, such as the Geneva Refugee Convention. We want to create quick and fair procedures and thus clarity for those affected and for the municipalities. We continue to support church asylum. Changes to asylum law should support integration and not hinder it. Children need their parents, parents need their children - also in order to arrive and integrate. We therefore want to continue to enable family reunification and lift existing restrictions.

Not everyone who comes to Germany can stay. Anyone who, after an individual assessment of the asylum and residence requirements and after exhausting all legal remedies, does not have a right of residence and who has no obstacles to deportation, must leave the country promptly. Voluntary return is our priority. Those who are required to leave the country and who have committed serious crimes must be returned as a priority after serving their sentence.

For a European and international refugee and migration policy

We want to promote a common European migration policy – with a fair, binding and solidarity-based distribution of those seeking protection in Europe.

We are implementing the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) at national level in accordance with fundamental rights and human rights. Human rights must be respected everywhere in the EU – including at the external borders.

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We advocate for effective human rights monitoring and consistent action against illegal

Pushbacks. The special needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, queer people or people with disabilities must be taken into account in the asylum process.

Our position is clear: the right to individual case assessment and the principle of non-refoulement apply always and everywhere. The asylum application of people arriving in the EU or already here must

in the EU are examined in terms of content. We are opposed to the outsourcing of asylum procedures to third countries because it has been shown time and again that these initiatives end up costing a lot of taxpayers' money, failing in court and distracting from real solutions. We therefore rely on cooperation with third and transit countries and on models that enable safe migration routes and reduce disorderly migration.

At the same time, we see that Putin's Russia and Lukashenko's Belarus are abusing the right to asylum for geopolitical interests at the expense of refugees. We will exhaust all legal and political options to prevent the instrumentalization of those seeking protection, especially by states such as Russia and Belarus. We reject the deprivation of rights of people who are instrumentalized by authoritarian states.

The right to freedom of movement and the removal of barriers at internal borders are among the greatest achievements in Europe. The open European internal market is a cornerstone of our economy. We therefore reject permanent, stationary internal border controls. For freedom and security in Europe, we need to know who is coming to Europe. Therefore, constitutional controls at the external borders and reliable registration of people indispensable.

Sea rescue is a humanitarian obligation. We continue to advocate for a state-run EU sea rescue mission. Until this is achieved, we want to continue to promote civilian sea rescue. We oppose the criminalization of sea rescue or humanitarian aid.

We want to better organize and control migration and to do this we want to conclude further human rights-based migration agreements and implement existing ones quickly. This means that we are creating regulated migration routes for students, trainees and skilled workers through visa agreements and training partnerships. In return, the partner countries are taking back nationals who do not have the right to reside in our country. To this end, we are working more closely with countries of origin and transit states.

Migration agreements should also create better living conditions locally.

We want particularly vulnerable groups to find protection without having to choose life-threatening escape routes. To this end, we want to support humanitarian reception and resettlement programs and enable safe and orderly migration routes. This requires cooperative collaboration between the federal government, states, cities and municipalities.

B. A LIFE IN SECURITY

For good police work against crime

Freedom for all means everything to us. But without security, freedom is worth little. In order for all people to be able to participate in social and political life, they must be safe and feel safe. A well-equipped, modern police force complements effective criminal prosecution.

vention. Dedicated police officers do their important work for our coexistence and our civil rights, often with great personal commitment.

We want to set up the Federal Police and the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in such a way that they have the personnel, the technology and also the constitutional powers that they need to effectively carry out their tasks. We will modernize the legal basis of the federal police forces, such as the Federal Police Act, and in doing so also provide answers to new threats.

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We also want to use investments to ensure that the police can work in modern facilities and with good equipment, including digitally. Crime is increasingly shifting to the digital Space – the police must be able to keep up technically here.

In order to prevent crime, we want to keep an eye on its development and incorporate scientific expertise. We therefore want to anchor the periodic security report, which bundles this work, in law.

