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TOGETHER GROW

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME 2025

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2025

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PREAMBLE



he Bundestag elections on 23 February, you, dear citizens, are faced with an important decision. It's about who has government responsibility for our country in these challenging times.

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

Germany has many great strengths. With the strength of you, the citizens, who keep the business running every day despite the great challenges. At work. In the family. In voluntary work. With a lot of commitment and commitment. With a strong welfare state and successful companies, not least in the middle class. With effort and innovation, diversity and solidarity. It is also the strength of our country as a country of immigration. Many people have been contributing to our common prosperity for many generations, getting involved and helping to shape our coexistence.



It is now a matter of taking up this force as a force for the future: ecologically and economically, in solidarity and in Europe. As a force that faces the challenges and solves the problems. With a confidence that comes from joint action and with a view to a successful future.

Because the challenges during this time are great. Many people are under pressure and have worries. Prices have risen and the wages of their own work have been used up for many by rent, heating and the most necessary expenses. Our peace is threatened by Putin's war of aggression. Authoritarianism and populism are an increasing threat to democracy and society in Germany as well. More and more people are confronted with hatred and hostility. Hatred and violence against marginalized groups, racism, anti-Semitism and queerphobia are on the rise. The climate crisis continues to worsen – despite the efforts of many – and the nature in which we live continues to be destroyed. Delayed trains, a shortage of skilled workers in daycare centers and paperwork with the authorities are wearing on the nerves.

Years of standstill followed by the ongoing conflict within the traffic light government have cost confidence in politics as a whole.

A policy that solves problems and changes things for the better can only succeed if it listens to the citizens. When she doesn't talk about the people, but with them – as happens every day all over the country at our kitchen and dinner tables.

We have fulfilled our government responsibility over the past three years. In challenging years with new crises. In a difficult government constellation. We have also learned a lot from this. We have used the years to pick up momentum and solve problems. Problems that have been accumulated by grand coalitions for many years. We have freed ourselves from dependence on Putin. We have a strong tailwind for renewable energies

lent. We are now actually on course for achieving the Paris climate targets. We are investing in our German and European security and are working on new partnerships. We have started to strengthen the future strength of our economy through more skilled workers, more innovation and less bureaucracy. We have also finally invested again in the preservation of nature, in sustainable agriculture. We have contributed to the success of the European Green Deal. We have supported children and families better.

We therefore advocate continuing on the path of renewal, not blocking it again with hurdles or even dismantling it – as has already happened once. With this programme, we are making it clear what is important for our country now.

Let us take our ecological and economic future into our own hands! Let's grow into the future!

In this programme, we are relying on the economic and innovative strength of our state. But at the same time, confidence in the economy gives rise to the task of resolving the blockades to the future. We want our economy to grow into the future: climate-neutral, sustainable, innovative, competitive in a common Europe. Companies can only develop their strength if they are given space for uncomplicated and pragmatic solutions – and at the same time can rely

on clear goals and frameworks.

This requires politicians to stay the course. Establish reliability. Simplify rules and standards. In short: enabling more.

The protection of our climate, our ecosystems with all plants and animals is of paramount importance. Only if they are intact can our security, our freedom and our prosperity be intact. Responsibility means taking this into account, means respecting planetary boundaries. And to shape the necessary renewal in solidarity. Each and every one of us with our own possibilities, experiences and strengths.

With our agenda for the future, we are setting the course for investment and innovation, for renewal in fairness and solidarity, for dynamism instead of bureaucratic paralysis. With the Germany Fund, we will mobilise the necessary funds at the federal, state and local levels to invest in this future. It strengthens our common infrastructures, on which society and the economy are so urgently dependent. To this investment fund, we propose a "Pact for a Modern Germany" – to which all political levels are invited: the federal government, the states and, above all, the municipalities. At this time, let us come to a new understanding on how we can whip our country into shape in the service of the people – together and not against each

other! Let's take our social future into our own hands! Let's make sure that all people are fair and that the things of everyday life are affordable!

In our programme, we are building on the social power of our country. This trust in the people gives rise to the task for us to make a serious contribution so that all people can be there. And that everyday life remains affordable. We make electricity cheaper, ensure affordable mobility and affordable rents.

Good education, good work, reliable mobility and affordable housing are the central factors that determine people's life chances. A fair tax system is just as much a prerequisite for this as a good health care system. We are strongly committed to strengthening our daycare centres, schools and universities. So that they offer everyone a chance at a good start in life. We support good work through fair wages, a higher minimum wage, and equal rights for women, especially in the labor market, and through a fair tax policy. Inclusion is a leitmotif for this. And we are making housing more affordable by limiting rent increases, supporting social housing construction and presenting a realistic strategy for needs-based housing in existing and new buildings.

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

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

Our democratic power arises when people meet as equals, when the free exchange of different views on the basis of scientific findings turns into competition for the better solution. That's why we need to strengthen our public spaces. The common places where agreement becomes visible and differences are carried out: a good school; good jobs; a strong and diverse media landscape; strong public spaces that connect us in diversity, places of sport and culture. All these places are the prerequisite for our democratic cohesion in diversity.

Precisely because the strength of our country arises from the fact that everyone belongs, regardless of their origin, we also need a new force of an integrative and inclusive society. What we mean by this: together in diversity. Commonality

diversity means that people in their diversity – be it their origin, religious affiliation, life history, disability or sexual identity – contribute every day to ensuring that our country remains innovative and fit for the future. What is needed for this: opportunities for advancement, respect in disputes, the ability to compromise and the ability to form coalitions between the democratic parties, in the democratic centre. Civic responsibility, but also a new responsibility of democratic institutions and elected representatives to solve the problems and contribute to their functioning.

Democracy, cohesion, effective climate protection and a strong economy are an important basis for us to be able to live free from fear and oppression in our country. And just as we have to secure our freedom and our coexistence internally, it is important at this time to secure our peace in freedom externally. Right now, in our own interest, we need a new initiative at the government for a strong common Europe. We can only muster diplomatic strength, the committed search for resilient solutions, if we as a free Europe also show ourselves to be strong in action. Human rights must be respected everywhere and at all times – they are non-negotiable. The geopolitical balance of power in the world is changing rapidly – and not just since today. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a threat to the European peace order and our democracy as a whole –

which is why supporting Ukraine is also our best self-protection. Just as our European neighbours were there for us, so that we in Germany can live in freedom in the heart of Europe reunited, we are also there for our neighbours. Together, it is important to re-secure peace in freedom. Together with the many states around the world, which also know that standing up for a rules-based order is the best protection.

Dear citizens,

only if we transform our strengths into future strength will we be able to maintain and strengthen what is dear and dear to us. We emphasise this because we have also seen in recent years how tempting it is in politics to simply cover up the losses of the omitted change, according to the motto "Nobody has to change here", or to only dwell on the past.

With Robert Habeck, a person is running for leadership of the next government who makes this difference. One that combines a policy of listening with orientation, learning government experience with the willingness to work itself, honesty with the willingness to tackle, strengthening the future with the strength of broad social connection. Who cares about society as a whole and who sees this as a

responsibility to lead into a strong future. Together with Annalena Baerbock, the Foreign Minister of our country. The attitude shows where others hesitate. That stands up for our values and interests with humanity, partnership and strength.

To this end, we ask for your trust and vote in the upcoming Bundestag election!

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

KAPITEL

1

GROWING INTO THE FUTURE

ECOLOGICAL AND
ECONOMICAL

The people in Germany are rightly proud of what they create, of the quality of their work, of their experience and skills – whether in their working lives, in family education, in caring for relatives or in voluntary work. Your achievements deserve our recognition. Germany must build on this strength in order to tackle the major structural challenges we are facing: Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine and the systemic conflict between liberal democracies and authoritarian states around China require a realignment of economic security and trade, supply chains and sales markets. We will only win this competition in economic terms if we make maximum use of the great advantage of liberal democracy: that people have new ideas and can discover and develop things freely. In the next government, we want to continue working to remedy the structural weaknesses of our site, to support our companies on their way to climate neutrality and to bring our economy

into line with planetary boundaries. We ensure that Germany and Europe are at the forefront of the innovations of the future.

To achieve this, economic activity must become simpler and more reliable, opportunities must be opened up fairly and everyone must be fairly remunerated. We cannot remain in the status quo for this. Rather, we need more space and enthusiasm for the willingness and courage to take risks with new ideas and technologies. Our goal is to noticeably strengthen our state's innovative strength and become a frontrunner in future technologies. The precautionary principle, which is anchored in Europe, ensures that technological progress is made for sustainable development and in the interests of the common good.

If we strengthen Germany and Europe in this way, we will also strengthen the idea of a socio-ecological market economy – and an economy that takes responsibility for society and the environment, offers secure jobs and is anchored locally: an economy that serves people. A strong economy is the prerequisite for our prosperity and a prerequisite for cohesion and stability at home, for a Europe capable of acting and, last but not least, for tackling the climate crisis.

In order for us to renew our prosperity and not just manage it, we need a country that simply functions – a state that makes it easier for people and companies to implement their ideas, and not harder: with one click to solve the solution instead of a dozen forms in the paperwork. We have made a start in the past three years: we have generated a record pace in the expansion of renewables, laid the foundations for the modernisation of industry, the immigration of skilled workers, the acceleration of planning and approval procedures, and the strengthening of investments. But our country now needs a joint effort so that we can make successful progress on this path. The race in technological development makes it necessary for new ideas and innovations to become reality more quickly.

Sustainable prosperity in the sense of climate neutrality, precaution and justice is at the core of a sustainable economic system. This prosperity is closely linked to the fight against the climate crisis, which, together with the biodiversity crisis, is the great task of our time. Because we want to preserve a planet where people can live in freedom and security. We will not be indifferent to the increasingly frequent extreme weather, but will fight with all our might to stabilise the climate. This requires major investments, for example in the expansion of cheap renewable energies, the increase in energy efficiency and the restructuring of the electricity grids, which have been delayed for decades. To do this, we need intact ecosystems, healthy forests, clean oceans and respect for animals as fellow creatures. When we protect the environment, it also protects us. Climate protection is the protection of human beings and at the same time a central competitive issue of our time. The path back to fossil technologies leads to

economic stagnation and is a threat to humanity.

We will make sure that all the people in our country can follow the path that leads to a good future. We ensure that tenants with a tight budget also get modern heating and improved insulation. We ensure that access to electric mobility makes getting around more comfortable and affordable – whether by bus, train or e-car. We ensure that climate adaptation protects tenants' homes and homeowners' property.

A. A strong economy for secure jobs

For a competitive location

Companies need good competitive conditions and a good investment climate, above all clear framework conditions and planning security. We ensure that our economy is permanently cheap, reliable and climate-neutral energy, increase private and public investment in innovation and infrastructure, simplify,

digitise and accelerate government procedures and processes, and work to increase the potential of skilled workers in and for Germany.

A secure, clean and affordable energy supply is a decisive location factor. Facilitation of self-generated electricity, long-term secure purchase agreements and the consistent development of flexibility potential and the price advantages of renewables ensure direct access to cheap energy for the economy. The further reduction of taxes and levies on electricity is also important for the economy. That is why we are taking over the grid fees for the supra-regional power lines from the Germany Fund and reducing the electricity tax to the European minimum. We will step up our support for measures to increase energy efficiency. In addition, we are committed to broadening the design of electricity price compensation for energy-intensive companies that face global competition. We will build up the hydrogen core network quickly and in line with demand, promote the production of green hydrogen in Germany and secure new import sources.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular suffer from complex bureaucracy and rules that are often too complicated. We have played a key role in accelerating the expansion of renewables by abolishing bureaucratic hurdles such as applications for individual plugs. We must follow the same path in all areas. With the practical check, we have introduced a pragmatic and successful instrument for reducing unnecessary bureaucracy in Germany, which we will scale up in the next legislature. In doing so, those affected from companies, administration and civil society are involved sector by sector, unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles are identified and practical solutions for reducing them are identified without dismantling social or environmental protection standards. We will now roll this out comprehensively and systematically and also implement it in advance in the legislative processes. Any legislation must focus on ease of implementation for citizens, companies and the administration in the states and municipalities. We are committed to a regular review of regulations in order to simplify bureaucratic requirements and to remove regulations that fail to achieve their goal without dismantling protection standards. A key means of reducing bureaucracy is the digitalisation of administration: we want central public services for companies to be bundled in one place and data to only have to be submitted once in accordance with the once-only principle. We will simplify and reduce the emergency obligations in order to reduce costs and save time. To ensure that more companies can benefit from the SME exemption rules, we will moderately raise the thresholds for the definition of SMEs.

Germany has been driven to wear and tear for years by previous governments. For too long, there has been too little reliable public investment. Behind every public investment, there is real economic value creation. We want to provide a strong, resilient and reliable infrastructure by strengthening and expanding public investment for it from national and European Union (EU) funds. To this end, we will also reform the debt system.

However, the majority of the investments come from companies and other private actors. Anyone who invests in Germany should have an easier time with taxes: To this end, we are introducing a five-year, non-bureaucratic investment premium of 10 per cent for all companies and all investments with the exception of building investments. This premium is offset against the company's tax liability; if the premium exceeds the tax liability, it is paid out. We evaluate the effectiveness of this premium through annual monitoring.

It is absolutely crucial that we not only develop good ideas, but that they also give rise to strong new German and European companies. Compared to the USA or China, we have so far had a major weakness in terms of access to financing. We are therefore facilitating access to venture capital by continuing the WIN initiative to provide young

innovative companies with easier access to private capital through improved tax, legal and financial frameworks. We want to make it easier for insurance companies, pension funds and private individuals to invest in start-ups and scale-ups, provided that the amount of the investment corresponds to an acceptable risk. We will also improve the opportunities for start-ups to reinvest in their company.

Competitiveness also stands and falls with well-qualified employees. Trade unions, co-determination and the social partnership with its strong collective bargaining coverage are a strength of our location. We are committed to contribution stability in social security in order to limit the increase in non-wage labour costs. In order to better protect people throughout Europe against economic crises and to create a level playing field, we are committed to European minimum standards for social security systems.

For more workers and equal employment for women

The shortage of workers and skilled workers is one of the greatest challenges for Germany's economic development and modernisation. Whether trades, gastronomy or large corporations - everyone is affected. To close this gap, it

is important to remove obstacles and provide incentives so that people can participate in the labour market.

Germany has 2.9 million young people without a vocational qualification, while many training places remain unfilled. With the training guarantee, we have helped young people to find their way into the profession more easily. We will continue to increase the attractiveness of vocational training. We support people who are already working and would like to reorient themselves or gain further qualifications. To this end, we want to further develop the qualification allowance, enable employees to take more initiative in vocational training and provide them with social security. Demographic change is also exacerbating the labour gap. Therefore, we must offer financial incentives for older workers and pensioners who want to work longer in social security contributions. We want to bring the potential of people with disabilities to the labour market. To this end, we break down bureaucratic hurdles and prejudices by educating people. After all, the creation of accessibility is an investment in attracting skilled workers and workers.

If work fits better into life and all women with children could work the way they want, we would have up to 840,000 additional workers in Germany. That is why we need to make it easier to reconcile family and work and improve the conditions for a fair division of care work. To this end, we want to give employees more time sovereignty and flexible working time models without overburdening the companies. A good and reliable supply of childcare places is the basis for this. Care costs as well as costs for domestic help and household-related services should be more widely tax-deductible. In its current form, spousal splitting represents an obstacle to employment for women and is neither fair nor up-to-date. That is why we want to fundamentally reform it in a gender-equitable way by introducing individual taxation with a transferable basic allowance for new marriages. Nothing will change for couples who are already married – unless they voluntarily opt for the new model. By enabling women to participate in the labour market on an equal footing, we strengthen their security, thus protecting them from poverty in old age and strengthening the economy at the same time.

qualifications and, where possible, enable practice-oriented proof options. To this end, we are creating a central recognition office and more human resources. When recruiting skilled workers from abroad, we take care to prevent an excessive brain drain in the countries of origin. We are continuing to reduce the obstacles to work for refugees, not least because they are being integrated into our society more quickly through the labour market. We want to make taking up work and further qualification opportunities unbureaucratic and easy to combine.

For a strong European economy

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

We want to further strengthen the European single market and add a deeper digital union so that the companies of the future will also become big in Europe. And we want an EU

Germany must be attractive, open and welcoming to qualified workers from all over the world. We want people who want to work with us to be able to apply for their work visa online and only need one point of contact. A digital immigration agency is intended to modernize and accelerate the immigration process. We are committed to making it even easier to communicate with offices and authorities in English. We want to significantly simplify the recognition of foreign professional

internal market for research and innovation. In this way, we are unleashing European cooperation between universities, research institutions and companies. Joint research infrastructures and agencies strengthen our competitiveness and can once again make us a leader in future technologies.

Europe has already been the world leader in clean, sustainable technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines and electricians. The European Green Deal provides the framework for fair competition in the EU with climate policy and ecological goals and guardrails. If implemented pragmatically, Europe can also become the innovative market leader for sustainable electrical engineering, chemistry, mechanical engineering and services. In this way, we are securing good jobs in the industrial sector – an important future market – through climate and resource protection. To do this, we now need stable framework conditions for the development and scaling of future technologies instead of anti-innovation discussions about a rollback or a brake on the European Green Deal. That is why we will not allow us to increase existing climate protection targets or weaken the level of ambition to achieve them.

We support the expansion of the Green Deal by the new EU Commission to the Clean Industrial Deal. We must benefit more economically from climate protection measures and develop our climate-neutral

European innovative strength into a global competitive advantage. This requires a genuine, European-coordinated industrial policy. To this end, we want to create the appropriate instruments in the next EU financial framework and underpin them with the necessary resources. This includes amending the EU's right to aid so that it does not stand in the way of comprehensive support for the decarbonisation of industry and the reduction of dangerous dependencies on autocracies in the short term.

For functioning and sustainable financial markets

Functioning financial markets are an essential component of stable economic conditions and sustainable investment dynamics, which are indispensable for climate-neutral renewal. In order to prevent financial crises, banks, but also insurers and other financial market players, need sufficiently liable capital. We want to relieve small banks and financial market players in particular of unnecessarily small-scale bureaucracy.

Despite the common currency, the capital markets of the EU member states are often still based on national borders. The inconsistent regulation inhibits investment from abroad and restricts financing options for EU-based corporations. But small and medium-sized companies are also suffering, for example from the comparatively underdeveloped European market for equity instruments and bonds. We will work at European level to ensure the rapid completion of the Capital Markets and Banking Union and to create strong European capital market supervision. To this end, we want to harmonise contract and insolvency law for financial market players throughout Europe.

For more innovative strength

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

We want to make it easier for financial market participants to obtain sustainable financing and strengthen the financing of biodiversity. Sustainable finance makes an important contribution to making investments in fossil fuels uneconomical and investments in future technologies cheaper. Germany is to play a leading role in improving sustainable finance regulation. In doing so, we are committed to greater consistency and simplicity in sustainable finance regulation at European and international level, with a focus on impact and efficiency. This requires clear rules against greenwashing. All government investments are to be invested in accordance with sustainability criteria and in line with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. We will transpose the EU Sustainability Reporting (CSRD) into national law and advocate for a simplification of the standards on which it is based (ESRS) in order to make it more manageable for companies. We will reform the green asset ratio (GAR).

The leading position of German research is to be further strengthened and expanded. We want the state and companies to invest significantly more than 3.5 per cent of economic output in research and development. Our research policy includes strengthening free basic research as well as mission- and application-oriented research as well as the transfer into market-ready products. In doing so, we promote technical and social innovations on an equal footing, strengthen socio-ecological research and support large-scale research facilities. We will flesh out and further develop the future strategy for research and innovation.

With a Research Data Act, we will improve the availability of data and promote open access to scientific knowledge. We want to further expand the assessment basis for the research allowance and thus better support companies in research. At the same time, we need adequate basic funding in

science.

With the German Agency for Transfer and Innovation (DATI), we want to support regional innovation ecosystems in which science, society and industry work together on innovative solutions. The Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovations (SPRIND) does not promote innovations in the traditional way through funding programmes, but through so-called challenges. We want to expand this approach and flank it at the European level according to the ARPA model.

With a real-world laboratory law, we will create experimental spaces in which scientists and local actors can jointly test new technologies and applications. These spaces are also learning spaces for business, civil society and administration, for example to develop a suitable regulatory framework. We will reduce bureaucratic hurdles in the research and technology sector and at the same time strengthen research on risks and technology assessment.

We will give a significant boost to the digitalisation of business and science and the development of digital business models in order to secure our international competitiveness and innovative strength. We have a great deal of expertise in artificial intelligence (AI), but we need to put it more into practice.

To this end, we want to specifically promote the development and application of AI, the establishment of robust cybersecurity standards, and the strengthening of digital competencies in companies and universities – for example through the further development of the SME digital centers – and facilitate the use of data – for example, through the rapid establishment of the data institute. With a quick check for legally compliant AI systems, users should be able to check in a low-threshold manner which risk category the use falls into and which obligations must be observed. We are also creating the right framework conditions for interoperable standards and for secure and efficient data exchange along the entire value chain. As a trustworthy reference customer, the state should use its market power as a buyer to promote innovative digital products. In particular, it should use open source applications, take into account products from start-ups and SMEs and ensure IT security.

To achieve the necessary innovative strength, Germany and Europe need a new start-up culture. We will facilitate start-ups through legal simplifications, digitization and automation of start-up processes and by offering founders support and advice from a single source in one-stop shops. We want to support start-ups in their diversity. To this end, we are giving female founders and sustainable start-ups in particular a booster, for example through improved financing offers. We will enable scientists to take unpaid leave of absence to start a business. With the Startup Factories, we are giving spin-offs and IP transfer from universities a real boost and strengthening EXIST university funding across the board – including EXIST women and targeted formats for previously underrepresented groups in start-ups. We are strengthening the transfer mandate for universities and non-university research institutions. To ensure that employees can also participate in the company's success, we are continuing to expand employee share ownership in general.

migrating to countries where there is still no CO₂ price and only lax environmental and social standards. In a world in which crises, conflicts or power-political aspirations can disrupt or disrupt supply chains at any time, we need our own production facilities in essential areas in order to avoid fatal dependencies.

We want to continue researching the opportunities and potential of new energy technologies such as nuclear fusion and their contribution to future energy supply, taking into account safety issues, even if they are unlikely to be able to contribute to meeting climate targets by 2045.

For the climate-neutral modernization of industry

Our aim is to ensure that Germany remains a strong industrial location, because industrial companies create identity in their regions and are important employers. We want to support our industry in climate-friendly modernisation, keep it here and prevent production from

To ensure that the climate-neutral modernisation of industry can succeed, we rely on an efficient mix of market-based instruments such as the CO₂ price as a central incentive for CO₂ savings, targeted support, especially for investments, and unbureaucratic regulatory law. Where investment hurdles are too high at the beginning and the CO₂ price does not create enough incentives, we rely on competitive instruments such as climate protection contracts. We will expand the scope of the climate protection contracts and thus provide financial support to those companies that save the most CO₂ per euro. In addition to a location guarantee, we also want to tie the climate protection contracts to payment in accordance with the collective agreement. In order to guarantee sufficient demand for climate-neutral products, we will establish green lead markets in sectors such as steel and cement throughout Europe. To this end, for example, we want to introduce a minimum quota of green steel for public contracts, which is constantly increasing. We will provide targeted support to companies, especially SMEs, in

switching from fossil heat to modern electricity-based heat production.

Due to emissions from certain production processes that are difficult to avoid, complete climate neutrality in industry will only be possible with the capture, storage and use of CO₂ (CCS/CCU). That's why we enable the use of these technologies in this area. The prerequisite for this is that the captured CO₂ is stored in a safe and stable form or used as part of closed carbon cycles. Where technically unavoidable emissions are generated, this can be supported. In principle, the polluter-pays principle applies to financing. We want to develop a uniform regulatory framework throughout Europe, including binding liability law. To this end, we are creating an integrated European infrastructure, including common European CO₂ storage facilities. In doing so, we take into account existing uses, especially at sea, binding ecological criteria and the exclusion of protected areas and their immediate surroundings. We also research and develop negative emissions – i.e. natural and technical processes that remove CO₂ from the atmosphere – and set clear targets for achieving negative emissions without counting them against the reduction targets of emissions trading.

Globally, the competition between combustion engines and electric cars has long been decided. The automotive industry with its medium-sized suppliers is the largest industrial sector in our country. For these companies and their employees, planning security is crucial: We will continue to register only climate-neutral drive systems from 2035 onwards. We support the EU Fleet Limit Values Regulation with its targets for CO₂ reduction for the years 2025, 2030 and 2035. We are accelerating the ramp-up of electric mobility through targeted funding for the charging infrastructure and socially balanced purchase and leasing incentives for fuel-efficient electric cars. We only want to grant support to those who also produce in Europe with its high socio-ecological standards: in Europe, for Europe. With targeted research programs and the expansion of regional transformation networks, we support the further development of business models and professional training to avoid unemployment, especially in the areas of connected driving, battery cells and AI.

Our wealth and our future lie in bright minds and an ambitious spirit of research. Through greater openness and promotion in key areas such as AI, quantum technology, microchips, cloud computing, climate-neutral energy solutions, biotechnology and robotics, we not only want to help shape the future but also catch up with the leading nations and set global trends. In doing so, we pay special attention to European companies. In particular, we will continue to press ahead with the expansion of production capacities for key technologies such as microchips and batteries. The increased importance of space for geopolitics, security and sustainability must be reflected even more strongly in necessary investments, a competitive European space industry, new space business models and sovereign access to space – for example for satellite communication, navigation and Earth observation.

Industry Act in Germany as quickly and comprehensively as possible.

For the strengthening of SMEs and crafts

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

In a sustainable economy, the skilled trades offer crisis-proof jobs. We want to improve the framework conditions by reducing bureaucracy, providing support for succession and specifically promoting training in the skilled trades. The primary goal is the preservation and future viability of the farms. To make skilled trades even more attractive, we are focusing on industry-specific minimum remuneration and more equality between vocational and academic training. The master craftsman's certificate is to become free of charge. We are committed to ensuring that the period of pregnancy is also adequately secured in the skilled trades and in self-employment.

