

**More for you. better
for Germany.**

**Government programme of the SPD
for the 2025 Bundestag Election**

SPD

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What matters now

The early Bundestag election will take place on 23 February 2025. There is a lot at stake in this election. We are living in difficult times: there is war in the middle of Europe, our companies are facing intensified international competition, and cohesion in the country is being tested.

Germany is facing important decisions:

- Are we *now* continuing to invest heavily in our country? Or do we let our railway, our roads and bridges deteriorate?
- Do we *now* ensure that everyone gets along well in everyday life – with decent wages, affordable food and affordable rents? Or do we accept it when purchasing power falls and housing becomes more and more expensive?
- Do we *now* ensure stable pensions, good health and care, intact schools and daycare centers? Or are we cutting back on this of all things?
- Are we securing *jobs now*? Are we now investing in a modern economy and providing cheap electricity, which our companies urgently need? Or do we stand idly by as the future is created all around Germany with new technologies?
- Are we *now* continuing the necessary modernization of our country? Or are we going into reverse gear when it comes to climate protection and equality?
- Do we now continue to support Ukraine – steadfastly and prudently? Or do we get involved in dangerous adventures in questions of war and peace?

Rarely in recent decades have clear attitudes, character and experience been so decisive.

Seldom has it been so important that there is respect for everyone. Respect for each and every individual – no matter how much they earn, what they believe in or where they come from.

Investments in our prosperity and our jobs, in our cohesion and in our security – there must be no either/or now! All this is urgently needed, it all belongs together!

That's what we stand for.

Today, the Conservatives want to reverse the progress made and save where many citizens are personally affected. Others rely on a policy that patronises citizens. The populists from the right and left, on the other hand, give completely wrong answers. Their business model is to divide our society.

We say: All this harms Germany. That is not our way.

As difficult as the last few years may have been, Chancellor Olaf Scholz and the SPD could always be relied on when it mattered.

We have brought the exploding energy prices as a result of the war against Ukraine under control – and quickly made Germany independent of Russian gas. Pensions have risen sharply – and more than 30 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, they have finally been equalised in East and West. We have

increased the minimum wage to 12 euros – this means more income and more security for millions of people! Families benefit from more child benefit and our investments in better education and care.

We have limited irregular migration – and at the same time welcome those who want to work here in Germany.

With our new citizenship law, we are making it possible for fellow human beings to become fellow citizens with all rights.

We have equipped our Bundeswehr with a special fund so that we can defend our country against all external threats.

Germany stands firmly by the side of the invaded Ukraine - and at the same time Chancellor Olaf Scholz is making sure that the war does not escalate into a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia.

With a clear stance, with clear values, sensibly and prudently – this is the only way we will be able to overcome future challenges.

This is exactly why Germany needs a strong SPD in these difficult times:

- We ensure that life remains affordable – with a higher minimum wage, income tax relief for low and normal earners, less VAT on food and effective rules for affordable housing.
- We continue to invest in rails, bridges and digital networks.
- We support our companies and their employees in global competition – with low energy prices and a "Made in Germany" investment bonus for future investments and secure jobs.
- We are fighting for good wages everywhere in Germany – in industry, trade, crafts and in all other areas of the economy.
- We stabilise pensions and ensure good health care and care that reaches everyone and remains affordable for everyone.
- We fight for internal and external security and consistently oppose the enemies of the open society.
- We ensure that daycare centers and schools are reliably at the side of families.
- We are committed to social progress, equal rights and opportunities for women and men. For diversity and tolerance.
- We are cutting unnecessary bureaucracy, accelerating and digitising administration – and we are also keeping the pace high in the expansion of renewable energies.

Hands-on politics for the vast majority of citizens who keep our country running and for those who are not on the sunny side of life.

Politics with moderation and center that unites and does not divide.

That's what matters now.

This will be decided by voters in the Bundestag election on 23 February 2025.

A new upswing for Germany

Many people are currently worried about the economy in our country. Or even worse: you worry about your own job. It is about questions of competitiveness in the global competition between modern industrial production sites. But it is also about finding the right strategies to secure the need for skilled workers in retail, gastronomy and administration. And last but not least, it is about questions of education, training and further education, for example in the skilled trades.

We stand for an economic policy that combines growth, social justice and sustainability. We are shaping an upswing that reaches all people. To this end, we are investing in the future – in education, innovation, digitalisation and climate protection. We are ensuring that our children will still be able to use roads, bridges and railways in 30 years' time, and we are modernising our infrastructures. On the one hand, these investments are fair to the generations and, on the other hand, they are the basic condition for companies in Germany to remain competitive.

At the same time, we focus on good work and secure jobs. With good wages, we secure purchasing power in our country and boost domestic demand. We are creating a new upswing for Germany as a basis for more justice.

1. We fight for new growth and secure jobs.

This is the first, but certainly not the last, time that we will use the words "We fight for". We could also write "We are committed to" or "We are committed to it". But we all feel how great the urgency is with which we have to tackle issues. So: Let's fight together for what is close to our hearts and what will lead our country in the future. For example, with clear framework conditions and a real **investment turbo**, we are creating a growth environment for our companies. Germany needs a **decade of sustainable innovations and investments**. With our policy, we are getting both off the ground: clever inventions that make life better, that secure jobs and prosperity. And a public infrastructure that makes everyday life easier because it simply works. In a modern country with the right **framework conditions**, industry, SMEs, services, crafts, start-ups and agriculture can flourish. The employees can make their contribution through diligent work and good ideas and spend a good life together with their families.

The German economy is in a challenging situation. Important investments in the future are currently failing to materialize. This endangers jobs and prosperity. With targeted measures, we will ignite the turbo for future investments in our state.

We want to reduce energy prices and strategically promote key successful industries.

We need affordable energy, otherwise our companies in Germany will run out of energy. We invest in a secure and **affordable energy supply** through renewable energies. We want internationally competitive energy prices. We provide planning and investment security for energy costs through stable prices, from grid fees to electricity tax to the CO price. Especially in the north and east, where a large proportion of the

wind energy in Germany, high grid charges are an urgent problem. The switch to cheap

renewable energies is associated with a massive expansion of the electricity grids. This costs a lot of money, which is added to the electricity price as grid fees. This is a challenge, especially for the internationally competitive economy and consumers. We will first stabilise the charges for the transmission grid, which connects the regions in Germany and is being massively expanded, then cap them at 3 cents per kilowatt hour as quickly as possible and thus support grid expansion. This is necessary because of the billions of euros invested in this network.

This is intended to halve the current burden on households and companies on average and create long-term planning security – for industrial investments, but also for the switch to climate-friendly technologies such as electric cars or heat pumps.

In addition, we are committed to ensuring that a larger group of particularly electricity-intensive companies can benefit from the existing rules **on reduced grid charges**. This also includes relieving the burden on energy-intensive bulk consumers without potential for flexibilization, as has been the case in the past.

The German government will also lobby the European Commission to ensure that more energy-intensive industries can benefit from the relief provided by the so-called electricity price compensation, for example glass processing, large parts of the chemical industry and battery cell production. This would significantly reduce the price of electricity in the energy-intensive industry in Germany. We will also make the reduction of the electricity tax to the European minimum indefinite.

Germany is a car country. The **future of cars lies in electromobility**. Anyone who suggests that combustion engines with e-fuels are the solution is only making cars affordable for top earners. At the same time, the automotive industry, just like its suppliers, such as the steel industry and others, is facing considerable upheavals today, many workers are very worried about their jobs and their future. We take these concerns seriously.

Germany is to remain a leading country for the production of vehicles. We are committed to ensuring that German car manufacturers do not currently have to pay any fines to Brussels in connection with the CO fleet limits. These funds will now be used for investments in² climate-friendly vehicles and job security. We will enter into negotiations with the EU Commission to maintain the targets, but to make the path to them more pragmatic.

For this, the framework conditions must be right. The measures we propose **to reduce electricity prices**– in particular the cap on transmission grid charges – will make electricity even cheaper for the production of batteries and cars and for charging. In the future, charging at **public charging stations** must become as easy as and cheaper than refuelling. We will continue to speed up the expansion of charging stations and oblige petrol stations to offer fast-charging options. We are continuing **to speed up the expansion of charging stations**– along roads and motorways and in depots and depots. To ensure that holidays or business trips also become electric, we are calling for a European fast-charging station offensive.

We will also boost the **purchase of electric cars more strongly**.

We also want to promote the private purchase of new cars with a temporary **tax deduction for the purchase** of an electric car produced in Germany. This is simple and uncomplicated to implement: buy, declare in the tax, subsidy directly to the account. By including young used cars and **leasing models**,

we also help people with lower incomes. With this package, we are primarily supporting households with low and normal incomes in switching to an electric car, even before the mobility costs of combustion engines increase significantly due to the increase in the CO price. We want this path

² **together with our European neighbours** and expect the EU Commission to take a corresponding initiative for the entire Union or to release such a German solution in the short term.

A large proportion of new cars are used commercially. Here, we will **further improve the attractiveness of e-mobility through better depreciation conditions and changes in company car taxation**. We will extend the **vehicle tax exemption** for e-cars **until 2035**.

We want companies to have the best conditions to invest in Germany.

We can do something for our companies and for Germany as a business location.

We are creating a **Germany Fund** that mobilises public and private capital in order to be able to meet the important investment needs – for example in electricity and heating networks, the hydrogen network, e-charging stations or housing construction. The Germany Fund is intended to enable the state and private donors to invest in Germany's future together and with little bureaucracy. The Germany Fund is initially to **be equipped with 100 billion euros**. It will be designed in such a way that it also works within the existing framework of the debt rule of our Basic Law— via so-called financial transactions. The start-up capital provided by the federal government for the Deutschlandfonds creates value for the federal government through the associated participations or loans. The Deutschlandfonds then uses this capital to provide companies and institutions with the necessary financial resources for important investments in the future – by loan or as a participation. State money is only one side. At the same time, private capital is to be mobilized. Large institutional investors such as insurance companies or pension funds can also invest in these companies and institutions. This puts future investments on broad shoulders and activates private capital. We ensure that there is no privatisation of state services of general interest.

In addition, we want to relieve the tax burden on companies, but not through blanket tax cuts for everyone, but with targeted **incentives for investments in Germany**.

Investment premium instead of bureaucratic subsidy programs ("**Made in Germany**" bonus): So far, corporate investments (for example in climate-friendly technologies) have been promoted primarily through subsidy programs. This often takes too long and creates a lot of unnecessary bureaucracy for companies. Instead of new subsidy programs, there will be a greater focus on an uncomplicated tax premium in the future to support investments in the future. The Growth Opportunities Act already included an investment premium for the area of energy efficiency measures. The new investment premium for existing companies and new settlements is now intended to boost future investments in the technologies of tomorrow across the board: Every business or company investment in machinery and equipment (from the so-called equipment investments) is to be paid directly and easily with 10 percent of the purchase price via a tax refund. The successful funding programmes such as GRW or GAK for the regional economy will be continued.

If partnerships reinvest their profits, we want to relieve them of their tax burden. With the "company with tied assets", we want to introduce an independent legal form that makes it

easier for successors in medium-sized companies – for example from the workforce – to succeed in fiduciary capacity. This excludes the possibility of tax evasion.

We will modernise European state aid law to support companies in structural change.

We want to reduce bureaucracy and speed up procedures.

In order for our economy to get back on track quickly, many other gears must also move faster. This is the only way to speed up the entire system. Bringing in more speed in different or all aspects creates a real win.

In Germany, many planning and approval procedures take too long. Last year, the German government agreed with the states on a Germany pact to accelerate planning, approval and implementation: higher speed and less bureaucracy for more economic growth are the goal. We will continue on this path consistently. We will also push ahead with the reduction of bureaucracy at national and EU level, for example by merging, simplifying and digitising documentation and reporting obligations. New laws must be subjected to a **practical review**. In reducing bureaucracy, we are taking advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalisation. The basis for this is a nationwide coverage of the entire country with fiber optics and mobile communications. In reducing bureaucracy, we ensure that workers' rights, consumer rights and the goals of the ecological transition are not jeopardised. In order to identify further concrete ways of reducing bureaucracy, a Social Democratic Chancellor will hold a conference with representatives of business and administration.

The European single market is of enormous importance for economic development in Germany and is also a motor for European prosperity.

We welcome the reports by Enrico Letta and Mario Draghi on strengthening European competitiveness and support the EU Commission in implementing them.

We want to further deepen the **European Single Market**, because millions of jobs in Germany are closely linked to it. This includes a digital infrastructure for the cross-border movement of services. And that also includes a functioning European capital market. We will drive forward the Banking and Capital Markets Union and strengthen the environment for innovation and future technologies through private capital in the long term.

We want to enable innovations that move Germany forward.

The much-vaunted inventive spirit in Germany must become the top priority again. After all, inventiveness has always been central to economic success, social progress and thus also social prosperity. In recent years and decades, numerous technological and social innovations have been conceived, developed and implemented in Germany. With fundamentally new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) or quantum technology, the federal government's innovation policy must also change. For us, the **further development of the AI strategy** is therefore our top priority. The focus will be on the development of systemic innovations. These include the development of industry-specific AI ecosystems and the development of generative language models for the fields of medicine, materials

research and education. The aim is to build on the existing structures of the AI landscape in Germany and invest in the computing infrastructure and competencies at universities across the board. We also want to pay special attention to **social innovations and projects and structures oriented towards the common good** when promoting AI. Other focal points will be quantum computing, robotics and next-generation network technologies.

We are committed to **strengthening research funding**, especially in basic research in key industries and GreenTech. Researchers should have easier access to funding and experience less unnecessary bureaucracy when applying for and implementing research programmes. In addition, we want to provide targeted support for the transition from the research idea to market readiness. Incubators, start-up centres and **regional innovation clusters** play an important role in this. At the European level, we will advocate for a strong Research Framework Programme (FP10). We will advocate for a regulation that complies with state aid, with which we will also extend tax incentives for research to larger companies.

We will **lead science and innovation policy** into a new era by strengthening the contribution of science to the transformation and training of skilled workers. To this end, we will continue to provide sufficient state funding to universities in order to improve the quality of studies and teaching. We will improve working conditions in science by promoting predictable career paths, especially to achieve equality. We will use the

Development of the German Agency for Transfer and Innovation.

The shortage of skilled workers is currently becoming clear in many areas of our economy. There are wrong answers to this, such as "We have to work longer" or "Fewer protective rights for employees". The CDU strikes this tone, we don't. What is needed is really good training and more **investment in qualification**. We must leverage the potential of the many people in our country who have so far been pushed to the margins: especially young people without vocational qualifications and women in involuntary part-time work and mini-jobs. In addition, we still need the immigration of skilled workers. Studies show that we will need several hundred thousand skilled workers per year for Germany.

2. We fight for Made in Germany 2.0.

Made in Germany – what a beautiful seal of quality was and is that! And it should stay that way for a long, long time. Germany has become a frontrunner in world trade with the engines and machines of the 20th century. We want *Made in Germany* to remain a world leader in the technologies of the 21st century. In the fierce competition of a changing global economy, our industrial and business location is under pressure. We are experiencing a global race for technologies, resources and standards. Specifically, the question is whether we can keep up with developments and manage to make Germany strong for the future as part of the European Economic Area. To this end, we are pursuing a reliable, long-term industrial strategy anchored in Europe that combines climate protection and competitiveness.

In our successful industries of steel and automotive, mechanical and plant engineering, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and battery production, Germany must remain a location for large corporations as well as for strong SMEs.

We want a stable, broad-based and sustainable economy.

Our companies must be sure that they can continue on their path to climate neutrality and that they know that we as politicians are firmly at their side. Especially when it comes to energy prices and regulation, they need a fair, clear environment in order to be able to invest and to bring their new ideas to market. In recent years, various global crises have clearly shown that a broadly diversified economic structure is crucial for economic stability. In these challenging times, the SPD is fighting for every industrial job as well as for the value creation of the future with its new, highly qualified jobs. Sometimes we have temporarily invested in companies to secure jobs in a crisis. We will continue to do so in the future if it becomes necessary.

When it comes to technologies, we say without a doubt where things are going: the clear focus is on electrification, for example in cars. But **hydrogen** will also play a very important role for our industry, especially in energy-intensive industries. To ensure that hydrogen can really gain a foothold in Germany, we are creating **lead markets for green steel made in Germany**— that is, fixed proportions of green steel, for example in the railway or in transformer platforms. We also need a cleverly designed hydrogen network. At the same time, sufficient storage capacities, for example within the framework of a national hydrogen reserve, must be built. With a pragmatic and courageous policy, we want to lay the foundation for this crucial building block for the new energy world.

In this context, we also support the European Clean Industrial Deal.

In order to supply our domestic industry with raw materials, we are relying on the newly created raw materials fund, will promote domestic raw material extraction and advocate a **coordinated raw materials strategy for the EU**. We want to implement the **circular economy strategy** pragmatically, for example with sales markets for environmentally friendly recycled raw materials and more efficient use of materials.

We want our industry to continue to be at the forefront of future technologies.

Climate-friendly production or work must not be a competitive disadvantage! We can only maintain a place at the top of the world with a targeted and European-coordinated strategy for Germany's most important key industries. In Europe, we are rapidly converting our industrial production to climate-friendly processes. However, it does not benefit the climate if production migrates abroad and emits more greenhouse gases there. We are reducing bureaucracy in the Carbon Border Adjustment (CBAM) mechanism

mechanism) and supplement it with export promotion². We are also continuing our successful **climate club**, a growing circle of countries that are setting common standards so that there are no longer 28 different standards for green steel.