We have made it more difficult for extremists to legally acquire weapons in the future. The number of legal and illegal firearms has increased in recent years. Too many violent crimes are still committed with firearms, especially in the home. We will therefore continue to restrict the availability of lethal firearms and other dangerous weapons.

Police work is based on trust. With the Federal Police Commissioner, we have created a contact point for police officers and citizens, which we want to strengthen. With a ticket system for controls that explains the reasons for controls, we want to make police actions more transparent. In training and further education, we want to raise awareness of diversity.

When the security authorities in Europe work together, they create more security for people in a Europe that is growing together. To this end, we are expanding the joint police centers in the border regions. We want to develop the European police authority Europol into a European criminal investigation office and equip it with its own operational capabilities.

For an increased effort against organized crime

The fight against organized crime is a priority for us. Criminal groups threaten people with violence and cause billions in economic damage in Germany. Their effects can be felt worldwide.

and also undermine entire states through violence and corruption. A major driving force for organized crime is the illegal drug trade. The damage to society is enormous when criminal groups infiltrate legal economic sectors such as the construction industry or the real estate trade, thereby driving up prices.

To counteract this, we are strengthening the relevant criminal investigation departments of the BKA, the Federal Police and the Customs Service. We are improving cooperation and the exchange of information between the federal and state security authorities by setting up a Joint Centre for Organised Crime on a legal basis. We will also promote international cooperation.

strengthen, for example through joint investigations or the deployment of contact officers in other states. We want to expand the powers of the EPPO to include the cross-border fight against organized crime.

We want organised crime to be punished more harshly. That is why we want to further develop the criminal offence of criminal organisation so that it becomes a sharp and precise instrument

A sustainable approach to criminal activities can only be achieved in cooperation with civil society and must focus on prevention and education.

For a clear stance against money laundering and organized tax fraud

Germany is often described as a money laundering paradise. Around 100 billion euros from serious crimes are laundered in Germany every year. We are opposed to this: with clear rules and powerful authorities.

such as the Federal Office for Combating Financial Crime, which we are expanding into a financial police force.

We have to hit criminals where it hurts them – with their money. That is why we have to make it easier to confiscate assets that have been acquired through criminal activities. With a nationwide service center, we want to

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Pool expertise on the misuse of cryptocurrencies and make it available to countries.

We want to make it harder for criminals to steal your money using complicated corporate structures to hide. That is why we are continuing to develop the transparency register for companies.

Tax evasion and manipulation in the financial market cost our economy billions. We will close tax loopholes so that cases of fraud such as Cum-Ex and Cum-Cum are a thing of the past. We want to significantly increase the capacities and competences of the federal level to prosecute serious financial crime. Greater transparency regarding corporate taxes and ownership structures and better capacities in tax enforcement will help in this regard.

For a decisive action against extremism and terror

Extremism - whether politically or religiously motivated - breeds hatred, divides our society and paves the way for violence and terror. Because it is constantly changing and becoming more complex due to radicalization in the digital space, we must confront it vigilantly and energetically and adapt our tools accordingly. Young people in particular are increasingly becoming radicalized in the digital space.

According to the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the greatest danger currently comes from right-wing extremism. And Islamism is a very serious threat.

With early prevention, we prevent people from slipping into extremism - we want to secure this work through strong, long-term funding. We need programs like "Live Democracy!" that educate people about Islamism, offers for those leaving the right-wing extremist scene, or deradicalization programs for the prison system. We want to legally secure this work with a democracy promotion law.

Extremist networks must be closely monitored by the security authorities and bans on associations must be consistently imposed.

The state must ensure that extremists do not

° public office or in security

hordes are active. Enemies of the constitution must be consistently disarmed.

We will strengthen our security authorities in the fight against terrorism and equip the BKA and the Office for the Protection of the Constitution with sufficient personnel, technology and legal powers so that they can track down terrorists and uncover attack plans in good time. Top threats must always be in the sights of the security authorities, monitored closely and - wherever possible - removed from circulation. In order for this to succeed, it must be uniformly clear across Europe who we consider to be a threat.