We are also increasingly focusing on the needs of solo self-employed and

The step towards climate neutrality is also a driver of innovation. From the production of hydrogen by electrolyzers to electric cars, new technologies of the future are emerging. Germany will only be able to maintain its prosperity if we are global leaders in these areas. That is why we will promote the development and research of future technologies and support their market launch. In this way, we will secure high-quality jobs and the prosperity of tomorrow. To this end, we want to implement the EU's Net-Zero

micro-enterprises and creating legal certainty in the awarding of contracts. A modern definition of self-employment based on positive criteria is central to this, so that the status determination procedure can be carried out transparently and with legal certainty. We are strengthening the social security systems for solo self-employment and are committed to greater fairness in contributions, benefits and taxation.

Price increases – such as those recently triggered in the energy sector by the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine – can lead to life being less affordable for many people. At the same time, in various cases, unfair profit has been made from these crises. To combat this prosperity inflation, a strong German and European competition policy is needed with the independent Federal Cartel Office and the EU Commission at the centre.

Competition law needs to be further developed in order to protect SMEs and consumers more effectively from monopolies and to ensure greater fairness. At the European level, we want to revive the New Competition Tool already proposed by the Commission, especially to protect domestic companies from unfair practices by large global companies. We want to prevent the already overpowering platform companies from expanding their power to other business areas, for example in the financial market, and to do so we want to use competition law in all its severity. Conversely, small takeover and merger cases in German and Europe are to be

relieved of bureaucratic procedures.

We will use competition law to reduce unfair and expensive practices by online platforms to the detriment of small and medium-sized businesses and consumers. Large online retailers are sending us masses of goods that do not comply with European standards. New, unfair and manipulative practices are constantly emerging on the Internet. We support the EU Commission's Digital Fairness Act and advocate that large platforms – just like the shop around the corner – must take product responsibility. We want to create fair and transparent digital markets for tradespeople, creative professionals, the press and, last but not least, their customers.

In order to relieve the awarding authorities of municipalities and the economy of administrative costs of over one billion euros, we are comprehensively modernising public procurement law in order to simplify sustainable procurement and make it the rule. We will also enable the regionality of products and the resilience of the European economy as criteria for appropriate awards. The allocation of lots must also remain the rule in order to give SMEs direct access to public contracts. In order to relieve the burden on the awarding bodies, especially of the municipalities, we will significantly raise the direct contract limits

. We will make sustainable awarding easier for all awarding bodies by providing suitable tools. We take better account of start-ups when awarding contracts.

In order to offer family businesses and start-ups further succession options, we want to introduce a new, attractive legal form for companies with tied assets. In the future, companies oriented towards the common good will receive the same funding as all other founders. We will use money from orphaned accounts to strengthen social innovation and companies oriented towards the common good. We will continue the National Strategy for Social Innovations and Common Good-Oriented Enterprises.

The economic strength and quality of life in rural areas depend decisively on value creation and investment locally in the municipalities. By expanding the Joint Task for Regional Economic Development (GRW), we are ensuring that people and companies can develop throughout the state.

It is not only in the regions affected by structural change, such as Lusatia, the Central German mining area and the Rhenish mining area, that the potential for ambitious climate protection and forward-looking economic policy lies. The challenges are great, and yet we

want to see structural change as an opportunity to pave the way to a sustainable future with new infrastructure, new science locations, economic development, renaturation and investments in future technologies. It is important to us to involve the local people through transparent decision-making processes, but also by supporting local ideas and wishes.

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

For us, prosperity is more than just the level of gross domestic product per capita. For this reason, for the first time in the Annual Economic Report, we have also taken into account the state of the environment and climate as well as social factors. We want to expand this comprehensive measurement of prosperity and communicate it more intensively. We support companies that want to further develop their operational performance measurement.

For economic security and sustainable foreign trade

In addition to the European single market, our prosperity and our economic resilience and security depend to a large extent on resilient international partnerships and global trade. In the face

of geopolitical conflicts, protectionist measures and increasingly fierce international competition, we need a sustainable trade agenda that pays off for everyone.

Balanced trade partnerships not only open up new sales markets for German companies, but also strengthen their supply chains. We want to gradually reduce imbalances in the trade balance. A broader diversification of our economic relations also helps to reduce dependencies in critical areas. The strategic focus on individual sectors and targeted agreements for certain goods and services promises rapid negotiating successes and strengthens the European economy. At the same time, high standards of social justice, climate, nature and animal welfare as well as human rights protect the European economy from harmful undercutting competition and protect against exploitation or environmental destruction in other countries. We negotiate according to the following principles: legally binding and enforceable economic, social and environmental standards; an anchoring of the precautionary principle; a binding anchoring of the Paris Climate Agreement, the central occupational safety and health conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity; ending the misuse of arbitration tribunals and limiting future investment treaties to direct expropriation and discrimination. European agreement in deciding on agreements is important to us.

The EU Supply Chain Directive is a great achievement: consumers in Europe can be sure that products they buy here are free of exploitation and child labour. We ensure that the Supply Chain Directive is transposed into German law in an unbureaucratic manner. In this way, we are creating a single market in which the European economy assumes global responsibility through our commitment to the European and German Supply Chain Act. The instruments used to promote foreign trade must be aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement.

Unfair trade practices and market distortions require decisive action – which is why we are lobbying the EU Commission for countervailing duties wherever necessary, for example on steel. We are backing the EU Commission in its negotiations with China on dumping of e-cars in order to protect the interests of European industry. The loopholes in customs law must be closed, through which Asian online retailers such as Temu in particular smuggle unsafe disposable products past customs and undercut European manufacturers. Anyone who permanently imports illegal products into Europe on a large scale must be sanctioned under the EU Digital Services Act. We will make the European CO₂ tariff CBAM more practical and effective by expanding its scope, taking into account the total emissions of the manufacturer in the country of origin and using standard values. So that it compensates for the competitive disadvantages that European industrial companies suffer compared to manufacturers from countries without a CO₂ price. Chapter 1

functioning circular economy is also a prerequisite for climate protection and species protection as well as economic activity in harmony with planetary boundaries.

We will protect strategically important sectors such as energy and telecommunications from takeovers with a new investment review law. To ensure our independence and undisrupted supply chains, we proceed in accordance with the resilience requirements of the Net-Zero Industry Act when tendering in sectors with high dependency. In future, we will grant government subsidy programs for the purchase of products such as electric cars for products that were largely produced in Europe with its high social and environmental standards. We will expand the IT Security Act to include cyber security in the energy sector.

For raw material security and circular economy

A sustainable, independent and competitive economy requires a secure supply of raw materials and the transition to an effective circular economy. We also depend on a reliable supply of raw materials for the production of important air-conditioning technologies. A

Our approach to greater raw material security is based on four pillars. First, we want to reduce the consumption of primary raw materials and halve it in the long term. The key to this is the phase-out of the combustion of fossil fuels, raw material efficiency, sufficiency strategies and, where possible, the substitution of raw materials and the targeted use of recycled raw materials. Secondly, we promote waste prevention, longevity, reuse, repair and recycling to build an effective circular economy. Thirdly, we are focusing on domestic and European mining, also with a modernised mining law that combines the goals of climate protection, environmental protection and citizen participation, and with accelerated and more effective administrative processes for raw material extraction in order to become – where possible – less dependent on raw material imports. And fourthly, we are developing a sustainable and fair raw materials foreign policy and concluding new raw materials partnerships that are geared towards respect for human rights and environmental protection.

Nobody wants to constantly throw things away and produce large amounts of garbage. The circular economy is turning this into economic opportunities with new

business models, from reusable bottles to repairable smartphones to homes made of ecological building materials. This also creates new jobs. To achieve this, it needs the right regulatory and economic conditions, good financing of its infrastructure, more material standardisation and a level playing field for recycled material. We want to make better use of the potential of digitalization. A digital product passport, for example, provides better information about the materials used and creates transparency. To this end, we will now implement the circular economy strategy. At the European level, we have achieved the legal basis for making products more durable and easier to repair in the future, among other things with ecodesign requirements. We now want to implement this ambitiously and introduce a nationwide repair bonus for household electrical and electronic equipment and strengthen ecologically advantageous reusable systems.

At the same time, the waste management competencies of the municipalities are to be designed in such a way that commercial waste in particular is better avoided, sorted and reused, and incentives for the incineration of reusable raw materials are eliminated. To reduce waste, we are giving municipalities legal certainty to enact a packaging tax.

For strong consumer protection

Fair contracts and enforceable consumer rights – consumers must be able to rely on them. Especially in times of rising living costs, consumer protection can and must help to make life easier and protect people from unfair prices, lack of transparency and fraud. This also applies to the supply of medical products and aids.

GMO-free foods are important to many consumers. For this to remain possible, all those who want to work GMO-free must also be able to do so in the future. It is crucial that there are no patents on life: plants, animals, seeds and genes may not be patented. And there is a need for risk assessments in accordance with the precautionary principle anchored in Europe, traceability and mandatory labelling for genetically modified seeds and foodstuffs. This applies equally to new genetic engineering processes in agriculture, which at the same time should continue to be researched with regard to their opportunities, risks and consequences.

Food must be affordable for everyone. We put an end to hidden price increases through deceptive packaging and unfair trade practices. We want easily accessible information and comprehensive transparency about ingredients and food production. The results of food inspections should be easily recognizable to everyone.

Rising energy prices and the necessary energy and heating transition pose major challenges for consumers. We will launch effective protection against heat and power cuts. To make it quick and easy for electricity customers to see whether they are paying too much for their electricity month after month due to an overpriced old contract, we are making electricity bills more transparent, among other things by stating the average electricity price and the price range for new customers on their energy bills. Then everyone knows when a change is particularly worthwhile. This acts as an expensive brake on electricity tariffs. In order to protect consumers from excessively high costs for district heating, we are introducing nationwide price supervision and ensuring greater transparency in price calculation by district heating suppliers.

When it comes to money, transparent and easy-to-understand information is particularly important. This is why financial consumer protection requires particularly high standards and fair and independent financial advice. This also includes protection against dubious and discriminatory business practices as well as help in the event of over-indebtedness, for example through simple debt counselling that is accessible to all and independent consumer education.

The focus is on the protection of small investors. At the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin), we want to strengthen our focus on sustainability and consumer protection and also hold them accountable for protection against greenwashing of financial products. In addition, we rely on transparent and easy-to-understand minimum standards and norms for sustainable financial products that relate to the environment, social issues and corporate governance.

We want to reduce the high costs of payment transactions for German companies and consumers, for example when using credit cards – with the help of innovative competitors, competition law and legal measures against usury, such as a cap on the effective annual interest rate for consumers. We want to waive new fees for consumers. Where cashless payment is still complicated, we want to simplify access.

B. A modern and digital country

For a state that works for the people

We want to better position our state for

the challenges of today and tomorrow and to this end we offer our democratic and federal partners a hand in state reform. In some places in our federal state, the tasks and roles are to be redistributed, bundled and also made clearer. Especially when it comes to digitalisation, citizens expect nationwide solutions at all levels of public administration. The federal government must take responsibility here and be given the appropriate competences to do so. We rely on constructive cooperation instead of double structures and against each other. The federal government should transfer more responsibility for implementing laws and funding programmes to the states and municipalities instead of regulating everything in detail itself. The states and municipalities need more leeway for independent action as well as for concrete cooperation. Conversely, the federal government should provide a digital service for services regulated by law nationwide, which states and municipalities can use to provide services locally. Such central service units allow the Confederation to perform routine tasks centrally so that the local administration can concentrate on providing advice. The prelude to these reform processes could be the discussions in a citizens' assembly.

Federal legislation must take into account practicality and digital feasibility in the process. To this end, we want to expand the digital and practical checks and use

uniform legal terms and procedures across departments. In the case of new legislative projects, the underlying parent law must be modernised, services must be flat-rated, and experimental rooms and real-world laboratories must be provided. We want to purify the Federal Budget Code and its annexes without favouring the misuse of public funds. In the future, we want to take sustainability aspects into account in the Federal Budget Regulations.

Modernization and automation, including the use of AI and the use of overarching synergies within the administration, can reduce the workload for administrative processes. In this way, we are creating a more efficient state, reducing the size of the federal government's ministerial administration and strengthening the implementation responsibility of the subordinate federal authorities. With strategic personnel management, we are driving forward the modernization of the administration. This is urgently needed in times of a shortage of skilled workers and unfilled positions.

For service-oriented management

We will consistently modernize and digitize our public administration and align it with the needs of the people.

People in Germany should be able to communicate with the state digitally and on an equal footing . That is why we will introduce a platform-independent Germany app based on open source together with the states and municipalities. The aim is to gradually make all government administrative services and services available in a safe, uncomplicated, barrier-free and user-friendly manner. In the future, this app will allow you to apply for an identity card or register your new apartment, for example, with just a few clicks. The app serves as a simple user interface for all citizens and as a target image for German administrative digitization. In the background of the app, we are building a modern, modular and standardized IT architecture in the sense of "Government as a Platform", in which the administrative domains of the federal, state and local governments are meaningfully intertwined, and securing long-term financing. We are expanding the data protection cockpit as a transparency and control tool. We are committed to a society without digital divides: analogue access should be kept open for administrative services, but also for essential areas of public services, and advisory services should be expanded where necessary.

willingness to experiment, and the use of modern technology. To this end, we increase the discretion of decision-makers. We enable the use of automation and AI applications wherever they are helpful, meaningful, low-discrimination and ethically responsible. Digital skills are to become a natural part of administrative education and training. To ensure that data does not have to be collected again and again, we are pushing ahead with the modernisation and networking of the register. The authorities are to provide data tools for which citizens and companies only have to enter their data once. Then the various levels of administration will have to fall back on it themselves. This streamlines personal reports and reporting obligations. To do this, we also need our own cloud for administration, which guarantees security, data protection, open-source and vendor independence. We also want to strengthen the compatibility of digital administration in the EU.

For fast and comprehensive digitization

The employees in the authorities are motivated, they get down to work and want to make processes better. We want to relieve them and enable more efficiency. To this end, we promote a culture of innovation in the administration that is open to application-free procedures, risk-taking decisions, a

Shaping digitalisation is central to our coexistence and prosperity. So far, this has not been sufficiently successful in Germany. This is also due to the fragmentation of responsibilities for this and the lack of pooling of resources. That is why we need to bundle responsibilities, responsibilities and budget responsibility in a digital ministry and a common strategy within the

federal government. In this way, we are focusing on the expansion of the digital infrastructure, digital administration, centralisation of procurement, coherent supervision of digital laws, European and international digital policy and the promotion of open source. For the digital state, we will promote central digital services such as BundID and the Germany app. In order to accelerate digitization at the federal level, all IT budgets are to be centralized and centrally controlled in a single plan. We are continuing to develop the Digital Check as an active and accompanying instrument of legislation and shaping digitalisation in a sustainable way.

The key to accelerating Germany's digitalisation lies in overcoming the limitations of the different IT systems of companies, authorities and research institutions through interoperability. Only then can processes be handled digitally without manual labor or media discontinuities. This kind of networking has been neglected too much. We will promote open standards and always involve developers, civil society and SMEs in the development of new standards. These standards should be well documented and freely usable without license fees. We are thinking about interoperability and digital cooperation as a necessary basis for strengthening the competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of our economy.

In order to leverage the great potential of data collaborators for innovation and productivity, the implementation of data protection must be greatly simplified and less bureaucratic without lowering the level of data protection. The state must set a good example, which is why we are pushing ahead with the legal right to open data and a transparency law and thus proactively making data stocks available. The General Data Protection Regulation must be implemented more efficiently and uniformly. A reform of data protection supervision towards uniformity, reliability and simplicity is necessary, for example by bundling responsibilities for certain sectors or research at individual supervisory authorities. In addition, we are strengthening the Data Protection Conference as a joint coordination office of the data protection supervisory authorities of the federal and state governments and giving it a permanent structure.

Germany needs fast Internet in urban and rural areas. We will create better conditions for the expansion of fibre optics and 5G mobile communications by accelerating approval processes, facilitating alternative laying methods and promoting open access. For rural areas and structurally weak regions, we will increase state gigabit funding in line with demand. We strengthen consumers' rights to fast internet by gradually increasing the minimum bandwidth and making it easy to prove that there is a lack of internet and to get better access.

For a Germany Fund and a reform of the debt brake

In government, we will resolutely make up for the investments in sustainable infrastructure that our country so urgently needs. The black zero in the budget is a mortgage for the future viability of our country. We will therefore set up a Germany Fund for the federal, state and local governments. From this, we will build the rails on which trains will take people to their destinations on time, renovate daycare centres, schools and universities where equal opportunities are created for all, finance research that will form the basis of the ideas and technologies for tomorrow's prosperity, and give companies the space to invest in their future. Funds from the Germany Fund will supplement regular budget funds.

The investment backlog in Germany is in the three-digit billion range, even though we are an economically strong country. The debt brake in its current form prevents investments and other measures that stimulate our stagnating economy again. In order to finance the necessary investments in infrastructure, in the decarbonisation of our country and in a strong, sustainable economy, we want to reform the debt brake in line with European rules. The taking out of state loans is to be made possible to the extent

that investments are made by the state. In addition, the economic component must be expanded to enable the state to be more capable of acting in difficult economic times. In this way, we are creating new financial leeway, which we will distribute appropriately between the federal and state governments. At the same time, we will ensure that the overall debt remains sustainable in the long term. This is also advised by leading economic institutes such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Bundesbank and the German Federal Government's Council of Economic Experts. At the European level, we continue to advocate common fiscal rules that leave enough room for sustainable investment.

After the grand coalition has ruined the country for almost two decades, we in the federal government have initiated the turnaround. Investments in climate and environmental protection, in transport, energy, education and research infrastructure, and in national security are priorities for us. We propose a reform of the debt brake and a Germany fund for investment expenditure. In order to finance current expenses, we want to close gaps in fairness in our tax system. Until a reform of the debt brake is implemented, we want to use the Germany Fund to guarantee the younger generation a modern, functioning and climate-neutral country as well as a competitive economy, instead of leaving

them with burdens and dilapidated infrastructures, and thus also strengthen confidence in a functioning state and liberal democracy. We want to enable citizens to participate in these investments for the state at low cost.

The Germany Fund helps to increase the scope for urgently needed investments in the future at the federal, state and local levels. However, it is not a substitute for the task of prioritising more strongly in the budget and using the available revenues more efficiently. A responsible, results-oriented budget policy also requires clearly defined and measurable targets. Many important concerns, such as better education or greater security, also require consumptive spending. We want to relieve the burden on the budget by closing tax loopholes and streamlining the administration through further digitalisation. With good framework conditions, we are increasing the employment rate, increasing tax revenues and strengthening social insurance. We are committed to the introduction of modern instruments for budget management, such as gender budgeting. And in particular, we want to reduce subsidies that are harmful to the climate and the environment. In doing so, we pay attention to socially acceptable, reliable implementation.

The distribution of taxes between the federal government, the states and the

municipalities must correspond to the actual tasks and investment needs in order to enable equivalent living conditions in all parts of the state. We will retain the current system of federal-state financial equalization in its current form.

C. A climate in which we can live well

For a stable and safe climate

With the Paris Climate Agreement, the international community has agreed to curb the climate crisis. All major countries with high greenhouse gas emissions have embarked on this path – that's what matters. The EU is currently the third largest emitter of climate-damaging emissions after the USA and China. So it also depends on our joint action. That is why we in the EU have jointly committed ourselves to one goal: Europe is to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

With the European Green Deal, we have made great progress on the path to Europe's climate neutrality over the past three years, while at the same time starting to modernise Europe's economy and industry. This is working: Although the Green Deal is under attack, the EU is on track to meet its climate targets

. Now the economy needs planning security. We oppose the weakening of the Green Deal and the "Fit for 55" package with its laws and want them to be implemented consistently and as Chapter 1 unbureaucratically as possible throughout Europe.

instruments – from market-based incentives such as emissions trading to targeted support for the economy and households to regulatory law.

Germany plays a decisive role in this. The grand coalitions had adopted high climate protection targets, but had not developed a plan or measures to achieve these targets. For the first time, we have put Germany and Europe on the same path to close this gap. It depends on the decisive action of the next German government whether it seizes this opportunity and achieves the goals – through concrete measures such as support for the planned European emissions trading system for transport and buildings and the Clean Industrial Act. This includes the implementation of emissions trading systems at European level as planned. In this way, we are strengthening the CO price as a central lever for more climate protection in Germany and Europe.

The changes required for this are demanding and have therefore triggered many heated discussions, worries and fears and raised new questions. It is clear that we must do even more to ensure that the path is reliable and that everyone can follow it. We are making climate protection simpler, more affordable and solving implementation problems pragmatically. In doing so, we make targeted use of various

The efforts are worth it: climate-damaging emissions are falling. For the first time, Germany is on course to achieve its own climate targets. It is now important to stay on this course in order to continue to create reliability and planning security and to provide orientation for the climate-neutral modernisation of our entire continent.

According to scientific advice, Europe must now reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90 to 95 percent by 2040 compared to 1990. To this end, we want to continue the Green Deal with courage and ambition and make a significant contribution from Germany as the largest member state with the highest emissions and a high level of prosperity. We are therefore adhering to the legally stipulated goals of climate neutrality by 2045 and the binding interim targets. We are continuing the energy and heat transition.

The transport sector has the greatest need to catch up in achieving the climate targets. That is why we are increasing the momentum by further intensifying the expansion of the railways and accelerating the switch to e-mobility. In order to meet the challenges and urgency of the climate crisis, we will strengthen the role of the Expert Council on Climate

Issues and the responsibility of sectors in the Federal Climate Protection Act in which climate protection is not making enough progress. In the event of a predicted long-term failure to meet the targets, binding adjustments should be made in the respective sectors, because otherwise Germany will face expensive fines and higher CO₂ prices in the future, both of which we want to avoid for public budgets and citizens. Each ministry must therefore implement suitable measures to ensure compliance with the climate targets, regardless of the Federal Government's overall record.

We also want to take into account the environmental impact of food, especially on the climate and biodiversity, for example by supporting an attractive, affordable and more plant-based diet.

For socially just climate protection

We are shaping the path to climate neutrality as a path to a fairer society by providing targeted support to particularly vulnerable and burdened groups and regions and protecting them from excessive burdens. People who cannot afford or do not want to afford a car benefit most from affordable and well-developed public transport throughout the country. Electromobility as well as walking and cycling contribute to better air quality for all. Well-insulated houses and climate-neutral heat protect people from rising heating costs.

The path to climate neutrality is therefore associated with many advantages, but it also requires major investments – be it in the installation of new heating systems, thermal insulation, the installation of an energy storage system or the switch to an electric car. Investments need planning security and trust, especially with regard to the availability of subsidies. We want to return to this with a predictable budget policy. Many people will not be able to make these investments without support. The availability of tailor-made funding programmes on the way to climate neutrality is also crucial for municipalities, municipal utilities and small companies, for example when purchasing e-buses. Financing investments in climate-neutral innovation is a generational task that is crucial for long-term human life on this planet and should therefore be financed in part by borrowing.

We pay particular attention to ensuring that everyone can go along with the necessary modernization. To ensure that climate-friendly alternatives become affordable for everyone, we want to further expand funding programmes in the future and stagger them even more so that households with low and medium incomes receive significantly higher subsidies. We have already taken the first steps in this direction, for example with the socially designed subsidy programs for the modernization of heating systems and for the renovation of apartments and houses. We want to continue this. We also want to promote the switch to e-mobility for people with low and medium incomes, especially in rural areas. To this end, we propose government support for the purchase of a fuel-efficient electric car, which would also support the European automotive industry. These include a charging card for refuelling at public charging stations and an affordable leasing programme, known as social leasing. This is supplemented by tax incentives that are intended to reach people with small and medium incomes. We also ensure cost-cutting competition and strengthen consumer protection. In this way, we are putting an end to excessive prices at charging stations, so that everyone can use cheap renewable charging electricity. We rely on a wide range of pricing models, including flexible prices based on the flow of the stock exchange.

the account without prior application. We will launch a One Million Balconies programme and support people with lower incomes in purchasing plug-in solar appliances.

Currently, the state subsidizes behavior that is harmful to the climate and the environment. We will gradually dismantle this in order to implement international commitments and use the financial resources freed up for social compensation as well as for climate and environmental protection. We will support those affected in adapting, pay attention to social balance and provide planning security. To this end, we will present a plan in 2025 and advocate for its implementation by 2030 in order to meet our international obligations. As a first step, we will reform the company car privilege so that it creates incentives for climate-neutral mobility and will continue to work to reduce climate-damaging subsidies in aviation.

We are making a security promise: We will spend the revenues from CO₂ pricing of building heat and transport on socially just climate protection. We will pay out a large part of this income to people with low and middle incomes in the form of socially graduated climate money. For people with low incomes, the CO₂ costs are more than offset by the climate money in most cases. The climate money is to increase evenly with the revenues from CO₂ pricing. The climate money is to be introduced as soon as possible in the next legislature and then be credited directly to

The richest one percent of the world's population, including the super-rich, causes more than twice as many greenhouse gases as the poorer half of the world's population. Oil and gas companies, which are largely responsible for global CO₂ emissions, continue to make gigantic profits. We will work to ensure that these polluters contribute to

offsetting the costs of the climate crisis and that citizens, farmers and companies are not left alone with ever greater damage. In Germany, too, the polluter-pays principle clearly applies to us: the polluters of ecological and social damage should bear the costs. For example, the long-term follow-up costs of coal mining must be secured by the coal companies so as not to burden the general public.

Globally and at home, it is the poorest who are suffering the most from the consequences of an escalating climate crisis. The climate crisis is an accelerator of inequality, and we are countering this with socially just climate policy and our international commitment to climate justice. Exploitation and environmental damage in the fossil supply chain are another reason for us to stand up for clean, renewable energy.