The EU must position itself more independently and shift strategic value creation back to Europe. This requires a **European resilience strategy that** reduces risks (de-risking), effectively protects critical infrastructures and relocates strategically important key industries back to Europe. Together with our European partners, we will review local content rules and localization obligations.

Social standards are a geopolitical locational advantage of our economic area. We support industry and business, but also hold them accountable. Economic strength and social security are two sides of the same coin. That is why we are resolutely implementing the **European Pillar of Social Rights** at national and European level. We want a real **European Social Union**. We want a single market that serves workers. In order to ensure adequate social protection and fight poverty, we are committed to European minimum standards for national basic income support systems.

3. We fight for a strong labor market and good working conditions.

We can promise one thing: We as the SPD, **we fight for every job**. Because good work is the anchor for a life in dignity and prosperity. But when everything changes, worries grow. If everything changes, then employees will need security. And this must be shaped. For the SPD, this can only be done together with the employees and the trade unions. The employees work out the economic success of the companies. They have a right to co-determination over their working conditions and democratic participation. Good working conditions are also an essential prerequisite for securing a good skilled worker base in our country.

We want security in change for your work.

We know that many employees are worried about their jobs because of the economic upheavals and the stagnation of the economy. We want to secure employment. We want to achieve future-proof prospects in the traditional company. Social Democratic labour market policy focuses on **the promotion of qualifications** and, in difficult phases, on job preservation, for example through **good regulations for short-time work**.

We will continue and intensify the promotion of **regional associations, continuing education agencies and transformation clusters**. Low-threshold counselling services are needed to support companies and employees, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises, in structural change.

When an employment relationship ends, the transition from work to work should be as seamless as possible. We want to promote **labour market hubs and job-to-job placement** through regional alliances of social partners and the Federal Employment Agency and prevent unemployment from the outset. Employees from companies that are cutting staff are to be offered new prospects in companies that are looking for employees. In particular, it depends on the right timing and the close involvement of trade unions and works councils as well as collective bargaining regulations. In addition, we will further develop the existing instrument of **transfer companies** so that smaller companies can also make better use of them.

The **insurance benefit of unemployment benefits** must be strengthened again. We want more security for the working middle, which is worried about its future, especially in the sectors affected by transformation. For this reason, we will no longer count periods of qualification during unemployment towards the period of receipt of unemployment benefits, so that the entitlement to unemployment insurance support will be extended accordingly.

We will ensure that good working conditions apply in a digital working world. To this end, we will regulate the fair and legally secure handling of data in operations and support platform employees.

We want your voice to count more in the workplace, too.

We are reforming the **Works Constitution Act** and will expand the **co-determination** of the works councils in strategic personnel planning and assessment, in the introduction of artificial intelligence as well as in health protection and further training in the company into real co-determination rights with the need for agreement. We will better protect election initiators of works council elections. In the future, we will classify the obstruction of democratic co-determination as an official offence.

In the companies, there must be a **legally defined minimum catalogue of transactions requiring approval in the supervisory board**. We will close **loopholes** for circumventing co-determination in the supervisory board, such as the undermining of co-determination through European company law.

We want work not to make you sick and to offer security.

Work must not make you sick. For this reason, we will push ahead with a significant increase in the number of holistic risk assessments carried out, strengthen the company integration management (**BEM**) and make it more binding, expand rehabilitation and prevention and simplify and improve access. In particular, we will pay more attention to psychological stress at work, which has increased sharply, in occupational health and safety. We also need a comprehensive range of information and advice. Workplace **health promotion** must be taken into account in all business decisions. We want to further expand the range of services offered by the coordination offices for workplace health promotion. We stand by the continued payment of remuneration in the event of illness. The SPD will always defend this social achievement. If you are sick, you don't belong in the workplace.

We will **abolish fixed-term employment contracts without objective reasons** and critically review the factual reasons for fixed-term contracts.

We want to strengthen the labour market in the long term with the right strategies.

Good training and further education are the prerequisite for good work and securing skilled workers. We continue on our path of **training guarantee**. Earlier career orientation in schools and in close coordination with the Federal Employment Agency is the right way. We will continue to strengthen the successful work of the youth employment agencies. Companies must do more to meet their responsibility for training. We support the means of levies or funds, for example industry-related, where training is provided below demand.

We will ensure that there is security in the change and guarantee support when professional training or reorientation is necessary or desired. To ensure that today's employees can also acquire the knowledge and skills for the work of tomorrow, we have **renewed the** Federal Employment Agency's **further training funding** with the Transformation Grant and the Qualification Allowance, among other things, and thus reach small craft businesses or service providers as well as the DAX Group.

Our goal is a **right to further education and a new career start** in all phases of life. Job profiles should be further developed in such a way that employees with further training can keep pace with new developments throughout their lives.

Equal pay for equal work and work of equal value is our answer to the gender pay gap that still exists. More collective bargaining coverage is also important in this respect, because with a collective agreement, classification and pay are often fairer. Mini-jobs are predetermined paths to poverty in old age. Our goal is to include all employment relationships in social security. We want to fight abuse and open the way for employees from mini-jobs to socially secure work. There will be transitions for existing employment relationships and exceptions for certain groups such as pensioners.

Every citizen has the right to work. Therefore, every recipient of citizen's allowance should receive a suitable offer. To this end, we are relying on **stronger financing of active labour market policy**. We want to finance work instead of unemployment and will therefore expand, simplify and enshrine the **passive-active transfer** in law. We know that most people who receive citizen's allowance who can work also want to work. The **citizen's allowance** is a tax-financed basic income and not an unconditional basic income. That is why participation is rightly demanded. We adhere to this principle of demanding. The aim of the citizen's allowance is to support people with the help of qualification and further training to end their own need for help. We want to equip the job centres with personnel and finances in such a way that they can ensure individual and close-knit advice. However, we must also acknowledge that a significant proportion of those receiving citizen's allowance are in poor health. They must be better supported in the care and integration process. In addition to further training, the instrument of the social labour market, which opens up new opportunities to pursue a job covered by social insurance, has also proven its worth. We have therefore made the regulations for the **social labour market** permanent. In this way, we want to enable jobseekers to participate and get them out of long-term unemployment and the receipt of citizen's allowance and create prospects for taking up regular employment.

Germany has long benefited from the fact that we are a country of immigration. We treat people with respect, no matter where they have their roots, with clear and comprehensible rules, less bureaucracy and a much more transparent and simplified **recognition of qualifications and qualifications acquired abroad**. Fair immigration must not contribute to exploitation, wage dumping, unfair competition or an erosion of the collective bargaining structure. By **expanding and providing permanent and adequate funding for the structures necessary for successful integration**, such as part-time integration courses, widely available German language support and counselling services, we enable successful immigration.

We will **further develop the Skilled Immigration Act** and drive forward the digitalisation of administrative decisions. In addition, we will continue and expand the **job turbo** for the labour market integration of refugees in order to enable refugees to take up work as early as possible.

4. We fight to ensure that good education for all succeeds reliably.

Good education for all children and young people in Germany is the basis for a good future for our country. For the individual, it creates the conditions for a self-determined life, for society the basis for cohesion and democracy, and for our economy the conditions for economic growth with well-trained specialists. At the same time, working parents as well as their employers are dependent on daycare centres and schools guaranteeing reliable care and a successful education for all children. No matter what the conditions are, we want good education to succeed regardless of the life situation. Below we list how we want to put this into practice.

We want education in daycare centers and schools to be reliable for all children.

The shortage of skilled workers must not become the Achilles' heel of our education system. Well-qualified specialists in sufficient numbers are the decisive prerequisite for more daycare places, all-day care for primary school age, better quality of education, an expansion of care times and a reduction in closing times. We therefore want to agree on a **binding skilled worker offensive for daycare centres and schools between all federal states**, which includes, among other things, the expansion of training capacities, paid training for educators, multi-professional teams, the increased approach to career changers from other professions and the expansion of full-time work for mostly female employees.

No child should start school without the necessary basic skills – and no child should leave primary school without being able to speak, listen, read, write and do arithmetic adequately. At the latest at the age of four and when they start school, the level of development of all children must be determined and, if necessary, **binding support must** be offered.

We want to guarantee the best education and care for children, reliability for working parents and good work for the employees in daycare centres. That is why we want the federal, state and local governments to continue to invest together in good daycare quality. To provide targeted support for **daycare centers in disadvantaged locations**, we also want to create a Start Opportunities Program with federal funds and successively expand the **Start Opportunities Program at schools**. The **Digital Pact for Schools** must also be continued and further developed in terms of content. The gradual application from 2026

Legal entitlement to all-day care for primary school children is just as central to more equal opportunities as it is to more reliability in education – and it applies! Where we have political responsibility, we will reliably honour it and ensure that the offer is of good quality.

We want all young people to be able to choose their training path freely.

In Germany, every young person should be able to make the best of themselves and their abilities. All young people must have access to all educational paths. This is our promise of **Advancement through education**.

For young people at the beginning of their training or studies, the rising cost of living is currently the central problem – even more so than in the population as a whole. We therefore want to raise the **minimum training allowance**. With a **reform of BAföG** we want to ensure that the amount of educational support is regularly adjusted to the rising

cost of living. Too few students currently benefit from BAföG. Therefore, more students should gradually have an entitlement for us. In the long term, we want to make BAföG more independent of parents. We are striving for a gradual return to the full subsidy. In addition, the processing times for BAföG applications must be shortened – through further digitization and simplification. **We want to continue and increase the successful federal Young Housing programme in order to create affordable housing for trainees and students.**

In addition, we will provide greater support **for dual studies** and extend the protective rights of the Vocational Education and Training Act to this training path as well.

We want good working conditions at schools and daycare centers.

Daycare centers and schools must **be attractive places of learning and working with good working conditions.** In order to meet the best possible standards for contemporary daycare and school buildings in the many upcoming new buildings and renovations, we therefore want to create more incentives for providers.

We want to make the education system fit for the immigration society.

Our immigration society needs an education system that opens up all opportunities for children from different **backgrounds to attend daycare centers and schools successfully. We also want to reflect diversity in curricula, textbooks and in the pedagogical professions.** Students from different backgrounds should be able to identify with them.

The best education needs **powerful and sustainable whole-of-government funding.** We therefore want to reform inheritance and gift tax in order to be able to invest **specifically in better education for all children and young people.** As with the Start Opportunities Programme, we want to use our funds specifically where disadvantages found in the educational backgrounds of parents or neighbourhoods become disadvantages for children's educational opportunities.

5. We fight for a financial policy that serves the future of our country.

Many people can talk about all the things that are not good. We want to get down to business. For a good future for the country and our children, comprehensive modernization is necessary today. This applies to both the private sector and public services: from daycare centres, schools and universities to the health system and care. Climate protection (renewable energies and grids), digitalisation and artificial intelligence, increased defence readiness and improved transport infrastructure also require a major modernisation effort. Therefore, we want to establish an era of investment in the future and at the same time ensure financial soundness. This requires a joint effort by the federal, state and local governments.

We want everyone to work together to modernise our infrastructure.

We have to invest in tomorrow, the day after tomorrow and also in the day after tomorrow. The necessary public investment must be made quickly in order to resolve the existing investment backlog and to create better conditions for private investment. Privatisation of infrastructure remains out of the question. We stand for a financial policy that is fair to all generations and no longer passes on necessary investments to future generations. Our financial policy is strategically designed and ensures growth as well as change.

The financing of change is ensured by stable public finances.

We want to ensure the financing of important investments in the future at all levels of the state. Because we want to prevent future generations from being bequeathed "investment debts", such as a railway rail network in need of renovation, outdated school buildings or jobs that have migrated. To finance long-term investments, it makes sense to take out loans. In this way, the financing costs are distributed fairly over many years. Future generations will also pay a fair share of the repayment, as these investments are intended to secure and increase both current and future prosperity.

The possibility of promoting public and private investments through **financial transactions** is to be used more intensively, both by the federal government and by the states. The Basic Law already allows this today. This type of financing creates long-term planning security and enables the expansion of necessary investments in the future, while at the same time distributing the financing burden among the benefiting generations. In this way, we can, among other things, strengthen the equity base of public companies and increase their public investment.

In addition, we want to adapt the outdated criteria of the cyclical component of the debt rule to current economic realities so that our community can ensure a steady and high level of investment, especially in economically difficult times.

The current debt rule is not designed to meet the challenges of our time and the future. That is why we want to reform the **debt rule in the Basic Law in such a way that** investments in the future viability of our country and in prosperity are not hindered. This is the only way to make the good life possible for future generations. This is the only way to reliably secure the necessary leeway for the agreed expenditure on security and defence. In addition, the outdated credit ceilings must be reformed: In addition to the introduction of exemptions for important investments in the future, we are committed to a more flexible design of the deficit rule itself. The states are to be given the opportunity to borrow. This is done in accordance with European fiscal rules.

In order to enable more security and long-term planning in the event of a crisis, we are striving to **reform the emergency regulations** so that our state is able to act at any time and across all years.

The **repayment obligations** lead to savings pressures in future national budgets. This artificially prolongs the financial crisis and shifts the burden of a one-off emergency situation to future generations. We are therefore committed to changing this unjust mechanism.

For example, we must invest heavily in education, manage socio-ecological and digital structural change and modernise infrastructure up and down the country. Not only the federal government, but also the states and municipalities need the necessary financial leeway for this. We therefore propose a **pact for the future of the federal, state and local** governments. This includes the reform of the debt rule already described in order to give the states more financial leeway. In addition, we want to make the highest assets in our country more responsible for financing the community. Inheritance and gift tax as well as wealth tax then strengthen the revenue side of the

states that are entitled to the revenue from these taxes. In addition, the Länder are responsible for providing the municipalities with adequate financial resources to cope with their tasks.

At the **municipal level**, a large part of the investments necessary for structural change is incurred anyway. At the same time, the financial situation of many municipalities is serious. We must and want to change that. A solution to **the specific problem of old municipal debts is finally needed**. In doing so, we want to ensure that the situation of the East German municipalities is also taken into account, which are also challenged by legacy issues through no fault of their own, such as the situation of the old municipal housing companies or the Entitlement and Expectancy Transfer Act (AAÜG). In addition, we are committed to long-term support and financing agreements between the state levels, especially in the areas of education, transport and supply infrastructure, urban development, heat planning and energy efficiency. In addition, **larger and modern capacities for infrastructure planning of the municipalities are** required, for example for cross-municipal investment planning or joint personnel deployment. We want to significantly simplify and reduce bureaucracy in funding programmes as far as possible. We want to achieve a systematic improvement in municipal finances. Through the Germany Fund, we want to strengthen municipal housing associations, energy suppliers and transport companies through equity grants or long-term loans.

At the European level, Next Generation EU has provided a decisive impetus for sustainable investments in the future. We want to support the European economy and its workers in their transformation. In order to protect the eurozone from economic shocks, we advocate a European unemployment reinsurance scheme that would take effect in times of severe economic crisis. In this way, all member states are to fulfil their important social security functions even in times of crisis.

We want to reform the **Multiannual Financial Framework** and focus it more on and invest more in key EU policies that deliver recognisable European added value. The repayment of Next Generation EU must not be at the expense of already underfunded programmes and strategically important investments. Through real EU own resources, we are making the EU more financially independent of national governments.

Since **reunification, the EU's regional funding** (cohesion policy) has made a significant contribution to developing structurally weak regions of eastern Germany into competitive and liveable regions. This must also be ensured in the future. We will not agree to the centralisation of cohesion policy. We are committed to further developing cohesion policy in line with needs so that the ecological and digital structural change can be mastered. We will expand the Just Transition Fund to all industrial regions.

We also need to strengthen government revenues through a fair tax system. This also includes continuing to fight tax evasion and financial crime. For example, it is important to **further reduce VAT fraud**, especially in cash-intensive industries, and to further develop and supplement the measures taken so far. We are committed to building and strengthening an authority in the fight against financial crime, tax evasion and money laundering. In addition, we continue to take decisive action against money laundering, close the gaps in the **transparency register**, make it accessible to civil society again and advocate for the effective fight against asset concealment. We want to continue to counteract tax avoidance and harmful tax competition. This includes an **obligation to notify of domestic tax arrangements**. We are also committed to a **uniform basic corporate tax**

of 15 percent on a uniform tax base in Europe.

In coping with the generational task of reunification, the **solidarity surcharge** proven. We will continue to use this instrument; it serves to finance the transformation of our country. In income tax, we relieved 90 percent of taxpayers of the burden of paying the solidarity surcharge some time ago. Only the taxpayers with the highest incomes (10 percent) belong to the group of solidarity payers. It also includes corporations and recipients of investment income. We will ensure that the group of taxpayers affected does not become larger and that no more citizens pay the solidarity surcharge than today.

We want (high) wealthy people to make a fair contribution to financing investments in our future.

In Germany, income from work is taxed more heavily than wealth. We want to change this and create more tax justice. Property provides security, but property also obliges. That is why we want to strengthen wealth-based taxation and increase the participation of top assets in financing the modernization of our country and our community. Inheritance **and gift tax** in its current form is not fair, because the excessive privilege of large company assets means that very little or no tax is often paid on the transfer of such multi-million or billion-dollar assets. We want to abolish this injustice. Within the existing progressive tax rate, we are introducing an effective minimum taxation for large business assets, which also applies to asset-holding family foundations. We want to increase the personal allowances in order to take account of the increases in asset prices since the last adjustment. The family home used by the owner will remain untouched in the future. The suspended **wealth tax**

we want to revitalize for very high assets. We also support Brazil's G20 plans for an **internationally coordinated minimum tax on the super-rich**. An internationally coordinated approach creates the necessary transparency about wealth accumulation and makes tax avoidance unattractive. The tax revenues from inheritance and gift tax as well as wealth tax are due to the states in whose area of responsibility education policy lies. It is therefore our goal that the Länder use the additional revenue generated by our reforms for the urgently needed strengthening and modernisation of the education system.