At the national level, all relevant federal and state authorities must work closely together in the Joint Counter-Terrorism Centres - with clearly defined responsibilities and a solid legal basis. We will examine whether the security authorities have all the necessary powers to combat terrorism effectively.

In recent years, Germany has been shaken by many terrible right-wing extremist and Islamist acts of terror. Many mistakes were made in dealing with the victims. We therefore want the state to continue to strengthen support for the victims and their families. We have created the office of the Victims' Commissioner so that they have a reliable point of contact. We want to continue to investigate terrorist attacks and provide victims with appropriate support.

commemorate.

For crisis-proof population protection

Natural disasters or serious accidents: extraordinary events can turn the lives of thousands of people upside down in the blink of an eye, destroy livelihoods and cause enormous environmental damage. The climate crisis will cause storms, floods and droughts to become more frequent.

Effective population protection and good crisis prevention can help

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To prevent or reduce damage. With around 1.7 million volunteers in the Civil protection and its decentralized structure have an efficient support network. We want to support and encourage volunteer work in the voluntary fire brigade, the technical relief organization or the aid organizations - for example with good exemption regulations or relief for volunteers.

Efficient civil protection requires good properties, up-to-date equipment and modern vehicles. We will continue to invest in civil protection and expand the warning infrastructure. We want the federal government to become more involved, the Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) to be given more powers and cross-border cooperation to be expanded.

For the connection of internal and external security

To ensure that our country remains safe, to ensure that our power grids, mobile phone services or servers are protected - our critical infrastructure (KRITIS), which is crucial for our prosperity - we must protect the internal and external security of our country. The distinction between ^a external security more closely together. Because boundaries between criminal terrorist organizations and states is becoming increasingly blurred. Countries like Russia are using hybrid attacks, sabotage actions and influence campaigns to stir up fear in Germany and Europe, destabilize alliances and cause damage. Damage to

Data cables and KRITIS, drone flights at Bundeswehr sites or incendiary devices in air freight have shown how vulnerable our infrastructure is and how concrete the threat is. For us, an integrated security concept is guiding, which we have anchored in the National Security Strategy.

The intelligence services play an important role in domestic and ^a external security plays an important role. It must foreign affairs. They need to be adequately equipped and urgently need a good legal basis so that they can identify and deal with threats. We will support the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution in

the counter-espionage and the Federal Intelligence Service in foreign intelligence so that they can better protect democracy from attacks than before. The Military Counterintelligence Service We want to set it up in such a way that it can carry out its tasks and protect members of the Bundeswehr well around the world. We want to improve European cooperation by establishing a European intelligence agency. We rely on intelligence services that operate in accordance with the rule of law and parliamentary control.

We have laid the foundations with the KRITIS umbrella law, which formulates concrete security standards. However, we need to further strengthen our infrastructure and at the same time create a resilient economy. We want our infrastructure to be secure, control over it to remain here and our key technologies to be protected. With an investment protection law, we want to close loopholes in the acquisition of KRITIS by foreign investors.

For IT security and against systematic disinformation

Authoritarian states and other actors systematically use disinformation campaigns to attack our democracy, influence our elections and divide our societies.

is a massive challenge, especially

which all democratic societies worldwide are facing and which also threatens cohesion and democracy in our country. That is why we need vigilant institutions and reliable information, for example from independent media. Media education can help people to recognise disinformation. In addition, we see in other democratic societies how important it is to have bodies that can detect deep fakes, large-scale

and identify controlled campaigns with fake news and other content that undermines democracy at an early stage. We will require the major media platforms to take effective measures against the spread of disinformation. We want to make the systematic spread of disinformation on behalf of a foreign state a criminal offense. We

are used to combat systematic

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To address the problems of disinformation and organised crime as well as the limitless spread of hate and incitement by bots, anonymised accounts that can currently hardly be prosecuted are to be addressed and to improve the effective options of the German law enforcement authorities in the digital space.