For cheap, reliable and climate-neutral energy

Cheap electricity from renewable energies such as wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal energy and nature-friendly bioenergy secures our prosperity. It is also the basis for an affordable life, because heat and mobility are becoming increasingly electric. We are staying on course at the record pace of expansion we have achieved and are expanding the infrastructure so that it is safe from attacks and the cheap electricity reaches people and companies. The future belongs to renewable energies – in the form of electricity, heat and hydrogen.

In recent years, we have taken a huge step forward on this path: in 2024, around 60 percent of our electricity came from renewable sources, compared to only 40 percent in 2021. By 2030, we want to reach 80 percent; In 2035, electricity will be produced in a completely climate-neutral manner. Owners, tenants, companies and municipalities should be able to use their own energy or participate in energy projects without major bureaucratic hurdles. To this end, we will continue to support decentralised producers of solar and wind energy as well as storage systems and electrolyzers in the future through consistent reduction of bureaucracy, planning security and profitable business models. With Energy Sharing, we will make it even easier to share cheaply generated renewable electricity collectively and municipally.

Renewable energies supply electricity enormously cheaply, but not evenly. Therefore, we have to coordinate supply and demand optimally and as decentrally as possible. We will achieve this through cost-efficient grid expansion and better grid utilization, storage of all kinds, the efficient use of the enormous flexibility potential of industry, commerce, transport and private consumers, and a new generation of power plants powered by green hydrogen as soon as possible, as well as the upgrading of the biogas power plants operated primarily with waste and residues in the future. We are committed to an efficient European internal electricity market and are expanding the electricity grids to our European neighbours. We are also focusing on the consistent digitalization of the energy sector. With digital and flexible power grids and dynamic electricity tariffs, citizens will be able to store electricity by battery or heat pump in times of abundant wind and sun or to have their e-cars charged. This means that everyone can save money and benefit directly from the advantages of the renewable electricity world. At the same time, the costs in the overall system are falling.

This also requires new rules on how our electricity market works. Long-term security for investments in power plants, for example in the context of capacity markets, must be accompanied by intelligent short-term incentives for efficient electricity consumption. To this end, we are examining models of regional energy markets. We are aligning the distribution grids technically and regulatively with the efficient and effective integration of renewable energies into regional heating and mobility markets. We ensure that the net fees remain within limits and are borne fairly. In this way, we are enabling an increasingly self-sustaining expansion of solar and wind energy, storage systems and other infrastructure and relieving the burden on electricity prices and the federal budget.

Precisely because the conversion to a climate-neutral electricity system requires high investments, we pay particular attention to costs. We are reducing financing costs through long-term secure framework conditions, guarantees and intelligent regulation, as well as through higher grid utilization and continued use of peak load capping. We will examine whether and under what conditions a changeover from new high-voltage direct current lines to simpler overhead lines is possible without delay and cost-containment and, if possible, decide on this by social consensus. We will use underground cabling for special local requirements, paying particular attention to transparent and sustainable planning. With the gas and electricity price brake, we have made energy prices more affordable for millions of people. We want to continue on this path in the future and ensure affordable energy. Furthermore, we pay attention to transparent, nature-friendly and sustainable planning for the associated technical facilities and make use of municipal expertise.

At the same time, we are continuing on the path of not passing on the costs, but financing them differently, thus making electricity cheaper for consumers and companies. The levy from the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) has already been abolished for consumers and will now be financed entirely from the budget. In the next step, we will reduce

the electricity tax to the European minimum. In addition, we are reforming the financing of grid expansion in order to reduce grid charges.

Fossil energy is a discontinued model. We will also work in this spirit at EU level. Precisely so that the coal regions have planning security and structural change can be supported in an orderly manner, we are sticking to the idea of no longer firing all remaining coal-fired power plants from 2030 and of ending coal production in Germany with the coal phase-out.

We will also gradually reduce the use of fossil gas and as quickly as possible, by 2045 at the latest, in order to reliably meet the climate targets. In the electricity sector, we will be fully renewable in ten years at the latest. We will present a plan for a gas independence strategy that takes into account climate, social, economic and industrial impacts. New long-term contracts for gas imports are not compatible with our climate goals and also not with a European gas independence strategy. Instead of being blackmailed with fracking gas that is harmful to the environment and the climate, we are accelerating the ongoing reduction of European gas consumption and the switch to green hydrogen and other renewable energy sources. Accordingly, in coordination with our European partners, we will continuously review our LNG infrastructure for necessity and avoid lock-in effects of gas infrastructure.

We stand for a final rejection of the environmentally destructive extraction of crude oil and natural gas throughout Germany and as soon as possible worldwide – on land as well as at sea. New gas and oil production projects are no longer to be approved. We will take into account the emissions in the upstream chain.

A return to the high-risk technology of nuclear power is not necessary for achieving the climate targets or for security of supply, and is not an option for us due to the unresolved question of final storage, the costs and the risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons-grade material. The long-planned and cross-party decision to phase out nuclear power has made our country safer. In order to complete it, fuel element production and uranium enrichment in Germany must also be stopped. The planned participation in Lingen by the Russian company Rosatom poses an additional security risk. We have always advocated an extension of European sanctions, also to reduce the risk of espionage and sabotage. To implement the search for a site for a repository with the best possible safety as quickly as possible and in a participatory process remains a challenge that the entire country must face.⁴³ On the long way there, the interim storage facilities must be able to be operated safely.

For reliable and affordable heat

The entry into a reliable and climate-neutral heat supply has been slept through for decades. We have set a new course. In the coming years, we want to work with the municipalities to pave the way for everyone to gradually switch to climate-neutral and affordable heating. The heating sector is particularly suitable for compensating for the changing availability of solar and wind energy through the combination of heat pumps, solar thermal energy, waste heat recovery, heat storage and energy efficiency measures, thus reducing energy costs for everyone. By further developing the instrument mix of subsidies, advice and standards, we are putting the heating sector on the necessary path to climate neutrality.

With the Building Energy Act and a subsidy of up to 70 percent for the installation of fossil-free heating systems, we are giving homeowners, the economy, tenants and landlords the necessary planning security for the purchase and installation of a modern, climate-friendly heating system such as the heat pump by 2045. We will expand support on this path. We want to support municipal utilities and companies in offering heat contracting, for example with heat pumps. This eliminates the high initial investment for owners. In doing so, we secure the rights of consumers to a high degree. We

will also expand energy consulting, the quality and independence of which we will ensure. We also want to further strengthen the climate components in housing benefit.

Heating networks are an important building block on the way to climate-friendly and affordable heat for all. Especially in densely populated areas and as part of integrated energy systems in rural communities in suitable locations, they can help to supply many homes with climate-friendly heat at the same time. We want to secure the expansion and conversion of heating networks towards renewable heat by extending and strengthening the funding for efficient heating networks (BEW), optimising approval processes and also strengthening the provision of climate-friendly heat to local energy suppliers by reducing electricity costs.

At the same time, strong consumer protection is a prerequisite for this. By introducing price supervision in the short term and price regulation in the long term, we want to further strengthen consumer protection in district heating, which is mainly purchased by rented households. In addition, we will activate private capital for the expansion of the heating networks and reduce financing costs through public guarantees. In order to advance the heat transition in the hands of citizens, we want to promote the establishment of heating network cooperatives in which

citizens jointly finance and shape the heat supply. We see no perspective in the use of hydrogen for heat supply. We also support processes to facilitate third-party access to district heating in order to facilitate investment and drive decarbonisation.

The heating transition can be based on a variety of technologies. However, it is crucial for us that consumers can rely on climate friendliness, reliability and affordability and that they do not invest in heating technologies with false promises that will end up in the cost trap a few years later. Large-scale industrial wood combustion in existing and new power plants is also not a climate-friendly alternative. We are therefore committed to ensuring that CO₂ emitted during wood burning is fully credited in certificate trading.

For precautionary adaptations to a changing climate

Droughts and heat waves, forest fires, floods and heavy rainfall cost lives, destroy homes, roads and bridges, and damage agriculture and our food production. By making our economy and life climate-neutral, we are tackling their causes. But in view of the worsening effects of the climate crisis, we need to take much more precautions. The extent

of the damage caused by the climate crisis also depends on how well we have prepared for it. Adapting to the climate crisis is therefore a core societal, economic and social task for the coming years and decades. For us, the focus is on the people we want to support with a view to their own ability to protect themselves.

With the Climate Adaptation Act, we have obliged the federal, state and local governments in Germany to tackle this task. Municipalities bear the brunt of the adjustments – including through their social service providers, independent providers and non-profit organisations – that affect us as a society as a whole. That is why we want to make climate protection and adaptation a joint task of the federal and state governments and finance it together. We want to further strengthen funding programmes such as the Natural Climate Action Programme and support more funds for investments in projects and personnel for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the municipalities. Our commitment to combating the climate crisis has priority, as climate adaptation alone does not compensate for the damage caused by the climate crisis.

The devastating Ahr Valley flood in 2021 or the destructive floods in Eastern Europe in 2024 show us how vulnerable our society is, especially in the face of flood disasters. That is why we are improving flood protection together with the states. In particular, we need investments in natural floodplains such as floodplain forests or alder quarries. In the interest of flood protection, we will strengthen rivers and their natural floodplains and, wherever possible, give them more space through renaturation. But we also need flood protection facilities such as strong dikes, functioning retention systems and well-equipped disaster protection. We want to implement flood protection measures as a priority and more quickly. Civil protection must act with more foresight and be able to integrate forecasts, such as extreme weather events, more closely into crisis management. We will expand our protection against natural hazards in a socially responsible manner.

D. A mobile society – urban and rural together

For sustainable, safe and speedy progress

People in densely built-up cities in particular must be better protected from heat waves and heavy rainfall. We are ensuring this with more soil unsealing, fresh air corridors, building greening, urban greenery and public drinking fountains. As sponge cities, they will absorb and store more water in the future and have a cooling effect in summer. This will enable these cities to make better use of large quantities of water, for example for irrigating green spaces. We want to specifically promote the exchange and networking of cities and districts in order to expand climate adaptation strategies more quickly.

Rails, roads and bridges are the lifelines of our country, but they have been driven to wear and tear for decades. We all feel the consequences in our everyday lives: delayed trains, detours and traffic jams. This is a damage to people, the economy and the environment. After all, mobility is also a key to social participation. At the same time, our transport system is still very far from making its contribution to achieving the climate targets. The transport sector must finally return to its path in line with the climate targets. We will ensure that because we have the ideas and concepts for this – for example, through a reliable range of buses and trains and with a clear signal towards climate-friendly e-mobility.

We want to improve mobility for everyone. We need a thorough renovation of our transport infrastructure. We have greatly accelerated planning and approval procedures. Now it is important to use

the Germany Fund to create a sufficient and long-term financing basis for the maintenance of roads and bridges, for the expansion of our rail infrastructure and our local public transport. To this end, we need new financing models in the long term that simultaneously include modal shift and ecological effects. In this way, we want to put the financing of our infrastructure on a secure and long-term basis. By investing significantly in comprehensive accessibility, safe stops and attractive mobility services, we are ensuring that climate-friendly mobility is accessible to all and that the transport sector can meet its climate targets.

While our rail network needs an efficient expansion throughout Germany, the road network is already well developed across the board and therefore needs renovations instead of new construction. To this end, we want to develop an integrated federal mobility plan that is the basis for climate-neutral, space-saving and socially just mobility by 2045. Until the Federal Mobility Plan is adopted, we will critically review the Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan, taking into account the climate targets. We want to maintain and renovate transport routes, noticeably expand the rail network and electrify it more, reactivate and modernise disused railway lines – especially in rural areas – and finance the expansion of a good cycle path network nationwide on a permanent and reliable basis.

The drive turnaround is also needed for trucks. With the reform of the truck toll, we have set clear incentives for the switch to electric and other climate-neutral drives. In order to moderate air and shipping in a climate-neutral way, we support the production of sustainable fuels from renewable energies, such as e-kerosene, promote fuel-saving technologies and the rapid development of a climate-neutral energy supply in ports, in particular a climate-neutral shore power supply. We underpin the sustainable development of our ports with a long-term financing concept.

As an anchor customer, the state can contribute to the ramp-up of climate-friendly fuels in shipping and aviation. However, an important principle is that climate-friendly mobility must be inexpensive and tickets for rail transport must be affordable. We want to make short-haul flights superfluous by improving the railway. We want to abolish the privileges for private jets and reduce this enormously climate-damaging mode of transport. We see no need for the creation of new take-off and landing capacities in air traffic, not only for ecological but also for economic reasons. We want to significantly strengthen noise protection for the population around airports, especially at night. For health protection, we are creating a limit value for ultrafine dust.

We want everyone in town and country to be able to get around cheaply, safely and in a climate-friendly way. In many places, being mobile in the countryside still requires your own car. We want real freedom of choice and therefore develop public transport in such a way that it becomes an alternative to the car that is suitable for everyday use in rural areas as well. On-demand buses and other concepts such as digitally networked minibuses and carring services can complement regular transport in the area. Some municipalities and districts already offer such flexible concepts. We would like to strengthen such concepts and implement them as model projects in as many different regions of Germany as possible.

With a mobility law, we want to enshrine the mobility turnaround in law. Instead of a means of transport, we focus on people with their diverse needs. By prioritising local public transport, rail, walking and cycling, Germany is becoming a pioneering country for modern mobility. We are bringing traffic law up to date in order to enable barrier-free mobility for all people in urban and rural areas, for example with small electric vehicles. Less congestion and air pollution, more accessibility and road safety are our goals.

We want a functioning coexistence in traffic to succeed and for everyone to reach their destination safely. This can

only be achieved if excessive speeds are reduced. In the government, with the reform of road traffic law for municipalities, we have taken a first step to create an easier 30 km/h speed limit, to strengthen walking and cycling and to create traffic-calmed and liveable neighbourhoods. In a next step, we want to give our municipalities even more leeway, for example to enable a 30 km/h speed limit throughout the city. Germany is the only country in the world to allow unlimited speeding on motorways – to the detriment of human lives and the environment. A safety speed of 130 km/h on motorways as a general speed limit is therefore overdue. For country roads, we want to significantly expand the scope for 80 km/h for location-specific reasons in order to increase road safety. We want to bring the catalogue of fines for serious traffic offences up to European level.

In order to develop traffic areas into urban spaces with a quality of stay, we will make public spaces more attractive, expand accessibility and increase traffic safety – especially on the way to school. We want to promote urban redevelopment more strongly and renew outdated regulations, for example to end exceptions to accessibility in local transport. Our guiding principle is Vision Zero, i.e. a complete avoidance of traffic fatalities.

For us, traffic avoidance, shift and calming are important factors in creating cities and communities worth living in. That is why we are focusing on adapted climate-friendly concepts – especially in rural regions – such as more co-working, which avoid unnecessary commuting. In addition, we are focusing on better local mobility such as safe routes to school and cycle paths. We will also support tailor-made local transport concepts such as light rail or climate-friendly ferry concepts.

For a reliable and affordable railway

With the Deutschland-Ticket, we have cleared the fare jungle in public transport, relieved millions of customers and developed an attractive offer: buses and trains in local transport are cheaper today than ever before. We want to continue this success story and continue to offer the Deutschland-Ticket at a reasonable price for everyone. Our goal is to secure a ticket price of 49 euros together with the states. We still see potential for job tickets in particular. In addition, we welcome it when states and fare associations make regulations to allow young people to use public transport free of charge or at a greatly reduced price. In addition to the Germany Semester Ticket, we also want to find solutions for trainees and volunteers and also develop a nationwide discounted offer for people with low incomes. We want to expand such tailor-made offers, decoupled from the

normal price, nationwide.

We will continue to improve local transport services in Germany in order to double the number of passengers on climate-neutral buses and trains by 2040. We want to further increase federal funds together with higher spending by the states on local transport. We want to increase regionalisation funds in such a way that cost increases and an expansion of services geared to passenger targets are taken into account in equal measure. We also want to support the states, municipalities and associations in offering ticketless local transport and in tapping into new sources of financing such as contribution financing.

In the medium term, local public transport is to guarantee a service that is suitable for everyday use throughout the country with reliable regular services, with a focus on good connections to schools, training centres and leisure facilities. To make it easy to get around everywhere, we want to advocate for simple, cross-provider ticket purchase across transport and fare associations. Our medium-term goal is a mobility guarantee that connects all villages at least once an hour from early morning to late evening. In rural regions, we want to upgrade railway stations to mobility stations where regionally tailored solutions for networked mobility are offered. In addition, we want to make buses and trains places where passengers feel comfortable. In addition to cleanliness, this also includes safety from assaults, especially against women.

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to ensure that the working conditions of employees in local and long-distance transport are improved. This includes working for good remuneration for their work, whether day or night.

Germany is to become a railway country in which people can travel cheaply, barrier-free and comfortably. Much remains to be done here, but the start has been made: more and more people are taking trains, frequencies are being improved and new trains are being used. Our goal is to accelerate the implementation of the Deutschlandtakt, which connects cities and rural regions regularly and reliably. We also want to significantly expand European night train connections as comfortable and easily bookable offers. We are also committed to favorable, reliable and predictable track access prices. We will continue to renovate the rail network, which we found dilapidated, at full speed and expand it to the necessary extent. We also want to expand capacities for rail freight transport, for example in combined transport, and promote the shift from road transport to rail. Our goal is to increase the share of rail in freight transport to 30 percent within a decade.

Good employment conditions are a key factor in our expansion targets in rail transport and local public transport, whether in the S-Bahn, regional bus, light rail or on climate-neutral ferries. We want

For equivalent living conditions

There is a lot of strength in rural regions. From world-leading companies to fertile soils and unique natural treasures, there is much here that characterises our country. The diverse landscapes and settlements, regional cultures and local traditions must be protected and the equality of living conditions improved.

In order for personal initiative, entrepreneurial spirit and drive to develop fully, a modern infrastructure is needed in every village, throughout the country. With renewable energies and climate protection, it is possible to be in the black locally. The municipalities earn money from local energy generation from wind and sun and thus gain their own financial leeway. They decide for themselves whether the swimming pool is renovated or the community centre is expanded. Through conversion and renovation, empty village centres can be brought back to life. A state-of-the-art digital infrastructure is indispensable for economic innovation and working from home – as well as for social participation. And that means: fiber optics in urban and rural areas as well as mobile communications without dead spots. Digital standards can be used

to connect and strengthen regional economic cycles.

Everyone must be able to rely on good and accessible health care everywhere in our country. Municipal health centres, in which doctors, nurses and therapists work under one roof, can strengthen the range of services in many regions. Lively town centres and open community centres are often the prerequisite for voluntary commitment and strengthening coexistence. Vibrant regions are created through suitable conditions for living together and good infrastructure – also for young families and older people. We want to support and promote them.

E. A nature that we protect

For an intact nature

By restoring and protecting nature, we protect ourselves: today and in the future. We also protect nature for its own sake. In this way, we are creating the basis for a good quality of life and strengthening democracy with a resilient community structure. The protection of climate and nature should therefore be anchored in the Basic Law. Intact nature is one of the

decisive factors in achieving climate neutrality. Near-natural forests, moors and floodplains bind CO₂ from the air cheaply and efficiently. With the Natural Climate Action Programme, we have tackled this task vigorously and multiplied nature conservation financing in Germany. We want to consolidate, expand and further develop this in terms of content and thus increase the funds for natural climate protection beyond 2028.

Our aim is to ensure that international agreements and European law in nature conservation are consistently adhered to and implemented. A milestone has been achieved in Europe: a law for the restoration of nature. In order to implement this as quickly as possible, including nature-friendly use, we will make areas available for the restoration of nature guaranteed by law. After all, ecosystem-based nature and species conservation is also in an overriding social interest.

To this end, we want a boost for nature conservation: effective measures against further land consumption, unbureaucratic and faster designation of nature reserves and the transfer of further suitable areas to the National Natural Heritage Site, as well as interconnected biotope networks and large-scale protected areas based on the model of the East German large-scale protected area programme during the Peaceful Revolution. Free-flowing rivers, near-natural forests and floodplains, moors and extensively used agricultural landscape as well as wild pastures play a central role in this and must be preserved or restored wherever possible. We reject the unnatural and uneconomic development of rivers, such as those planned on the Middle Elbe or on the border Oder, and want to align the legal foundations of the cross-border river policy together with our neighbouring countries in a way that is in line with nature. We are shaping the energy transition in a way that is compatible with nature conservation and resolving unavoidable conflicting goals between renewable energies and nature and species conservation on the basis of newly gained knowledge and, where necessary, making adjustments with the involvement of the expertise of science, nature conservation and planners.

People, municipalities and many companies want more nature – it is the committed people and local organisations who very often act as the engine of nature and species conservation. That is why a strong right of action by associations is needed for a functioning environmental and nature conservation system.

Two years ago in Montreal, the international community adopted a global agreement for the protection of nature and biodiversity with ambitious goals – this is also a clear mandate for us to work for the preservation and restoration of intact ecosystems. We are committed to the rapid implementation of the agreed goal of 30 percent effective protection of land and sea areas by 2030. With a binding National Biodiversity Strategy and a Biodiversity Act, we will achieve these goals at national level. In the event of unavoidable interventions, we continue to prioritise compensation in the form of specific nature conservation projects in the area.

We will assume our responsibility for particularly tropical habitats such as the Wadden Sea, beech forests and orchards, as well as for particularly endangered species such as the lynx or fire salamander, through species aid programmes and special conservation measures. We want to further strengthen the Federal Nature Conservation Fund and promote digital tools for biodiversity research and conservation.

To implement all this, more support for civil society is needed, especially in rural areas. The success of the action programme shows:

We can only protect and value what we know. Environmental education is lifelong learning and takes place through one's own experiences and experiences in nature, education, at places of learning, in daycare centers and schools as well as at home. We want to promote this.

Our cultural landscape is home to many endangered species – we want to reconcile land use and nature conservation. Where

species protection is effective, conflicts also occur in the case of a few animal species. We are striking a balance between pragmatic solutions on the ground, such as faster and less complicated shooting of wolves in problematic exceptional cases, coexistence measures such as livestock protection, unbureaucratic compensation and the requirements of nature conservation. We will preserve and consistently implement EU nature conservation law, which is important for biodiversity, with its territorial and species protection. Protected species such as the wolf do not belong in hunting law. This is also a contribution to avoiding bureaucracy.

In the case of interventions in nature, irresponsible risks such as the endangerment or even extinction of entire populations or species must be ruled out, for example by means of genetic engineering methods (gene drives).

Our forests are important for biodiversity and allies in climate protection. At the same time, they serve as recreational areas for human health, as places of wilderness development and as a basis for forestry use. But we are experiencing a second forest dieback. The climate crisis, combined with large-scale coniferous cultivation, drought and pest infestation, has led to forests now storing less CO₂ than expected. We will therefore preserve and develop near-natural and structurally rich forests with native and site-appropriate tree species.

In order to preserve the forest ecosystem, we are relying on a modern Federal Forest Act that provides for the most natural development possible towards more resilient and species-rich mixed forests. We support forest owners and strengthen the forest authorities for forest management that meets the requirements of nature, climate and animal protection. In order for natural forest regeneration to be possible on the entire forest area, differentiated wildlife management is necessary. To ensure sustainable wood use, we are focusing on the further development of the wood-processing industry towards long-lasting products. To this end, we are promoting wood and forest research.

For a healthy environment

In addition to the climate and biodiversity crisis, increasing pollution and littering is the third major challenge for the protection of our natural resources. With intact soils, fresh air and retreats where you can enjoy your peace and quiet, we ensure a better quality of life. Whether it's dirty air or noise – in the climatic health resort as well as on the busy road in the city: We want to make the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) the legal standard for a healthy life in Germany and Europe. Through a more precautionary approach and a new soil protection law, we are bringing the protection of our soils into the 21. century. This means fewer

substances entering the soil, less pesticide use – including a complete avoidance of particularly harmful substances such as glyphosate and neonicotinoids – and an overall careful use of soil as a resource. In this way, we maintain the performance of our soils and unleash their power.

Our goal is to effectively reduce packaging waste and stop the littering of the landscape and waters. plastics manufacturers, we will contribute more to the environmental costs of their products. By 2045 at the latest, there should be no more avoidable packaging waste.

Private fireworks are increasingly an unreasonable burden for our municipalities. It is also too often misused. We therefore want to reduce private fireworks in order to keep the impact on people, animals and the environment as low as possible: We are strengthening cities and municipalities in restricting fireworks and creating legal certainty in the pronouncement of prohibited zones for all categories of fireworks. In principle, we consider a year-round ban on sales for private use to be necessary and are committed to nationwide implementation.

We want to make faster progress on the reform of the European Instrument for the Safety of Chemicals (REACH) and maintain the level of protection that has been achieved. We support an

approach that takes into account the interactions of chemicals and focuses on the risks to the environment and people. For this reason, in-depth testing and vigilant approval procedures are required, especially for non-natural substances, as well as the strict application of the polluter pays principle in wastewater and waste management. It is important to us to speed up the procedures and improve the possibilities of sanctions.

We pay particular attention to substances that cause permanent damage to people and ecosystems, such as the so-called perpetual chemicals. We are committed to a differentiated approach – with the aim of gradually phasing out their use altogether. Wherever they are not in critical applications or can be easily replaced, we want to end their use quickly first.

At the same time, however, we are keeping in mind that we are not jeopardising critical applications and the production of important future technologies such as electrics or electric drives, as alternatives are not always available. We are committed to clear, appropriate deadlines for substitution. In doing so, we are guided by the latest scientific findings. In addition, we demand that inputs into the environment be reduced to an absolute minimum during the transition phase. We want to promote environmentally friendly alternatives through incentives and a research offensive so that they become ready for

the market quickly. The polluters are to pay for the consequences of water pollution. To this end, we want to make the manufacturers of water-polluting substances more responsible. We want to counteract the eutrophication and littering of rivers and oceans through wastewater management and reduce nutrient inputs. Particularly dangerous and poorly degradable pollutants must no longer enter the water cycle.