In addition, we want to **tax income from capital** via the income tax rate. Unlike in the financial centres of Paris or Milan, financial transactions in Germany have not yet been taxed. That is why we want to introduce a **financial transaction tax**. This should be done as much as possible in harmony with our European partners.

If a property that is not used by the owner is sold privately, the profit is currently tax-free after a **speculation period** of ten years has expired. We want to change that and thus ensure more tax justice. It also reduces incentives for purely speculative property purchases while increasing incentives for long-term investment in real estate. This can also have positive effects on the supply on the housing market.

Relieving the burden on employees and their families

In these times, there is a lot of talk in politics, business and the media about top performers. **For us, these are those who achieve a lot – and not only those who can afford a lot.** With their work – whether paid or unpaid – they ensure cohesion and prosperity in our society. These are the many employees in industry, nurses, firefighters, teachers, craftsmen, but also people who take care of other family members, such as children or elderly people in need of care. Our respect is not measured by their salary. Our respect is measured by their performance, which they far too often provide under enormous strain and without the recognition they deserve. **We show our respect and recognition by ensuring better wages, fair taxes and contributions, secure jobs and a stable pension.**

However, it is also part of our respect to cushion the effects of inflation, to ensure affordable housing and a reliable system of education, care and nursing. Employees and their families need reliability in everyday life, facilitations such as a guarantee of appointments with the doctor and a state that simply works.

6. We are fighting for an affordable home.

Housing is a human right! Those who live have a small home for themselves and their families. Living defines the quality of life of each of us. And we stand up for it! Every person has a right to find not only a roof over their head, but also security and security in an affordable home. That is why housing is a public good for us, which must not be left to the private market alone. **This is a public matter.** We want to overcome the acute housing shortage with an investment, tax and bureaucracy reduction offensive and accelerate planning and approval procedures. We want to have overcome homelessness by 2030. The creation and maintenance of affordable housing is a permanent task for the state. At the same time, we are strengthening private housing construction by creating good conditions for private investment, among other things by further reducing bureaucracy. We want to protect tenants from usurious rents and excessive demands.

We want to slow down the development of rents.

The rent brakes will expire at the end of 2025. The rent brake is a very good instrument for curbing rising rents. And we want to ensure stable and affordable rents in tight housing markets in the long term. In metropolitan areas, short-term rentals are to be reduced to a minimum. The **rent brake** is to apply indefinitely and also to properties occupied until 2019 in order to ensure stable and affordable rents in tight housing markets in the long term. We will ensure that the rent brake cannot be circumvented by, for example, (partially) furnished and temporary housing offers. In the future, **index-linked leases** will also be capped by the capping limits of normal leases, such as the local comparative rent. **Misappropriation** and vacancy of living space through short-term rentals must be prevented. There is to be more **transparency about existing rents and new rental rents.** **Exorbitant rents** must be effectively prevented, among other things by tightening economic criminal law. We want to extend the possibility of banning the conversion of rental apartments into condominiums in the BauGB beyond 2025. At the same time, we want to reform the law on termination for personal use and limit it to residential use by the nuclear family.

We want to stop the dramatic increase in rents in metropolitan areas. That's why we want only a maximum rent increase of six percent in three years to be allowed in areas with a tight housing market up to the local comparative rent. We want to open up the possibility for federal states to make independent regulations that go beyond this in order to limit rent increases more strongly in extremely tight housing markets. We want to extend the rent index observation period to ten years and include price-controlled housing in the consideration. The ancillary costs for tenants are to be more transparent and easier to understand.

Property tax is a tax on ownership of land. We want to relieve tenants of property tax. The **apportionability of property tax** must therefore not go so far that the owner may apportion all burdens to the tenants.

With the housing benefit, we specifically support employed people and pensioners. We have implemented the expansion of housing benefit to housing benefit plus, which means that significantly more people benefit from support. In the Housing Benefit Act, we have also stipulated the regular automatic increase of housing benefit in line with real price and rent developments. Similarly, we also want to stipulate a regular and **automatic increase in the BAföG housing cost lump sum** for people in training. The support must continuously follow real rent developments.

We want to ensure that students and trainees do not pay more than 400 euros for a **room in a shared flat**. To this end, we want to consolidate and increase the funds for the expansion of student and trainee halls of residence and ensure that these funds are actually used by the states for the construction of new halls of residence. By expanding the scope of the rent brake, significantly more trainees and students will be covered. By creating an online platform in cooperation with student and trainee unions that, as a legal service provider, asserts the claims of trainees and students under the rent brake free of charge and in an uncomplicated manner, we ensure that the rent brake is also enforced. Via the same platform, we will refund the difference to students and trainees whose rental contracts fall within the scope of the rent brake and have been reviewed by the platform and, if necessary, compliance with the rent brake has been sued, if the rent for their room is above 400 euros.

We want more affordable apartments to be built.

In order to stabilize the supply of affordable housing in the medium and long term, joint efforts are necessary for faster construction and a social land policy. We want to set the right framework conditions and impulses for this.

We want to strengthen and consolidate **investments in social housing construction at a high level**. In the future, we will differentiate government demand forecasts by region. This is the basis for the federal government's new construction targets and for the necessary funding. Through the Deutschlandfonds, we will provide housing associations and cooperatives with the necessary equity capital and thus boost housing construction. With the new non-profit housing status, the SPD laid an important foundation stone for another pillar for permanently affordable housing in addition to social housing in the last legislative period. We are striving to further develop the financial incentives for the construction of new apartments according to the conditions of non-profit housing with an investment cost subsidy. The federal

government is leading the way with a new **federally owned housing company** in order to relieve the market through its own housing promotion and to create housing for federal employees and civil servants. The **cooperative program** is to be consolidated and expanded.

We want to stop the rapid price development for land in many regions. We need a **trend reversal towards a social land policy**, because soil is an unreproducible commodity. Its use should also serve the common good. In order to enable long-term and sustainable urban development, municipalities must be supported in setting up **land funds**. Models are to be supported by the municipalities of **land value increases** through planning. The **right of first refusal for municipalities** must be strengthened.

Construction costs must be reduced and procedures accelerated. Our goal: Reducing **bureaucracy** must be continued and the construction administration must receive a digitalization boost. Too much bureaucracy and a lack of digitization prolong processes and decision-making paths. The **Alliance for Affordable Housing** is to be made permanent and expanded. Simplified building standards such as building type E must be further developed. There **is great potential in serial and modular construction** that we want to leverage. In the future, funding programmes in the construction sector are to be reliably offered at fixed funding conditions for the duration of the legislative period.

Accessibility and living that is appropriate to life phases are our goal. We want to promote the removal of barriers to intergenerational community life. Accessibility is to be more firmly anchored as a standard in the funding system.

We want to support the dream of home ownership.

Many people dream of owning their own four walls. But these dreams are becoming increasingly difficult to achieve. Here, too, we are pitching in. We want dreams of owning a home to become reality. Home ownership serves to provide housing and is also part of asset accumulation and old-age security. We want to consolidate and expand the **"Young buys old"** programme. It is particularly helpful in promoting property ownership among young families, who are looking for their own home, especially in small towns and communities. Through low-interest loans and subsidies for energy-efficient renovation, they get the chance to fulfill their dream. At the same time, the programme makes an important contribution to liveable city centres and villages, especially in rural regions.

In order to ensure social and demographic stability in the municipalities, **local models** and **concept awards** in the allocation of building land are also to be strengthened. Local models enable municipalities to offer local families and individuals discounted building land. This, in turn, gives young families in particular the chance to purchase property in their home community and helps to strengthen local social cohesion. At the same time, these models counteract speculative price increases.

Concept awards ensure that the allocation of land does not have to be made exclusively according to the highest bids. Particular attention should be paid to social mixing, sustainable construction and innovative forms of housing. This allows municipalities to provide targeted support for projects that create long-term added value for the community, such as housing for single parents, cooperative housing projects or intergenerational living.

7. We fight for work that makes a good life possible.

Those who work every day must be able to lead a self-determined life with a good livelihood. We want to ensure a fairer distribution of the wealth we have earned. We stand for both fair pay and fair taxation.

We want good wages for everyone.

The amount of the **statutory minimum wage** must be based on the recommendations of the European directive, i.e. at least 60 percent of the median income in Germany. We will ensure that this European law is taken into account by the Minimum Wage Commission in the future. Accordingly, the minimum wage must be 15 euros by 2026 at the latest.

Especially in eastern Germany, where many regions are still struggling with lower average wages and low collective bargaining coverage, and in the professions that many women do, the statutory minimum wage is of enormous importance because of the often low pay. However, it remains crucial to strengthen collective bargaining coverage in order to strengthen wages in eastern Germany and to secure wages above the minimum wage in the long term.

We will **significantly increase collective bargaining coverage**. Those who work with a collective agreement get higher pay and better working conditions. With a **Federal Collective Bargaining Act**, we will ensure that public contracts from the federal government only go to companies that pay their employees according to the collective bargaining agreement. This principle must also apply to European public contracts. That is why we are also committed to a **European collective bargaining law**. If public money and subsidies are used to manage the transformation of companies, they should be consistently tied to the criteria of collective bargaining coverage, location development, job security and qualification strategies. We will make it easier for **collective agreements to be universally applicable and introduce a right of action for trade unions**.

The right to strike guarantees collective bargaining on an equal footing. The Social Democrats clearly reject all attempts to restrict the **right to strike**.

We want to end the injustice that women still earn less than men, and therefore implement the EU Pay Transparency Directive into national law by 2026. We will further develop the German Pay Transparency Act into an **effective Pay Equity Act**. We also continue to advocate for an upgrade of the social service professions.

We want 95 percent of taxpayers to have more net of gross.

We are the party of the center. And as such, we are also committed to ensuring that the working middle of society should receive more net from gross. The current tax system places a relatively heavy burden on earned income, while wealth is relatively low. That is not fair and that is why we want to change that. The **income tax rate** is currently placing a relatively heavy burden on middle incomes. We want to **relieve the vast majority of income taxpayers (about 95 percent)** and, among other things, **make top incomes and assets** more involved in financing the common good and modernizing our country. Due to **tax bureaucracy** many income taxpayers currently do not file a tax return and thus also waive possible refunds. We want to reduce tax bureaucracy: The **pre-filled income tax return** is to become the standard.

As soon as this is available, taxpayers are actively informed about it by the tax authorities. Possible **refunds** are to be **made automatically**. In order for overtime to pay off, bonuses for overtime that exceed the collectively agreed full-time work will be tax-exempt. We will create a new tax incentive to extend the working hours of part-time employees: if employers pay a premium for the extension of working hours, we will give this bonus tax relief. We will rule out abuse.

We want affordable food prices.

Food prices have risen sharply since the Corona pandemic. However, it is not the producers who benefit from this, but a few large food companies. And it is a particular burden on families, single parents or people affected by poverty.

Higher wages, pensions and social benefits, which are consistently based on the development of the cost of living, are an essential answer, but not the only one.

In times of rising prices, especially for everyday food, we want to reduce the reduced **VAT rate for food from seven percent to five percent**.

In this way, we are supporting citizens after years of massive price increases. Experience shows that when VAT is reduced, retailers pass on the overwhelming share of the tax reduction to consumers. The reduction in VAT will reach all consumers when shopping, because no one can do without the purchase of basic foodstuffs. The reduction in VAT will help households with lower incomes in particular, as spending on food accounts for a particularly high proportion of income.

In addition, we must closely monitor the market power of the few large food retailers, which can lead to excessive price increases in order to expand profit margins. To this end, we want to **strengthen the responsible authorities that** make the development and composition of selected food prices transparent and public, from production to sale. The competent authorities are to check whether there are violations of competition law.

8. We fight for stable pensions.

Good security in old age is a core promise of our welfare state. Anyone who has paid contributions for decades must be able to rely on this promise. The value of work is also reflected in good pensions in old age. This also applies to today's young people, who are now entering the workforce and will pay contributions for many years. We reject the pension reduction plans of the Union and FDP.

We want your work to retain its value even in retirement.

The statutory pension insurance is the first strong pillar of old-age provision and must remain so. We are concerned with a good standard of living in old age. The security level of the statutory pension must therefore be stabilised. However, in order to secure the standard of living, the second, company pillar and the third, private pillar must also be promoted more strongly, so that low-income earners in particular have the chance to make provisions at all.

We ensure that the level of statutory **pension insurance** is permanently secured at at least 48 percent. This is also in the interest of those who will retire in the future. According to current law, this stabilisation of the pension level will expire as early as 1 July 2025. This would mean that it would fall in the future or be more decoupled from the general wage development. Even if pensions do not fall in absolute terms, this would in fact be a pension reduction in the future. With the SPD, it will remain possible to retire two years earlier without deductions after 45 years of contributions. This is especially true for people who started working early. **We reject an increase in the standard retirement age.**

We introduced the basic pension and improved the benefit for people with reduced earning capacity. We will build on that.

We want to better support all those who want to continue working after reaching retirement age. That is why we are abolishing the ban on prior employment, i.e. a new fixed-term employment contract can be concluded with the same employer. For all those who have reached retirement age, the employer's contribution to unemployment insurance and also pension insurance is to be paid directly to employees. In addition, they should also be able to claim a one-off payment instead of monthly supplements to their pension.

We want to involve all working people more and in the long term in the solidarity of the statutory pension insurance. First of all, we want to protect all self-employed people, who often have a high need for protection. This depends on good solutions that offer basic old-age security and insurance against the risk of reduced earning capacity, even in the event of increasing changes in the form of employment.

We want to improve survivors' pensions by adjusting the crediting of income.

We want to promote an attractive **company pension scheme** more strongly, which can be designed within the framework of collective agreements. We want to broaden offers without a premium guarantee, but with higher expected returns. To this end, we will expand in particular the tax incentives for company pensions for low-income earners.

A supplementary **private pension scheme** can help to maintain the standard of living in old age. We want to allow state subsidies for private pension provision only for those new pension products whose costs are transparent and capped. The state subsidy is to be differentiated and concentrated on small and medium-sized income earners who can otherwise afford no or only a small private pension plan.

9. We fight for a reliable everyday life for families.

Family – that is where people look out for each other and want to stand up for each other. Family means being connected and secure. Family – behind it is a value system of responsibility, care, love and respect. Family catches us, gives us protection, strength and courage for the sometimes harsh outside world. Our democracy is also rooted in the family, because in the family council everyone is heard, everyone has a voice. A society is shaped by how well families are doing.

We must not take for granted what families do for our society. But warm words alone do not make it any easier for the family. We make families strong. We are relying on a package of measures to further combat child poverty: with the support of earned income through housing benefit, child benefit and child allowance, with offers of care, education and care that can be relied on. After all, the everyday life of families is stressful enough even without the cancellation of classes and surprising closing times.

We want to give parents more time for their families and promote partnership.

For a successful family life, working parents need time and the necessary freedom to organize their everyday life in partnership. We therefore want to introduce a **family start time**: Fathers or partners should be able to take time off for the first two weeks after the birth of a child with full, pay-as-you-go continued payment of wages. We want to introduce **staggered maternity protection** in the event of miscarriages. We also think it is right that the next federal government develops a concept for **maternity protection for the self-employed**.

Parental **allowance and parental leave** remain a success story. While others want to cut back here, we are focusing on further development to provide even stronger incentives for fathers, strengthen their bargaining position in the workplace and better support families in the early phase. Each parent is to be entitled to six non-transferable months of parental allowance. In addition, there are another six months that can be freely distributed between both parents. **This will increase the total number of parental allowance months from 14 to 18 months.**

The specific organisation of working hours is a core component of collective bargaining autonomy. The parties to the collective agreement can better assess the respective needs and circumstances in the sectors and find tailor-made solutions. We support the trade unions in their common goal of taking into account the increased need of employees for more flexible working hours, a reduction in working hours or more options and a concomitant better work-life balance.

We want to relieve parents and families.

In order to effectively relieve parents in everyday life, a **good and reliable infrastructure for education, care and everyday help** is also needed. Families must be able to rely on the education and care in daycare centers and schools – in terms of time and quality. In addition, we are committed to free education from the daycare center onwards. All children should have the best chances of growing up well from the very beginning. They should get the support they need.

We want to help families to better manage the everyday balancing act between raising children, work, household, care and also recreation. With an annual family budget for everyday helpers, we want to directly promote household-related services that are subject to social security contributions and make them easily accessible digitally. This also helps in the fight against undeclared work.

We want to **gradually expand early help** for families in stressful situations until the end of primary school. We want to overcome the current separation of youth welfare, school and health services and merge the offers, especially in **Family centres at daycare centres and schools that reach all families.**

In all educational institutions, we are committed to good **and free catering**. In doing so, we

will take into account the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly on the topic of "Nutrition in Transition". Together with the federal states, we want to ensure that all daycare children and all students in the facilities receive a healthy and free lunch.

We want to reform the **taxation of families, taking into account life decisions already made**, achieve a fairer distribution of the tax burden for couple families and promote partnership. We therefore want to implement the transfer of the tax class combination III/V to the factor method of tax class IV, which has already been initiated, as quickly as possible. We will examine the effects of this new regulation and further reform steps in due course. For single parents, we want to convert the relief amount into a deduction from the tax liability.