The ^o Public broadcasting ensures pluralistic, non-governmental and independent reporting equipment and can therefore be a point of orientation in the face of disinformation campaigns. It is important that it can also fulfil this proven function in the digital world. We are securing the necessary reforms with adequate funding and reliable framework conditions. At the European level, we support a platform that

power across countries. ^o public information services and makes them accessible

The German economy suffers more than 200 billion euros in damage every year from cyber attacks, data theft and espionage. These attacks mainly come from abroad, especially from China and Russia. We will use a cyber security strengthening law to harden our IT infrastructure and make it more resistant to attacks. The Federal Office for Information Security must be given a stronger role in protecting digital infrastructure and be expanded into a central office. Our goal is to make digital networks and facilities robust against hacker attacks through high IT security requirements. We want to secure relevant information with "digital messages" so that they can be kept available even in the event of a crisis. We will implement the European cyber security directive quickly and with minimal bureaucracy.

^o public databases in the European network

For the Defense of Peace and Freedom

Russia's attack on Ukraine makes it clear that peace, freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted. They must be defended and strengthened again and again. Peace requires diplomacy and

Cooperation, as well as resilience and defence capability. This requires a European effort. A comprehensive approach is needed to meet the spectrum of challenges and threats. Security policy is more than the sum of diplomacy and military; it must bring together all strands of our policy. Integrated security for Germany means: internal and

^a external security and the protection of our

To secure democracy and our welfare state - in line with a feminist foreign and development policy and a strong international climate policy. All of these elements of integrated security need reliable financing.

With the Russian attack on the whole of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, we woke up in a different world. Since then, millions of Ukrainians have been defending their lives, their freedom and

the European peace order against the brutal aggression of Russia. We stand firmly by its side - with diplomatic, financial, humanitarian and military support. Ukraine must be able to defend itself and ensure a strong position for a possible peace process. This is also our best self-protection here in the heart of Europe. Ukraine's sovereignty in European solidarity must be ensured. We support the diverse diplomatic peace efforts of Ukraine and its partners under the principle: "Nothing about Ukraine, without Ukraine". We also affirm the right to freely choose an alliance and support Ukraine on its path to membership in the EU and NATO.

C. A STRONG EUROPEAN UNION

For an EU that defends our democracy

The EU is the most successful peace project and the basis for our economic success. It is the answer to two world wars and the Holocaust. It is our life insurance for peace, security and

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ity and prosperity. But European cohesion is under threat: from the outside by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and against our European peace order, from the inside by extremists and populists. That is why we want to strengthen the EU. As the largest and economically strongest country, we have a special responsibility for this. We reject national solo efforts and a constant "German vote" is harmful. We are working on a Europe that is united internally by freedom and democracy, that guarantees social security and that is cooperative externally.

offers and robust answers to the great challenges that the development of the world presents us with. That is why we want to expand the EU,

to stabilize our neighborhood. At the same time, we will reform the EU to make it more capable of taking action. And we must make European democracy, with its clear foundation of values, resilient. Europe United is also our answer to Trump's America First.

Our core values form the foundation of the EU. If Member States violate them, the will not remain without consequences. We want to make use of the rule of law procedure under Article 7 of the EU Treaty by allowing decisions to be made by qualified majority at all stages of the procedure. We want to strengthen the rule of law dialogue and protect the freedom of civil society in a more targeted and Europe-wide manner. We also believe that no EU funds for anti-democrats. We want to use the conditionality mechanism in the next EU budget to ensure that governments that undermine democracy and the rule of law no longer receive European funds.

In order to make the EU more citizen-friendly and democratic, the European Parliament should be given full initiative rights to introduce laws. In the future, some of the members of parliament should be elected via transnational lists. Citizens should be involved more broadly and effectively; we want to strengthen the European Citizens' Initiative.