We want to successfully conclude the negotiations for an international plastics agreement with binding measures to reduce the production of plastic. Our goal is a world without plastic pollution. We want to promote technology that enables environmentally friendly fishing of waste from the sea.

With the immediate programme for the recovery of munitions in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, we have achieved a milestone in protecting our oceans from toxic war contamination. We will ensure the continuous continuation of the salvage work so that the ammunition is recovered from our seas by the middle of the century.

We also want to strengthen the legal framework in environmental law. In the prosecution of environmental crimes, we are committed to the consistent implementation of the new EU Environmental Criminal Law Directive in Germany and to the outlawing of the most serious environmental crimes within the framework of the amendment to the

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

For clean water and living oceans

Clean water is central to our health, our quality of life and the functioning of our ecosystems. Pollution and the climate crisis threaten our water resources. We ensure that we continue to have clean drinking water, that agriculture is supplied and that our rivers, lakes and seas remain intact. We stand by the EU Water Framework Directive and are consistently implementing it together with the federal states in order to achieve good water status.

With the National Water Strategy, we have presented a master plan on how to achieve these goals. We want to create the financial and personnel conditions so that we can implement them effectively – together with the federal states, but also beyond our national borders. In order to better protect the ecological balance in our rivers, equal responsibility for waterway management and nature conservation is needed.

We want to restore the natural water supply. To this end, we want to use and design cities and landscapes in such a way that they can absorb water, store it and release it again when needed. In particular, we want to noticeably improve the water retention capacity of agricultural land and forests. Through fair charges, especially for intensive users, we want to steer use and ensure that saving water becomes even more a matter of course.

The vulnerable ecosystems of our oceans need special protection. That is why we are committed to a global moratorium on deep-sea mining, an ambitious implementation of the international high seas agreement and protected areas in the Antarctic. In the North Sea and Baltic Sea, too, we will make substantial contributions to the global goal of placing one third of the oceans under effective protection. We are developing an ambitious marine strategy and creating real retreats for shoals of fish and marine mammals. In at least one tenth of the German North Sea and Baltic Sea, nature is to remain completely untouched. So that marine nature can recover, while new protection rules also preserve marine life in the other waters.

We want to support fisheries on the way to a sustainable future, among other things through environmentally and nature-friendly fishing techniques, effective protected areas, alternative income opportunities and better regional value creation. In doing so, we want to focus the use of public money on environmentally friendly use that serves to achieve global and European sustainability goals.

We are writing a roadmap for phasing out oil production in German waters and gas production in German by 2035. In addition, we are committed to putting shipping routes – especially in nearby protected areas – to the test, stopping harmful discharges, upgrading the sewage treatment plants on the North Sea and Baltic Sea, and setting up targeted programs to protect against plastic litter. An appropriate share of public revenues from the sale of marine land for wind turbines will continue to flow directly into marine protection and the development of nature- and climate-friendly fisheries in the future – in this way, we combine environmentally friendly electricity generation with the protection of the oceans.

We feel particularly committed to the protection of the Wadden Sea. The Wattenmeer is one of the most bioproductive ecosystems in the world. It is not only a habitat for porpoises and seals, but also an irreplaceable source of food for numerous migratory birds and fish populations. This treasure of nature must not be destroyed by gas drilling around Borkum.

Marine and polar research makes important contributions to this. We ensure the necessary investments and rely on European cooperation.

F. A

future-proof diet and agriculture

For strong farmers

In order to ensure food security in the long term, crisis-proof farms are needed that can adapt to the changes and are a reliable partner in protecting the natural foundations. On the way to a future-proof and climate-friendly agriculture, we rely on the commitment, entrepreneurial spirit and knowledge of farmers, and we want to better support women, young farmers and newcomers in particular. We have been able to set the first course in this election period, but there is still a lot to do.

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

The competitive position of farmers vis-à-vis other players in the value chain

is to be strengthened. That is why we are introducing the requirement to buy at cost-covering prices along the entire food chain and anchoring binding written contracts in the Agricultural Organisation and Supply Chain Act. We want an antitrust review to ensure fair producer prices and competition in the oligopoly food trade as well.

In agriculture and the meat industry – especially in seasonal work – there are still many precarious employment relationships. The aim here is to ensure good work, health and social security protection. The sovereignty over the farm data collected by the agricultural industry must remain with the farms.

The rewetting of peatlands is an important contribution to biodiversity and climate protection.

We are supporting farmers in the transition to wet farming and will design the framework conditions in such a way that approval procedures for the switch work more easily and quickly and agricultural land becomes more economically attractive through rewetting.

For livestock farmers in Germany, there is a need for an answer to the changed consumption habits for reasons of animal ethics, health, environmental and climate policy. With steadily declining meat consumption, industrial animal husbandry and cheap exports are not sustainable concepts in the long term. What is sustainable, on the other hand, is both in the interests of companies and animals: keeping fewer animals better.

be developed, which, among other things, scientifically examines the externalised true costs. We resolutely oppose the sell-off of agricultural land through so-called share deals.

Animals need more freedom of movement. We have promoted the conversion of pig barns towards more animal-friendly husbandry than any previous federal government. We are committed to ensuring that there are sufficient funds in the next legislature to improve the living conditions for all animals and to adapt husbandry to the needs of the animals.

Grazing on extensive, species-rich permanent grassland has both positive biodiversity and climate effects. We want to promote this as well as the reintroduction of robust breeds that cope well with this form of husbandry. We have introduced husbandry labelling for pork and thus enable consumers to make a conscious purchase decision. We will extend this label to other animal species and out-of-home catering with little bureaucracy.

Regional products are also in demand by more and more people. That's why we want to bring farms together with the regional food trade – for example, by promoting regional value chains. In addition, a food processing strategy is to

We are driving additional earning opportunities for farmers, for example, through the expansion of agri-photovoltaics, agri-tourism and the strengthening of plant-based raw materials as building materials such as reeds or hemp. We want to make it possible to grow, process and trade industrial hemp without punishment. And we support companies and the entire value chain in gaining a foothold in new innovative markets such as alternative and plant-based proteins. We will continue to operate the "Proteins of the Future" competence centre and the Höfe opportunity programme accordingly. We strengthen research funding and ensure efficient and reliable approval procedures for novel foods such as modern fermentation processes and cell cultivation.

For the natural foundations of our diet

The effects of global warming, insect mortality and the treatment of our soils are key challenges to our food security. Future-proof agriculture faces these challenges. In addition to more appreciation, this also requires sufficient

value creation. We support efficiency gains through the use of digitally supported working methods in agriculture and are committed to EU-wide standardisation. We will actively reduce unnecessary bureaucracy without dismantling the necessary standards in environmental, animal and consumer protection.

Agriculture and the environment need the most economical and thoughtful use of pesticides and fertilisers. The introduction of a nutrient balance supports the more targeted use of fertiliser and can help to reduce it. With the implementation of the EU Farm to Fork strategy, pesticide use can be halved across the EU by 2030. To this end, we promote organic farming and focus on innovation, digitalisation, further training and the consistent implementation of agroecological measures. Income-generating and public welfare-oriented remuneration for environmental and biodiversity services is an important instrument for us in this regard.

And we rely on market-based solutions such as a pesticide levy, which is effective and unbureaucratic and can be used to promote environmentally friendly methods of plant protection. We fight against wild bee mortality and support the beekeepers in their fight against honey bee mortality.

In addition, we are creating sufficient protected retreats for nature – in fallow land, wetlands, field hedgerows and other structures of the agricultural landscape. Cooperative nature conservation with performance-based funding is an interesting approach to tapping new potential for nature conservation management on site. We are also committed to pollinator-friendly organic plant breeding and permaculture. We bring agroforestry systems out of the niche and into the countryside. We support farmers in combining trees and arable crops here. In this way, they contribute to the protection of soils and biodiversity. We want to promote genetic diversity as well as the breeding and introduction of robust varieties that require fewer pesticides and synthetic mineral fertilizers and are adapted to climate conditions. We will continue to promote gentle tillage and mechanical weed control in the Natural Climate Action Programme.

Organic agriculture and food farming is our guiding principle, it plays an important role in protecting the natural foundations. Nature-friendly forms of production must have an advantage over production methods that have strong environmental consequences. To achieve the goal

To achieve 30 per cent organic farming by 2030, we are consistently implementing the Organic Strategy 2030 and providing the necessary funds for this. We want to make it easier for young farmers in particular to get started. We promote the innovative strength of organic farms and marketing. And we are significantly expanding research into organic farming.

We also need a more careful handling of valuable agricultural land. For this reason, we want to introduce priority areas for food production in planning law and strengthen agri-photovoltaics and other approaches to greater land efficiency. When it comes to biomass, we rely on careful cascade and multiple use as well as on the increased use of green waste from landscape conservation. In order to quickly and significantly reduce the use of fossil fuels in agriculture as well, we are promoting the development and market launch of alternative fuels and fuels.

Overexploited and degraded soils endanger the formation of clean groundwater and the production of healthy food. They store less water and lose relevant nutrients. We want to prevent this with a new soil protection law.

For good nutrition

Everyone should be able to decide for themselves and well what goes on their plates. But not everyone can eat the way they would like to. This is also a social issue: where people are socially disadvantaged, diet-related diseases are

particularly common. That is why we want to design the framework conditions in such a way that freedom of choice in nutrition is improved. An expanded plant-based range of products and comprehensible food labelling are intended to provide consumers with more choice and a better basis for decision-making. A fairer taxation of plant-based foods should also contribute to this.

To this end, we are building on the Federal Government's food strategy "Good Food for Germany" and creating a better food environment. We pay particular attention to community catering – from daycare centres to canteens and care facilities. We will also protect children from advertising for unhealthy foods and ban flavours for e-cigarettes, which encourage young people in particular to consume them, from the market. In addition, soft drinks with a high sugar content contribute significantly to overweight, obesity and secondary diseases. Particularly in the interests of child and youth protection, we are committed to effective measures to reduce the sugar content of soft drinks. We welcome the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly "Nutrition in Transition", which contain important proposals for measures that we want to take up.

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

rescue and transfer of food to become standard, introduce mandatory measures in the food trade and decriminalise the rescue of food.

For a better treatment of animals

For us, animal welfare is a question of keeping. It has been enshrined in the Basic Law since 2002. As for environmental and nature conservation, we have always consistently taken sides with animals. Both nationally and at European and international level, we are therefore committed to animal welfare legislation and high standards that truly protect animals. Most animals in Germany are kept in agriculture. Here we want fewer animals to be kept better, that they can move freely and pursue their natural way of life.

We will focus breeding more strongly on animal health and finally end the already banned torture breeding of animals. These include, for example, turkeys, whose breast meat grows so quickly that they can no longer stand on their feet, or dogs and cats that can hardly breathe.

Cruelty to animals is to be punished more decisively. In order to counter enforcement deficits in animal welfare, better controls are needed. We want to give all people who keep animals access

to the necessary knowledge. Since animals cannot sue for their rights themselves, we are committed to improving their legal and political representation. To this end, we want to make the office of a Federal Animal Welfare Officer, which has already been created in this legislative period, bindingly anchored and introduce a comprehensive right of action for recognised animal welfare organisations.

Our goal is to limit the duration of animal transports to four hours throughout Europe. We want to ban transports from Europe and prevent ways of circumvention by new transit countries and use our national leeway to do so. We want to improve slaughtering methods and their controls in the interests of animal welfare. Decentralised and mobile (pasture) slaughtering avoids long transports and strengthens regional economic cycles. Improved working conditions that do not rely on piecework wages, piece and distance bonuses for slaughter and transport also help with animal welfare.

We want to reduce animal experiments through a scientific reduction strategy and – wherever possible – replace them with innovative, animal-free methods, which we want to promote comprehensively and whose structural hurdles we want to dismantle. We are developing a suitable legal framework for this in the future. This also strengthens Germany as a modern research location. animals in need must be better cared for. Animal shelters and other reception structures as well as emergency numbers are at the limit nationwide. We want them to be better supported and relieved financially. Illegal animal trade and uncontrolled wildlife trade harm animals and create health risks for humans. They should therefore be ended. Wild animals belong in the wild and not in circuses, nor should they be offered via commercial online sites and wildlife exchanges. We want to end commercial imports of wild-caught animals and the import of hunting trophies.

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APITEL

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FAIR AND AFFORDABLE

The strength of our country is based on the fact that all people can confidently contribute and develop. That their performance, experience and skills count for something and that the effort is worth it. The strength of our country is based on the people who work every day, in factories and offices, in hospitals and nursing homes, in kindergartens and universities.

The aim is to transform the current uncertainty into new security. Many people are overburdened: rising rents and the high cost of living, as well as rising taxes and high taxes on wages and salaries, make life hardly affordable for many. Too few daycare center staff and places, the time-consuming search for a doctor's appointment or lengthy visits to the authorities make life

exhausting and complicated. Digitalisation and the use of artificial intelligence are having an impact on more and more areas of everyday life and working life. People want to create, build something, provide for their families, as far as possible by their own efforts. They deserve good framework conditions for this. Everyone must be able to rely on the state to provide the inclusive institutions to support them.

A good education system for all children and adolescents is the central key to a good future for our country and our democratic community in several respects. This is where individual freedom, the possibility of personal self-determination as well as the possibility of social participation develop. Education decides the life chances of young people: This starts fundamentally with daycare and extends to training or studies - and must not end there. And this applies regardless of whether you work in the trades, science, services or industry later in life. Education also decides whether we can make our country fit for the demands of the new era. We equip young people with skills that are indispensable in the new, digital and climate-neutral world of work. We take lifelong learning seriously and strengthen educational formats for all stages of life. It is time to finally take this into account in federal politics – hand in hand with the states and municipalities in a modern federalism. We are strengthening our education systems, not least so that in future they will give children with a migrant background and from socio-economically disadvantaged families the same opportunities for participation and advancement. In addition, we also strengthen the discrimination-sensitive approach to all children from the very beginning and advocate an appreciative attitude in education policy.

Good work and fair wages are the basis for building something – in material security. But work is also the place where people create something together and experience themselves as part of society. It must be fair: work must be safe and healthy, with the opportunity for advancement and further training, and remunerated in such a way that a good life is possible. A fair labour market creates appreciation, social cohesion and makes it possible to reconcile private life, family and career. That is our goal.

The question of housing is decisive for the circumstances of our lives. The choice of a job, the possibility of starting a family and the design of the social environment depend largely on housing. Making it affordable is therefore a crucial social challenge. We embrace them, effectively limit rents, facilitate construction and access to property.

We want appropriate and uncomplicated social security for all people that covers the elementary things of a life in dignity and in which all population groups participate fairly. This applies to a good and solidarity-based health care system that is there for everyone. This applies to a care system that is reliable and affordable and enables all people to live in dignity. This is especially true for children and young people, whose future must not depend on the lottery of their social circumstances. It applies to people

who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. And it applies to social security in old age that honors achievements and takes away the fear of poverty.

A. Strong participation: good work, affordable housing, fair wages

For good work and fair wages

Good work and fair wages are crucial for people to be able to provide for themselves and their families, to get involved and to be proud of the prosperity they have achieved together. We want everyone to have access to good work: through good training, further education and training, through better integration into an inclusive labour market and through facilitation of taking up work or the abolition of work bans. The change of jurisdiction for Ukrainians has facilitated labour market integration by giving them access to labour market integration tools. We want the job centres to give refugees early support in integrating into the labour market.

Fair wages require a fair minimum wage so that performance is also recognized. In order to compensate for the inflation of recent years, a gradually increasing minimum wage of initially 15 euros in 2025 is now needed, including for those under 18. To this end, we are anchoring the reference value of 60 percent of the median wage from the EU Minimum Wage Directive in the German Minimum Wage Act. And there needs to be stronger collective bargaining coverage. After all, those who work according to collective bargaining agreements earn more on average and under better working conditions. That is why we want to make it easier for collective agreements to be made universally applicable. Through a collective bargaining compliance law, we will award major public contracts of the federal government to companies that pay according to the collective bargaining agreement, which accounts for significantly more than 90 percent of the total contract volume of the federal government. We want to examine how we can anchor low-bureaucracy social criteria in the allocation of large-scale subsidies. By equalizing living and working conditions in East and West, we want to overcome the wage and salary differences in the long term.

Co-determination in the workplace is a democracy in the flesh. It turns employees into active actors in shaping their working environment. If employees can help shape their working conditions, then trust and acceptance are created even in times of change processes. We therefore want to strengthen co-determination in the company – i.e. works councils, staff councils, representatives of severely disabled people, youth and training organisations – by expanding co-determination rights in matters of climate and environmental protection, qualification measures, personnel development and equality in the company. We support the establishment of new works councils and enable online works council elections. Works councils should be able to decide for themselves whether they work analogue or digitally. We are creating a digital right of access for trade unions in the workplace and will in future classify the obstruction of democratic co-determination as an official offence. In addition, we will create regulations on employee data protection in order to achieve legal clarity for employers and employees and to effectively protect personal rights. We want to strengthen corporate co-determination. It must not be ignored or circumvented, not even across borders.

improve protection against bullying. We are expanding occupational health and safety in the changing world of work and adapting it to new challenges – especially with regard to mental health.

We advocate that church labour law be reformed and trade union co-determination promoted, and that the exemption clauses for churches in the Works Constitution Act and the General Equal Treatment Act be repealed. The area of religious proclamation remains unaffected by this.

Equal pay for equal and equal work: this slogan will become reality if women can enforce their right to equal pay in practice. The reality, however, is the gender pay gap, the gender care gap and the gender pension gap. That is why we will implement the EU Remuneration Transparency Directive quickly and in full. We want to create more transparency about the pay gap, make the rules more binding and more enforceable, and thus effectively advance equality. We are improving employment opportunities for women through equal pay and more time sovereignty. They should be able to exert more influence on the location and duration of their working hours in order to enable a better work-life balance and a fair distribution of care work between the sexes. This also includes the possibility of working from home and on the move – with clear rules and fair agreements. We want to expand the bridging part-time work and the associated right to return to

We want to take decisive action against bogus self-employment, for example in platform companies, the abuse of work contracts and undeclared work. We want to secure legal advice for posted workers. In addition, we want to strengthen the trade unions with a right of collective action. We reject fixed-term contracts without objective reasons. Working time recording must be possible for all employees in an unbureaucratic and digital manner and must be regulated in the Working Hours Act. In sectors affected by undeclared work, this must be done in a tamper-proof manner. We reject an extension of working hours. We will

full-time work and make it more individual. Good childcare and a reliable care system are essential prerequisites for the employment of all educators and caregivers.

We want to gradually transform mini-jobs into employment subject to social security contributions, with exceptions for pensioners, pupils and students. This is because they lead to a part-time trap, especially for women and in combination with spousal splitting, because they provide an incentive to work less and without social security. This also exacerbates the shortage of labour and poverty in old age. In order to increase salaries at the lower end by market-based means, we want to make salary offers in job advertisements transparent as a matter of principle.

For affordable housing

Affordable housing has become one of the crucial social issues of our time. People from all parts of society are faced with questions such as: Can I start a family where I live? Can I afford an apartment where I have a job offer? How can I live in old age? How can I find a disabled-friendly apartment? We want people in Germany to find affordable housing and not have to worry about staying in their homes. We need more apartments, clever and socially

responsible modernisation and protection against excessively high rent increases in existing buildings. In addition, we want to end the apportionability of property tax so that it can no longer be passed on to tenants.

About half of the people in our country live in rented accommodation and have to spend more and more money on it. We will extend the rent brake and tighten it by abolishing exceptions. We also want to apply the rent brake to apartments that are more than five years old. And we will close loopholes, for example when apartments are not offered at fair prices, but at overpriced prices as furnished apartments or holiday apartments. Rent indices are to be better qualified by extending the observation period. Municipalities should be able to provide evidence of tight housing markets on their own. We will enable a rent freeze in tense housing markets. Rent usury must be combated by strengthening Section 5 of the Economic Criminal Code in order to make it easier for tenants to provide evidence and thus to punish violations of the rent brake more strongly. Indexed rents are to be regulated by upper limits and renovations must be apportioned in a warm-rent-neutral manner. The letting of furnished apartments must be strictly regulated and the misappropriation of living space must be punished. In addition, we will counter rent increases by lowering the capping limits. Commercial tenants also need tenant protection.

Homelessness should not occur in a rich country like Germany – having your own home is an important prerequisite for a life in dignity and for social participation. That is why we want to further develop the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Management of Homelessness. The goal remains to overcome homelessness by 2030. To avoid homelessness, low-threshold preventive assistance and target-group-oriented offers, for example for women and families, are essential. There must be no forced evictions on the streets. The Housing-First approach is a central component in which homeless people can move into an apartment without first qualifying for help. We will also use other instruments such as social housing agencies. Regardless of their citizenship and residence status, people must have equal access to the assistance system.

We want to protect tenants better. We want much stronger protection in the case of terminations for personal use and terminations due to rent debts, as well as an extension of the conversion period. We want to better inform tenants about their

rights and at the same time enable municipalities to support tenants in enforcing their rights. Many people are interested in exchanging their homes because their living conditions have changed. In this way, living space could be used better. We want to support people in these plans by making it legally easier to exchange homes and by adapting and making funding instruments for supporting tenants more flexible.

Home ownership – whether it is your own house or apartment – offers security, freedom and a sustainable retirement provision. That's why we want to make it easier to make the chance of home ownership a reality. We want to promote the purchase and construction of the first owner-occupied residential property as well as the conversion of vacant apartments and conversions into affordable housing in a stronger and socially just way. In this way, we support young families in particular through low-interest state loans. In particular, the energy-efficient renovation of vacant apartments, the division of underused single-family houses and extensions for the provision of additional living space are to be promoted. We relieve the burden of ancillary costs such as brokerage and notary fees. A housing subsidy, the amount of which increases with inflation and which is geared to climate protection targets, also makes it easier for people with low and medium incomes to access home ownership. If tenants want to take over their residential building jointly, for

example through a cooperative, we want to support this unbureaucratically with cheap loans or guarantees.

We want to prevent speculation with tenants' homes. We do not accept that housing corporations and real estate companies pay out returns while apartments in which people live fall into disrepair. We want to put a stop to these business models. That is why we want to oblige these players to fulfil their responsibilities and limit the distribution of returns if they do not live up to this responsibility.

For fast, cost-effective and climate-friendly construction and renovation

We want to create good framework conditions for climate-friendly, fast and inexpensive construction and conversion.

This requires a realistic strategy for more living space. The best way is to use existing potential: add storeys to existing buildings, convert unused office and commercial space into living space, convert attics, reactivate repurposed and vacant buildings. Several million apartments could be made available in this way. There is no need to lay new infrastructure here, which makes construction easier and cheaper. In order to enable low-cost conversions, we want

to reduce building and tax hurdles and bureaucracy. The conversion of existing buildings must become more attractive than demolishing existing buildings and building new ones. To this end, we will simplify building law, digitise procedures and harmonise them nationwide – all forms of construction will benefit from this. We will reduce exaggerated demands on structural standards to a reasonable level. Where possible, we want to make it easier for the energy-efficient renovation of residential buildings to be combined with adding storeys or extensions. Serial residential buildings also make an effective contribution to creating living space quickly and inexpensively with sustainable construction methods. We want to strengthen these approaches.

Housing and building sites must not be objects of speculation. We are committed to a land policy that is also oriented towards the common good and adapt building law accordingly. We are setting up a federal land fund and supporting the development of municipal land funds. In the event of increases in land value as a result of changes in planning law, we involve the public sector to a greater extent.

Tax loopholes in real estate transactions, for example via so-called share deals, must be closed. At the same time, we are strengthening the right of first refusal of municipalities in the income value method and the protection of Milieu-71. We support social and non-profit housing construction by increasing federal funding for social housing. We want to provide special support for non-profit and cooperative housing companies. With investment and construction cost subsidies for social housing and the new non-profit housing association, we ensure that occupancy and rent control are no longer limited in time. In this way, we want to expand the New Non-Profit Housing Association into a powerful instrument of the social housing market. We want to significantly accelerate the trend towards an increasing proportion of barrier-free new-build rental apartments. Chapter 2
and provide greater support to those affected in conversion measures so that they can live independently in their apartments.

We focus on social justice in construction and renovation and focus more on low- and middle-income support. Advances are intended to enable them to renovate. In the future, efficiency will be the focus of financial support. The lower the income and the more energy is saved, the higher the subsidy. Small renovation measures such as the insulated basement ceiling, the insulated top floor ceiling and the optimisation of the existing heating system have a great effect with a small amount of resources.

Climate-friendly renovation not only benefits the climate, it also reduces future housing costs. To ensure that these positive effects also reach tenants, we want to provide clear incentives for landlords to actually use available public funding for renovation. It is also urgently necessary to significantly increase the annual renovation rate. Since the landlords' investments may only be apportioned for a limited period of time, we relieve the tenants. There are many ways to achieve climate-friendly construction and renovation: sometimes it is new technologies, sometimes the recourse to proven building traditions that provide the key. We use CO₂ balancing to determine the best implementation. The circular economy in construction is also crucial so that construction waste can be avoided, raw materials can be conserved and materials can be reused. We are introducing a digital building passport for public buildings to promote the reuse of building materials. We are reducing regulations that stand in the way of the circular economy in the building sector. To make it easier to finance climate-friendly renovations, we want to make it easier to recognise renovated buildings as taxonomy-compliant. Comfortable, inexpensive and climate-friendly construction requires technical and legal innovations. We stand for a modern, sustainable building culture in which all forms of coexistence are taken into account. As a society, we should try out this new interaction in an uncomplicated way with the help of the instrument of the real-world laboratory and learn from it.

We want to create lively and sustainable city centres and town centres with attractive and mixed-use neighbourhoods. In doing so, we are building on holistic, district-based urban and village development that enables climate-neutral mobility, more greenery and more water areas as well as participation. To this end, we want to increase the funds for urban development funding and simplify the application of inner city development measures.

The settlement and transport area is growing more and more at the expense of agricultural land and forests. Spatial planning, urban and regional planning alone could not effectively reduce land consumption. That is why we are relying on new instruments such as land certificate trading or a building land levy model. For example, we are providing incentives to reduce land consumption to 30 hectares per day by 2030 and to net zero in the long term.