We want to ensure social participation for children and families.

We want to ensure that all children have the best opportunities to grow up well from the very beginning – with an infrastructure for social participation and poverty-proof, unbureaucratic cash benefits. With the increase in child benefit and the child allowance, we have already achieved better support for families and achieved an educational policy milestone to compensate for disadvantages with the Startchancen programme at schools.

In the next step, we want to ensure that families – especially single parents – with their own low wage income with a combination of child benefit, child allowance and housing benefit are not dependent on supplementary citizen's benefit. A central point of contact will also further improve the accessibility of these services and make it even easier to apply for them (digitally). Where possible, benefits are to be applied for and paid out automatically.

At the same time, we are consistently and systematically expanding the infrastructure for education and participation. These include, among other things, the expansion of early help as well as nationwide good daycare centers and a start-up opportunity program for daycare centers in disadvantaged locations, the expansion of family centers, the gradual expansion of the start-up opportunities program at schools, good all-day offers for schoolchildren, a healthy and free lunch in all daycare centers and schools, and mobility for children and young people. For us, these are further important steps in terms of our basic child benefit.

Loneliness can affect anyone. It is a complex societal challenge with numerous possible negative effects on health and social interaction. We are committed to fundamental research and combating loneliness.

We want all children and young people to be able to grow up strong and safe.

Children and young people have a right to real co-determination! We will have **strong children's rights** also in the Basic Law to ensure protection, participation and promotion. Young people from the age of 16 should be able to participate in decision-making, which is why **we are lowering the active voting age**. Young people are to be actively involved in political processes at all levels, and their participation in youth welfare committees is to be enshrined in law. Youth associations, youth parliaments and similar structures do important work. We want to continue to support them.

The aim is to turn young people into **self-determined and self-confident citizens** to educate. Democracy **education must be lived** in all areas, especially in schools – in which children and young people can actively help shape everything that affects the **school community, its learning processes and learning content**.

Involvement **in civil society** is also a valuable experience for children and young people and must be seen as part of their education. Volunteering offers young people the opportunity to work for their community and develop valuable social skills in the process. Currently, there are more interested parties than places in many places. We therefore want to further develop the financing of **voluntary services** on the basis of a federal-state agreement.

We want to design the "pocket money" in such a way that young people from lower-income households can also decide to do voluntary service.

Children and young people have a **right to grow up without violence**. We want to orient family law more closely to children's rights and create incentives for protection concepts in all institutions where children and young people regularly stay.

We want **stricter regulations, advertising restrictions and age limits** for energy drinks, alcohol, disposable cigarettes and novel nicotine products. In addition, we are raising awareness of the dangers with awareness campaigns and preventive measures in schools. In order to reduce the sugar, salt and fat content in our food, we set binding targets and set economic incentives for products that are less harmful to health – via a manufacturer's levy on sugary beverages.

10. We fight for good health care in urban and rural areas.

Good and safe health care must not depend on patients' wallets, and it must not overwhelm people financially. We are fighting for a health care system that is fair – for everyone, everywhere in the country. At the same time, statutory health insurance is facing considerable challenges.

Regardless of income and place of residence, everyone should have quick access to high-quality care. With measures such as a deadline guarantee, the limitation of financial burdens and solidarity-based financing models, we ensure greater security and reliability in the healthcare system. Together with our self-government partners, we focus on prevention, regional supply networks, digitization and more common good instead of profit. Patients are at the heart of our health policy.

We want a health system in our country in which everyone has equal access to the same quality and which does not overwhelm anyone financially.

The health of everyone is an indicator of how a country makes policy. Our goal is a **fair health care system that** ensures fast and high-quality care regardless of crises without overburdening people financially. The **differences in waiting times and treatment options** between those with private and statutory health insurance must **be eliminated urgently** become.

Our structural reforms improve efficiency and quality, they strengthen prevention and focus on the needs of patients: reliable and safe care at all times, when necessary. We reject any deterioration in services for patients. We rely on a **solidarity-based system of citizens' insurance that** gives all people equal access to health services of the same quality. For federal civil servants, we are creating a real right to choose statutory health insurance through a lump-sum subsidy.

The financial equalisation between the health insurance funds is to be made fairer, and private insurance companies are also to contribute to the risk structure equalisation. A solidarity-based financing system creates trust and relieves citizens of their concerns about financial burdens. That is why we are strengthening the contribution-financed pay-as-you-go system. Health insurance companies and private health insurance companies thus form a system of **solidarity-based citizens' insurance**, in which everyone is involved and with which medical and nursing care as well as access to this care is equally ensured for all.

The contributions of the insured are to be based even more strongly than now on their economic performance. Our goal is also a **uniform and simple remuneration system that** at the same time safeguards the maintenance costs of the service providers. In the future, we want to **finance non-insurance tasks in the health care system sufficiently from tax revenues**. In this way, contributions for insured persons and employers remain stable, and inequalities between different groups of insured persons are ended. We want everyone to get help and appointments and to be cared for quickly and well in every situation.

In the health care system, the focus is on people: as those seeking advice, those in need of treatment and care or relatives, but also as employees in medical, therapeutic and nursing professions. This is what we are concerned with if we want to navigate the system through the challenges of demographic change and take advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalization.

After all, everyone in Germany should **be able to rely on accessible and high-quality health care**. To this end, we are continuing on the path we have taken to strengthen security of supply. We have pushed through a long overdue reform to improve the quality of care in our hospitals and prepared measures for **better outpatient care**— such as the debudgeting of family doctors, the facilitation of the establishment of municipal MVZs and the introduction of the Advanced Practice Nurse and community nurses and an improvement in the provision of medical aids, especially for people with disabilities. We would like to implement these in the future as well.

We will continue on this successful course and improve security of supply through further structural reforms, especially to secure medical **care in structurally weak regions**. Our goal is **tailor-made cooperation from emergencies to plannable surgery and aftercare**. We want to **strengthen emergency care and rescue services, remove barriers** between practices, hospitals and other care facilities and improve healthcare collaboration, including through the **use of telemedicine** and telepharmacy. We are in favour of more regionalisation, needs-based control and a supply system that is not geared towards profit, but towards the **common good and sustainability**. **Rapid help in emergencies** and reliable **access to the necessary treatment** must be guaranteed for all. In order to **reduce waiting times**, we will introduce an **appointment guarantee** from the health insurance companies and associations of statutory health insurance physicians. People with statutory health insurance should get an appointment just as quickly as those with private insurance. In the event of non-compliance with the appointment guarantee, they are to **be entitled to a reduction in premiums**.

In addition to structural reforms, we are also focusing on **digitalisation and prevention**. After all, we have massively advanced digitization in the healthcare sector in order to improve diagnostics and treatment and ensure rapid data availability. The **electronic patient record** is now coming to a standstill after 20 years, and AI medicine will revolutionize treatment. In the future, doctors and nurses will have more time for patients – by facilitating documentation and diagnostics through AI. **Digitized data exchange** will soon provide sustainable support for research into new therapies. For cancer treatment and dementia, AI will enable cures.

We also want to use the opportunities of digitization in the field of prevention and **electronic patient record into a personal health advisor** for the insured. This is intended to record the best ways to promote individual health. **Prevention and early detection are our focus**. By avoiding non-communicable diseases such as heart attacks or strokes, we want to reduce individual suffering.

In addition, we want to strengthen the prevention of addiction and **mental illness**. For young people in **psychologically** difficult situations, we are striving for low-threshold, also digital counselling services nationwide. **We continue to work consistently to ensure that all people who need psychotherapy receive a therapy place quickly**. The courageous step of taking psychotherapy must not become a disadvantage in professional life. We also want to anchor the topic of loneliness in the context of health prevention. This is a cross-cutting issue, but one that poses major challenges for the healthcare system in particular. We will therefore address these aspects in a targeted manner in a prevention strategy.

In addition, we want to further expand access to care services for vulnerable groups, for example through **health kiosks**, and take greater account of the different **health needs of women and men**, specifically promote gender- and diversity-sensitive research in order to overcome ignorance in diagnostics, therapy, prevention and rehabilitation. Health professionals are to be trained in gender- and diversity-sensitive care and communication. For diseases such as endometriosis and issues related to birth and menopause, we will develop effective solutions for better care. In addition, we will **continue to strengthen care for children and young people**.

We also want to ensure that the improvements made in recent years in the security of **supply of medicines** take effect quickly for all medicines. Because where the new rules are applied, there are already hardly any bottlenecks. In addition, we want to ensure **greater production of medicines in Germany and Europe**: health insurance companies, together with other national and European players, should be allowed to purchase larger quantities of therapies over longer periods of time if they are manufactured by us. We are strengthening local pharmacies as important points of contact for prevention, therapy support and a secure supply of medicines. We also rely on a **strong healthcare industry** and research and want to jointly promote personalized therapy options for prevention and treatment at affordable prices.

In addition, we also want to better **prepare for future events, such as another pandemic**, and comprehensively review state **crisis management in the Corona pandemic**, including with a citizens' assembly, **in order to be able to learn from it**.

11. We fight for humane care and cap care costs.

We are committed to improving our care system. We focus on people's well-being. We are creating a solidarity-based care system that leaves no one behind, overwhelms no one and offers a good environment for everyone involved: those in need of care, relatives and the nursing professions. We prevent financial overload, limit high co-payments, ensure comprehensive, high-quality care – at home and in nursing homes – and improve working conditions through innovative solutions and more time off. In order to ensure the future viability of the solidarity-financed care system in the long term, we will also use tax revenues in moderation.

We want to secure care services, cap care costs and give more time for caring for relatives.

The need for long-term care must not be a risk of poverty. That is why we want to end the previous coexistence of statutory and private long-term care insurance. Instead, we are creating a **common, solidarity-based care system** that offers secure care to all people, ensures stable contributions and protects against financial overload in the event of long-term care.

In the first step, we want to include **private long-term care insurance as quickly as possible in the risk structure equalization between all long-term care insurance funds** and thus in fair and performance-based financing. We want to significantly reduce the high **co-payments for care costs** in inpatient long-term care by **limiting it to 1,000 euros per month** (so-called **care cost cap**). For people who are already receiving inpatient care for a longer period of time, we guarantee **protection of vested rights**. They should not be worse off. We will also support **home care and also introduce a corresponding limit**. In addition, **the investment expenditure of the homes should no longer be allowed to be passed on in full to the residents** in the future. In this way, we will significantly relieve all those in need of care and their relatives. We want to finance the necessary funds more fairly. Especially in eastern Germany, where the disposable income of many people is often lower than in western Germany, the high personal contribution represents an immense financial burden for those in need of care and their families. By limiting these costs, we want to ensure that **no one has to worry about the cost of proper care because of their financial background**. At the same time, we are strengthening solidarity in the welfare state and sending a clear signal: care must not be a luxury, but must remain affordable for everyone – regardless of regional and economic differences. In addition, we want to reduce the **bureaucratic effort** and provide additional relief for those in need of care, their relatives and the care facilities, e.g. by **simplifying the application for assistance with care**.

Outpatient care is and remains the most important anchor for the reliable financing of social long-term care insurance. Those who are dependent on care and support want to be able to stay in their familiar surroundings for as long as possible. That is why it is particularly important for us to strengthen **home care** and relieve the burden on family caregivers. We will advocate for more **time sovereignty for all family caregivers** and close persons through family caregiver leave and family care allowance – analogous to parental allowance. This strengthens the self-determination of those in need of care and their families. At the same time, we will expand advice, networking and contact points for those in need of care and their relatives and consolidate new forms of housing as well as expand day and night care facilities in order to

needs-based care infrastructure.

It is important to us that the municipalities are given more opportunities to decide where and under what sponsorship the facilities and care services are located. Care must be based on the **nursing and household needs** of those in need of care and must be organised in this way. In addition, people in need of care and their caring relatives are to be given preference in the **allocation of social housing** due to the special space requirements for care. In addition, we want to take advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalisation to provide even better support for care through **digital products and advisory services**. After all, digitalisation in care can promote prevention, prevent the need for care, enable reliable monitoring and better network existing care services.

We want to improve working conditions in health professions.

It is impossible to imagine what will happen if the shortage of skilled workers in health professions increases even further. That is why it is absolutely imperative for us to implement changes for the better. Salary, working hours, powers – we must now seize the opportunity to improve the future viability of our pension system. And that goes through the professions within the system.

A high quality of care in the health care system begins with good working conditions and needs-based staffing in all areas and all employee groups. That is why we continue to advocate for proper collective agreements in health and care. We also want to ensure that needs-based staffing is introduced **nationwide for all groups of employees in the health care system**. In this way, we are decisively improving the

Compatibility of family and career.

In addition, we continue to advocate for **good wages**: The stabilization of health and long-term care insurance will create financial leeway to refinance **salaries that are bound by collective bargaining agreements**. In addition, we want to strengthen cooperation **between all health professions**, create **more permeability** and expand the **powers of nursing professionals**. At the same time, we will facilitate access to further training and health-promoting measures.

In the medical professions, we want to focus on **family doctors and paediatricians** and push ahead with the expansion of training and further education capacities as well as abolish the budgets for family doctors. Because we not only need more nurses, but also more family doctors and paediatricians.

The often high documentation effort burdens many employees in the healthcare sector. To reduce this, we are focusing on the **expansion of AI-supported documentation**. We also advocate **more compensatory time off**– for example, through a shorter weekly working time.

In order to counteract the shortage of personnel caused by demographic change, we will expand the **global recruitment and integration of skilled workers**. At the same time, we want to increase **the attractiveness of apprenticeships**, because today's trainees are tomorrow's skilled workers. That is why we are committed to practical and **free training in the health professions**. **Uniform standards** are intended to ensure that all professions in this area benefit from high quality of training – especially the therapeutic professions, which work in a highly interdisciplinary manner. Our goal is for all trainees to receive **fair remuneration** and **to have opportunities for co-determination** in the company. At the same time, the overall quality of training must be strengthened: In the nursing professions, we are particularly committed to **improvements in practice guidance** and for doctors to have reliable rules on **remuneration and working hours during the practical year**.

12. We fight for climate protection that everyone can afford.

By now, everyone knows it: sustainability and climate protection cost. Leaving everything as it is costs more. A large majority has the desire to do something for our climate. We are convinced that climate protection must be affordable. All people must be able to live and participate in a climate-neutral way, regardless of income, assets or place of residence. No one can build a heating network, lay new railway lines or set up an e-charging station on their own. We are convinced that it is the task of the state to create the conditions for everyone to be able to switch to climate-friendly technologies. In concrete terms, this means for us that the climate-friendly alternative must be better, more convenient and, above all, cheaper for citizens.

We want everyone to be able to become climate neutral.

We want a **paradigm shift in climate policy** that focuses more often on joint solutions. Building climate-neutral heating networks that heat an entire district is not only more solidary, but also more efficient and cost-effective than individual heat pumps in every house.

Social democratic climate policy means that all people have a realistic chance of switching to climate-neutral solutions. The following applies: Money from the state is mainly given to those who otherwise cannot afford to switch to climate-friendly technologies such as a heat pump or an e-car. But then also as much as is needed. Because our paradigm shift means that **climate neutrality is also the task of public services**. To this end, municipalities, states and the federal government must take on new tasks and some responsibilities must be redesigned. Above all, the municipalities need more financial leeway to cope with their numerous and growing tasks. Both the Germany Fund and the reform of the debt brake for the states offer opportunities for this. We are convinced that this is the only way we can achieve our climate goals in a socially just, effective and cost-efficient way. Where common infrastructures such as heating networks or good public transport cannot solve the problem, we rely on targeted support so that everyone can afford to make the switch.

The municipal heat planning we have introduced is a milestone on the way to a climate-neutral building stock. We want to promote local heating plans that ensure a climate-friendly and cleverly planned energy supply at the municipal level. Municipalities are to be given the opportunity to make their heat supply climate-neutral through subsidies and technical support, which will significantly advance the energy transition locally.

We are clearly committed to the **climate targets for Germany and the EU**. We must limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below two degrees Celsius and, if possible, lead it to the 1.5 degree path. We support the **European Green Deal so that** Europe becomes the first climate-neutral continent. A weakening of the achievements achieved cannot be done with us. Our economy needs planning security. We will implement laws that have been passed. We are aware of our pioneering role and will turn this into an advantage for our country, our people and Germany as a business location.

There will be households that are particularly burdened by the rising prices for CO² and cannot switch on their own because they have no choice. We think that's unfair. For us, a price on CO emissions for private households and small businesses can always be
can only be a complementary instrument. The CO price per tonne of

55 euros in 2025 and a maximum of 65 euros in 2026. When the European regulation comes into force from 2027, we will ensure that no one is overwhelmed through appropriate measures at European and national level (for example climate money).

Wind power and photovoltaics are already the cheapest form of electricity production. Their consistent expansion and the integration of storage systems makes our energy supply secure and affordable in the long term. To ensure that these low costs also reach consumers, we will make sure that grid fees do not rise further. Until then, we want to expand and consolidate the outreach advice of the **Electricity Savings Check** for the poorest households throughout Germany. We want to offer poorer households heating rental models (social heat pump leasing). District heating will become very important, especially in urban areas, and millions of people will warm their homes. To ensure that it remains affordable, we want to set up nationwide **price supervision for district heating**.

Many people can participate in solar panels or wind turbines, not only homeowners, but also entire village communities. This promotes acceptance. We therefore want to **further simplify the decentralised supply of energy**, from balcony power plants to community wind farms (energy sharing). Because if the new wind turbine finances the daycare center or swimming pool, it helps the local community and the energy transition throughout the country.