For an effective EU

The enlargement of the EU is a success story and is in our geopolitical interest. We support the desire of the Western Balkan states, Ukraine and Moldova to join, provided they meet all the accession criteria. We see the courageous and tireless efforts of the pro-European forces in Georgia and would like to support them in order to enable Georgia to have a future in the EU. A democratic Turkey also has its place in the EU, but resuming accession talks requires a credible change of course in terms of democracy and the rule of law.

With the aim of a strong, more effective EU, we want to make the current legislative period a reform legislative period. To this end, the principle of unanimity should be applied in all policy areas – including

the Common Foreign and Security Policy – be replaced by majority decisions.

Where reforms are not possible with all member states, a "coalition of the willing" should be able to move forward, which is always open to all member states. We want to move the EU forward together, especially with France and Poland. That is why we have invested so heavily in German-French cooperation and the Weimar Triangle. Our vision is a Federal European Republic with its own constitution.

Only a strong Europe is able to give the economy a boost in global competition and thus secure good jobs. To make urgently needed investments in infrastructure and the climate-neutral expansion of the European economy possible, the next EU financial framework must be more focused on innovation and the future viability of the European economy.

We will ^o Public goods such as infrastructure, Erasmus, cross-border research or strengthen common European border protection. In addition, we need binding targets for climate and nature conservation and a strong social pillar.

But this also requires more financial strength at the European level. We want to improve the EU's financial resources through new own resources. Revenues generated through European instruments

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should mostly benefit the EU budget. If the USA no longer implements the global agreements on the taxation of large digital corporations, we in the EU will advocate for a European digital corporation tax. Joint European bonds have also proven to be a good way of tackling major challenges, for example within the framework of the European Investment Bank.

D. FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY IN RESPONSIBILITY For an active foreign policy

As part of the Federal Government, we have taken on responsibility in difficult times, grown from it and are ready to continue to bear it. We will live up to this responsibility with an active foreign policy in strong alliances - for a strong Germany, in a peaceful Europe, in a stable world.

The EU is a guarantor of peace and freedom, prosperity and democracy. The EU as a global political actor is at the centre of our foreign policy. Together we stand by Ukraine – as long and as determinedly as it takes for Ukrainians to be able to live in peace again. Peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is a life of freedom, security and dignity.

Putin's Russia currently represents the greatest threat to peace and security in Europe. We are committed to economic and security policy measures that prevent Russia's military victory, the real one. We extend a hand to those Russians who, as part of democratic civil ^o increase economic pressure on the regime and our own ability to act society, are credibly committed to an end to the war, to peace and freedom.

The USA is Europe's key partner in global crises and conflicts. Despite all the differences and uncertainties regarding the future direction of the USA, we are united by common values,

Interests as well as deep cultural, historical and social ties. We will continue to be a reliable ally for the USA in the future. At the same time, we must strengthen European sovereignty, stand united and resolutely for our values and interests, and address political differences honestly and openly.

We remain firmly anchored in our alliances. At the same time, we depend on diverse and robust partnerships – especially in the Global South. We want to expand our cooperation with countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East and add partnerships

based on mutual trust and common interests. In this way we will gain allies for the reform of the multilateral system, for global

challenges such as the fight against climate change and in the systemic confrontation with authoritarian regimes.

China is increasingly aggressively attempting to restructure the international system according to its interests and to increase military pressure in the Taiwan Strait. For us, China is a systemic rival, competitor and partner, but the rivalry is increasingly moving into Beijing's focus. With the
With the Federal Government's first China strategy, we have begun to put an end to the years of naivety in German China policy - this must now be consistently implemented and further developed.
We are strengthening our cooperation with partner countries in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the areas of security, trade and climate.

Our foreign policy is based on an awareness of our history and the responsibility that our country has taken on with the horrors of the Second World War and the Holocaust. Israel's right to exist is non-negotiable for us. We stand for the security of Jews and the right of self-determination of Palestinians. Permanent security for Israelis and Palestinians is only possible through a political process and a negotiated two-state solution based on the 1967 borders. We are committed to this. Our history also gives rise to the responsibility to stand up for international humanitarian law in order to prevent human suffering.