For a fair tax system

Germany is a prosperous country. Many people are doing well. But there are also those who can hardly afford anything except rent and food. These people have suffered particularly from the inflation of recent years. The gap between rich and poor has widened so widely in recent decades that the richest one percent of

Germans now owns more wealth than 90 percent of society combined. This makes us one of the countries with the most unequal distribution of wealth in Europe. A significant part of the large fortunes in Germany does not come from their own work, but from inheritances.

Particularly in the case of the concentration of very high assets, there is a great need for action in Germany, even by international standards. We have good concepts that effectively reduce wealth inequality. Possible approaches include: a global billionaire's tax, a fairer inheritance tax, fair real estate taxation without loopholes, and a national wealth tax on very high wealth. We want to bring together the goals of fairness, financing for the common good and the preservation of businesses, their investment opportunities and their jobs.

This is far from easy, but we want to finally achieve something. For this reason, we are focusing on the following measures: a reform of the inheritance tax towards a model with a personal lifetime allowance, the extensive abolition of existing exceptions for extraordinarily large inheritances (owner-occupied property remains exempt) and generous deferral regulations, active support for the introduction of the global billionaires' tax and the closure of the other obvious gaps in fairness in the tax system, especially in real estate taxation such as share deals and in the gap in the taxation of labour and capital income. We will counter trade tax dumping by municipalities with effective measures, taking into account the right of municipalities to set tax rates. We are abolishing the extended reduction for real estate companies in trade tax law.

introducing tax credits. In this way, we save people and our authorities more and more complicated application procedures and ensure that every hour more gainful employment always leads to noticeably more disposable income for people. We are increasing the basic allowance. Our goal is also to relieve low incomes in the future. We will integrate the solidarity surcharge into the income tax rate.

In order to relieve the bureaucratic and financial burden on the working population, we will increase the employee lump sum in the income tax return. We want an increase to at least 1,500 euros. This will mean that more than half of employees will no longer have to collect receipts for their tax returns. If you have higher expenses, you can declare them as usual on your tax return. We are looking into further lump sums to significantly simplify the tax return for citizens and small businesses. The aim is to offer to submit the tax return via the Germany app. In addition, we are exempting millions of pensioners from the obligation to file a tax return by having their income tax automatically withheld by the pension providers.

In order to relieve the burden on low incomes, single parents and people who have to top up with citizen's allowance in a targeted and unbureaucratic manner, we are

Fair taxation also means that an online mail-order company must tax its profits in the same way as a craft business. As a further pillar, we therefore rely on income from local taxation of the profits of multinational corporations. We support the United Nations (UN) working out a fair basis for this.

The VAT system is a patchwork of unjustified special rules and exceptions. Unfortunately, past governments' efforts to achieve overdue reform have not been successful. Even though we know that a holistic VAT reform is a very complex undertaking with many pitfalls, we want to make another attempt: through a revenue-neutral reform, we will simplify VAT, reduce bureaucracy and reduce false incentives. To this end, we will delete exceptions and special rules that have fallen out of time. To ensure a fairer distribution of wealth and fair opportunities for advancement, we support people with low and medium

incomes in building up their assets. We want to build on our successes in the last government, such as the expansion of the promotion of capital-forming benefits, for example by noticeably increasing the subsidy for fund savings in capital-forming benefits and the saver's lump sum.

B. A good education for good opportunities

For good and reliable daycare centers

Good daycare centers and daycare are the decisive cornerstone for the future of our children. Good early childhood education and a reliable all-day care infrastructure offer children fair opportunities from the very beginning and enable parents to better reconcile family, work and other obligations. A win for our society as a whole.

Unfortunately, our country is far from living up to this claim. There is a shortage of daycare places in large parts of the country. Where parents get a place for their offspring, operations are often restricted or completely discontinued due to staff shortages. The reliability of

daycare centers is not guaranteed everywhere and at all times. There is already a shortage of educators and specialists in other social areas. We know that many are already working at or above the breaking point. We want to improve these working conditions. That is why we invest in good daycare centres, daycare centres and other social care facilities as well as in the recruitment of educators and supporting specialists. We are implementing a package of measures to secure skilled workers. In it, we advocate tuition-free, remunerated training, an attractive workplace, part-time recognition procedures, faster recognition of foreign qualifications and more flexible further training and training. Because only if sufficiently well-qualified specialists have sufficient time for their work can our daycare centres, daycare centres and social institutions provide education, upbringing and care at a high pedagogical level in the long term.

With the Kita Quality Act, the federal government currently invests around 2 billion euros annually in good early childhood education. We are continuing on this path by enshrining nationwide quality standards in the daycare sector and in child day care and by increasing and understanding investment in early childhood education at the federal level. For us, quality means strengthening daycare centers as educational spaces in which children discover languages and STEM skills. We support initiatives,⁷⁵ that promote this type of early childhood education. We also pay special attention to daycare centres with a high proportion of socio-economically disadvantaged children. We want to provide special support there. To ensure that good daycare is open to everyone, we will work to ensure that its use does not depend on high contributions. We demand that income-related daycare fees as standard.

We want to further strengthen children's right to participate in decision-making and implement concepts to promote democracy nationwide. We are introducing tax incentives for companies that create daycare places themselves or in cooperation so that employees' children can be cared for in the immediate vicinity of the workplace.

For strong schools for all children

For children and young people, schools are the centre of their lives alongside their families. This is where personality develops, where people live, learn and laugh. That's why it's so important that everyone feels they belong and is accepted. Schools also empower children and young people to shape their self-determined and sustainable future. Therefore, every young person deserves the best education – regardless of where they live, where they come from or what special educational needs they need.

Germany is in fact a country of immigration, so we need more than provisional and temporary solutions for dealing with refugees and others who come to us at short notice. We want integration in and through education to become a regular task of our education system, not only on paper, but above all in reality, from kindergarten to school, university and vocational training. They should be places where diversity and discrimination-sensitive learning is promoted and where people can discover and develop their talents and creativity. If young people once again have the impression that their efforts are worthwhile because they can achieve something and build something for themselves, we can unleash a lot of new potential. In order to create equal opportunities for all children from the very beginning, we are committed to discrimination-sensitive further training in child day care and teacher training.

We in the Federal Government have given the go-ahead for an educational awakening in schools: As the largest federal-state school programme in our country's history, we have jointly provided a powerful push for greater educational eligibility with the Startchancen programme worth 20 billion euros.

But our country needs much more: a joint education offensive to reach even more schools, children, young people and adolescents. With a "Future Investment Programme for Education", we want to work hand in hand with the states and municipalities nationwide to ensure more equal opportunities and intergenerational justice.

In this way, we ensure modern and barrier-free school buildings with digitally equipped classrooms, attractive exercise rooms, leak-proof roofs and functioning toilets. We are creating more positions for school social work, school psychology and inclusion in multi-professional teams. We strengthen the children's skills and achievements, with a focus on acquiring basic skills that are indispensable for a successful educational path. We promote political education, democracy education, environmental education and education for sustainable development. We also focus on the development of digital skills, media literacy and the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI). We are striving for greater social recognition of the teaching profession, in particular to combat the shortage of teachers and lesson cancellations.

We see the digitalisation of our schools as an ongoing task for the federal, state and local governments, in which we will continue to invest. Just like in the expansion of good all-day education and

care services. We are expanding the range of mental health coaches in schools and we are committed to ensuring that the inclusion of all students in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities becomes a lived reality in all schools. A good school lunch is crucial for all-day offers and promotes nutrition and health literacy from an early age.

This support should arrive where it is most needed. Instead of financing only according to the Königsstein key according to the number of inhabitants and financial strength, we want to align financing more closely with actual needs. We need closer cooperation between the federal government, the states and the municipalities in education policy. In doing so, we promote cooperation between schools, school supervisory authorities, school authorities and youth welfare, for example in regional education networks. Where constitutional restrictions currently prevent reliable and necessary investment in education, we will agree on common goals and viable solutions with the Länder in order to successfully overcome the major challenges in the education system together and also discuss new common tasks in the Basic Law. We want to abolish the ban on cooperation.

In addition, we want to support the states in recruiting skilled workers – for example through dual study courses, single-subject teachers and paths for lateral and lateral entrants. Together, we promote healthy working conditions, including recording working hours for teachers. In addition, more than 50,000 pupils leave school every year without a qualification – a risk of poverty and low participation. With a national strategy, we want to prevent school drop-outs through preventive and accompanying measures.

restructuring of the economy and demographic change. However, apprenticeships often remain unfilled, and vacancies cannot be filled. Yet 2.9 million young people in Germany today are without a vocational qualification.

We will also place a special focus on language education. Because language is the key to the world. We want to ensure that all children can read, write and do arithmetic safely at the end of primary school. Because only those who understand and master the German language can participate in lessons and the community, develop and learn successfully. Language support must be designed as a continuous process that begins in the daycare center and continues in school and vocational training. The multilingualism of many students deserves respect and the strengthening of our educational institutions. Every child in Germany, regardless of language skills, should have access to the regular education system.

For good vocational education and training that is open to all

Our country needs further energetic steps for more skilled workers – in industry and trade as well as in daycare centres, schools and the health sector. This is the only way we can cope with the necessary

A good education is an attractive promise for the professional future of young people. Along the way, we are creating good financial, social and legal conditions for trainees. We will significantly increase the minimum training allowance in order to increase the attractiveness of training and to enable people to live independently. We also want to promote the acquisition of driving licences for people in training, find a solution for an Trainee Germany Ticket and make local public transport more attractive for trainees. We support trainee unions based on the model of the student unions. The focus is on trainee dormitories, support for foreign trainees, psychological, social and legal counselling as well as cultural activities. With a solidarity-based training levy, we provide financial compensation in order to promote the willingness of small and medium-sized companies to provide training. To support the skilled trades, we are further increasing the funding for inter-company apprenticeship instruction. We are also strengthening training networks in order to increase the number of suitable positions for trainees and companies. We will continue to develop the training guarantee in an inclusive way and improve the instrument of assisted training in order to make it possible for all

young people to receive an apprenticeship.

We improve career orientation for young people and provide information where young people are, especially at schools. This requires the dismantling of false incentives at the Federal Employment Agency as well as the active involvement of training companies, training centres and universities, parents and role models from vocational education and training. Through the nationwide establishment and strengthening of youth employment agencies, we offer a central point of contact for career orientation, the search for training places and support during training. More barrier-free, practical and inclusive offers can help to broaden horizons for career choices. In doing so, we also focus on third places as spaces for learning and encounters.

Vocational training or a course of study paves the way for a strong path to a professional future. We will therefore enshrine the German Qualifications Framework in law. We don't want financial reasons or social background to decide which of the two paths to take. After the increase in BAföG in this legislative period, we are now making it future-proof, for studies and vocational training: BAföG should secure a livelihood and meet needs. That is why we use a reliable mechanism to regularly adjust the

requirement rates and allowances to the rising cost of living. We are examining the reduction of the loan to be repaid by increasing the grant share. We want to make BAföG more independent of parents and exclude the income of siblings from the calculation. The flat-rate housing costs are to be adjusted to the local rents. Possible funding gaps between applications must be avoided. For working people who want to become a master craftsman, for example, we are reforming the Upgrading BAföG and making it possible to receive the maintenance allowance part-time, the promotion of equivalent further training qualifications and orientation study phases, as well as a fully digitalised application process. For international students and refugees, we want to examine sensible facilitations for taking up studies.

Housing is a crucial prerequisite for successfully completing an apprenticeship or study. For more affordable, inclusive and barrier-free housing, we would like to promote and further promote the construction and renovation of halls of residence through the "Young Living" programme we launched in the current legislative period. In doing so, we make sure that everyone is informed about support offers and can take advantage of them. We are increasingly focusing on trainees.

We will expand the provision of alpine rehabilitation and basic education. Changes in all occupational fields make further education and training indispensable, even outside the classic educational paths. That is why we are strengthening the often underestimated pillar of the education system: lifelong learning.

want to support digital teaching and learning.

We want to continue, further develop and specifically supplement the existing federal-state pacts for higher education, science and research.

For a strong university and science landscape

Universities are places of education, science and research. They are the driving forces of our society by developing ideas and solutions for the major and the very concrete problems of our time. They are places of free and critical debate and productive friction, which are crucial prerequisites for scientific progress and the existence of a democratic society.

Studies and teaching also promote personal development. Good facilities and working conditions, gender equality and diversity promote fair access.

With an "Innovation Initiative for the Future Campus", we want to work with the federal states to modernise lecture halls, laboratories, refectories and libraries, which are often dilapidated or outdated, in a climate-friendly way and to turn them into resilient experimental spaces for sustainable, digital change. We also want to develop them further as places of learning and living with social infrastructure. We

Good basic funding, which creates planning security, strengthens universities as places of education, good work and innovative research. If used correctly and to cover the actual costs incurred, third-party funding can create additional dynamics. Therefore, we want to increase the program and project allowances and reduce bureaucracy so that scientists can concentrate on their work.

Good working conditions are crucial for equal opportunities and future-proof science. We want to significantly reduce the proportion of temporary employees, especially after completing their doctorate, and ensure that permanent tasks are processed in permanent positions. To this end, we want to define academic qualifications more narrowly as a factual reason for fixed-term contracts, strengthen alternative career paths in addition to professorship, and create modern governance and personnel structures. We want to promote this change in a programme together with the federal states. We want to abolish the current wage freeze and make academic work and family life more compatible, among other things by firmly anchoring

compatibility in academic qualification paths. We want to specifically promote women in science and counteract abuse of power and discrimination.

Even in times of increasing geopolitical tensions, we want to promote and simplify the international exchange of science, for example by issuing visas more quickly, strengthening intermediary organisations and providing better advice to universities and research institutions. We want to enable more people to exchange academics and careers via Erasmus+.

Scientific findings are the basis of responsible policy, and at the same time it is the task of politicians to defend academic freedom. Among other things, this means that decisions on research funding are based exclusively on scientific criteria and not on political calculations. We resolutely oppose the disparagement of entire fields of research, such as climate or gender research, strengthen science communication and protect those affected from hostility, exclusion or boycott on the basis of their origin, religion or nationality.

C. In the middle of life – in every phase of life

For strong families

Parents with children face a variety of challenges. Rising costs, the compatibility of work and family, especially the responsibility of single parents, the fear of no longer being able to keep up – all this is causing concern. And the lack of childcare in many places is an additional burden. All families should therefore be able to rely on good and supportive framework conditions. This requires financial support that supports families and provides security in difficult phases of life.

Child benefit and child allowance are the basis for supporting families. With the strongest increase in child benefit in the past 30 years and the introduction of the immediate supplement, we were able to provide targeted relief to millions of families at the peak of inflation. In order to counteract the inequality of the relief between the child allowance and child benefit, we first want to link the amount of child benefit to the regular increase in the child allowance by law. In perspective

, we are aligning the relief for families via child benefit and child allowance, because all children should receive the same level of financial support – no matter how much their parents earn.

Family planning is a human right. To ensure that all women and men are free to decide whether and when to have children, we are committed to unbureaucratic and free access to medically prescribed contraceptives for recipients of state transfer benefits and for low-income earners. In the future, free and easy access to contraceptives is to apply to everyone. With the start of family life, many couples already set the course for the later division of tasks. If parents divide their parental leave fairly, this often continues later in the distribution of family tasks. If fathers take time for their children, mothers return to work earlier and with a higher number of hours. This gives them financial freedom and secures skilled workers. We therefore want to design parental leave in such a way that at least one third of the time can be used by each parent. In this way, we are creating incentives for a more partnership-based distribution. Foster parents are also to receive parental allowance. We want to increase the minimum and maximum amounts, which have remained unchanged since the introduction of parental allowance in 2007, to 500 and 2,400 euros respectively. In addition, we will increase the replacement rate for low incomes.

With a family start period in accordance with the regulations of the European Union (EU), we will give fathers and co-mothers the opportunity to take time off from work with a wage replacement benefit for the first two weeks after the birth of a child. This possibility should also be available for single parents and should be able to be obtained as unbureaucratically as possible. In this way, parents can start family life together. By introducing staggered maternity leave, we want to provide better support to women who suffer a miscarriage if they want to.

For self-employed women, the leap into starting a family is often associated with a special risk. But they also need security and protection when starting a family. We are committed to ensuring that the weeks around the birth are also financially secured by maternity benefit for the self-employed. To this end, the self-employed are also to participate in the pay-as-you-go financing provided for this purpose in the future.

We want to better protect parents from discrimination on the labour market, for example in the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG). Even beyond 2025, parents will be able to receive child sickness benefit on 15 days each, single parents on 30 days. We want to raise the age limit to 14 years. Single and separated

families live in a variety of constellations. Many single parents manage childcare, job and household and can hardly make ends meet financially. We want to support single parents and minimise their risks of poverty. To this end, we are expanding the existing allowance for single parents into a tax credit, which will benefit small and medium-sized incomes in particular. We will only offset half of the child benefit against the maintenance advance. In this way, we provide targeted support for single parents and their children. We want to improve labour market opportunities for young single parents with small children in particular – with entitlements to counselling and qualification measures. If a child grows up in a separated family with both parents, we want to take into account the so-called additional need for contact in tax and social law. We reject a commitment to a care model after the separation of the parents as the rule. Rather, it must be appropriate to the individual case and oriented towards the best interests of the child.

In addition, we are enabling people to be able to provide for each other in a legally binding manner beyond marriage by introducing the model of the community of responsibility – in the same way as provided for in the previous coalition agreement.

For the participation of the youngest – against child poverty

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

With the broad public debate on child poverty in Germany that we have initiated, we have managed to get more families than before to actually apply for and receive benefits to which they are entitled, such as the child allowance. Millions of families were also able to enjoy the largest increase in child benefit in the past 30 years and the introduction of the immediate supplement.

However, benefits for children are still not claimed by all those entitled to benefits. That is why they must become simpler, more digital, more citizen-friendly and more transparent. This applies in particular to the current child allowance and the benefits of education and participation, the direct access to which we want to make easier – for example by schools, sports clubs or music schools. That is why we want to introduce a basic child benefit as soon as possible. With it, we want to further streamline and steadily automate application procedures so that children and their families actually receive the benefits to which they are entitled. Parents must be informed of their entitlements by the state from the very beginning, when their child is born. To this end, we are introducing a basic child benefit check, which checks the amount of support a child is entitled to and actively informs families about this. We turn the parents' obligation to fetch into a duty of the state to provide for the safety of all children.

strengthening their rights and expanding their opportunities for participation.

In the fight against child poverty, in addition to modernising the administration, we want a poverty-proof recalculation of the socio-cultural subsistence minimum for children and better support and relief for single parents in the counting of maintenance and income. Together with the states and municipalities, we also want to ensure more equal opportunities with regard to mobility, teaching materials and housing costs. We will financially support the National Action Plan "New Opportunities for Children in Germany" in order to support disadvantaged children.

For a good start for the young generation

Young people had to take a back seat in the pandemic for the older and vulnerable parts of our society and do without many things. They have felt the great challenges of recent years in particular. That is why we pay particular attention to making the young generation heard, supporting and relieving them,

In recent years, many offers of child and youth work on site have collapsed. As a result, important meeting places have been lost, especially in rural areas. With a special programme, we want to support municipalities in building and strengthening structures for child and youth work over a period of ten years. We want to increase the funds of the Children and Youth Plan, the central funding instrument for youth work and youth welfare, and for early help, the low-threshold offers for families with young children in stressful situations, and continuously adapt them to meet needs. In doing so, we want to particularly promote feminist work with girls and boys as well as queer-sensitive offers. We want to create safe and self-designed places to spend time in public spaces for all young people.

We want to provide targeted support to youth associations that are committed to integration and democracy and against anti-Semitism and racism and promote multilingualism as a valuable competence, thus offering young people fair opportunities and participation, regardless of their origin or residence status.

The mental health of young people has deteriorated in recent years. We take

that seriously. With the Mental Health Coaches and their group offers at secondary schools, important contact points have been created, which we want to expand. In doing so, we focus primarily on schools with special needs, such as the Startchancen schools. Proven contact points such as the Nummer gegen Kummer and other counselling centres need needs-based funding.

We want to better protect children and young people from the psychological and social risks of excessive use of social media. Young people have a right to secure participation on the Internet, which we want to strengthen. We want to regulate manipulative algorithms of social media platforms more strictly. We will not tolerate algorithms that are specifically designed to make our children addicted. We support parents with presets for safe services and devices (kids-safety-by-default) as well as data protection regulations that protect the privacy of children and young people. At the same time, a citizens' assembly is to be set up with the involvement of children and young people on current issues of digital child and youth protection. The aim is to adopt a further package of measures in the German Bundestag by the end of the legislative period.

We are committed to more freedom and resources for youth engagement. These

include funding programmes, networking opportunities and the recognition of voluntary work. It is important that we design improvements for young people together with young people and involve and plan them more, for example in urban development projects. To ensure that young people can effectively contribute and demand their ideas and rights, we want to strengthen not only participation bodies such as children's and youth parliaments, but also lower-threshold formats that are open to children and young people, even without first standing for election. Many political structures are not geared towards young people. That's why we support youth-friendly formats. This includes digital participation opportunities, expense allowances and understandable communication. Politics must be accessible to all young people – regardless of their origin or financial means. We want to work across party lines to finally write emancipatory children's rights into the Basic Law – along the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the newly launched Youth Check, we want to systematically check relevant decision-making proposals for their consistency and compatibility with these rights and future justice. After lowering the voting age for the European elections, the next step is to ensure that young people from the

16 years of age.

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

For an active and self-determined life in old age

Older people are in the middle of life – today more than ever. Older people are important pillars in our society. In countless associations, neighbourhood meetings and initiatives, they share their time, experience and wisdom and contribute through their voluntary work. Grandparents provide support in childcare and ensure that children, work and other obligations can be easily reconciled in many families. We appreciate that.

Young people have the right to special protection. Protection and decisive action against sexualised violence and any other form of violence are particularly important. We will strengthen the existing structures for child and youth protection with a holistic approach and further develop them in a scientifically sound manner. We think of measures from the child's point of view – through uniform child protection standards, legally regulated minimum standards for experts, a legal basis for the work of the Independent Commissioner for Issues of Child Sexual Abuse, criminal prosecution by the police online and offline, better reporting offices and targeted deletion of depictions of abuse as well as prevention in schools, youth welfare and families. In order to prevent violence against children before it happens, we are also committed to perpetrator-based primary prevention.

We want to expand engagement structures for older people so that those who have so far found it difficult to gain access can also get involved. And we facilitate the self-determined transition from working life to retirement through more flexible transitions and invest in prevention and rehabilitation measures. This is also an important contribution to combating loneliness in old age. In recent years, it has been possible to bring the topic of loneliness out of the taboo corner. With the National Strategy against Loneliness, we are also involving states, municipalities and associations.

We support age-friendly cities and communities in accordance with the concept of the World Health Organization (WHO), as they facilitate the self-determined life of all generations – also with the aim of providing support and care on site in the quarantine. Wide footpaths, public toilets and barrier-free

access benefit everyone equally. Multigenerational houses are important meeting places for young and old and provide cohesion and community, which we want to support. But we also want to promote multi-generational living, which aims to make people live together for several generations, and push ahead with the expansion of barrier-free, low-cost housing.

We want to expand counselling services for people affected by poverty in old age.

To ensure that older people can also take advantage of the many opportunities offered by the digital world, we are working on structures that can impart or renew digital skills and ensure that digital services are accessible without barriers. To this end, we are also committed to doorman and pilot services. With measures such as the DigitalPakt Altage, we ensure that older people can actively participate in social life in a self-determined and active manner for a long time. In this way, we want to ensure that the participation of all people remains guaranteed despite advancing digitalisation. We also want to financially support research in these areas and focus it more strongly in order to strengthen skills and development potential. We want everyone in Germany to be able to rely on good and affordable health care and care. In doing so, we must shoulder the expenses in solidarity without overburdening the insured, while others evade a fair distribution of responsibility. And we also have to get a grip on rising costs again.

Our goal is clear:

Patients should receive the right care in the right place at the right time. To achieve this, we need better control and organization that is oriented towards the

A life in dignity also includes dying in dignity. The right to a self-determined life includes – according to the requirements of the Federal Constitutional Court – self-determined dying free of pressure. Our

goal is to ensure that this ruling can be implemented in practice.

D. Covered at every stage of life

For good health care everywhere

Many people in Germany feel that our healthcare system is reaching its limits: family doctors and specialists are often difficult to reach, important medicines are lacking in pharmacies, emergency rooms are overcrowded and health insurance contributions are rising. At the same time, patients and relatives experience overburdened nurses and doctors who have hardly any time for attention and education. Such symptoms of being overwhelmed make it clear that there are urgent problems in our health care system that can and must be solved.

actual needs of the people. Instead of leaving patients alone with the long and time-consuming search for suitable treatment appointments, we want to focus in particular on the greater use of telemedicine, digitization and good general medicine. However, practices should continue to be accessible at a low threshold. That is why we will strengthen primary care centered by family physicians in order to achieve better treatment quality and efficiency. We want to further promote interdisciplinary cooperation between doctors and members of other health professions, such as community health nurses, midwives and nurses. In addition to privately run medical care centres (MVZ) and the own facilities of the Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (KVen), we also want to promote the increased establishment of municipal medical care centres and primary care centres in which social counselling is integrated. We will make legislative adjustments to make our healthcare system inclusive and barrier-free. And we want to strengthen and promote patients' trust in doctors through more and better advice and information.

We want to support underserved areas even more effectively. The distribution of doctors in private practice must be better organised and more closely linked to the hospital planning of the federal states. At the same time, we want to ensure that all insured persons have equal access to care. We want to overcome the existing separation of the financing systems of outpatient and inpatient care and anchor stronger networking of outpatient and inpatient services in the law in order to promote better cooperation and coordination. We ensure good local care: with low-threshold health kiosks, we enable advice close to home, and with health regions we create networks of hospitals, doctors in private practice and care centres in which all health professions work together. And we want to take scientific measures to reduce shortages and overprovisions, for example by expanding second opinion procedures. Together with the federal states, we will limit billing fraud and misconduct in the health care system more effectively.