We want to make our municipalities climate-fit.

We want **urban development funding for adaptation to climate change** in order to enable cities to create green infrastructure and implement heat-resilient urban planning. This is intended to enable them to implement important measures such as the greening and unsealing of urban areas (sponge city), the creation of cooling public spaces and the expansion of water areas in order to ensure the quality of life and make urban space fit for the future.

13. We fight for a punctual railway and good mobility for all.

In Switzerland, many ICEs from Germany are no longer allowed to enter because they endanger punctuality in the Swiss network. You may smile about it, but it's not good. The railway is more than the railway. It is a reputation factor for our country. It determines our everyday life and here and there even our emotions. Deutsche Bahn stands for values that we as a society in Germany have and want to cultivate: accuracy, punctuality, functionality. Something has been lost. We need a very well-functioning railway for a very well-functioning everyday life. We want to be proud of our track again.

Our claim is and remains that everyone in the countryside and in the city can travel quickly, reliably and comfortably. The transport of goods and commodities must also function smoothly for logistics. We all feel that this is no longer the case in many places. The train is often late, the rail network is overloaded, bridges and roads are dilapidated. When the infrastructure crumbles, traffic comes to a standstill.

We have reacted decisively and launched billions of euros in investments in our infrastructure. We are consistently pursuing this path: We are making our rails, roads and waterways fit again and ensuring that they once again become a locational advantage for Germany. We will direct traffic from the roads to the railways and also to the waterway. Our goal is user-oriented and

climate-neutral mobility. We are shaping the path to this in a socially just way: mobility must be barrier-free and affordable for everyone. A mobility turnaround that takes all people with it creates and secures jobs and expands people's freedom to be as mobile as they want.

We want the train to run on time again.

The basic prerequisite for a punctual railway is a **functioning rail network**. We have pushed through record investments in the railways and will continue to do so. This is a priority for us. Together, we are making it possible for Deutsche Bahn to carry out a general overhaul of the most important railway lines. We are making our rail network efficient and future-proof again through digitalisation, electrification and noise protection. With targeted expansion and new construction, we are expanding it in the sense of a Germany and European rhythm. Our transport infrastructure must remain efficient in the long term.

The privatisation of services of general interest remains excluded. We will maintain Deutsche Bahn as an integrated group in public ownership. We are continuing to develop the new infrastructure division DB InfraGO, which is oriented towards the common good, as well as the Group as a whole, with more control and control from the federal government. In particular, we are reforming the track access pricing system for more goods by rail and promoting the implementation of the Digital Automatic Coupling.

We want to connect **all major cities to the long-distance network** and introduce more ICE Sprinters, night trains and Europe-wide express train connections. Short train travel times are the first alternative to short-haul flights. Together with Deutsche Bahn, we want to **make rail travel very easy**: refunds should be paid out as automatically as possible, and the Deutschlandticket should be better integrated into rail bookings. We want efficient and attractive stations where people like to take a break.

The Deutschlandticket is a great success that we want to preserve. Reliability has priority: We want to offer the Deutschlandticket permanently. The low price and ease of use are the recipe for success of the ticket – we want the price to remain at the current level in the long term. To this end, we will adequately finance the ticket together with the federal states. In addition, we are campaigning for a nationwide discounted Deutschlandticket at a reduced price for certain social groups such as senior citizens, families with children, trainees, students, pupils or people with disabilities. This will make local public transport affordable for the breadth of society.

Together with the states and municipalities, we will strengthen the **financing of local public transport** in the long term. The federal government's regionalisation funds are important for this. We will legally stipulate the mandatory takeover of staff for all employees in the event of a change of operator in local and regional transport. We will also enforce the obligation to comply with collective bargaining agreements in procurement procedures. In metropolitan areas, public transport is to be given priority wherever possible. Even those who cannot or do not want to drive a car must be able to be mobile. This requires good accessibility and good bus and train frequencies, both in the countryside and in the city.

We want good mobility for everyone.

More and more people are switching to buses, trains or bicycles. In terms of a sustainable future, this is a great development. But: For many, the car is an indispensable companion. For those who drive combustion engines today, we want to make it attractive to **switch to an electric car the next time they buy or lease a car**. We will continue to drive forward the nationwide expansion of the charging infrastructure for cars and trucks in a targeted manner. In addition to the new subsidy for e-cars, we want to strengthen the driving experience with electric cars all around: Our goal is fast-charging stations in every supermarket parking lot and at every gas station. We want to enable a contactless and uniform payment system at all charging stations and one's own car as an electricity storage system at home. Refuelling at the public charging station must not be punished with high price surcharges.

The driver's license has simply become too expensive for many young people. This leads to problems, especially in rural areas. Against the backdrop of increased rates of failed exams and rising prices, we will reform **driver training, including theory lessons, in the interests of road safety and efficiency**, also with the aim of noticeably reducing the costs of driver training. All young people aged 17 should therefore receive a **mobility pass with 500 euros credit**, for example for driving licence costs, train tickets or bicycles. In addition, we want to enable employers to pay out a driver's license subsidy of up to 2,000 euros tax-free to trainees and young employees.

To ensure real equality for road users, we will **continue to reform road traffic law** and firmly anchor Vision Zero. In the spirit of intermodality, we promote the bicycle infrastructure with nationwide networked cycle superhighways and bicycle parking garages and further develop the federal government's pedestrian traffic strategy. We want a fair provision of data to strengthen mobility services in rural areas, standardise tickets and better network mobility services. We strengthen an innovative taxi industry as part of public services and ensure that transport service providers comply with social standards.

However, the German motorway network urgently needs to be renovated, especially the bridges. We are launching a **new federal mobility plan**. Bottlenecks on the road are to be eliminated in the future as well. In doing so, we think of infrastructure in an integrated way: where possible, the burden should be relieved by rail or waterway.

We want to introduce a **speed limit of 130 km/h on federal motorways**. A speed limit has so many advantages that it is almost impossible to justify not introducing it. We are massively lagging behind here in a European and international comparison. If a speed limit protects human lives, why don't we do it? If a speed limit massively reduces stress, traffic jams and accidents, why don't we do it? If a speed limit is good for nature, the climate and the surrounding residential area, why don't we introduce it? It's time.

We will promote the procurement of **climate-friendly trucks** and local buses, where CO emissions can be saved particularly quickly. We are tackling the shortage of drivers

drivers in road freight transport² and enforce humane, fair and attractive working conditions for professional drivers inside and outside their vehicles, for example the inclusion of the truck cab in the protection of the Workplace Ordinance.

We want to shape the path to **climate-neutral air transport** in the sense of a fair competition (level playing field) for our airports and airlines. We are striving for uniform regulations throughout the EU that avoid the leakage of CO emissions

(carbon leakage). We want to

²
Convert aviation tax into an EU climate tax paid by all airlines, including those outside Europe. We will upgrade the **waterway infrastructure**, swiftly implement the **National Port Strategy and support the modernisation of ship fleets**. Research and market ramp-up for sustainable fuels such as e-fuels are particularly important for aviation and shipping.

14. We fight for a state that works better.

The SPD ensures a welfare state that reliably offers people security in important life situations. We want a more citizen-friendly state that supports and helps – quickly, unbureaucratically and fairly. With a strong public service, modern and digital, which sets an example as a good employer.

We want a citizen-oriented state that saves unnecessary journeys.

Our welfare state should be geared to people's life situations and needs and not to responsibilities. By **simplifying application procedures, combining and coordinating benefits**, we want to avoid being referred from one position to the next. We work towards central contact points that are close to home, socio-spatially, low-threshold, multilingual, barrier-free and also digitally accessible to everyone. This is not about an additional position, but about a comprehensive contact point for the welfare state that integrates all actors. Benefits such as child benefit are to be granted automatically. The administration independently examines which claims exist and initiates them without additional applications.

Self-administration is a proven basic principle of social insurance, which is based on the commitment of volunteers. We will strengthen self-administration in social security and make it possible for social elections to be held online. We see the welfare associations with their numerous social offers as an important partner in promoting social commitment and cohesion.

The federal government's departmental principle has constitutional status. But at the same time, thinking in terms of these departmental pillars and the coexistence of many "strategies" and programs make it difficult to overcome complex challenges – even in times of scarce resources. We need rather few, but **central interdepartmental strategies** (mission orientation) for the big issues. At the same time, we will examine which tasks, services and responsibilities of the ministries can be bundled in order to increase the efficiency and control capacity of the federal administration.

We will test all new laws and major amendments for effectiveness, citizen proximity, practicality and digital suitability before they are adopted, and we will gradually review existing laws accordingly. To this end, we will dovetail the instruments of the **citizen check**, the **practice check** and the **digital check** and anchor them in a binding manner in legislative work.

Effective reduction of bureaucracy is only possible with the involvement of those who experience it and are responsible for the bureaucracy. That is why, after a government has been formed, we will invite business, states and municipalities to a practical summit that will identify and agree on further concrete necessary measures.

We are introducing a **fiction of approval, where applications are automatically approved** if the authority does not respond within a set deadline. This gives construction and investment projects more planning security.

We want to accelerate the digitization of public administration.

The digitization of German public administration is a high priority. Since 2023, there has actually been a legal right for citizens to be able to commission any administrative service digitally. We need more speed and consistency in realizing this claim. We will **bundle all the responsibilities of administrative digitization in one ministry** and provide it with the necessary financial resources and powers. The subordinate bodies and service providers (including ITZBund, Bundesdruckerei, Federal Office of Administration, BSI, Digitalservice, FITKO) must be set up and work together in such a way that the central projects in the area of administrative digitization are finally implemented quickly and in a user-friendly manner.

The state should act in a citizen-oriented and forward-looking manner. Instead of burdening people with tedious application processes, they should receive benefits simply and unbureaucratically. Our goal is an **administration that meets the needs of citizens**, acts proactively and reduces bureaucracy to the level that is really necessary.

One key to this is **the digital exchange of data between all authorities**. It has to work without any problems. To this end, we want to set up a system for the one-time transmission of data and quickly conclude the necessary state treaty between the federal and state governments.

We are implementing the modernization of the register and building platform-based solutions for application processing. This includes **modernising the Central Register of Foreigners (AZR)** and make it the central information platform in immigration and asylum law. Data is recorded only once and made available digitally to all relevant authorities.

We are focusing on the widespread use of eID, the electronic identity that enables citizens **to securely identify themselves digitally and sign digitally**.

In this way, we are creating a basis for modern administrative services and ensuring EU-wide compatibility so that the digital identity can also be used across borders. In order to make administrative services available centrally and easily, we use the **DeutschlandID** one.

This creates modern access to state benefits. We use **automation and artificial intelligence** to speed up administrative processes and make them more efficient. In this way, we relieve the burden on employees and improve the service for citizens.

We want an attractive public service.

We want to make the **state more attractive as an employer**– with nationwide home office, job sharing and part-time models in the public sector. We want a state that sets a good example as an employer. An attractive employer that trains, finds and retains skilled workers, that improves the work-life balance. Lifelong learning is to become the basis for an efficient public service. In doing so, we rely on targeted further training and qualification so that skilled workers can expand their skills. We want to significantly reduce fixed-term employment contracts in the public sector. Permanent positions are to be the rule in order to create security and prospects for employees.

We want real participation in an inclusive society.

We are committed to an inclusive society in which people with disabilities can realise their right to full, effective and equal participation. To do this, we will use the **Improve accessibility in the private and public sectors**. We will oblige private providers of goods and services to remove barriers or, where this is not possible, to take appropriate precautions. In addition, we will make accessibility a priority in housing, mobility, digital and health.

We ensure the **realization of the equal right to work for people with disabilities**.

To this end, we will increasingly promote the taking up of work on the general labour market and quickly implement the further development of workshops for disabled people. In doing so, we will also improve the income situation of workshop employees. In addition to better opportunities for people with disabilities on the labour market, we also want to strengthen the representatives of severely disabled people in companies and political self-representation.

We want to promote German Sign Language nationwide and support as many people as possible in learning this language – whether they depend on it or not. At the federal level, we will set up a Federal Competence Centre for Easy Language and Sign Language for this purpose.

We stand for **effective protection against violence** and are tightening the legal regulations for violence protection concepts in facilities and services for the disabled.

We improve rehabilitation and participation for people with mental impairments. Their number has risen continuously in recent years - also as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. We ensure that the needs of people with mental impairments in the structured system of rehabilitation and participation are better recognized than before and addressed in a needs-oriented manner. We will swiftly implement the action plan for a diverse, inclusive and barrier-free health care system. In addition to medical rehabilitation, social rehabilitation is of great importance to us.

We want to strengthen consumer protection.

Thanks to our strong consumer protection, the products and services that can be bought in Germany are safe and harmless. This is an achievement that we will defend. But more is needed: Consumers need market surveillance authorities that are capable of acting and competition supervision at their side, which put consumer protection first. In this sense, we want to strengthen consumer protection at national and European level.

This is especially true in the digital space. Special protection against rip-offs and manipulation is required here, especially for children and young people. In addition, we advocate the preservation of net neutrality.

Feeling safe and at home in Germany

Germany is a strong democracy and one of the safest countries in the world. We put our heart and soul into ensuring that both stay that way. We know from our own history that democracy is the basis of everything. It guarantees freedom, justice and solidarity. Democracy creates a strong innovative economy, secure jobs and social cohesion. It is the key to stability, especially in uncertain times. That is why we defend and strengthen it – as the core of our society and the basis for a good future.

A strong democracy ensures security. It means freedom from fear. With our internal security policy, we protect all citizens from crime, violence and hate speech. We ensure modern civil protection that responds to the consequences of climate change and takes into account new geopolitical tensions. We protect our critical infrastructure, strengthen cybersecurity and defend our country from hybrid warfare and sabotage by hostile actors. Our goal is that people feel safe and can be sure that they belong.

To this end, we are strengthening cohesion in our country. It grows where respect, solidarity and the belief in a common future are alive. That is why we ensure equal opportunities and non-discriminatory participation of all citizens. We fight discrimination, racism, right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism, Islamism and all other forms of group-related enmity. In doing so, we seek to close ranks with all democrats and organisations for a strong civil society.

15. We fight for cohesion and against the enemies of democracy.

Democracy is a great achievement of civilization. It must be learned, lived and defended. It is civil society that is crucial here. We fight fake news, hate and incitement and resolutely stand up against all forms of extremism. Throughout the country and especially in eastern Germany, numerous committed associations and civil society actors are doing valuable and courageous work on the ground. Together with a strong community of democrats, we want to defend freedom, justice and solidarity against old and new enemies of democracy.

We want to make democracy tangible and support civil society in its commitment.

We promote educational opportunities that convey democratic values and enable people to actively participate in democracy. For this reason, a democracy that can be experienced must begin at a young age and continue in schools and companies in order to strengthen co-determination and responsibility from the very beginning. We will support schools, extracurricular educational institutions and political education initiatives.

Falsifications of history and disinformation endanger democracy at its core. That is why we need **better historical education to strengthen critical historical awareness**. We want to strengthen cooperation between the places of education and remembrance. We promote the structures of historical education and research, whether in universities or schools, museums or memorials, as well as volunteer initiatives.

We want to **establish citizens' assemblies as an integral part of our democracy**. Citizens' assemblies drawn by lot advise on difficult topics and strengthen trust in democracy. They make democracy tangible by inviting people with different positions to exchange ideas, encouraging compromise and ensuring that the balance of interests is understood as the core of democracy. Their recommendations are incorporated into the parliamentary deliberations, while the decisions remain with the elected institutions.

A vibrant civil society is the backbone of our democracy. With the **Democracy Promotion Act**, we are creating the basis for sustainably supporting civil society initiatives that are funded by programmes such as the federal programme "Live Democracy!". We want to modernise non-profit law.

Independent research at universities and the work of memorials and museums are indispensable. We ensure that these facilities are adequately funded. At the same time, we protect their supervisory bodies from right-wing extremist influence.

State institutions should reflect the diversity of our society. With targeted measures, we create a **culture of openness and integration in the public sector**.

Churches and religious communities make a valuable contribution to our coexistence. **We promote interreligious dialogue and protect freedom of religion or belief.**

Discrimination violates the dignity of those affected, endangers social cohesion and undermines trust in a just society. We fight for all people in Germany to be able to live **freely and equally in dignity and rights**.

A National Action Plan for Anti-Discrimination can help to combat discrimination in all areas of life.

We want to further strengthen the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency and expand civil society counselling services so that those affected receive targeted support.

We want to modernise the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) in order to ensure more effective protection against discrimination.

We want to prevent and combat extremism.

For once, we are not fighting for something, but actually against something, namely against extremism. Because we know how dangerous it can be for a society. **We make an offer to people who doubt democracy out of uncertainty or frustration and turn away:** We want to improve the democratic participation of our country through better citizen participation and comprehensible decisions and regain lost trust.

In the fight against extremism, we focus first and foremost on **prevention in order to combat extremist tendencies and hostility to democracy at an early stage**. Preventive measures are being developed and implemented in a targeted manner in order to nip such developments in the bud. The work of the Task Force on the Prevention of Islamism will provide us with important clues here.

We ensure that the **financial sources of right-wing extremist networks** are exposed and dried up. We want the structures of right-wing extremist groups to be consistently uncovered and prevented. To this end, we are checking whether the current powers of the security authorities are sufficient.

Extremist tendencies will continue to be intensively monitored, and our security authorities must be able to intervene earlier in anti-constitutional activities. Protecting our democracy is our top priority.

To this end, we will continue to examine how we can **control access to weapons even better** and disarm extremists even faster. People with a mental health background are not allowed to have access to weapons.