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and to take warning signals seriously. That is why we have worked so hard to
that the hostages held by Hamas are freed, that the civilian population is protected, that humanitarian aid reaches the people and that a ceasefire is achieved. The suffering in Gaza is unbearable. Every human life is of equal value. Humanity is indivisible.

The end of the Assad regime in Syria is a sigh of relief for the Syrian people after decades of oppression, displacement and torture. This brings with it the hope of many Syrians for a life of peace and freedom. We want to support them on this path together with our partners.

The Iranian regime is committing massive human rights violations in its own country and destabilizing the entire region. We will continuously review and develop the sanctions against those responsible for the regime and strictly monitor compliance with them. This also includes the legally secure terrorist listing of the Revolutionary Guard. Further diplomatic efforts are also needed to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

We are committed to a forward-looking and coherent foreign, security and development policy that identifies crises and conflicts early and prevents human suffering through targeted and coordinated measures. The basis for this is a common picture of the threats, risks and opportunities for our security as well as strong interdepartmental coordination.

For a future-proof multilateralism

The rules-based international order is the foundation of our peace. Multilateral cooperation and strong international organizations are the key to overcoming global

Challenges. This order is coming under increasing pressure: violations of the common rules are increasing, isolation and protectionism are on the rise. We advocate a world in which cooperation prevails over competition.

and war asserts itself and the strength of the law triumphs over the right of the strongest.

With the UN Future Pact, we have laid the foundation for a reform of the UN. This includes a reform of the Security Council, with which we can ensure a fairer representation of the world regions.

We now want to implement these agreements together with the UN member states implement.

More responsibility in the UN requires Germany and the EU to strengthen their commitment diplomatically, to further strengthen financially and in terms of personnel. Funds for humanitarian aid should be used more flexibly and allocated over several years in order to meet the challenges in fragile contexts and improve planning. While the UN plays an indispensable role in humanitarian aid, we also want to further strengthen local humanitarian organizations. Through humanitarian diplomacy, we help to ensure that aid reaches the population in need and that aid workers are protected.

Our historical responsibility for the crimes of the Nazi regime and the colonial past gives us a special obligation to protect international law. As an international community, we have a responsibility to take action against the most serious human rights violations and to punish them criminally. That is why we want to strengthen international criminal jurisdiction and international criminal law and actively promote its further development.

Because no one is above international law. In close coordination with our international partners, we are committed to ensuring that the crime of aggression is prosecuted.

For Human Rights and Democratic Development

A strong civil society is the backbone of a resilient democracy and sustainable peace. People who work for democracy, women's rights and human rights around the world are coming under increasing pressure. Authoritarian regimes restrict freedom of expression and freedom of the press, suppress civil society engagement, threaten

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We are harassing activists and persecuting dissidents - even abroad. In this system competition, we are committed to liberal democracy and in doing so are strengthening our security, our freedom and our prosperity.

We want to provide targeted and straightforward support to civil society organizations in their fight for freedom of expression and the rule of law. This also includes protection programs for human rights defenders - on site or, if necessary, in exile. Germany is also a safe haven for many persecuted human rights defenders. We want to continue to support the admission of particularly vulnerable activists through humanitarian visas and accelerated procedures, and improve protection against transnational repression through joint European investigations and sanctions against those responsible.

Especially in times of crisis, culture can build bridges and promote mutual understanding. That is why we want to strengthen intermediary organizations for foreign cultural and educational policy and expand international research cooperation. With former German colonies such as Namibia, we have advanced the process of reconciliation and coming to terms with the past and assumed responsibility for our past. We will continue these steps consistently.

Equality makes societies more peaceful, just, resilient and economically successful. A feminist foreign and development policy means strengthening the rights, resources and representation of women, girls and marginalized groups worldwide. We want to strengthen our efforts against sexualized and gender-based violence, provide better support to survivors, promote the protection of queer people from discrimination and violence, anchor gender equality more firmly in all international cooperation projects and provide more resources for women's rights organizations.