We want to relieve healthcare professionals and contract doctors of unnecessary bureaucracy and superfluous recourse proceedings and increase the proportion of consultation hours for those with statutory health insurance so that patients can receive

appointments more quickly. We are continuing to develop billing systems. We want to improve patients' orientation in the healthcare system by creating an entitlement to patient guides and better access to ongoing research and study programmes. We are continuing to develop the Patients' Rights Act in order to strengthen patients after treatment errors and to better protect staff from organisational errors.

In addition, we place a special focus on a barrier-free and inclusive health system in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We want to further strengthen self-help and expand patient participation in the self-administration of the health care system.

We will continue to push ahead with the implementation of the hospital reform and implement it together with the federal states. Where necessary, we will further develop these to ensure the best possible care for patients, especially with regard to the best possible structural, process and result quality as well as appropriate retention remuneration. We will continue to make sure that private insurance companies also contribute to the costs of the transformation. Our top priority is that people in our country can rely on being able to access good basic and emergency care everywhere and to be provided with the best quality care in specialised centres. The goal must therefore also be to immediately initiate a comprehensive reform of emergency care, including the rescue service. We want to support health

and care facilities in adapting their buildings to the climate crisis. We are committed to combining ecological and economic process optimisation with digital transformation. In this way, we are creating a healthcare system that not only works more efficiently and cost-effectively, but also offers better working conditions for staff and ensures high-quality care for all. In view of unstable supply chains, we want important active pharmaceutical ingredients to be produced more in Germany or Europe again. In the case of non-dispensable medicines in primary and emergency care, our goal is to establish better reimbursement regulations. We want to reform the financing of pharmacies with a view to ensuring good, nationwide and efficient care and at the same time strengthen the healthcare profession of pharmacists through expanded possibilities of telepharmacy or low-threshold vaccination services. For health professions, for example in physiotherapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy, as well as in nursing and emergency services, we want more competencies for independent medical treatment. We want to further promote the quality of care through our own Health Professions Act and also integrate other quality-assured health professions into it and regulate their further academisation. In obstetrics, we will promote nationwide care and create better working conditions, fair pay and the greatest possible safety for all midwives. We are committed to the expansion of midwife-led delivery rooms. We take the issue of violence in obstetrics seriously. We will campaign for training and further education as well as better equipment for obstetric facilities. Good medical care means that every woman has access to abortions so that she can make a self-determined decision.

We are committed to an amendment of the licensing regulations for pharmacy and medical studies.

We want to increase the chances of survival in the event of cardiac arrest through resuscitation training in primary and secondary schools, at the workplace, Germany-wide networked first aid apps and lay defibrillators in public places.

We will continue to improve the care of children and adolescents, also paying attention to a reliable supply of medicines and the reduction of gaps in care for paediatricians and psychotherapists.

In rural regions – especially in the eastern German states – the average age has risen continuously in recent years. We have to react to this. Therefore, we are creating additional

programs for community health care workers and strengthening existing services such as the community nurse and "Medicine on Wheels". To this end, we support the federal states in securing the nursing courses that are a prerequisite for this. At the same time, we promote the use of specialised nurses who work on a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood basis, for example in primary care centres. We also need to make faster progress in digitalization in the health care system. We are finally abolishing paperwork. By using digital solutions and evidence-based AI, we are also helping to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy. That is why, for example, we want to introduce the digital maternity and vaccination record, the digital preventive care booklet and the provision of important medical information such as X-rays and laboratory results in the electronic patient record as quickly as possible. Where medically sensible and possible, we create the prerequisites for fully digitized documentation of treatment. In doing so, we ensure a high standard of protection for sensitive patient data and strengthen their autonomy of action. Patient confidentiality and medical confidentiality must also be maintained digitally. The final decision on medical therapies is always reserved for human professionals, even when using AI. Unnecessary bureaucracy, which could be digital and more efficient today, must be reduced and the benefits for patients increased, also through the use of AI. We have improved the use of data for research and care and will continue on this path to increase quality and efficiency in healthcare. To

this end, we will launch a medical register law to improve data availability and data quality in the interests of the common good. Through the improved data situation, we also want to further close the gender health gap and finally provide equal care for all genders in the system. In addition, gender-specific aspects of medical care are to be given greater consideration in project funding for medical research. We want to strengthen research on gender-specific aspects of medicine in general.

Organ donation saves lives. Many people who are on the waiting list for organ transplants die because there is no donor organ available for them. We support the introduction of an opt-out regulation and the further improvement of structures in transplant medicine. We are committed to ensuring that the members of the Bundestag vote promptly in a free decision on the question of introduction within the framework of the group procedure.

For reliable and dignified care

All people in need of care should receive the care they need, whether by professionals or close people, whether at home or in an institution. We want people to be able to rely on being able to determine their own care for as long and as far as possible and to be treated with dignity when they need care. Through a good supply of aids and accessibility, we increase independence and relieve the burden on caregivers. We want to promote offers in the neighbourhood, i.e. locally, and thus also delay the need for care. We are creating the legal framework for giving states and municipalities more opportunities to plan and design local nursing care in a binding manner.

For us, it is important that care becomes affordable again. Those who have not been able to save anything or have made other provisions should not be regularly dependent on social assistance because the costs of care have become very expensive over longer periods of time. That is why we have increased the benefits of the long-term care insurance and continue to provide urgently needed relief for those in need of care. We are pushing ahead with improving the financing of outpatient care services and nursing home communities. We want to improve the situation of people in need of care as well as those who themselves care for relatives or loved ones. A task that can be fulfilling, but also costs energy and time and without which the care of people in need of care in Germany would not be possible. Anyone who reduces their own working hours for care needs financial support in the form of temporary compensation for lost income. Contributions for the pension of family caregivers must also be covered. The service should be designed in such a way that several people can share care. Professional leave of absence should be possible better and more flexibly. Just as sufficient daycare places are needed to reconcile children and work, the offers of day and short-term care must be strengthened and expanded in order to improve the compatibility of care and work. On the one hand, this strengthens the compatibility of work and care for relatives and, on the other hand, creates attractive working conditions in long-term care beyond shift work. People in need of care should be able to make use of care, therapeutic services or support in housekeeping from professional providers as well as voluntary or private networks more flexibly than before and combine them with each other, for example in the form of a care budget. A cooperation of professional providers, volunteers, private networks and families is necessary in order to create support structures in the neighbourhood across sectors and providers.

Nurses need working conditions that enable them to care for their patients. We want to win back skilled workers who have left their jobs due to overwork with a return offensive. Hundreds of thousands would be willing to do so if working conditions improved – including a better work-life balance. We want to exploit this potential through the further implementation of higher staffing ratios, more competencies and personal responsibility for the nursing profession, as well as better opportunities for advancement. We want to further strengthen the representation of professional nursing in the Federal Joint Committee. We want to further develop and strengthen the study of nursing in order to promote career opportunities through permeable further development paths – from nursing assistantship to academic degrees. This includes establishing new roles such as Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) and Community Health Nurses (CHN) at Master's level. Our goal is a strong professional representation of the nursing profession and a high level of collective bargaining coverage in the industry. We also see the establishment of nursing chambers in all federal states as an important self-determination body for the professional group. We want to improve the training conditions and regulate nursing assistant training uniformly throughout Germany. In training, we want to take better account of the special needs of people in need of care, such as

LGBTIQ*, people with disabilities or people with a migration background. And we want to reduce documentation obligations and bureaucracy in nursing to a minimum and use the possibilities of AI to improve working conditions so that nurses have time again for what they have chosen their profession for: people.

Nationwide, many thousands of people in need of care are cared for at home by women from Eastern Europe ("Live-Ins"). To this end, we provide a legally secure basis for so-called 24-hour care in the family sector.

For solidarity-based health and long-term care insurance

Our health and care system is there to prevent illness and the need for care, to heal sick people and to provide good care for those in need of care. In recent years, however, many costs have been passed on to insurance companies that should have been financed by taxpayers' money. We want to reverse this trend and thus relieve insured persons and employers of non-insurance benefits. This includes financing the pension contributions of family caregivers or contributions for recipients of citizen's allowance more appropriately through the state. This also leaves more money in the system to invest in good health and care.

In times of rising care costs and insurance contributions, we must also ensure that public and contribution-financed money remains in care and works for people. In addition to the existing quality and cost-effectiveness requirement, we also want to anchor the goal of sustainability more firmly in the Social Security Code. Speculation and high return expectations, which are at the expense of the quality of care, are out of place in the health and care sector. We therefore want to establish the principle of orientation towards the common good more strongly and promote public and non-profit organisations, because a profit orientation entails risks for the quality and security of care. We limit the influence of financial investors, create transparency about the ownership structure of health and care facilities, and thus ensure affordable and fairer health and nursing care.

We are committed to financing the health and care of our society that is more reliable and equitable than the status quo. The basis for this is a fair participation of all insured persons in the financing. Our goal is citizens' insurance, which includes not only those with statutory health insurance but also the privately insured in the solidarity-based financial equalization of the health care system. In the care sector, too, we want to ensure that everyone participates fairly in the financing of the long-term care risk, with a balance between statutory and private long-term care insurance, on the way to a long-term care citizen insurance. For example, insured persons with financially strong shoulders contribute more to the financing of care and health than those who have only low incomes. We will reform the assessment of contributions and, for example, also use capital income to finance our health and care system. In this way, we also protect wages and salaries from higher contribution levies. In order to better protect voluntarily insured, low-income or part-time solo self-employed persons, we will reform the minimum assessment ceiling in statutory health insurance. For people without a home, without papers or with an unclear insurance status, we will simplify access to care, for example via anonymous treatment certificates. A nationwide expansion of clearing houses and multi-professional teams for outreach, low-threshold care for homeless and homeless people are indispensable. We also want to provide more support for the contact points, some of which are staffed on a voluntary basis. We also want to improve the health care of prisoners.

We will strengthen freedom of choice for civil servants and, in particular, introduce a lump-sum allowance for federal civil servants as well.

For a forward-looking health policy

A healthy society requires a precautionary policy that takes into account and addresses the causes of diseases. As a matter of principle, we want to pursue prevention and health promotion as a cross-sectional task in all policy areas and review our legislative proposals in accordance with the principle of the "Health in All Policies" approach. In line with the principle of proportional prevention, we want to make producers of products that are harmful to health, such as tobacco and alcohol, contribute more to the enormous follow-up costs of the health system and regulate the advertising of these products more strictly. In doing so, we are also committed to strong non-smoke protection, including the introduction of uniform, neutral packaging without brand logos. We want to strengthen the public health service through our own federal institute and also focus on people in socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

We want to expand educational work about HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and current treatment and prevention options and make them accessible at a low threshold. In order to

improve access to health care for all, we are committed to ensuring that language mediation, including with the help of digital applications, becomes part of the Fifth Social Code (SGB V).

We see improving health literacy, especially in the area of family life, including childbirth, as a central concern.

Mental and physical health are mutually dependent and are a foundation for a high quality of life. It is unacceptable that many people in a mental crisis have to wait months for suitable help and that the number of suicides is rising again. Our goal is more help and less stigma. We need a suicide prevention law. In addition, research, therapy and health education are to be promoted. All people, especially children and adolescents, should have low-threshold access to tailor-made psychosocial and therapeutic services if necessary. That is why we will expand therapy places and psychiatric-psychosocial crisis services in line with demand and modernise demand planning for psychotherapeutic services. In doing so, we focus in particular on children and young people. We want to ensure the appropriate financing of the further training of psychotherapists. We will strengthen psychiatric care across sectors. We are committed to community-based, human rights-based care – with the aim of avoiding coercive measures.

We will strengthen psychosocial centres for refugees and anchor the right to language mediation.

There must also be a greater focus on the care of seriously and chronically ill people. We want to close gaps in the transition from inpatient therapy to outpatient reintegration.

Behavioral addictions are increasing, among other things, due to additional digital offers such as loot boxes. Above all, in order to better protect children and young people, products must be better regulated.

And we want to improve the purity of the air we breathe, both outdoors and indoors. Air pollution control measures in the interior of public buildings, especially in education and health facilities, are an important part of active health protection. As an important pillar of health care, we will strengthen rehabilitation. We also want to expand research on neglected and rare diseases and thus give many people new hope.

In view of the increasing number of people affected by ME/CFS and Long Covid, projects on causal

and care research must be sufficiently financed and promoted. Those affected were often stigmatised – we want to provide the best possible care according to the state of scientific knowledge.

We would like to provide special support to those severely affected who cannot visit therapeutic facilities. We want to implement the treatment services created in the Long Covid guideline and push ahead with the expansion of specialist services.

We want to better prepare our health care system for epidemics, pandemics, major disasters and military threats through a Health Security Act. This applies, for example, to prevention through air hygiene, education and the establishment of reliable and permanent monitoring, the stockpile of medicines and medical devices, and regular disaster control exercises. We also want to further strengthen the public health service. In view of the climate crisis, we want to support the implementation of heat protection measures across departments. In addition to the expansion of the National Heat Protection Plan, heat action plans in all municipalities are also central.

With the Cannabis Act, we have focused on civil rights as well as the protection of health, youth and consumers in drug policy. Our drug policy is based on reason and help instead of criminalization. In

principle, the regulation of drugs should be based on the actual health and social risks. We continue to adhere to the goal of selling cannabis in licensed specialist shops and are committed to it at European and international level, also in order to further curb the black market and organised crime. The fight against drug-related crime must focus on organised trafficking and the organised crime structures behind it, and we will strengthen the criminal investigation department and customs accordingly. At the same time, we want to expand the offers for prevention, therapy and health protection, including for legal addictive substances, and support people so that they do not become addicted in the first place or can be better helped when they are addicted. To this end, we want to examine how a minimum range of services can be ensured nationwide – especially in addiction counselling. This also includes outreach social work, substance analyses, educational measures as well as substitution and diamorphine programmes. We want to promote scientific research. We would like to take a closer look at the harmful effects of gambling and addictive digital offerings – especially on children and young people – and take effective measures against them. We want to further promote scientific research into active substances that can be used to treat depression, epilepsy or other neurological diseases, and also simplify approval procedures if necessary.

adequate pension entitlements and thus avoid poverty in old age. We will further develop the basic pension into a guaranteed pension after 30 years of insurance, which includes significantly more people than before and puts them in a better financial position.

For a future-proof and dignified pension

For many people, the security of their retirement provision is a crucial anchor of stability, especially in times of crisis. People in this country should be able to rely on good pensions and their retirement provision. This applies today and tomorrow, to current and future generations, including and even more so to those who pay into their pension fund now. The basis for this is the pay-as-you-go system of the pension insurance, which is financed on a parity basis and is intended to ensure an adequate income in old age. At the same time, our social security systems are facing major challenges due to demographic developments, especially due to the imminent retirement of the baby boom generation. We will distribute the costs of demographic change fairly across generations and according to wealth and performance. Those who have been insured in the statutory pension insurance scheme for many years can expect an adequate pension in old age. This also applies to future pensioners. We will therefore maintain the statutory pension level at at least 48 per cent and stabilise it in the long term. We also help people with low incomes to acquire

In order to achieve a fair and adequate pension for all, we need a broad participatory process, for example a citizens' assembly or a pension commission. This is because there needs to be a re-establishment of the social consensus on the stability of the statutory pension insurance as the largest and most important system of social security.

The best means of reliable retirement provision and the lowest possible pension contribution rate are good wages and a broad base of those who pay into retirement. That is why we promote employment subject to social security contributions and, in particular, improve employment opportunities for women through equal wages, good childcare, good framework conditions for a better balance between employment, family and care work, and a simpler right to return to full-time work. Through qualified migration and integration into the labour market, we strengthen our economic strength and increase pension contributions. And we are creating incentives to keep older employees healthier and longer in the workforce. To this end, we are also investing in prevention and

rehabilitation measures and enabling flexible transitions to retirement pensions. In order to strengthen pensions, we will also raise the minimum wage again and reduce precarious employment, especially mini-jobs.

In order to make the pension system fairer and more future-proof, we want to gradually develop the statutory pension into a citizens' insurance scheme. To this end, members of parliament should also pay into the statutory pension and we also want to include self-employed persons who are not otherwise covered under fair conditions. Civil servants are also to be included in the statutory pension in the future, while maintaining the principle of alimentation.

We are sticking to the pension at 67. But we are creating incentives and making it easier for people to work longer if they want to, even beyond the standard retirement age. We are therefore creating a more flexible transition to partial retirement and benefits so that continuing to work is even more worthwhile in addition to drawing a pension. In return, we will pay out the employer's contribution to unemployment and pension insurance to employees if they decide not to make voluntary contributions to pension insurance.

We are creating supplementary capital coverage in the statutory pension insurance scheme – exclusively by means of loans from the federal budget and the transfer of own funds from the federal government.

On the other hand, we permanently rule out capital investments from pension contribution funds. We are introducing a publicly administered citizens' fund that takes into account sustainability criteria in addition to social criteria and is aligned with the 1.5-degree target of the Paris Climate Agreement. We ensure this through comprehensive parliamentary control. The Citizens' Fund is to be managed in a solid and professional manner and to invest in the real economy. The income resulting from the state contributions will also contribute to the financing of the guaranteed pension, which will support women and people in the eastern German states in particular.

In addition, we want more people than before to benefit from private pension provision. For this, too, we fall back on the Citizens' Fund, which taps into the advantages of the capital market at low cost. In addition to managing state deposits, citizens will also be able to invest money in the fund for their individual retirement provision. They should be given the opportunity to invest in the publicly administered citizens' fund at very low cost and to use their income for individual and voluntary provision. Alternatively, they can also use other private offers such as ETF savings plans. To this end, we will increase the allowances for small savers, dynamically adjust them to inflation and focus public subsidies on low and middle incomes. Those who do not want to participate can object. We are also opening up the citizens' fund as a fair and transparent

way for company pension schemes, so that even more employees, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, benefit from company pensions. Other capital collection agencies are also to be allowed to use the citizens' fund to invest money in retirement provision. In general, we want to create more incentives to create further cost-effective and profitable alternatives for private pension provision.

People who have paid into the pension fund for a long time but are no longer able to work for health reasons deserve our solidarity support. That is why we want to improve the reduced earning capacity pension. For those who have been insured for a particularly long time, we want to retain the so-called pension at 63, which will benefit in particular those who have reached their breaking point after decades of demanding and physical work.

For reliable social protection

In challenging times, a strong and reliable welfare state is needed. Because every person has the right to social participation, to a dignified life. That's why we overcame Hartz IV and took an important step towards more social justice with the introduction of the citizen's allowance.

The Citizen's Allowance is intended to protect against poverty by ensuring a socio-cultural minimum of existence and enabling participation in our society. We will not allow the standard rate to fall below that. That is why we regularly adjust the citizen's allowance so that the socio-cultural subsistence level is always guaranteed. We will individualize the services in the future. Instead of playing off unemployed and working people against each other, we support people, promote social participation and at the same time ensure good and adequate work. Because our goal is for people who work to have more and more in their wallets. For us, reliable social security therefore also includes reducing an appropriate minimum wage and precarious employment. In this way, we strengthen people in times of change, provide support and security and open up prospects for a self-determined life.

There are reasons why people are dependent on citizen's money. Many of them work, but have to top up with citizen's money because their wages are not enough to live on. Others do training or further education, look after small children, care for relatives and therefore cannot be available to the labour market. People who are actually unemployed often lack training or have suffered personal strokes of fate. With the citizen's allowance, we have already created important instruments and the abolition of the priority of placement was central to us. The focus is thus on qualification, further training and measures to promote sustainable placement in employment. There is individual coaching, job opportunities and subsidised employment through the social labour market. We want to further develop these offers of the job centres. We also focus on the health of the unemployed and in particular on professional psychosocial support.

account. No one has to apply in a complicated way, which can be paid out directly easily and according to clear rules and criteria. This reform requires a broad participatory process.

Everyone should have access to the state social security systems – regardless of whether they are self-employed or employed. We are therefore simplifying access to voluntary unemployment insurance for the self-employed.

A strong welfare state has confidence in people, relies on incentives and support, builds on their commitment, opens up new opportunities and perspectives and thus gives them the opportunity to lead a self-determined life again.

We are improving incentives to take up work and, in cooperation with employers and chambers, we are creating measures to bring people back into the labour market. If people are dependent on additional support despite working, it should be even more worthwhile for them to increase their hours.

In order for people to find their way around our welfare state and perceive it as fair again, it must become simpler, less bureaucratic and more transparent. The benefits should be as flat-rate as possible and as individual as necessary. If you work more, you end up with more in your

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APITEL

3

SECURING PEACE IN FREEDOM

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

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

Democracy comes from the citizens – and therefore has the power of cohesion. Liberal democracy means: the rule of law and the separation of powers, the protection of minorities and individual

freedoms, as well as free competition for the best idea and solution – and therefore has the power to renew, the strength to solve the pressing problems. It thrives on mutual devotion, on dispute in respect, on the willingness to compromise and coalition among democrats. In the face of the threats to our democracy, it is important that we as a country refocus on our democratic strength. Strengthening our democracy means keeping it alive and representative internally. Strengthening democracy means tackling the pressing questions of the future now. Strengthening democracy means building resilience against enemies of democracy and attacks on the integrity of elections, our values and institutions.

Our country is aware of its power as a country of immigration that welcomes people and offers protection – united internally and connected to the world, contentious among democrats, but with a clear edge against discrimination. Our democracy unfolds its strength when all people can participate and co-determine on an equal footing.

A strong democracy combines freedom and security. It is based on the foundation of a reliable rule of law and an independent judiciary. It protects our rights and our freedoms. It is protected by democrats – and at the same time by effective security authorities, committed police officers and strong civil protection.

For too long, we in Germany have believed that our security in Europe is a matter of course. But our security is under attack from outside and within, and both dimensions are increasingly intertwined. Security in the 21st century means that our Bundeswehr is well equipped, as well as that we protect our railway lines, ports and power lines, avoid supply bottlenecks, prevent cyber attacks and make our democracy defensible. Security means making us more independent of authoritarian regimes such as Russia or China. Security is a task for the state and society as a whole.

To do this, we depend on a strong common Europe. The European Union (EU) is the most successful peace project since the end of the Second World War. Where we were once separated by front lines and barbed wire, later by walls and border posts, we are now united by our commitment to freedom, the rule of law and democracy. The EU makes it easier to work, travel, live, love and trade across borders. That is why we want to strengthen, expand and reform the EU. As the largest and economically strongest country, we bear a special responsibility for this.

We are working on strong global partnerships – for a world in peace and freedom, in which cooperation asserts itself against competition and war and the strength of the law triumphs over the law of the strongest. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the terrorist attack against Israel, the war in the Middle East, humanitarian emergencies such as in Gaza, Sudan or Afghanistan, but also the climate crisis require the utmost attention and decisive action. China's striving for world power is also a challenge for international cooperation. With all the power of diplomacy, we are opposing cooperation and a rules-based international order to the dangerous autocratic model. We are focusing on future-proof multilateralism and increasingly partnerships in the Global South as well. We stand by the side of the

people who are committed to peace, democracy, human rights and a world worth living in around the world.

The Russian war of aggression on Ukraine is also an attack on the European peace order – and thus on our foundation of peace, freedom, democracy and human rights. We must be able to protect and defend these values in a strong Europe and in a strong transatlantic alliance (NATO). We think of security from the perspective of each individual person, whose dignity and freedom are at the center of our politics. Therefore, peace is more than the absence of war. Peace creates space for freedom and prosperity, participation and self-determination.

A. A living democracy

For democratic cohesion

Cohesion is created where people come together, at work or at school, when doing sports or music, or when working for good causes or celebrating together. Democracy can come alive in the village community centre, on the football pitch or in churches, mosques or synagogues and other ideological institutions. This also includes cultural institutions such as

theatres, cinemas, libraries or clubs, which provide space for new encounters and shared experiences or projects. Shops and restaurants are also part of this: We therefore want to protect these places from displacement in commercial tenancy law. Public spaces where people like to come together because they have access and feel comfortable regardless of their financial situation serve the cohesion of the community. That's why we ensure that streets, parks and train stations are not only functional and clean, but also safe and barrier-free accessible for everyone.

Diverse media are central spaces for social exchange and for our democracy. A joint information stand is being created here – locally and with the whole world. Here, criticism is voiced and solutions are sought. That's why we have to secure their future under the new conditions of digitalization. We are committed to a vibrant regional media landscape – and specifically promote local journalism. Clever funding coordinated with the federal states aims to support the work of journalists, strengthen media diversity and protect functioning markets – also through non-profit approaches, which we would like to include in the tax code. At the same time, we are making the journalism profession more attractive and secure in order to attract well-trained young professionals for the future.

Civil society institutions such as trade unions and welfare associations represent an important pillar of our democracy and social cohesion. We also acknowledge the commitment of the churches, religious and ideological communities to democratic and social cohesion. Non-denominationalists also contribute to the cohesion of society and are entitled to comprehensive consideration of their interests and equal participation. We want to further develop the existing constitutional law on religion in such a way that it does justice to our growing religious and ideological plurality.

We protect people who do not conform to strict religious dogmas, such as Alevis and Yazidis, from hostility.

For a memory that keeps us awake

We must keep our memory alive — also so that it keeps us and our democracy alive. We bear responsibility for our history and for ensuring that a better future grows out of our remembrance. Good history teaching in schools strengthens the foundation of our democracy.

We cultivate our places of remembrance — those that bear witness to the crime against humanity of the Shoah. And those who report on democratic awakenings and civic courage.

The mass crimes of nationalism are a warning to us: Never again! That is why we want to provide the concentration camp memorials with sufficient funds for the preservation of the collection, for research and exhibition-pedagogical, multilingual accompaniment and commemorative events. The documents of the Central Office for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes are to be made available to the public and researchers in the long term. Especially in times of strengthening historical revisionist and extreme right-wing forces and after the death of the generation of contemporary witnesses, memorials are important places for conveying a critical historical awareness to present and future generations.