We **are fighting Islamism with all our strength** and severity and are further strengthening the prevention of Islamism. We deprive Islamists of space and finances and thus clearly show that Islamism and anti-Semitism have no place in Germany. We want to strengthen civil society initiatives, prevent radicalization, and at the same time equip the security authorities with the necessary means to consistently dismantle Islamist networks.

Enemies of the constitution have no place in the public sector. With the federal disciplinary law, which has already been reformed, we are ensuring that enemies of the constitution no longer remain in the civil service and destroy trust in state institutions.

We are further strengthening the **fight against foreign disinformation campaigns** and exposing attempts by state actors to influence democratic opinion-forming in Germany.

16. We fight for more respect, security and protection from violence.

Thanks to the professional work of our security authorities, Germany continues to be one of the safest countries in the world. We want people to feel safe too. The security authorities must be put in a position to avert dangers and threats at an early stage. That is why we react consistently and tangibly to threats. This is especially true with regard to violence against women and children as well as politically motivated crime. This also applies to the threats posed by organised crime, financial crime and crimes on and from the Internet (cybercrime). We counter the breeding ground for terror, fear and hatred in a focused and consistent manner. To this end, we continue to rely on strong security authorities and modern instruments. We take care of solid civil protection and protect our critical infrastructure. We provide security that protects and creates trust.

We want to strengthen security authorities and the judiciary.

Especially in challenging times, the visibility of the police is of considerable importance. To this end, too, we want to **consistently continue to increase the number of staff in the security authorities** and thus also secure their strength when more colleagues retire in the coming years. It is clear to us that we will keep the **retirement age in the federal police service** stable at 62 years.

We ensure good working conditions in the Federal Police and support the police officers in their work for our safety. In addition, we provide **modern equipment and up-to-date powers**

for police and security authorities. We are creating a **modern Federal Police Act** that gives the Federal Police clear powers to effectively meet today's security policy challenges.

We want police officers to receive respect and recognition for their indispensable services to our society. **Attacks on them, as well as on rescue workers and helpers, must be consistently punished and punished more severely.** In addition, we want to quickly increase the protection of emergency services through improved technical equipment, training and a superior force approach in threatening situations. We must stand by the people who risk their lives every day for our safety.

In order to better ensure that no one is harmed when fireworks are set off, we are examining the expansion of the legal options for municipalities to be able to act in a more targeted manner on the ground.

In addition, we will launch an initiative with the Länder to harmonise the federal differences in the area of **police and assembly law**. At the same time, the riot police of the states and the federal government are to be strengthened so that the fundamental right to assembly can be protected everywhere.

We fight organized crime effectively and sustainably. To this end, we are modernising the definition of organised crime and strengthening our security authorities. We also want to focus on organized white-collar crime and take better account of network-like structures.

We also want to further step up the fight against environmental crime by working to ensure that the European Public Prosecutor's Office is also responsible for this and that Europol expands its resources in this area.

Our police should be able to **carry out automated (AI-based) data analyses**. This enables a much faster fight against crime, which is why we are creating rule-of-law instruments for the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police. Particularly in the important fight against organised crime, we must enable them to efficiently evaluate huge amounts of data and to combat crime in a targeted manner.

We want to promote the establishment of an interdisciplinary, independent Federal Academy for Prevention and Criminal Sciences. It is intended to provide an overview of effective crime prevention concepts, create standards and support the implementation of new prevention projects. It is also intended to form a hub for criminology projects and enable knowledge transfer into practice.

We are strengthening the entire chain of the rule of law: In addition to the security authorities, we want to strengthen the public prosecutor's offices and (criminal) courts. The judiciary must not become a bottleneck. With a new **pact for the rule of law**, we will work with the federal states to better equip the judiciary in terms of personnel and equipment. In addition, we want to reform the **Code of Criminal Procedure to make it more effective** and continue the **digitization of the judiciary** with systems that are compatible nationwide.

We want to protect women from violence.

Femicides are extreme forms of violence against women. Women are killed simply because they are women. It is the underlying social and patriarchal structures that make these acts possible in the first place. These are an expression of deep misanthropy. We are taking preventive and repressive action against this with all available means. We want to further strengthen the criminal law position of victims of sexualised violence. Any sexual act carried out without clear consent must be made a punishable offence. We are improving criminal prosecution and supporting the establishment of specialised public prosecutors' offices by the Länder. We are committed to the full implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Domestic violence and intimate partner violence must also be taken into account in custody and access proceedings.

We are making significant **sexual harassment a punishable offence**: Unwanted, degrading acts such as "catcalling" should be prosecuted in the future. In this way, we want to better protect those affected and clearly show social boundaries.

With a tightening of the Protection against Violence Act, we want to better protect those affected by domestic violence and other stalking: Measures such as electronic ankle bracelets, mandatory anti-violence training for perpetrators and residence bans as well as house arrest offer better protection against perpetrators and enable closer monitoring in dangerous situations. To this end, we are adapting the relevant legal bases.

We want **gender-based violence to be made a criminal offence throughout the EU**. Our goal is to achieve uniform standards in protection and law enforcement in all member states.

We want a **right to protection and counselling**: With a nationwide legal entitlement, we ensure that those affected have access to shelters such as women's shelters and counselling centres at all times. We want more prevention against gender-based and domestic violence. With the **Violence Assistance Act**, we want to further expand these structures and secure them in the long term.

We consistently fight human trafficking and any kind of sexual exploitation. Those affected must receive protection and help quickly.

We also want to **better protect refugee women** from violence. For victims of domestic violence, we want to make it easier for them to comply with the residence obligation and residence requirements, and we also want to make the independent right of residence – independent of the spouse – more practical.

We want to prevent violence and crime on the Internet.

Unfortunately, violence is also spreading in the digital world. Rapidly and on an unprecedented scale. We also want to take consistent action against digital violence. To this end, we are creating a **digital Protection against Violence Act**. To this end, we close gaps in criminal liability for image-based violence and restrict the use of so-called spy apps. In addition, it should be easier to block the perpetrator accounts. Provided with a right of action by associations, it should be possible to effectively enforce the rights of those affected.

We are making the Federal Office for Information Security (**BSI**) a **central office for cyber and information security**. In addition, we are strengthening the capacities of the security authorities against cybercrime. In this way, we are improving cooperation between the federal and state governments and strengthening the defence against cyber attacks on people and the economy – especially IP addresses and port numbers. In doing so, we ensure the protection of users' data, strengthen companies' IT security measures and their responsibility in the fight against hate and incitement on the Internet. At the same time, we are creating a better basis for effective prosecution in the event of concrete suspicions. In addition, we rely on the **log-in trap**, which records the IP address when logging into a suspicious user account, which allows master data to be determined via judicial interfaces – of course in strict compliance with fundamental rights and data protection.

We consistently enforce regulations against hate crime and other crimes on the Internet as well as for the protection of minors. We implement clear rules to **combat hate crime and cybercrime**. Platform operators will be obliged to remove illegal content, while at the same time we will strengthen the protection of minors, for example through effective age verification options.

We fight against misanthropy in all its forms.

Discrimination in public and digital spaces by right-wing populists, right-wing extremists and other forces has increased to an alarming extent.

We continue to resolutely oppose **any form of group-related enmity**. It is a core element of right-wing extremist attitudes and is expressed in racism, anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim sentiment, but also in sexism, anti-feminism or queer hostility. We will not tolerate this exclusion of people from the middle of our society.

We fight against anti-Semitism and for Jewish life in Germany.

Germany has a special responsibility in the fight against anti-Semitism. We must warn against it and stand up loudly and visibly against it, regardless of whether it comes from right-wing extremists, Islamists or other misanthropic tendencies. This is **an obligation for society as a whole**. All parties and civil society organizations must make it clear that there is no place for anti-Semitic views in their ranks.

We are grateful for Jewish **life and culture in Germany**. It is an enrichment of our society and, in view of our history, a special declaration of trust in our democracy and our rule of law.

That is why we continue to advocate for the promotion and protection of Jewish life in Germany and are committed to supporting the Jewish community in our country. This includes strengthening the visibility of Jewish life, keeping alive the memory of the Shoah, and promoting memorial sites and educational work.

The **security of Jewish life** must be guaranteed in both the public and digital spheres. In addition, we are committed to ensuring that universities are safe places for Jewish students and teachers and that anti-Semitic behavior is consistently punished.

We fight for a just and protective drug policy.

In the case of cannabis, we want to take the necessary steps to enable legalisation in accordance with European law in order to improve health protection, the protection of minors and the fight against organised crime.

We are improving civil protection and disaster relief.

We are strengthening **preparedness against climate impacts** such as extreme precipitation, heat waves and drought. We are also strengthening **civil defence** in order to be better prepared for geopolitical threats such as hybrid attacks or military conflicts.

We want to better equip our country against (hybrid) attacks on our **critical infrastructure** and against **disinformation campaigns**. To this end, we will better interlink municipalities, states, the federal government, municipal utilities and the operators of critical infrastructure and also update and adapt the precautionary and safeguarding laws for this purpose. In addition, we want to strengthen the powers of the security authorities for cyber defence.

A central step in this is the KRITIS umbrella law, which introduces nationwide and cross-sectoral requirements for the physical protection of critical infrastructures (KRITIS). This law is primarily aimed at the resilience of companies in order to ensure the security of supply of vital services to our society.

Increasing economic and social resilience is a central component of security and overall defence. This also includes the architecture of climate-neutral energy systems. We want them to make an important contribution to the sustainable and resilient supply structure.

The **Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)** is indispensable for protection and assistance in the event of an emergency. We want to continue to provide it with the necessary human and material resources.

As *the* volunteer party, we want to continue to support those involved in the volunteer fire brigades, the THW, the German Life Saving Society (DLRG) and the rescue and medical services. We will continue our **"help for helpers"**.

We will continue to provide **solid supplementary equipment for the fire brigades**. We want the federal government to help to be prepared for complex dangerous situations, such as flood protection and CBRN deployment.

We want people to be warned of dangers better and faster. To this end, we will continue to promote the **nationwide expansion with sirens** and improve the existing warning apps.

We want more **exercises to take place again in the event of a disaster**. To ensure cooperation and operational capability, all levels are to be involved, using modern technologies such as virtual reality.

17. We fight for equality, for a society free of racism and discrimination.

Our goal is a society in which all people can live safely and realize their dreams with equal dignity, equal opportunities and free from discrimination, or even fear of threats and violence.

Our feminism fights against structural disadvantages of any kind, as it unfortunately continues to be the order of the day against women, people of color and queer people.

Discrimination in public and digital spaces by right-wing populists, right-wing extremists and other forces has increased to an alarming extent. We clearly oppose any form of misanthropy.

We want to realize women's rights and equality by 2030.

To ensure that women and men can participate equally in working life, care work and management positions, we combat structural disadvantages. In this way, we contribute to a sustainable, just and economically successful future.

We will continue to make equality a guiding principle of all government departments in the future – in the spirit of **gender mainstreaming**. In doing so, we are guided by the "three R's" of feminist foreign and development policy: rights, resources, representation. With an impact assessment of all measures, laws and the federal budget, we will achieve more equality. The federal government's interdepartmental **gender equality strategy** is to be further developed and placed on a legal basis.

Anti-feminism and anti-gender movements threaten our free coexistence.

We will counter this by fighting anti-feminism, sexism and all forms of discrimination, and by taking action against degradation and hate speech.

We want the **Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency to also focus on anti-feminism** in order to specifically prevent misogynistic discrimination.

The **modernisation of working time models** enables a better work-life balance. At the same time, we are ensuring the quality and reliability of daycare centers and schools through a skilled worker offensive and significantly reducing closing times.

The **fair distribution of care work** must become a matter of course. Additional vacation days for caring parents promote a partnership-based organization of everyday family life and relieve the burden on those who have to reconcile care and work. We want to **make everyday life easier for parents and especially working mothers**. Flexible working time models and a reliable childcare infrastructure in daycare centers and schools create more time for the family. Our improved parental allowance model, according to which each parent is entitled to 6 months of parental allowance and a further 6 months can be freely distributed, increases the total number of parental allowance months from 14 to 18 months, supports real partnership and gives parents equal opportunities for family time.

Women are to be better protected from poverty in old age. We strengthen the recognition of child-raising and care periods in retirement and create fair protection for all phases of life. Cost-effective and transparent pension models ensure that women are well provided for in old age.

We want **family caregivers to be supported even better.** It is a fact that women in particular achieve this great achievement. With family caregiver leave and family care allowance, similar to parental allowance, we make it possible to reconcile care and work without financial losses.

We want **women's health to receive even more attention.** We close data gaps and improve care for endometriosis, childbirth, contraceptives and menopause, for example, so that healthcare meets the specific needs of women.

We will **decriminalize abortions** and regulate them outside of criminal law – unless they are done against or without the will of the pregnant woman. We want to make abortions part of basic medical care.

The **time for parity** is now – more women need to be in parliament. To this end, we will launch a parity law that will ensure equal representation of women and men in the German Bundestag in list and direct mandates in elections. 50/50 is our standard in all parliaments and at all cabinet tables.

Our goal remains the equal participation of women in management positions. To this end, we will **further develop the Leadership Positions Act** with the aim of achieving parity on supervisory boards and executive boards by 2030. As a next step, we are striving for an **equality law for the private sector.**

We will work to ensure that an **EU Charter of Women's Rights** is adopted, thus ensuring effective protection of women's rights throughout the EU.

We want to take action against lies, hatred and agitation.

We **close the protection gaps in the case of inhumane hate speech.** We will pay particular attention to right-wing extremist statements by public officials and in schools and revise the incitement to hatred paragraph accordingly.

We are improving **data protection for hate crimes.** In criminal proceedings, the residential or residence address will no longer have to be disclosed by file inspection in order to better protect those affected.

Hate crime on the Internet and targeted disinformation campaigns endanger our democracy. We will take consistent action against this and **further expand the Central Office for Criminal Content on the Internet at the Federal Criminal Police Office** in order to make the prosecution of online hate crime more effective. We are strengthening the new contact point for local politics in the German Forum for Crime Prevention.

We want to protect queer lifestyles even better from discrimination.

We want to **explicitly extend the protection against discrimination in the Basic Law (GG) to sexual orientation and gender identity**. We will therefore expand Article 3.3 of the Basic Law accordingly.

We want to ensure that all **discrimination against queer families ("rainbow families") in family and parentage law is abolished**: Queer families are to be given full equality in family and parentage law.

We will further develop the Federal Government's **"Queer Life" action plan** with the participation of civil society: The action plan will be updated in cooperation with civil society in order to better take into account the reality of queer people's lives. The SPD stands behind the Self-Determination Act and the queer political achievements to date. There will be no turning back with us.

18. We fight for media diversity, for diversity in art and culture and for a strong sport.

In the age of constant change, creativity is considered the competence par excellence. In addition, even in the era of artificial intelligence, we still want to remain the land of poets and thinkers. Art inspires, irritates and opens up new perspectives. Without free and powerful art, what underlies all progress atrophies: the ability to reflect on our present life and to imagine a better one. For us, the unrestricted freedom of the arts is therefore not only a cultural value, but also a political mission.

Sport inspires millions, whether in voluntary work, as an amateur or professional. It promotes integration and makes an important contribution to health – from childhood to old age. That's why we support sport comprehensively. Also because we know: Nowhere else can value topics such as respect, diversity, inclusion and cohesion be told and proven more beautifully than with sport.

Free and independent media are indispensable for public discourse. We want people to be able to rely on facts in the news. That is why we are strengthening media diversity as the foundation of democracy.

We want to promote media pluralism as an important basis of democracy.

Public **service broadcasting** remains a central pillar of the dual media system and must be strengthened through mission-based, legally secure financing. It is intended to reach all generations with high-quality, independent offerings. **Private media companies** are an important second pillar and should be supported by good regulatory and regulatory framework conditions in order to ensure their economic stability and social relevance even in the digital age. We want to **promote local and regional media** and support innovative media formats in order to ensure participation and diversity in the media system.

In view of the already immense extent, **the fight against disinformation is an outstanding social task**. **Media literacy** is a basic skill in the digital age. We are committed to expanding media and news literacy programs for all ages to counter manipulation and disinformation. Platforms are to be obliged to disclose their **algorithms and decision-making processes for content presentation** and to check for

discriminatory or manipulative practices. Transparency and accountability of platform providers are central to protecting democratic opinion-forming. In the fight against disinformation, state supervision must exercise restraint in order not to give rise to a feeling of state censorship. But the state can demand effective moderation of platforms, promote independent media that also carry out fact checks, among other things, and strengthen cooperation and expansion with professional associations and self-regulatory bodies, such as the Press Council.

We also want strict **enforcement of the bot labeling requirement** from the AI Regulation, as well as mandatory fact-checking tools on large platforms. European regulations (DMA, DSA, AI Regulation) must be enforced and platforms must be forced to take action against illegal content and to take effective precautions against systemic risks such as disinformation and fake news.

We promote cultural participation, give artists social security and strengthen the creative industries.

, for which we will continue to work tirelessly. We want greater financial and organisational support for the providers of cultural infrastructure, for affordable cultural offerings to be made accessible to all citizens, and for cultural education and inclusive strategies to be promoted. **Culture is to be anchored in the constitution as a state goal.** In this way, we give the importance of art and culture a firm place in our society.

We are committed to the fact that the state bears the responsibility at all its levels to promote culture and to secure the freedom for artistic creation. We ensure the **future-oriented organisation and financing of culture.** This applies in particular to the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, the Federal Cultural Foundation, the development funds and cultural offerings with a national reach. We will strengthen monument protection, preserve cultural and architectural heritage and promote the sustainable transformation of culture.