Because societies are only as strong as the number of women participating in society.

We see this especially in countries where women's rights are being trampled upon

– such as in Afghanistan, Iran or under the terror regime of the so-called Islamic State (IS). We continue to advocate for the rights and support of women in Afghanistan, stand by the side of the feminist protest movement in Iran and want to continue to protect Yazidis who have experienced particularly terrible suffering and displacement at the hands of IS. We call on the interior ministers of the states to decide on a nationwide ban on deportations to Iran and of Yazidis.

For security and peace in Europe and the world

Our security is embedded in the EU and NATO. We are strengthening the European pillar of NATO. Germany and Europe must take more responsibility for their Security and beyond. We can do this more effectively and cost-efficiently the more closely we work together in the EU.

We stand by our alliance commitments and the necessary expansion of our capabilities that this entails. This requires reliable financing with a defense budget that permanently meets the goals and needs agreed in NATO and also defined nationally and permanently invests significantly more than 2 percent of gross domestic product in our security and defense capabilities. This will not be financed from current income alone, but will also have to be financed through higher borrowing in the medium term. As was the case during the euro crisis and the pandemic, a joint financial effort is also needed at European level to ensure peace in Europe, as proposed by the European Commission. In doing so, we also want to use European synergy effects.

It is in our interest to work for peace and stability globally and to focus on human security. In doing so, we rely on civil crisis prevention and conflict management, which closely coordinated with our European partners. The capabilities of civil society actors, the EU and UN, the Organization for

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We want to strengthen the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as well as regional organisations such as the African Union.

Especially in these times, when a few are again threatening to use nuclear weapons, it is crucial that we push ahead with disarmament initiatives and arms controls. Only with joint disarmament steps can we create lasting security for all and true peace and stability. This commitment is and remains the pillar of every peace policy.

The goal of a world free of nuclear weapons has been pushed far into the distance by Russia's aggressive imperialism. Nevertheless, it remains the right thing to do. We will strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, continue to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons constructively and expand cooperation with civil society organizations. New rules are urgently needed in the areas of autonomous weapons, cyber and space. Developments in these areas fundamentally change how wars are fought. For us it is clear: we believe that the development and use of lethal, fully autonomous weapons systems that decide life and death without any human control is wrong. That is why we are working hard at the international level to ensure that they are respected.

The international arms control architecture is extremely challenged in times of war and crises. We strengthen the security of all people by upholding our commitments to international treaties with our partners, even in difficult times.

For a modern, defense-capable Bundeswehr

The Bundeswehr is a cornerstone of our defence capability. As an army firmly integrated into NATO, it serves to maintain peace and stability. In view of the changed security situation in

In Europe, the core mission of the Bundeswehr – national and alliance defence – is once again the focus of our attention. It is once again about maintaining our peace and security in
^a extreme emergency also militarily defend and

to effectively deter potential aggressors and prevent them from attacking.

Security policy challenges are also growing globally. We will therefore continue to assume our international responsibility in international peace missions.

Foreign missions of the Bundeswehr must be anchored in multilateral alliances and embedded in an overall political concept in which diplomatic, development policy and military measures are interlinked. We want to further improve parliamentary participation and control and to this end make the evaluation of missions more permanent.

As one of the largest employers in the Federal Republic, the Bundeswehr has a great social responsibility for all who serve and have served in it. We stand for a Bundeswehr that reflects the diversity of our society and is a safe place for all people. Even after leaving the service, it must be clear: Anyone who was prepared to risk their life for peace deserves our attention and support.

In order to ensure the operational readiness of the Bundeswehr, we want to make voluntary military service and the reserve more attractive for a broad target group and to retain personnel in the long term by providing good living and working conditions for soldiers. Rapid recruitment mechanisms are needed for potential defense cases.