That's why we want to make it possible for all students to visit a Nazi memorial once in their school years and also support this financially.

We are intensifying our engagement with anti-Semitism, the ideological basis of the unprecedented crime against humanity of the Shoah. We are also intensifying our engagement with anti-Gypsyism and the historical injustice resulting from it, which those affected have experienced. In doing so, we also explicitly take into

account the continued injustice after 1945. We will continue to work through the Nazi crimes against people with disabilities, acknowledge the victims and compensate them appropriately. "Never again" must mean taking responsibility for combating group-related enmity.

We want to further open up the German culture of remembrance to the reality of the immigration society and take this into account in the conception of the remembrance policy measures.

We also want to develop and support new forms of remembrance. Successful programmes for dealing with Nazi history, such as "Youth remembers", are to be made permanent. We stand by the realization of the planned documentation center "Second World War and German Occupation" and the project "German-Polish House". We will continue to confront the injustice committed in the Soviet occupation zone and the GDR and push ahead with the realisation of the memorial to the victims of communist tyranny and the archive centre of the SED dictatorship. The victims of the SED dictatorship still suffer from the consequences of repression today and need better conditions of recognition, especially in the area of consequential health damage. We are also committed to the rehabilitation and eligibility of the victims of the GDR doping system.

At the same time, we remember the courage and commitment of the citizens who, with the Peaceful Revolution in 1989, made the end of the SED dictatorship and the democratic new beginning possible in a united Germany in the heart of Europe. We support the establishment of the "Forum Opposition and Resistance 1945– 1990" and the "Future Centre for German Unity and European Transformation" in Halle as places of exchange, research and reappraisal in order to strengthen a common European understanding of freedom and democracy.

In the Federal Government, we have pushed ahead with the reappraisal of Germany's colonial past, in particular the genocide of the Herero and Nama, in dialogue with the countries concerned. We want to continue this process and carry it into society through a learning and remembrance centre and with the help of local initiatives. In provenance research and the repatriation of human remains and cultural assets from a colonial context, we want to ensure the appropriate participation of the societies of origin and the assumption of costs associated with the return. We want to take action against the continuing trade in human remains, especially from colonial contexts. We want to examine how we can deal with unjust judgments of the German colonial judiciary.

The memory of the victims of right-wing violence and group-based enmity, such as in Hanau and by the NSU, is of great importance for our democratic society. That is why we are securing funding for the implementation of the NSU Documentation Centre and the Archive of Right-Wing Violence, with corresponding accompanying research.

At the same time, people in Germany who have experienced flight, persecution and violence live in their regions of origin. This is also part of the German culture of remembrance.

For municipalities that are capable of acting

State benefits must function – from ambulance services to kindergartens. In the municipalities, it becomes immediately apparent whether the state is sufficiently fulfilling its tasks and providing citizens with reliable public infrastructure and social services. If this task succeeds, it will strengthen people's confidence in democracy. The strength of our country lies first and foremost in the municipalities, with the local people.

For strong municipalities, many well-trained administrative employees are needed. In order to avert a shortage of skilled workers, modern structures and fair wages in the public sector are needed.

Currently, every second municipality is no longer in a position to finance

necessary projects. For the maintenance and renovation of municipal infrastructure alone, which includes roads, playgrounds, swimming pools, youth clubs, sports fields and cultural institutions, there is a shortfall of 186 billion euros nationwide. By providing more adequate funding for municipalities and the Germany Fund, we are finally giving municipalities the opportunity to finance these urgently needed investments. We want participation to become the rule for all people.

Many financially weak municipalities that have undergone structural change are still sitting on high mountains of debt and are stuck in a vicious circle in the face of oppressive interest rates. In order to give them a perspective again, we are committed to a legacy debt fund financed by the federal and state governments. In doing so, we will also take into account the situation of the East German municipalities, which are challenged by legacy issues through no fault of their own.

Tasks assigned to the municipalities, such as the provision of rescue services, the accommodation and integration of refugees or, for example, youth social work, must be taken over in full by the federal and state governments – as the costs for such mandatory public services of general interest increase, the financial resources for the municipalities must consequently also increase. The

municipalities should decide on the needs on the ground – not just the requirements from the capitals. We have strengthened the opportunities for municipalities to benefit from energy projects and will continue to expand them. We will therefore reduce funding programmes for municipalities in favour of the basic funding of cities and municipalities and further simplify the remaining ones and design them according to clear rules. With this in mind and for more transparency, we are further expanding the funding database. In the future, we will make more funds available directly to the municipalities and further strengthen the so-called untied funds. In this way, we create more equivalence, relieve the administrative burden and increase local opportunities.

We support municipal companies and public enterprises as drivers of the socio-ecological transformation and as guarantors of the democratic design of our services of general interest. That is why we support municipalities – where possible – in bringing public services back into public hands and creating a secure investment environment for municipal energy suppliers.

We want to conclude the supplementary agreement to the Berlin-Bonn Act as soon as possible.

For a strong democratic society

The foundation of our democracy is strong institutions and a vibrant civil society. The joint sponsorship of our democracy thrives on citizens who inform themselves and get involved. This possibility takes time and resources – and is therefore also a question of justice. By reliably promoting democratic civil society, we are strengthening our democratic culture. Protecting democracy is a task for society as a whole. In doing so, the state is dependent on the broad support of civil society. That is why we want to financially strengthen programmes such as "Live Democracy!" and secure them in the long term with a Democracy Promotion Act.

In order to protect the free democratic basic order, our Basic Law provides that the Bundestag, Bundesrat or Federal Government may, if necessary jointly, apply for a declaration of the unconstitutionality of a party by the Federal Constitutional Court. We call on the Bundestag, Bundesrat and the Federal Government to draw cross-party conclusions from their findings and to work swiftly towards a motion to determine the unconstitutionality of the AfD.

people who are involved in civil society or local politics are repeatedly the target of attacks and hostility. All of us, government and society, must better protect these people. Defamation, slander and threats must be punished more severely both in everyday municipal politics and on the Internet. We are examining suitable measures, such as a reform of the imprint obligation and the disclosure of the residential address there, in order to better protect people from stalking and stalking. We protect freedom of expression and assembly from attacks, because it is a valuable asset.

Direct opportunities for participation already enrich our democracy in many ways at the municipal and state level. With citizens' assemblies, it is possible to obtain the advice of the people as "experts of everyday life" in a representative procedure. This must also be strengthened and secured by law, including democratic procedures for individual consultation results. To this end, we want to examine, for example, the introduction of a popular initiative. We want to further develop and strengthen the right to petition.

Civic education is of crucial importance for the democratic debate. In addition to the state offices, the Federal Agency for Civic Education plays an important role in this, and we want to strengthen and secure its independence and impartiality. We also need more efforts nationwide to strengthen media literacy and the critical approach of citizens to digital content in all social groups.

Political foundations also make an important contribution to political education in our plural democracy, provided that they stand on the common ground of our democratic basic order.

Anyone who has their permanent centre of life in Germany must have the opportunity to participate in all elections, referendums and democratic processes here on an equal footing. We want to make it easier for German citizens living abroad to participate in elections.

We are convinced that transparent and comprehensible policies strengthen the common good, for which possible financial interests must be disclosed and waiting periods for retiring members of the government must be increased. We stand for a strong parliament, a strengthening of parliamentary procedures and constructive compromise, both in the Bundestag and in the Bundesrat. We want to make parliamentary work and legislative procedures more transparent and make government lobby meetings, such as those in the European Commission, visible. In doing so, we advocate independent controls to strengthen transparency and integrity. The

meetings of the expert committees are usually to take place in public and be streamed. There are rules for party donations or political advertising on television and radio. There are also such rules in the digital world, which we want to enforce to protect our democracy. We are ensuring that this cap cannot be circumvented, even by the owners of very large online platforms. There needs to be clear limits as to how much influence an individual is allowed to exert. We want to cap party donations and sponsorship with an annual maximum amount and examine further measures to close loopholes. To this end, we are focusing in particular on foreign donations.

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

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

To support volunteering

In Germany, almost 30 million people volunteer. They are involved in sports clubs, social institutions, organise cultural events or support neighbourly help. They volunteer in the volunteer fire brigade or aid organisations. They support refugees.

Many young people decide to use a year of their life after school for their personal development and to put it at the service of society and the environment.

All this commitment of the people in our country makes our coexistence possible in the first place. It keeps us together and also strengthens our democratic commonality in diversity. We therefore want to support commitment and recognise performance. If expense allowances are paid for honorary offices, they are to be uniformly tax-exempt at a flat rate. Volunteer work deserves our full support, which is why we want to review crediting rules and make them less bureaucratic. Together with the states and municipalities, we want to introduce a nationwide commitment card to make it cheaper to visit swimming pools and cultural institutions or to use public transport. We will also improve access to voluntary work for people with low incomes, a migration history or disabilities.

We want to enshrine a right to voluntary service and expand the places in the Federal Voluntary Service accordingly and finance them reliably. Many people – whether young or old, with or without disabilities – want to get involved in the Frei-111 volunteer service and we want to make sure that all people have the opportunity to do so. To this end, we want to improve the conditions for these groups of people and create socially graduated support options. We want to ensure fair remuneration and comprehensive information opportunities, especially in schools. We are checking whether a discounted Germany ticket can be made available to volunteers.

Civil society organisations support the charitable commitment. We want to relieve their work of unnecessary bureaucracy. In addition, we are expanding the catalogue of charitable purposes. We will also make it clear in law that charitable purposes can also be pursued by participating in political and public decision-making and that organisations may occasionally express themselves politically outside of their charitable purpose. We want to recognize digital volunteering and the development, operation and maintenance of non-profit open source software as non-profit and provide institutional support.

For sport that connects

Sport is an outstanding pillar for social coexistence. Exercise and sport connect people, create and convey regional identities and contribute to health. Sport conveys basic values of democracy, tolerance and promotes integration.

We support a German bid for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, because major sporting events must also have a future in the democratic countries of Europe. We want to show that human rights are an integral part of sports policy. We also want to take the sustainability goals into account by including existing sports facilities in the application and making new ones to be built usable for the public. Those who benefit financially from hosting the Olympic Games are to pay taxes on the proceeds and pay the usual municipal fees for events.

We want to use an agency to effectively combat corruption in international sports federations and create more transparency.

We want to expand the federal programme for the renovation of sports facilities and swimming pools. For us, ecological sustainability and inclusion are the guiding principles. Because we want people with and without disabilities to be able to do sports together. We strengthen popular sport and create good conditions for swimming training in the school and non-school sector as well as training on site.

In particular, we specifically promote the interests of girls and women with our sports policy, and we also keep an eye on the interests of queer people. Two

important means of achieving this are gender budgeting and equal pay. With a national elite sports strategy, we want to improve the promotion of competitive athletes for the Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as comparable competitions and make the allocation of funds more transparent. We want e-sports to receive more attention and be recognized as a non-profit organization.

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

Fans are essential. That is why we are strengthening fan projects, reforming non-transparent data collection and expanding the federal programme against right-wing extremism and misanthropy.

For a judiciary capable of acting in our constitutional state

Trust in our constitutional state is created when the judiciary is capable of acting, decides quickly and the law is effectively enforced. This is how we protect the rights of all people. This requires enough judges and public prosecutors, well-equipped courts and a decisive digitalisation of the judiciary.

In order for legal protection to be open to all, low-threshold access to justice is needed, regardless of income. This also requires an attractive legal education.

We support the reforms that have already been introduced, such as the integrated bachelor's degree in law, and are creating a federal framework that takes into account the importance of legal education for the resilience of the rule of law as well as the development of the legal profession through legal tech.

With a new edition of the Pact for the Rule of Law, we want to continue the modernisation of our judiciary together with the federal states. We want a German-wide online procedure for civil proceedings that works without media discontinuity from lawsuit to judgment. With the class action, we want to make it possible for several plaintiffs to jointly enforce similar claims against a defendant and to relieve the civil courts in mass proceedings. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) as a support in the judiciary is to be further researched and developed. Together with the federal states, we want to create more specialised public prosecutors' offices that specialise in complex areas of law and support the use of non-legal experts.

Environmental crime is becoming increasingly important and is an important field of activity for organised crime. We want to consistently counter this with the strengthening of environmental criminal law and a national action plan.

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

The independence of the judiciary is a valuable asset. In order to protect them, we will make the ministerial right to issue instructions to public prosecutors transparent. As is already the case with the Federal Constitutional Court, additional income of federal judges is to be published at all other supreme federal courts. Directives must be free of political influence. A good judiciary must also be resistant to enemies of the constitution. Therefore, we will adopt rule-of-law regulations so that the judiciary is protected from enemies of the constitution.

People should not end up in prison because they cannot pay small fines. We are modernising criminal law with the aim of relieving the burden on the judiciary. To this end, we want to examine which minor offences can be regulated outside criminal law. We want the cause of the non-payment and alternatives to be considered more closely before a custodial sentence is initiated.

A strong legal profession is the foundation of a stable constitutional state and civil rights. We will continue to ensure that every person who is taken into custody receives legal assistance in the future.

In order to protect the special relationship of trust between state-recognised social workers and clients in a legally secure manner, we want to examine the extension of the right to refuse to testify.

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

For digital civil rights

Civil liberties and civil rights must also be enforced in the digital world. The rapid progress of AI is creating great opportunities, but also risks. We want to use AI within the framework of our common values in order to leverage great innovation potential and ensure effective protection of human rights and freedom from discrimination. With the AI Regulation, the EU has laid an important cornerstone of regulation. This must now be implemented as unbureaucratically as possible and uniformly throughout Germany.

Freedom of expression is the basic prerequisite for a liberal democracy. It finds its limits when disinformation spreads uncontrollably and when criminal offences such as insult or incitement to hatred are met. This content must be

consistently deleted and corresponding accounts must be blocked more quickly. We are ensuring this with a digital violence protection law and strengthening the rights of users. Basically, if hate is rewarded with attention and disinformation spreads systematically, our democracy is at risk. In the digital space, we advocate for social network algorithms that ensure a diverse information landscape.

With the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA), we have laid important foundations for a democratic network. We advocate consistent, non-state implementation and – where necessary – improvements in Europe and Germany. In cooperation with the EU, we are working towards consistent enforcement of the DSA. We want the police and public prosecutor's office to prosecute crimes on the Internet persistently and in accordance with the rule of law.

The media authorities of the federal states must be given additional resources to cooperate efficiently in the deletion and prosecution of hate crimes on the Internet and in social media.

We stand for effective and at the same time practical data protection. We will reduce excessive bureaucracy. We rely on targeted law enforcement and the necessary data access rights. Especially in the digital space, we want to

consistently expand this with effective instruments that protect civil rights, such as the quick-freeze procedure. We reject instruments of mass surveillance without cause, such as data retention, chat control or biometric recording in public spaces. We will take the results of the comprehensive surveillance account into account when evaluating existing powers and introducing new ones, and have them assessed by experts on an evidence-based and balanced basis. We want to make AI-supported analysis tools of the police more usable for law enforcement – in compliance with all data protection requirements. Our goal is to link lawfully collected police data faster and more effectively through automated analysis – in compliance with the purpose limitation. It must be clear at all times what data is used for. In addition to transparent procedures, we also rely on regular data protection audits, and data sovereignty must also lie with the authority.

For a diverse society without discrimination

Germany thrives on its diversity and the coexistence of different people. We are committed to ensuring that all people can develop and be part of our society on an equal footing. We want to overcome discrimination, because it weakens our cohesion.

People who experience discrimination in the housing market, in the health sector or at work, for example, are protected by the rule of law: we will reform the General Equal Treatment Act. To this end, we are expanding deadlines, grounds for discrimination and the scope of application, introducing a right of action by associations and closing gaps in protection. This also includes protection against discrimination by state authorities. Germany should give up its reservation against the 5th European Anti-Discrimination Directive and thus focus on the interests of those affected. We want counselling centres and self-organisations to be secured and expanded in the long term and for the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency to be strengthened in its competences. With a National Anti-Discrimination Action Plan, we want to implement an effective anti-discrimination policy. With the creation of the Commissioners for Anti-Discrimination, Queer Life, Anti-Racism and Antigypsism, we have anchored the political strengthening of diversity even more strongly. We want to further strengthen their work and the work of the other Social Diversity Commissioners. We are expanding research, such as the National Racism and Discrimination Monitor on the manifestations and manifestations of discrimination. In order to combat structural racism, whether in the health care system, the judiciary or in our security agencies, we want to promote targeted training courses to increase discrimination sensitivity more strongly. In addition, we want to actively promote the second decade of the United Nations (UN) Decade of the Girl Child in Germany as well, promote educational projects and strengthen the political participation of Black people.

We are taking decisive action against the increasing anti-Semitism in our society – no matter who is responsible for it. Jews must be able to live in safety. Especially after Hamas' terror attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, anti-Semitism is also on the rise in Germany. We are therefore doing even more to ensure adequate funding for measures to protect Jewish communities and Israeli communities.

We will continue to implement the National Strategy against Anti-Semitism and for Jewish Life, because we want to promote Jewish life in all its diversity and make it visible. Anti-Semitic incidents must be prosecuted and documented. We consistently fight anti-Semitic violence with all the means of the rule of law. This also includes closing legal loopholes. No projects that propagate anti-Semitism, racism or other inhumane ideologies are to be funded. We are committed to the development of an anti-Semitism strategy for the digital space. Anti-Semitism has complex manifestations: We therefore rely on a comprehensive education strategy that extends from childhood to adulthood and includes the promotion of interdenominational dialogue. We are

strengthening contemporary Jewish research.

We want to provide the older Jewish generations with greater social security. We want to end the discrimination of Jewish immigrants compared to immigrant (late) resettlers from the states of the former Soviet Union.

With a National Strategy against Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Racism, we are taking action against the increasing discrimination against Muslims and people who read Muslim. The basis for this is the recommendations for action of the Independent Commission on Muslim Hostility. We want to protect diverse Muslim life in Germany. Islamophobic incidents must be consistently prosecuted and carefully documented. We are driving forward the training of imams in Germany and thus strengthening the independence of Islamic communities. We want to further develop the German Islam Conference and also involve progressive, liberal Muslim representatives in our political activities.

In order to combat antigypsyism, we will continue to consistently implement the recommendations of the Expert Commission on Antigypsyism and conclude a state treaty with the minority at the federal level. Antiziganist incidents

must be recorded and prosecuted nationwide. That is why we legally secure the funding of the civil society monitoring body. We continue to advocate for broader recognition of 2 August as European Holocaust Remembrance Day for Sinti and Roma.

The national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany are an indispensable part of our country's cultural and historical identity. We continue to work to promote their culture, language and visibility in society, secure their institutions financially in the long term and strengthen their institutional anchoring at the federal level. We also strengthen national minorities abroad.

The diversity of our society should also be adequately reflected in all its institutions through binding measures. We are therefore committed, among other things, to ensuring that diversity and intercultural openness – both in terms of personnel and structure – are strategically and consistently promoted in public authorities and are also creating the legal basis for this. We want recruitment and promotion practices to be designed to be sensitive to discrimination. With a Federal Participation Act and a Participation Council, we are strengthening the participation of people with a migration background.



For women's rights

A just society enables all people, regardless of gender, to lead a self-determined life. Feminism that takes everyone into account, i.e. is intersectional, and the commitment to women's rights are essential for this. Only if discrimination, sexism and misogyny are resolutely combated can women take advantage of all opportunities. Precisely because backward-looking forces are becoming stronger, we must secure what we have achieved and continue to move forward. We want a gender-equitable equality policy that also addresses men and takes their concerns into account.

Our priority is to make life fairer and better for women. This means enforcing equal pay for equal work and work of equal value. This includes ensuring that female-dominated professions are not paid less than male-dominated professions. Women do most of the care work and therefore often work part-time, which affects advancement and income. We promote a gender-equitable distribution of gainful employment and care work as well as a better work-life balance through reliable care and high-quality educational institutions. On the street, in the subway and even more so at home: All women must be safe and be able to feel safe. In everyday life, however, they are threatened by misogyny, sexism and violence on a daily basis.

In order to better protect those affected by intimate partner violence, domestic violence and gender-based violence, all victims and their children are to be given a legal right to protection and counselling. Through a federal contribution, we are working with the federal states to ensure free assistance such as women's shelters, counselling centres and shelters nationwide. This must also include an expansion of services for people with disabilities or language barriers. After a separation, intimate partner violence must be taken into account in custody and access proceedings. To this end, the judiciary and police must be comprehensively trained. It must be possible to effectively control and enforce restraining orders in cases of domestic violence, including through the use of electronic ankle bracelets, for example. Victims of rape need qualified emergency medical care across the board—including anonymous forensic evidence and the "morning-after pill".

In order to include the perspective of those affected in the design of policy and prevention measures, instruments such as a survivors' council for domestic violence can be helpful.

The Istanbul Convention is an instrument that sets out the necessary measures to protect women and girls from violence and to promote their rights. We are consistently implementing these through intensified prevention measures, the

expansion of offender work, consistent prosecution and improved data collection. In this way, we are also combating femicides, i.e. the targeted killing of women because of their gender. In addition, we are examining whether the current sexual criminal law needs to be supplemented by a new regulation in the form of the consent solution in order to be able to prosecute crimes more effectively. The use of knockout drops and similar substances in sexual assaults must also be included in the Criminal Code as an aggravating circumstance. Online violence against women is growing rapidly. AI-generated and real nude images are used as a weapon against women and girls. In the implementation of the EU Directive on combating violence against women, we are committed to ensuring that the dissemination of AI-generated or real nude images against the will of those affected is fundamentally a criminal offence. In order to protect the dignity of the victims, we want to find legally secure regulations on how the possession and distribution of images showing the rape of an adult person can be made a punishable offence. We want to reform the current sexual criminal law with the consent solution.

Many refugee women and girls are affected by violence before, during and/or after fleeing, which is why all reception facilities must establish appropriate protection concepts on a mandatory basis. Women affected by violence

whose residence status depends on their husband or partner should be able to obtain an independent residence permit. In order for these women to be able to claim their rights more easily, access to counselling and support structures is needed. When determining the livelihood security for the extension of the residence permit, restrictions on employment in the special situation of pregnant women, single parents and women caring for relatives should be taken into account on a case-by-case basis.

Human trafficking for sexual exploitation is a serious violation of human rights that affects women in particular. We want to strengthen cross-border cooperation between the police and the judiciary in order to uncover and dismantle international networks of human trafficking and forced prostitution. In doing so, we pursue a human rights-based approach and focus on the rights and support of those affected. We want to implement and further develop the interdepartmental National Action Plan. Victims of human trafficking are to be given a secure right of residence, regardless of their willingness to testify in criminal proceedings.

We will strengthen the rights and health care of sex workers on the basis of human rights.

For the conditions cannot remain as they are at present. Targeted support, especially for prostitutes in precarious situations, must also be strengthened through outreach help and counselling, especially when exiting prostitution. Prostitution establishments must be more strictly controlled, standards for operating licences must be raised and the powers of customs must be expanded to ensure legally prescribed working conditions and the self-determination and safety of those affected. As soon as the results of the evaluation of the Prostitute Protection Act are available, the federal, state and local governments, as well as those affected and experts, are to discuss together on this basis which changes to the law are necessary to improve the situation in prostitution without stigmatising or criminalising prostitutes.

For self-determination

Women make up more than half of the population, but are still far from half of economic and political power – in leadership positions, in business and society, but also in parliaments and local councils. We are therefore in favour of women's quotas on supervisory boards, on the boards of large companies and for a parity law for the election of the Bundestag. In order to further promote gender equality, we will also consistently implement the requirements of the more far-reaching EU Directive on Leadership Positions in Germany and introduce sanctions for failure to achieve the targets.

Self-determination over one's own body is a fundamental right that must apply to everyone. This includes the right to access safe and legal abortions. We want self-determined abortions to no longer be criminalised in § 218 of the Criminal Code, but to be regulated outside of criminal law. In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission on Reproductive Self-Determination, abortion should be legal in the early phase of pregnancy and a legal framework should be created for the middle phase. We advocate that voluntary counselling should be guaranteed by a right to counselling and a secure range of counselling centres under a wide range of sponsorships. We reject a mandatory waiting period between counselling and termination. In addition, there must be enough facilities that perform the procedure as close to home as possible using the desired method, because the offer for abortions has halved in recent years. The costs are to be covered by the health insurance companies and telemedical care is to be expanded. We want to allow breastfeeding in public in Germany in principle and are creating the legal basis for this.

Self-determination over one's own body requires a gender-equitable health care system: research, education and medical practice must take gender-specific aspects into

account to improve women's health, including care around childbirth. Midwives accompany women through all phases of pregnancy at their request. Midwifery care should therefore be available to all pregnant women in sufficient quantities. In the health care sector, too, we want to attract more women to management bodies through quotas and better working conditions.

We also focus on trans*, inter* and non-binary people in our measures.

For queer life: safe and self-determined

Every person has the right to live freely and self-determinedly. Politics must create the framework for this. Lesbian, gay, bi, trans*, inter* and queer people (LGBTIQ*) still experience increasing violence and discrimination all too often. We will not accept that. We protect rights that have already been fought for, such as the Self-Determination Act, from attacks and continue to work to strengthen the rights of queer people and their self-determination.

With the "Queer leben" action plan, we in the Federal Government have presented a plan to strengthen queer life. We want to consolidate this. We want to provide the necessary funds for further implementation with a federal funding

programme. In this way, we strengthen queer counselling and project structures. We want to enshrine protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual and gender identity in Article 3 of the Basic Law and resolutely combat hate crime against LGBTIQ*. To this end, we are improving the recording of anti-queer crimes and further expanding support services and contact points in authorities and the judiciary. We implement and evaluate the recommendations of the Working Group on Combating Homophobic and Transphobic Violence.