In order to protect our free democratic basic order, the cultural policy of the federal government must be more than just a supplement to the many tasks that are carried out in the cultural sovereignty of the states. We understand it as **social policy** and as work on the cultural and discursive formations of the Federal Republic.

We learn from history for the present. That is why work in a culture of remembrance is indispensable in a democracy. Right now, we will keep the memory of the Nazi crimes and the Shoah alive and convey them to future generations. We want to promote and preserve the cultural and historical heritage of displaced persons, (late) resettlers and the German minorities in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS states, as well as the culture of remembrance of the history of flight, expulsion and deportation, and understand it as part of the history of Germany as a whole. We want to promote the cultural and historical heritage of national minorities.

The further reappraisal of the crimes of the SED era and colonialism must also continue. We will not forget the victims of dictatorships in Germany.

In order to appeal to everyone and not just a small target group, we want to promote cultural and memorial sites with a regional connection. To this end, we are developing the Federal Initiative for Industrial Culture, which makes local history and art fit for the future in an approachable way. The heritage and achievement of the working class must also be transmitted to future generations.

In 2025, we will celebrate 35 years of German unity. We want to bring positive events in the history of German democracy even more into the public eye and thus make a contribution to strengthening democracy.

We stand for a broad understanding of culture that **recognizes high, pop, socio- and subculture** in equal measure. We will take care of cultural and creative activities in all their diversity.

We ensure the **security and fair payment of artists**. We will expand the artists' social security fund and fundamentally better tailor social security to the special working and living conditions in the art industry.

We will continue to guarantee **copyright and ancillary copyrights** in the future. To this end, we protect creative products and ensure appropriate remuneration. We will help to develop fair and transparent remuneration models, especially in the digital music market. We also make sure that AI-generated content is clearly recognizable.

When regulating digital platforms and artificial intelligence, we ensure that creation and technology are on an equal footing and that remuneration rules are fair. For more independence from Chinese and American platforms, we are examining the extent to which alternatives for European cultural producers can emerge and be promoted.

We strengthen the cultural and creative industries. The cultural and creative industries are an important driver of innovation and employment. We want to strengthen their promotion through clear framework conditions and tax incentives. A central coordinator in the federal government is to make better use of its potential and provide targeted support for technological developments such as artificial intelligence.

We want to strengthen German film. The SPD stands up for jobs and the domestic film location. We are therefore committed to a comprehensive reform of film funding, consisting of a tax incentive system and an investment obligation for international streaming platforms. This is how we ensure the competitiveness of the film industry. **Cinemas in rural areas** are important cultural meeting places. We want to maintain and strengthen them through long-term funding programmes.

We want to expand the **promotion of pop culture** in order to create a wide range of cultural offerings, especially for younger target groups. With **"cultural protection areas" in building law**, we protect **cultural institutions such as clubs** from displacement and secure them a long-term perspective.

We want to specifically promote games as a non-profit cultural asset and driver of innovation. They combine culture, technology and business and contribute to creative diversity.

We want to promote sport in its full range.

We want to advance Germany in both top-class and popular sports. To this end, we will specifically strengthen the professional environment for coaches and athletes by **consistently continuing the reform of top-level sport and further developing the Sports Promotion Act accordingly**. In this way, we create the basis for long-term success, promote talent and support sporting diversity in Germany.

We want to anchor **sport as a state goal in the Basic Law** in order to strengthen health, social participation, inclusion and integration through the power of sport. We help states, municipalities and clubs to renovate sports facilities and increase the attractiveness and accessibility of volunteering in popular sports.

We attach great importance to **protection against violence in sport**: That is why we continue to stand by the Center for Safe Sport to combat physical, psychological and sexualized violence.

We say **yes to major sporting events** in Germany and support the German Olympic Sports Confederation in its bid for **the Olympic Games and Paralympics in Germany**.

19. We fight for strong municipalities, equal opportunities in rural and urban areas and sustainable agriculture.

We want people to be free to choose whether they live in the city or in the countryside – with equal opportunities everywhere. We strengthen rural areas and secure local services of general interest. Climate-friendly cities, lively villages and modern infrastructure are the key to a good life everywhere in Germany.

We want to strengthen equal living conditions and rural areas.

We want to create equal living conditions throughout Germany by providing targeted support to regions with special challenges. By investing in infrastructure and strengthening local strengths, we promote economic dynamism and social stability. Rural areas in Germany are differently dynamic, prosperous and future-proof. These structural challenges must be overcome. Rural areas are facing challenges, especially in the fields of modernisation, coexistence, agriculture, mobility and health care. Differentiated political answers must be found here.

We will strengthen rural areas by **expanding broadband internet** and creating and promoting sustainable mobility solutions. We develop small towns as anchor points for economic, cultural and social networks to promote regional development.

We ensure **access to high-quality services** regardless of where you live. With telemedicine and medical care centres, we are strengthening health care and investing in education and care services for equal opportunities. We are expanding urban development funding and strengthening brick-and-mortar retail.

We promote **regional economic structures**, strengthen value chains and create fair working conditions. In this way, we secure jobs and strengthen the stability of rural regions.

We promote the participation of local people through citizens' forums, digital platforms and participation projects, for example by **facilitating municipal development councils** in which representatives from politics, business and civil society work together to develop recommendations for long-term decisions.

Mobility is an important prerequisite for being able to guarantee equivalent living conditions. To this end, we are strengthening (on-demand) buses and trains in rural areas and in the city. We know that the car is indispensable for many, especially in rural regions.

In order to make vacant buildings in rural areas usable again and thus strengthen the attractiveness and economic power of these regions, we need a comprehensive **vacancy strategy for rural areas**. Targeted funding programmes and incentives are intended to motivate municipalities and private owners to convert vacant properties into residential or commercial space. More than ever, allotment gardens now fulfil an important ecological balancing function in cities and municipalities, support biodiversity and are also places of social integration, which we will continue to support.

We want to protect nature and ecosystems.

In order to protect nature and ecosystems in line with European and international obligations, effective measures are needed in existing protected areas and the networking of ecologically valuable areas. We want land use planning that protects wilderness and cultural landscapes and native species and enables conflict-free coexistence between agriculture and the energy industry, tourism, industry, housing and nature conservation. Funds from the Natural Climate Action Programme and the Nature Conservation Fund are to be used nationwide in order to:

forests, moors, floodplains or urban greenery. We want **marine protected areas** that are real retreats and recreational areas for species.

The goals of our climate protection policy are to avoid greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the expansion of renewable energies, efficient energy management, decarbonization of industry and a more comprehensive circular economy. We therefore follow the principle of "CO

2- Avoidance of CO

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Nuclear **power** in Germany is shut down and that's a good thing. What is needed now is the safe final disposal of radioactive materials. We will constructively accompany and accelerate the repository search procedure without jeopardising safety.

We want to strengthen modern agriculture and forestry as well as ecological diversity.

Agricultural businesses are part of the core area of the medium-sized economy in Germany. About one in ten jobs depends directly or indirectly on agriculture. However, the production of food is more than just an economic sector. Agriculture has shaped the identity of rural areas for centuries and the work of farmers deserves our respect.

For us, the future of agriculture is **digital and low in bureaucracy**. This is one of the reasons why we want to strengthen farmers in mastering the challenges of the future. Agricultural activities need regional and sustainable perspectives in order to have a long-term and responsible effect.

We want to give farmers backing through the **reform of agricultural subsidies**, because they are at the beginning of the agricultural value chain. The aim is to increase remuneration and remuneration for services that benefit workers in agriculture, rural regions and animal welfare. Our measures to stabilise competitive energy prices will also relieve the burden on agriculture. With the new **CAP funding period starting in 2028**, we want to provide greater support to all those who conserve water, soil and air

resources, contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and implement measures for climate protection and climate adaptation. We want to make the transition gradually. The regulations of the CAP must be fundamentally simplified.

We are sure that you can also work well and sustainably in the conventional sector with clever agriculture: soil-friendly, animal welfare-friendly, climate-adapted. We want to make it easier to do this and create planning security.

In view of the climate and biodiversity crisis, it is essential to adapt the legal framework in order to secure the diverse **ecosystem services of our forests** for future generations.

We want to **support fishermen in** positioning themselves for the future through a stronger combination of their incomes.

20. We fight for a modern immigration society.

The SPD ensures that Germany can fully exploit its strengths as a country of immigration. As an ageing society, we are dependent on immigration. Diversity is an enrichment, and we are committed to ensuring that integration succeeds better and faster. That is why it was so important that we finally modernised the citizenship law. With the facilitated opportunity to acquire German citizenship, we have made it easier for many people to identify with Germany and sent a strong signal for participation and belonging. In this way, we strengthen social cohesion and create the basis for a modern, cosmopolitan Germany. The CDU/CSU, on the other hand, has blocked this central project out of ideologically influenced defensiveness. It makes it clear that it stands for a policy of exclusion. By clinging to outdated ideas, the Union is thus endangering social peace and opposing a modern society based on cohesion, diversity and equal opportunities. On the other hand, we are continuously reviewing existing structures in order to continue to turn the history of integration into a success story.

Immigration to Germany for reasons of asylum and flight continues to pose major challenges for us. We meet it responsibly at all levels with humanity and order. One thing is clear: If you don't follow the rules, you have to leave. But for those who are dependent on protection, we grant protection. Anyone who has not received protection status as a refugee and still manages integration into the labour market and society and is exempt from punishment should be given the opportunity to change lanes into skilled immigration.

We want to improve integration and simplify the immigration of skilled workers.

We will **develop integration courses** and ensure that they are financed with adequate budgetary resources so that they can continue to play their central role in initial integration.

We want to get a **participation law off the ground**: Binding regulations are to achieve equal participation in all relevant areas – from education and work to political co-determination. The aim is to break down barriers to participation, create equal opportunities and thus strengthen integration and social cohesion. We want to implement the **Skilled Immigration Act unbureaucratically and continue to develop it**

further so that qualified workers can come to Germany more easily and quickly. With clear rules, simplified and faster recognition of qualifications and degrees, and fair recruitment agreements, we are creating the basis for promoting integration and participation at the same time.

We want to **further strengthen protection against discrimination, racism and exclusion**. To this end, we will expand the General Equal Treatment Act and permanently anchor the position of the Anti-Racism Commissioner. We do not accept that millions of people in Germany who belong to us and contribute every day with their work to the success of our country are treated with hostility and exclusion. It pains us that many of them are concerned about whether it is still safe for them in Germany and whether there is a good future for them and their children.

That is why we need an expansion of anti-discrimination counselling and a new edition of the National Action Plan against Racism. We want to build this on a contemporary definition of racism. We welcome the continuation of the UN Decade for People of African Descent and ensure that it is implemented in Germany.

We will optimise arrival structures through more centralisation, digitalisation and reduction of bureaucracy in order to speed up procedures and create clear prospects. To this end, we are strengthening the immigration authorities, improving the exchange of data and establishing one-stop government procedures. When clarifying identity, we will ensure clear regulations, taking into account the security interests of the state.

We want to control migration with humanitarian responsibility.

We have provided new clarity in migration policy – for a paradigm shift towards orderly migration to the labour market and better control of forced migration. At the European level, the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) will apply from 2026. We want humanitarian standards for refugees to exist throughout Europe and migration to be managed in solidarity. The individual human right to asylum and international refugee law are the basis for the Common European Asylum System. Border procedures must ensure high legal standards. Our goal is a truly solidarity-based distribution in which all member states participate. This requires more than a loosely agreed solidarity mechanism in the European Union.

Border closures and blanket rejections at internal borders contradict the spirit of a common area of freedom, security and justice. The temporary reintroduction of internal border controls must therefore remain the absolute exception.

We are counting on a significant **acceleration of asylum procedures – both at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and in administrative court proceedings**. With comprehensive digitization and administrative modernization, we want to ensure that asylum decisions can be made within six months.

We will **continue to make family reunification possible for those in need of subsidiary protection**, as it is a crucial prerequisite for successful integration.

We want the EU' s **external borders to be better protected and controlled**. All constitutional and humane conditions must be guaranteed at all times. Through independent monitoring and strengthening of the European Parliament's control rights, we want to monitor the work of the EU border protection agency Frontex and strengthen the rule of law. There must be no pushbacks.

Repatriations should be carried out humanely and consistently. We prefer voluntary departures because they are more humane. If this is refused, we rely on rapid and consistent deportations, especially for criminals. **We reject the externalisation of asylum procedures**. Those seeking protection must have access to fair and rule-of-law procedures in the EU.

We want to combat the causes of flight and smuggling.

We make it clear: **sea rescue is an obligation under international maritime law and must not be criminalised**. In addition, sea rescue must also be guaranteed by the state by the EU. At the same time, we are committed to safe and legal escape routes, as well as resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes to avoid dangerous crossings.

We are committed to **comprehensive migration agreements that** open up immigration channels for training and work and support the reception of refugees locally. These agreements are intended to create clear and fair regulations for entry into Germany and Europe and at the same time take into account the interests of the countries of origin and host countries. In doing so, we always want to ensure that firm agreements are reached on how nationals who are obliged to leave Germany can be returned to their countries of origin in an enforceable manner.

In close coordination with our neighbours, we are taking action against smuggling crime. We want to ensure that smugglers are severely punished and consistently expelled.

With increased development cooperation, we want to **effectively combat the causes of flight**. We want Germany to support the promotion of political and economic stability in crisis regions, the reconstruction of destroyed structures after conflicts and the creation of better education and employment opportunities on the ground.

After the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan in August 2021, we want to continue to take responsibility for particularly vulnerable groups of people from Afghanistan. To this end, we will continue the federal admission programme for Afghanistan.

Our international responsibility at the turn of the century

The SPD stands for a responsible and clear course in challenging times. Simple answers such as a return to the national or the ruthless pursuit of short-term self-interests will not protect our security and prosperity. Our goal is to ensure a reliable, stable and secure international environment in a strong Europe and to protect, reform and thus strengthen the international rules-based order with its multilateral institutions. We are relying on a triad of foreign, development and defence policy. International solidarity and the universal validity of human rights are among the cornerstones of social democracy. We will defend peace and freedom. Diplomacy, the search for common interests and cooperation based on them remain central to us in order to resolve international conflicts and crises, to secure peace and freedom in the long term and to ensure greater justice.

21. We fight for freedom and security.

Peace and freedom cannot be taken for granted. They have to be worked for, secured and defended. The war against Ukraine has shown us this in a terrible way. Even under Willy Brandt as chancellor, it was said that peace could only be maintained from a position of strength. That's why for us, military strength and diplomacy are two sides of the same coin. Our response to a world in upheaval is a defence and security policy that takes more responsibility for protecting Europe. We must organize security on our continent from Russia.

We want more investment in security.

We will spend more money on our security. The special fund for the Bundeswehr was an important first step. After years of reduction, we have increased our defense spending to more than two percent of gross domestic product (GDP). We will therefore continue to advocate sustainable defence financing of at least two per cent of GDP in the future. We will use the funds for the **sustainable modernisation of the Bundeswehr** so that soldiers can fulfil their duties in foreign missions and in alliance and national defence on a permanent and full basis. This is required by respect for the soldiers. It is our goal to make the Bundeswehr attractive as an employer. This includes the compatibility of family and service as well as further career prospects in the public sector. We introduced National Veterans' Day on June 15 and are committed to empathetic interaction and the improvement of care for service-disabled soldiers and their families. As the SPD, we stand for the concept of the "citizen in uniform".

NATO is a key pillar of the transatlantic partnership and indispensable for European security. At the same time, we must expect that Washington will no longer bear the main burden of protecting Europe. The decisions to establish the new Baltic Sea Command in Rostock by the German Navy, to develop new European Long-Range Strike Approach (ELSA) together with our European allies, and

The launch of the European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI) shows that we are ready **to take on more responsibility in alliance defence**. The stationing of US medium-range weapons in western

Germany is a reaction to the current security situation. At the same time, we remain committed to arms control and will continue to discuss constructive approaches to this within the NATO framework. Due to its geographical location in Europe, Germany is to **be further expanded as a central hub** for logistics in order to enable NATO to respond quickly and in a coordinated manner to security challenges in Europe. With the **Lithuanian Brigade**, we will for the first time permanently station German troops abroad. In this way, we are showing our allies on NATO's eastern flank that they can rely on us. We will give priority to their development and installation in terms of equipment, financing and personnel requirements.

In view of the changed security situation, the SPD is planning to introduce a new, **flexible military service**. The new military service is to be based on voluntariness and based on the needs of the Bundeswehr. The basis for a fire brigade registration must be created quickly. The new military service serves centrally to build up a sustainable reserve.

We support Ukraine.

The SPD is clearly committed to diplomatic, military, financial and humanitarian **support for Ukrainians** in their fight against Russian aggression, which is contrary to international law – for as long as necessary. We expressly support Germany's bilateral security agreement with Ukraine. Ukraine must be able to conduct possible negotiations on an equal footing with Russia. We will not accept a Russian dictated peace at the expense of Ukraine. There must be no negotiations over the heads of the Ukrainians. Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be preserved. To defend Ukraine and secure peace in Europe, the SPD supports the training of the Ukrainian armed forces and the supply of weapons and equipment with prudence and a sense of proportion. For us, it is true that Germany and NATO will not become a party to the war themselves. That is why we stand by Chancellor Olaf Scholz's decision not to supply the Taurus cruise missile from the Bundeswehr's stocks.