– supported by a new form of military registration, which also strengthens civil and homeland security. In addition, we want to make cooperation between armed forces within the EU and NATO the norm, for example through permanent multinational units.

We want to ensure our defense capability and equip our armed forces well and with modern equipment using an efficient European defense industry. We want to eliminate inefficient duplicate structures among EU member states in favor of joint development, production and procurement of defense goods. This requires financial incentives, joint investments and the political will to put national industrial policy interests at the service of more common

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A demand-oriented European arms market and a restrictive common export policy are two sides of the same coin. We want to legally anchor clear, transparent criteria for arms exports at national and European level that are oriented towards human rights, our values and security interests - with prior risk analyses, enforceable sanctions and end-use controls.

For global climate protection

The climate crisis is one of the greatest security risks of the 21st century: it destroys livelihoods, intensifies conflicts and forces people to flee. It is in our immediate interest to mitigate the climate crisis and its consequences.

Many countries have recognized the opportunities of ambitious climate policy: the energy transition and sustainable technologies not only stabilize the climate, they also create massive economic growth opportunities. With consistent climate policy here and effective climate foreign policy, we are making Germany a pioneer and at the same time supporting other countries in their Path to climate-neutral prosperity.

At the climate conferences, despite the most adverse circumstances, we successfully argued for a move away from fossil fuels, accelerated the energy transition and decisively pushed forward climate justice. We have shown that it makes a difference when the Greens are involved in the negotiations.

sitting at the lung table. We want to continue on this path.

We are committed to ensuring that Germany and Europe make their fair contribution to international climate financing, in accordance with the decisions of the international climate conference COP.

To this end, we want to use innovative financing instruments and work together with our partners to ensure that investments are consistent with the goals of climate neutrality and the 2030 Agenda in

In the interests of climate justice, special support is given to the states and communities particularly affected by climate change, especially in Africa and the small

island developing states. We also support our partners in protecting biodiversity.

We are also using the opportunities offered by an ambitious climate policy for our economic, financial and trade policy. We are relying on instruments such as foreign trade promotion or the dense network of climate and energy partnerships with over 30 countries in the Global North and South. We are committed to establishing technology partnerships with our companies within this framework. This includes transferring know-how and building up local production capacities, also to prevent other forces from creating new, fatal dependencies. Climate foreign policy can also build bridges to partners who do not share all of our values.

For Robust Partnerships and International Justice

The great challenges of our time are global. We are tackling them through international partnerships in mutual interest: for climate and biodiversity, for global health, for sustainable prosperity, for human security and for human rights. In doing so, we are making a much-needed, credible counter-offer to the influence of China and Russia in particular.

We stand by our historically grown responsibility for the poorest countries and the implementation and further development of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We need a final spurt and ambitious follow-up goals. Our approach is feminist and decolonial. We want an independent development policy that reduces structural injustices and creates equal partnerships worldwide.

We support countries in the Global South in their quest for fair representation in international organizations – this is the only way multilateral forums can remain viable. We are driving forward reforms in international financial institutions and making trade agreements fair and sustainable. We are committed to solid debt restructuring and debt relief for particularly burdened countries.

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We are working on this together with partners in the EU, the G20 and G7, international organisations, the private sector and civil society.

We want to make the right to water and food a reality. To this end, we promote agroecological approaches, protect the land rights of small farmers and support effective mechanisms against excessive financial market speculation in water, land and food. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown once again that health requires global and forward-looking cooperation. With this in mind, we want to support partner countries in building their health systems, strengthen the World Health Organization and promote long-term research and development cooperation.

We are committed to ensuring that Germany keeps its international commitments and invests at least the quota of 0.7 percent of gross national income in development cooperation agreed in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In addition, we are providing additional funds for international climate and biodiversity financing.

and are committed to ambitious new financing targets for climate and the 2030 Agenda. In order to help cover the massive investment needs, we also want to give German development banks greater access to the capital market, particularly by increasing the federal government's guarantee framework. Impact orientation and coherence are the aim of all our international activities.