Civilian **support** for Ukraine is indispensable. After all, the question of whether Ukraine can hold its own in the Russian war of aggression also depends on how resilient its civilian population is. A strong society needs a functioning power supply and functioning hospitals. Putin also knows this when he deliberately has civilian infrastructure shelled. So we want to continue to be supportive here and help the people in Ukraine get through this hard time.

We expressly welcome **peace initiatives** such as those initiated by Ukrainian President Zelensky. We also see the efforts from the countries of the Global South to end the war as essentially positive. Diplomacy and dialogue remain key instruments for us to resolve international conflicts. These initiatives increase the pressure on Putin and uphold international law. All possibilities for a just and lasting peace must be explored. Ukraine's sovereignty and its legitimate security interest must be permanently guaranteed in negotiations. Germany must be prepared to play a constructive role in mediation and implementation. Our long-term goal is a functioning **security and peace order for Europe**. For us, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) provides an important platform for further developing integrated security in Europe.

An imperial war in Europe by the nuclear power Russia makes it clear how important it is that we continue to work intensively for new approaches to credible **arms control and disarmament initiatives** in the future. A world without nuclear weapons remains our goal. That is why we support initiatives to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons worldwide ("no first use"). That is why we are committed to maintaining, fulfilling and extending the New START Treaty on the limitation of strategic nuclear weapons.

22. We are fighting for a strong Europe that is capable of acting.

A strong Europe in the world is our answer to the global challenges, the security and economic policy changes, and the pressure that the democracies of the world face from populists and autocrats. When we speak with one voice, we are strong enough to make our values and interests heard in the world. But the EU and its fundamental values are threatened from outside as well as from within. The Russian attack on Ukraine has brought the war back to the European continent. At the same time, right-wing populism in the EU restricts its ability to act and calls into question the values of the European peace project. We must therefore ensure that these common values are also lived internally, in all the Member States of the Union. We must also enable Europe to take more responsibility for its own security.

We want a European defence union.

We will strengthen the European pillar in NATO by coordinating investments and organising our armed forces in partnership. In this way, we are creating important synergy effects by promoting the long-term integration of European armed forces. To this end, we are relying on increased cooperation between the EU member states, for example in the joint procurement of equipment and equipment, joint manoeuvres, standardised training concepts and the gradual integration of national units into multinational structures.

A secure Europe needs a well-positioned **European defence industry**, with competitive European companies, so that we can cover procurement much more through the European market in the future. Building on the German-French cooperation for tanks and fighter jets of the future, we want to further promote European innovation in the defence industry. To this end, we are relying even more than before on European instruments such as the European Defence Agency and joint armaments projects within the framework of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

We are committed to a common and coordinated **European arms export policy**. It is important to us that such a policy is based on common values and strategic priorities. European armaments must not fall into the wrong hands.

We are living up to our responsibility for Europe.

As the largest and economically strongest member state within the EU, Germany has a special responsibility. To this end, it is important that the partners in the German government speak with one voice at EU level. We expect all democratic parties to maintain the firewall against right-wing populism and extremism, including in the European Parliament.

Together with France and Poland, we have revitalized the **Weimar Triangle**. In the coming years, we will use this important engine to break new ground in the EU more quickly and in a more united way and to develop the EU into a strong community based on solidarity.

The EU's **enlargement policy** is an instrument of great transformative power and a geopolitical necessity. We have revived it. It was and is a motor for peace, democracy, the rule of law and prosperity in Europe. We want to continue this success story and seize the opportunity to accompany our European neighbours in a lasting democratic transformation. Also so that other actors do not take the place of the EU. We are committed to the rapid admission of the **Western Balkan states**. Through tangible progress in the enlargement process, such as access to the single market, people should feel that the path to the EU is worthwhile.

Ukraine and Moldova are also to become part of the EU. Both countries leave no doubt that they are already guided by the common values of the EU and long for the protection of the community to be able to live in peace and freedom. With enlargement to Eastern Europe, we are sending a clear signal against Russia's attempt to unilaterally shift borders, committing ourselves to the joint reconstruction of Ukraine and enabling people to access our community of values. We also support the forces in Georgia that stand up for freedom, democracy and prosperity and demand a future in Europe. It is clear that democracy, human rights and the rule of law are non-negotiable for us. The **Copenhagen criteria** must always be met.

In addition, we are in favour of the EU acceding to the European Convention on Human Rights. We will strengthen the European Court of Human Rights and demand the consistent implementation of its court rulings. With the **Council of Europe** and its Parliamentary Assembly, we protect the fundamental values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law on our continent.

We stand for an EU that is capable of acting and based on values.

If fundamental principles of the EU are disregarded, the EU must emphatically protect its canon of values vis-à-vis member states. In the future, we want to take even more consistent action against all those who violate our common values within the EU. To this end, existing protective instruments in the event **of violations of the rule of law**, from infringement proceedings to the withdrawal of voting rights, must be used and further developed much more consistently than before. In addition, we are committed to stricter financial sanctions and an independent oversight body to monitor the consistent use of existing instruments.

A growing Europe must also be a better Europe. The EU is already reaching the limits of its ability to act. European **treaty reforms must** take place with EU enlargement at the latest. To this end, we are committed to the results-oriented establishment of a European Convention. For us, an essential component of institutional reforms is to replace the principle of unanimity in the European Council and the Council of Ministers with the introduction of majority voting. Veto rights of individual member states are no longer up-to-date, as they are already being used as a means of exerting pressure in an inappropriate way. That is why we want to exhaust all possibilities to make the decision-making procedures as efficient as possible in the short term. This also

includes completing the European Parliament's codecision rights, including a genuine right of initiative. This makes the EU more quick-witted, faster to act and more democratic. If a sovereign Europe is our aspiration, then majority decisions are a gain and not a loss of sovereignty.

23. We strengthen European interests in the world.

A European Union that speaks with one voice can better assert its weight in the world. The European partners must not allow themselves to be divided. We must formulate common positions and interests and stand up for them together.

We want to strengthen our alliances.

We will deepen our traditional alliances and cooperations. For us, relations with France remain central. They form the core of the European unification process. The **Franco-German partnership** has played a central role in the development of a strong Europe. We also pay special attention to **German-Polish relations** and the **democratic Baltic Sea region** with its many traditional partners of Germany. It is in Europe's interest to improve cooperation with the **United Kingdom**. Based on the German-British Defence Policy Agreement (Trinity House Agreement), we will support the negotiations for a comprehensive bilateral agreement with the British government that broadens and intensifies our relations with London – from education to the economy to security issues.

The **USA** is our closest non-European partner. The transatlantic relationship is central to European and German foreign relations. We stand ready to continue this close transatlantic cooperation. The turning point caused by the Russian war of aggression has recently once again highlighted the value of the transatlantic alliance, but at the same time it shows the need to make Europe more independent in terms of security policy. The danger of protectionist measures by the USA has continued to increase. We are doing everything we can to reduce trade barriers and avoid a subsidy race with the United States. To this end, it is important that Europe gains economic strength with the help of an investment and innovation offensive in future technologies.

We rely on dialogue and cooperation.

Beijing is not an easy partner. The SPD supports the implementation of Germany's first China strategy and advocates a European-coordinated China policy. In the EU, we define **China** as a partner, competitor and systemic rival. The People's Republic has risen to become a leading global shaping power, without whose cooperation global challenges such as climate change, arms control and non-proliferation issues as well as the debt crisis in countries of the Global South cannot be solved. To the outside world, China is becoming more and more self-confident and aggressive. For example, by repeatedly making its claims to power in its neighbourhood clear. China is also not sufficiently distancing itself from Russia's war against Ukraine, which is contrary to international law. Rather, China has expanded its support for Russia. This concerns European security. We take a critical view of this. The rise of China requires a prudent and common European China policy. Europe must use its geopolitical power and speak with one European voice for its interests and values. At the same time, we must become more economically independent in critical areas (de-risking). We remain committed to

the one-China policy and are convinced that the Taiwan question can only be resolved amicably in a peaceful process. Whether it's human rights, industrial policy that distorts competition or Russia policy, we remain in a robust dialogue with Beijing in which we also discuss controversial issues openly.

Together with countries such as **India, Indonesia, South Africa and Brazil**, we are committed to multilateralism, a rules-based international order and the defence of democracy – even though they are members of the BRICS group of states together with Russia. The dialogue with these countries must be intensified with the aim of a new North-South policy. We will expand strategic partnerships with countries of the Global South. We want to overcome colonial continuities and meet in partnership at eye level. Reconciliation with Namibia remains an indispensable task for us, which arises from our historical and moral responsibility.

We rely on **cultural relations and education policy** as an important pillar of our foreign policy. Through connections in culture and science, we deepen the relations between civil societies in the world.

We want peace in the Middle East.

We strongly condemn Hamas' brutal terror attack on **Israel on October 7, 2023**. It was the largest massacre of Jews since the Shoah. Israel's right to exist and security are non-negotiable and Germany's *raison d'être*. We demand the immediate release of all hostages still being held. Israel has the right to self-defense. At the same time, international humanitarian law obliges it to ensure the proportionality of its response and to protect civilians. In view of the high number of civilian casualties in Gaza, the majority of whom are women and children, and the extent of the destruction of civilian infrastructure, we call for an immediate ceasefire. We call on all participating states to do so and welcome international efforts to work towards this. The catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is unacceptable and must be ended immediately. Aid convoys must have unrestricted access to the people of Gaza. The population must be supplied with medicine and food. The escalations in the region show that there is an urgent need for a new attempt to make progress in the two-state solution. This includes a reformed Palestinian Authority that will also take over the civilian administration in Gaza. Gaza must no longer pose a threat to Israel.

There must be a stop to the construction of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territories, which is contrary to international law. We reject plans to annex territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Our goal remains the peaceful coexistence of two sovereign and viable states within the framework of a negotiated solution. Only a political perspective can ensure Israel's security in the long term. Our solidarity with Israel and compliance with international law are a historic obligation for us. The SPD is committed to this. Likewise, the guns in Lebanon must be silent. UN Security Council Resolution 1701 of 2006 must be followed by all parties to the conflict.

The regime in **Iran** is contributing to a further escalation of the security situation in the Middle East. With its rejection of the international rules-based order, Iran shares responsibility for many current conflicts and crises in the world. The regime supports the Russian attack on Ukraine with missiles and drones. It has attacked Israel directly and tried to destabilize the Middle East through the

so-called Axis of Resistance. It refuses to control its nuclear facilities. At the same time, repression against dissenters and especially against women who are fighting for their rights and freedom is increasing in the country. They are mercilessly persecuted. We therefore support the international sanctions against the regime and demand that the Revolutionary Guards be placed on the EU terror list.

After overcoming the long-standing Assad dictatorship, Syrians hope for a peaceful new beginning. We will support the political transition and the prospects for the reconstruction of the country under Syrian leadership and responsibility. Of central importance to us are the protection and participation of the numerous religious, ethnic and confessional groups, respect for human rights, especially women's rights, unhindered access for humanitarian aid and measures to prevent **Syria** from being used as a base for terrorism or posing a threat to its neighbours.

24. We fight for a just world.

An attractive and strong Europe can make a decisive contribution to providing global answers to global challenges. A rules-based international order is the best basis for this. Social democratic international politics has the goal of a peaceful, just and sustainable world. Authoritarian regimes, however, are pushing to shift the rules-based order in their own favor, while many states in the Global South are turning their backs on liberal democracies. They do not see their expectations of growth and prosperity being met. We have the power to change that by strategically investing in partnerships with countries in the Global South. This is not least about our own future, about security in Europe, about preserving jobs in Germany, about the prosperity of our society. Trusting cooperation, as a win-win model for all parties involved, is in Europe's interest.

We want partnerships for development.

Our development policy makes an important contribution to creating economic, social and societal prospects for people in countries of the Global South. In addition to cooperation with governments, we focus in particular on strengthening civil society and improving private sector activity. We will develop a **feminist foreign and development policy** which is based on the conviction that all people have the same rights, freedoms and opportunities regardless of gender and sexual orientation.

We need dialogue and cooperation in the United Nations and in multilateral forums such as the G20. The aim is to **overcome poverty, hunger and inequality**. We need to be able to respond to acute hunger crises and support a transition of agricultural systems towards sustainability and resilience in the long term. We see social security systems as a necessary investment in the future. Only where a social safety net is stretched out do societies get through crises better. In the context of a **global health policy**, it is important to enable faster, cross-border aid and unbureaucratic international cooperation in the future. The control center should be a broadly supported World Health Organization.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations **2030 Agenda** and their further development are the guiding principle for cooperation with global partners, which we are actively helping to shape. We are convinced that multilateralism is a cornerstone of peace and prosperity. In order to keep on the road to success, **reforms of multilateral organisations** are needed – including the UN Security Council and its blocking veto regulation. Countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia need to be better represented at all levels. With Brazil, India and Japan, we are pushing ahead with our joint G4 initiative in an effort to secure a permanent seat on the Security Council.

Through humanitarian aid and crisis prevention, Germany is helping to alleviate human suffering and contain crises, but also to consolidate its diplomatic influence. We need a strong and **independent development ministry that**, together with political foundations, NGOs and church and civil society partners, does important work in overcoming global crises and preventing conflicts. We want at least **0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) to be allocated to official development services** (ODA ratio). We have this demand not only on ourselves, but also on our partners, especially in the G7 circle.

Worldwide, the gap between rich and poor is widening. This downward spiral must be broken: Together with other countries, we will push ahead with the **introduction of a billionaire's tax in a Global Alliance for Tax Justice**. The super-rich are to be made more involved in financing the common good, especially to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and climate finance.

Together with key players such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, we can make the **international financial architecture** fairer. Investments in public goods such as education, health and climate protection must become the focus of the international financial architecture and key actors such as the IMF, the World Bank and regional development banks. For **highly indebted countries**, we are also focusing more on debt conversion: exchanging their obligations for investments in social and ecological transformation.

We want strategic partnerships.

Many areas of our everyday lives and our economy depend directly on **robust supply chains** and access to particularly valuable raw materials. As an innovative industrial location, we want to form alliances and build bridges with strategic partnerships – for example, in the expansion of green hydrogen. Sustainable and responsible value chains must be created with local production facilities and thus secure jobs – also at home.

We want concrete agreements on international standards that ensure **good work** with living wages. With the EU Supply Chain Directive, we have created clear regulations and equal conditions for all companies in Europe.

German companies in particular, which already rely on strong standards, benefit from clear regulations and equal conditions for everyone in Europe. We are also insisting on globally binding rules in the negotiations on the UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights. We stand for international solidarity and for the universal validity of **human rights**. This requires strong institutions such as the European Court of Human Rights and the International Criminal Court.

Europe's prosperity and the development prospects of many countries in the Global South depend heavily on a rules-based, non-discriminatory global trade regime. The conclusion of far-reaching **trade and investment agreements** (such as the EU-Mercosur agreement or the EU's free trade agreements with India and Australia) are important milestones in establishing robust alliances and partnerships. Such agreements must be consistent with our security policy goals, strengthen social rights and human rights, protect the environment and climate, and create long-term prospects for growth and prosperity for all parties. We want such agreements to be made simpler and faster to conclude in the future. Too often, negotiations are slowed down by individual EU member states. Trade agreements are therefore to be decided by a qualified majority in the EU's Council of Ministers. In this way, we are contributing to the successful and timely conclusion of fair free trade agreements on an equal footing at the European level.

Climate change does not stop at national borders. We need solidarity initiatives for climate adaptation worldwide, because it is the poorest countries that are often hit hardest and least prepared. Social democratic policies create a sustainable development perspective that combines prosperity and protection.

We want to implement the Paris Climate Agreement and provide our fair share of **international climate finance**. To meet the financial challenges of the global climate transformation, we are also increasingly relying on the mobilisation of private funds. It is important to implement the socio-ecological transformation while taking into account the needs of our partners for reliable cooperation for their economic development. For example, the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) and the climate and development partnerships with countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America serve this purpose. It is about holistic approaches that focus on the people and regions affected. To this end, we will involve trade unions and civil society even more. However, in order to move forward with the transformation tasks, we are dependent on **international trust networks** such as the international climate club, which has already provided important impetus for cooperation. We want to initiate and support further formats.

Our Promise

25. For us, politics means: We fight for you.

Almost 26,000 words. 4 large chapters. 24 election campaign topics. Thanks for taking your time and reading.

It is a comprehensive program. But for us, it's much more. It is a promise to all citizens. A promise to you. A promise to the future of all of us. A promise to Germany.

Keeping pensions stable for all generations and noticeably relieving the burden on families. Drive growth and strengthen the economy. Securing and protecting jobs. To stand up for fair wages and strengthen people's purchasing power.

What makes our program strong and where we now differ in the sea of election campaign phrases: With the SPD, there is a concrete proposal for implementation behind every single program item.

15 euros minimum wage. Reduction of VAT on food to five percent. 95 percent of taxpayers are to have more net of gross. A stable pension for all generations. "Made in Germany" bonus, establishment of a Germany fund to strengthen the economy – to name just a few important ones.

As the SPD, we are firmly convinced that if Germany is to be better off, then every individual in the country must be better off. That is the goal of our policy. This is what drives us every day. And that's exactly what this program does.

With this in mind: We are looking forward to an exciting election campaign, to the exchange everywhere in Germany.

Your SPD

Government programme Resolution of
the extraordinary federal party
conference 2025 on 11 January 2025 in
Berlin

SPD-Parteivorstand
Wilhelmstr. 141
10963 Berlin

SPD Soziale
Politik für
Dich.