Queer people have a right to good and non-discriminatory health care. For this reason, among other things, the assumption of costs by the health insurance companies for medical transformation measures is to be guaranteed in a non-discriminatory manner for all those affected, and counselling services are to be expanded. We close the legal loopholes in order to prohibit unnecessary operations on intersex children. In addition, we want to finally acknowledge the injustice against trans* and intersex people whose physical integrity has been violated or marriages have been forced into divorce. We will close gaps in the ban on so-called conversion therapies and push ahead with educational work about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and current treatment and prevention options for doctors. We enable non-discriminatory access to reproductive medicine services for all and strengthen the discrimination-sensitive further training of employees in all aspects of pregnancy and childbirth.

For equal participation of people with disabilities and an inclusive society

Family is where people take responsibility for each other. This also applies to rainbow families. We are therefore adapting family law, ending discrimination against rainbow families, especially lesbian mothers and their children, in parentage law as quickly as possible, taking into account the parenthood of trans*, inter* and non-binary people. We improve the legal situation of families with more than two parents. We also make it possible for people to be able to provide for each other in a legally binding manner beyond marriage. We will also focus more on queer life in old age. In this way, we want to take better account of the needs of older LGBTIQ* people in geriatric care and care, so that they can also participate in old age without discrimination. We also want to strengthen young queer people and further expand counselling structures.

We are committed to ensuring that LGBTIQ* people are better protected from discrimination in the labour market.

We want to create an inclusive society in which all people can participate equally and self-determined. We are committed to ensuring that this right, reality and ableism, is finally dismantled. This also means that applicable law must not conflict with the goals of inclusion. The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the benchmark for our actions. We are setting up an Inclusion Enquete Commission, which will develop comprehensive proposals with the participation of self-advocates. We want to dismantle bureaucratic hurdles and technical standards that prevent people with disabilities from participating and check them for accessibility. To ensure that the use of taxes and public funds benefits everyone, inclusion and accessibility must always be taken into account in legislative procedures.

Accessibility should finally be implemented in national law in all areas, analogue and digital, and should be made simpler and actually enforceable: We want to make federal buildings barrier-free within ten years. Providers of publicly accessible offers and services must also consistently take precautions for accessibility, whereby we protect them with an excessive demand clause and support them with a digital accessibility tool. Landlords of office and commercial

space are also required to take these precautions. We want to make it easier for tenants of commercial and office space to convert their commercial and office space barrier-free from a legal point of view and are striving to expand the existing funding programmes of the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW).

We want people with disabilities to be able to contribute their potential on an equal footing to the primary labour market and earn their own living. To ensure that employers meet their employment obligations, we are closing legal loopholes and adjusting the compensatory levy.

People with disabilities should be able to decide for themselves where and how they work. We want to gradually develop the current exclusionary workshop system in the direction of inclusive companies in which people with and without disabilities work together, are paid at least according to the minimum wage and can acquire pension entitlements that secure their livelihood. In return, they should receive the support they need individually. We will shape the reform of the workshop system in close dialogue with the workshops and those affected. We will remove obstacles to entry and return to working life as well as to qualification. In addition, we are committed to creating model projects in the federal administrations for the professional integration of people with disabilities beyond the legal requirements.

EU funds should not flow into forms of work that contradict Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We want to make the reduced earning capacity pension more permeable and eliminate false incentives.

The education system must be designed to be inclusive from the outset. The costs for the necessary support must be covered. We also want to promote inclusive education and training. We want to further develop the peer counselling of the Supplementary Independent Participation Counselling (EUTB) in all regions.

We want to improve and simplify integration assistance so that those affected have access to services in a low-threshold, as digital as possible, quickly and from a single source. This also includes accelerating the enforcement of social law entitlements to participation with authorities and courts and revising the interfaces with other social laws in the interests of people with disabilities. The federal, state and local governments should jointly develop solutions to ensure the financing of integration assistance. We want people with disabilities to be able to decide for themselves where and how they want to live and how they want to spend their free time. This requires inclusive social space planning in the cities and

municipalities.

Support services must be made available quickly and easily, regardless of income and assets. We want to promote and promote the expansion of inclusive forms of housing and improve advice on this. We want to remove hurdles that restrict the right of people with disabilities to wish and vote. We are strengthening the personal budget as an important instrument of self-determination.

For living art and culture

We want to better anchor German Sign Language, further promote it and thus also strengthen its users. We want to recognise it as a national minority language and are examining ways to implement it. We are committed to the establishment of a competence centre for barrier-free communication. We strengthen disability studies.

People with disabilities, especially women, are more often affected by violence than non-disabled people. We want protection against violence to apply to all people and are significantly expanding protection against violence – especially in offers for people with disabilities. We are strengthening the right to sexual self-determination for people with disabilities as well.

In our measures, we also focus more on people with chronic diseases such as asthma and allergies so that they can participate equally everywhere.

A free culture is an indispensable part of our democratic coexistence. We want to create a cultural offering that is as diverse as the country itself and offers access to all people. Against anti-democratic movements that wage an ideological struggle against our open society, we work for the independence and freedom of culture, artists and their various forms of expression – whether literature, film, music, theatre, dance or visual arts, whether fashion, architecture or design, whether club or opera, whether public institution or part of the large cultural and creative industries. By anchoring a state goal of culture in its diversity in the Basic Law, we strengthen art and culture comprehensively and broadly. To ensure that culture is accessible to everyone, regardless of where they live, we are expanding the cultural infrastructure. This is especially true for rural areas, which we address with programmes such as "Aller.Land". We also want to strengthen cultural policy at the federal level at institutional level and network it better.

We want to improve the framework conditions for cultural venues, especially for clubs and live music venues and especially in city centres, through changes in noise protection, building law and commercial tenancy law. We are expanding the promotion of noise

protection measures. The large federal cultural institutions are an anchor of stability in the cultural landscape, and we want to open them up further. It is important to make the diversity of culture accessible to people. That is why we will make the Kulturpass permanent and examine whether to expand it. With it, young people receive a credit to discover culture. At the same time, we stimulate demand and support various cultural providers in urban and rural areas.

Through the Green Culture Contact Point, which we have successfully launched, we support our cultural landscape together with the federal states on their way to sustainable operation – with advice and funding.

Cultural producers need not only freedom, but also security. We help the independent scene by expanding the Federal Cultural Fund. We want to make the federal government's cultural investment programmes more diverse by giving greater consideration to institutions of the independent scene and pop culture. We will complete the reform of film funding that has been initiated for reliable, fast and adequate financing through an investment obligation and tax incentive subsidies. Here and in other cultural promotions, we want to contribute to ensuring that social diversity in culture is adequately represented by means of appropriate guidelines. We are strengthening Germany as a games location with tax incentives for games that

complement existing targeted subsidies. In doing so, we also take into account the framework conditions for training and study, development, production, public visibility and their interaction, and pay attention to relevant concerns from the games community. We will introduce a publishing subsidy for small publishers and protect the cultural asset of books. The newly introduced funding for music festivals (festival funding fund) has proven its worth, and we are expanding it to include concept funding as well as advice and knowledge transfer. We want to consolidate the Jewish Cultural Fund, which supports the work of Jewish and Israeli artists.

At both national and European level, the diversity of small and medium-sized cultural enterprises is important for the identity and culture of our democratic society and must therefore be strengthened by the right political framework conditions. We want to counter the increasing market concentration in pop culture through dialogue and regulation in order to achieve fairer conditions in the ticket market and in the distribution of streaming revenues.

We want to sustainably improve the social situation of artists and cultural producers by making artists' social insurance future-proof, improving social security for solo self-employed, hybrid workers and dependent employees, and consolidating the minimum fee limits introduced in this legislative period by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media in federal cultural funding. In dialogue with affected sponsors and institutions, we will work towards good financial conditions for their implementation. Digital platforms that benefit from the content of creative people are to participate in artists' social insurance.

opening hours and finding ways for libraries to lend books via e-lending, while safeguarding the interests of the authors, analogous to physical lending.

For the design of the immigration society

In copyright law, we will continue to fight for the appropriate remuneration of artists. The developments in AI are having an impact on every sector of cultural production and are opening up new scope here as well. We will examine the impact of AI on the cultural sector, especially with regard to fair working conditions and remuneration, personal rights, data protection requirements and copyright. When using copyright-protected data for AI systems, we want to ensure that authors can enforce their rights and remuneration claims in the future, for example through licensing or levy models. We demand transparency regarding the use of AI and better recognizability.

Libraries make a central contribution to media literacy and thus to our democracy. They provide access to education and culture regardless of social situation. We are strengthening analogue and digital library services with extended

Germany is and will remain a country of immigration. People come to us for different reasons. That's why we need a real welcoming culture. Immigration is part of our social and economic strength. It is therefore a design task for us that we take on. We are not isolating ourselves, especially not in Europe. We combine humanity and order.

We depend on the immigration of urgently needed skilled workers and workers in order to secure our prosperity and remain attractive as a business location. At the same time, we are also in international competition for skilled workers and workers, which is why it was so important to finally create a state-of-the-art immigration system. We have laid the foundation for this with the Skilled Workers Immigration Act and numerous facilitations of refugees' access to the labour market . To ensure that skilled workers and workers choose our country, we are finally turning the digitisation of visa issuance upside down after decades of sealing off our labour market. This means completely digitising visas and shortening waiting times. We want to build

on this further by making it even easier to recognise more vocational and educational qualifications and by reducing bureaucracy and simplifying the recognition of professional experience – for a real welcoming culture. The previous immigration authorities will thus become immigration authorities. We want people to feel welcome in our country without prejudice and discrimination.

With the introduction of a modern citizenship law, we have finally taken into account the reality of our diverse society. Citizenship ensures a lasting bond of legal equality, participation and belonging for people who have lived here for a long time – for example, the generation of guest workers. We want single parents, family caregivers and people with disabilities and serious illnesses, for example, to have equal and unbureaucratic access to it. There must be no first- and second-class citizens and no citizenship on call. As enshrined in the Basic Law, German citizenship must not be revoked and multiple citizenship must not lead to unjustified unequal treatment of German citizens. We are creating a legally secure recognition procedure for the identification of stateless people and their children.

A fundamental distinction must be made between flight and labour migration, because they follow different logics. Labour migration follows the demand for labour, the reception of those seeking protection follows humanitarian obligations. At the same time, we advocate the pragmatic approach of "lane change" and design it sensibly. In addition, both – labour migration and asylum law – require effective instruments and reliable financing of integration. With the right of opportunity residence, we have brought many well-integrated people out of the tolerated status, given them a real perspective of staying and at the same time greatly relieved the burden on the immigration authorities. It is exemplary, further reforms must follow. We want a functioning and pragmatic refugee and migration policy. To this end, we want to involve scientific expertise more strongly in political decisions and set up an advisory body with experts from science, research, municipal practice and those affected.

An immigration society must create prospects and enable people to arrive. But it also places demands on those who come to us, such as the willingness to get involved. The immigration society only works if we come together and take a common path. For this to succeed, permanent structures are also needed. The challenges have intensified in particular where there has already been a lack of affordable housing space, childcare staff and public authorities. The situation is challenging for many districts and municipalities, and overwhelming for some. We want to ensure more affordable housing and provide greater and more reliable financial support to municipalities with an integration offensive. This includes the offer of fully funded, needs-based and qualified integration and language courses, which are accessible immediately after arrival. These must ensure that barriers to participation are removed, especially for parents and mothers who are disadvantaged in language acquisition. In addition, we want to create digital offers for language acquisition from day one. We are strengthening the migration counselling centres and the youth migration services so that they can advise people right from the start. Decentralised accommodation is preferable. Refugees should be allowed to take advantage of opportunities to move out of a shelter. Family connections and individual points of contact must be taken into account. Unaccompanied minor refugees need special support. We are committed to opposing standard reductions and to child- and youth-friendly accommodation. School attendance, psychosocial help and support for vulnerable groups must be ensured quickly from the time they are taken into care. We are expanding psychosocial support and supporting vulnerable groups from the very beginning. The federal government, the federal states, the municipalities and civil society have worked hard in recent years to provide accommodation and care for the people who come to us. In particular, those responsible in politics and administration and the municipalities as well as the many volunteers have done an invaluable job.

We stand for social participation. Political measures such as the payment card must be designed in such a way that they reduce bureaucracy and enable integration. We have successfully demonstrated this in Hanover – without any inappropriate cash limit. It must always be ensured that there is no reduction below the constitutionally protected subsistence level. We also want to give everyone unbureaucratic access to good health care.

The strongest driver of integration is language acquisition, work and employment. Because where people can communicate and create something together, our society grows together. Those who can work should be allowed to work. We in the Federal Government have already made considerable improvements in this area and will abolish existing work bans and simplify and accelerate procedures. Now the priority is to actually bring refugees into the labour market. If employers and refugees agree, the state should not stand in the way with

unnecessary bureaucracy. In this way, we also relieve employers. For this reason, we will introduce short deadlines after which work-related permits are considered to have been issued if the immigration authority does not actively lodge an objection. In this way, we also create planning security for employers and refugees. Instead of pushing people into precarious, non-regular working conditions, we want to get them into good employment. With early advice and a skills check, we want to ensure that people have good prospects and can contribute their qualifications. We want to simplify the recognition of foreign qualifications and qualifications.

For a country that offers protection

Worldwide, more people are fleeing crises and conflicts than ever before – most of them within their country or in neighbouring regions. In addition, there is the worsening climate crisis and economic and social circumstances that are forcing people to leave their homes. That's why we want to fight the causes of flight. We are making our contribution to this with forward-looking diplomacy, crisis prevention, reliable and adequately funded humanitarian aid in crisis situations, sustainable development cooperation, reconstruction and fair trade conditions, and are committed to ensuring that other countries assume the same

responsibility.

The climate crisis has long been a reality in many places and is already forcing people to leave their homes. The Western industrialised countries have historically been the main causes of climate-damaging greenhouse gases and bear special responsibility. New large issuers also have to make their contribution. Together with the countries concerned, we want to take measures for climate adaptation and climate-related migration and displacement so that people can be protected. They must not get into a gap in protection. Perspectively, they need protection status under international law.

Germany offers protection to many people fleeing war and persecution. We defend the fundamental right to asylum and stand by our obligations under international law, such as the Geneva Refugee Convention, subsidiary protection and the European Convention on Human Rights. We want speedy and fair procedures and thus create clarity for those affected and for the municipalities. We continue to stand by church asylum. We oppose purely symbolic politics and a course of tightening asylum laws, which are only at the expense of those seeking protection and hinder integration.

Children need their parents, parents need their children – also to arrive

and integrate. Therefore, we want to continue to enable family reunification and lift existing restrictions. We want to speed up the procedures for family reunification and refrain from providing proof of language proficiency as part of family reunification before entry.

For a European and international refugee and migration policy

The classification of safe countries of origin and safe third countries may only be made by parliament according to clear fundamental rights and human rights-oriented criteria. Instead of politically classifying countries as safe third countries or countries of origin, legally secure, speedy and fair procedures are needed.

Not everyone who comes to Germany can stay. Anyone who does not have a right of residence after an individual examination of the requirements under asylum and residence law and after exhausting all legal remedies and for whom there are no obstacles to deportation must leave the country as soon as possible. Voluntary return is a priority for us. It is clear to us that people must not be deported to states where there are human rights or international law reasons to the contrary. Deportations to war and crisis areas are prohibited. We want to offer protection against unjust regimes such as the Taliban and not legitimise them politically through repatriation agreements. Persons obliged to leave the country who have committed serious crimes must be repatriated as a priority after serving their sentences.

We want to promote a common European migration policy – with a fair, binding and solidarity-based distribution of people seeking protection in Europe. Europe can only be done together, and orderly migration can only be done at European level.

We are united by the will to continue to do everything in our power to improve the situation for those seeking protection and to improve the organisation of migration. Like any law, we are implementing the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) at the national level in accordance with fundamental rights and human rights. In doing so, we will do everything in our power to ensure that integration is promoted, that the rule of law is guaranteed as comprehensively as possible and that there are no additional, unnecessary restrictions on the right to asylum.

Human rights must be respected everywhere in the EU, including at the external borders. To this end, we are committed to effective human rights monitoring and consistent action against illegal pushbacks. We want the monitoring of compliance with fundamental rights in Germany to be regulated by law in accordance with the guidelines of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and for Germany's independent National Human Rights Institution to be funded accordingly. Reception conditions must be raised to a humane level throughout

Europe so as not to force people to make secondary migration due to poverty, homelessness or discrimination. The special needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, queer people or people with disabilities must be taken into account in the asylum procedure. In addition, people must not be detained just because they apply for asylum. Children must always be accommodated in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Imprisonment is fundamentally incompatible with the best interests of the child.

Our position is clear: the right to review individual cases and the principle of non-rejection apply always and everywhere. The asylum application of people who arrive in the EU or are already here must be examined in the EU in terms of content. We oppose the outsourcing of asylum procedures to third countries, because it has been shown time and again that these initiatives end up costing a lot of taxpayers' money, fail in court and distract from factual solutions.

Instead, we rely on human rights-based cooperation with third and transit countries, because more regulated migration enables less unregulated migration. We want to better organise and manage migration by concluding further human rights-based migration agreements and implementing existing ones quickly. This means that we are

creating regulated migration routes for students, trainees and skilled workers through visa agreements and training partnerships. In return, the partner countries take back nationals who do not have a right of residence in our country. To this end, we are working more closely with countries of origin and transit countries. Migration agreements are also intended to create better living conditions locally. This is the only way we will be able to reduce disorderly and often life-threatening migration to Europe effectively and in the long term. Migration agreements should include an overall concept of these building blocks. International cooperation must not be unilaterally subordinated to migration policy interests. We also promote the valuable links between the diaspora in Germany and the societies of origin that are created by migration, and in particular circular migration.

We defend our democracy and the rule of law against hybrid attacks – including the defence of the individual right to asylum. Putin's Russia and Lukashenko's Belarus are abusing the suffering of refugees for geopolitical interests. We will exhaust all possibilities under the rule of law, the rule of law and politics to prevent the instrumentalisation of asylum seekers, especially by states such as Russia and Belarus. We resolutely oppose the deprivation of rights of people who are instrumentalised by authoritarian states. Whoever flees from

military

service, these 1

for example, in order not to fight for Putin's war of aggression, which is contrary to international law, should find protection in Europe according to the case law of the European Court of Justice (ECJ).

The right to freedom of movement and the dismantling of barriers at internal borders are among the greatest achievements in Europe achieved by the Schengen Agreement. Especially in Germany, in the heart of Europe, living together with our neighbours is a daily reality for people – especially in the border regions. The open European single market is a cornerstone of our economy. We therefore reject permanent stationary internal border controls. For freedom and security in Europe, however, we need to know who is coming to Europe. Therefore, rule-of-law controls at the external borders and reliable registration of people are indispensable.

Border controls at the external border are a joint EU task that should increasingly be taken over by European officials. We want to further develop the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex in line with the rule of law. There is a need for close parliamentary control of Frontex operations. Frontex must not participate in operations that violate human rights and must end such operations. It must be easier to hold Frontex and national authorities accountable for violations of the law. Victims of such violations, especially at the external borders, need

legal support.

Sea rescue is a humanitarian obligation. The dying in the Mediterranean must end. A European initiative for state-coordinated and adequately funded sea rescue is finally needed. As long as this is not achieved, we want to continue the promotion of civil sea rescue. We oppose the criminalisation of sea rescue or humanitarian aid. We want to create legal certainty for this position and are committed to an unambiguous exclusion of the elements of the offence at all political levels.

We want people to find protection without having to choose life-threatening escape routes. For particularly vulnerable groups, we therefore want to support humanitarian admission and resettlement programmes – also at the state level. We want to continue to take responsibility for Afghans who have taken special risks because of their work for the German government or their commitment to a democratic Afghanistan. Humanitarian visas must be issued unbureaucratically for local staff and threatened women's and human rights activists who have fled from Afghanistan to Pakistan, Iran or Turkey. We want to enable safe and orderly migration routes, because in this way we protect human lives and put a stop to smuggling gangs and human trafficking. This requires cooperative cooperation

between the federal government, the states, cities and municipalities.

B. A life in safety

For good police work against crime

The freedom of all means everything to us. But without security, freedom is worth little. In order for all people to be able to participate in social and political life, they must be safe and feel safe. The best form of fighting crime is effective before a crime is committed. Good prevention work and social infrastructure are therefore always a contribution to safety. A well-equipped, modern police force complements effective crime prevention. This also includes good training and further education. Committed police officers do their important work for our coexistence and our civil rights, often with a high level of personal commitment.

We want to set up the Federal Police and the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in such a way that they have the personnel, the technology, the know-how and also the constitutional powers they need to perform their tasks effectively. We will modernise the legal basis of the

federal police forces, such as the Federal Police Act, and in doing so we will also provide answers to new threats. This includes strengthening police investigations in the digital space. Legal bases must always have a targeted and event-related effect. We reconcile evidence-based domestic policy with civil rights and address the causes of crime.

With investments, we also want to ensure that the police can work in modern properties and with good equipment, including digitally. Crime is increasingly shifting to the digital space – the police must be able to keep up with this technology.

In order to prevent crime, we want to keep an eye on crime developments and make greater use of scientific expertise. We therefore want to enshrine the periodic safety report, which bundles this work, in law. Scientifically sound recording systems and databases enable precise situation pictures and assessments, promote good investigative work and lay the foundation for appropriate and legally secure police measures. We are therefore working towards improving police databases in the police information network. We are reforming police statistics to better record hate crime.

We have ensured that it

will be more difficult for extremists to legally acquire weapons in the future. Anyone who is known to the security authorities as an enemy of the constitution is not allowed to possess weapons. The number of legal and illegal firearms has increased in recent years. Too many acts of violence are still committed with firearms, especially in the domestic sphere. Every person who dies from a firearm is one too many. Therefore, we will further restrict the availability of lethal firearms and other dangerous weapons such as SRS weapons and tighten gun laws for this purpose. Alarm guns should only be allowed to be purchased with a small firearms license. To ensure consistent enforcement of gun laws, we want to strengthen cooperation between security and supervisory authorities. We are taking decisive action against the illegal arms trade.

more transparent. In doing so, we want to design police control powers in such a way that they can be applied in a legally secure manner. In addition, we are introducing an anonymised labelling requirement for the Federal Police. In education and training, we want to raise awareness of diversity and develop a good error culture. Police action and attitude patterns have been comparatively little researched in Germany. That is why we want to open up the police more to scientific research. We want to focus more on dealing with exceptional psychological situations and improve psychosocial emergency care for emergency services and those affected.

Police work is based on trust and is a prerequisite for the police to be able to fulfil their complex tasks. With the Federal Police Commissioner, we have created a contact point for police officers and citizens, whom we want to strengthen and develop. In this way, we are also improving the working conditions for police officers. As the executive organ of the state's monopoly on violence, the police also have a special responsibility. With a system for checks that sets out the reasons for checks, we want to make police action

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

For an increased commitment against organized crime

The fight against organised crime is a focus for us. Terrorist groups threaten people with violence and cause billions of euros in economic damage in

Germany. Its effects can be felt worldwide and are also corroding entire states through violence and corruption. A major driving force for organised crime is the illegal drug trade as well as human trafficking and forced prostitution. The damage to society is enormous when criminal groups infiltrate legal sectors of the economy, such as the construction industry or the real estate trade, thus driving up prices.

To counter this, we are strengthening the responsible criminal police departments of the BKA, the Federal Police and Customs. We are improving cooperation and the exchange of information between the federal and state security authorities by establishing a Joint Centre for Organised Crime on a legal basis. We want the security authorities to be set up in such a way that they can place a stronger focus on structural investigation procedures. We want to strengthen scientific research in the field of organized crime. We will also strengthen international cooperation, for example through joint investigations or the deployment of contact officers in other countries. We want to extend the competences of the EPPO to the cross-border fight against organised crime.

We want organised crime to be punished more severely. That is why we want to further develop the criminal offence of criminal organisation so that it becomes a sharp and targeted instrument. Sustainable action against criminal activities can only succeed in cooperation with civil society and through greater political involvement, and must focus on prevention and education. That is why we are committed to the establishment of an independent civil society observatory on organised crime.

For a clear stance against money laundering and organised tax fraud

Germany is often referred to as a money laundering paradise. Around 100 billion euros from serious crimes are "laundered" in Germany every year. We are countering this with clear rules and powerful authorities such as the Federal Office for Combating Financial Crime, which we are expanding into a financial police force. This is to report annually on its investigative successes.

We have to hit the criminals where it hurts them – with money. That is why we must make it easier to confiscate assets obtained through criminal activities. To this end, we also want to make greater use of asset recovery. We want to examine the introduction of the administrative asset assessment

. We want to implement the EU anti-money laundering package quickly and ambitiously, taking into account the demands of the European Parliament. With a nationwide service point, we want to bundle expertise on the misuse of cryptocurrencies and make it usable for the states. We want to make it more difficult for criminals to hide their money with the help of complicated corporate structures. That is why we are continuing to develop the transparency register for companies and strengthening international cooperation between supervisory and law enforcement authorities.

For decisive action against extremism and terror

Inhumane and anti-constitutional ideologies – whether politically or religiously motivated – sow hatred, divide our society and pave the way for violence and terror. Because manifestations are constantly changing and becoming more complex due to radicalization in the digital space, we must confront them attentively and energetically and adapt instruments accordingly. Young people in particular are increasingly radicalized in the digital space today. Tailor-made media education for different target groups is needed to counteract radicalisation in all parts of society.

Tax evasion and manipulation in the financial market cost our economy billions. We will take measures to make fraud cases such as Ex and/or organised tax carousels a thing of the past. To this end, we are strengthening financial supervision and ensuring reliable audits. We want to significantly increase the capacities and competencies of the federal level for the prosecution of serious financial and tax crime. To this end, we will equip the authorities in such a way that early investigations can be ensured and thus a statute of limitations for tax offences is prevented. Greater transparency on corporate taxes and – often concealed and concealed – ownership structures and better capacities in tax enforcement help to achieve this. We want to examine the upgrading of certain cases of particularly serious tax evasion to a crime.

The greatest danger to our democracy continues to come from right-wing extremism. This assessment is also shared by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV). This is also reflected in the record number of right-wing extremist crimes detected. In addition, there is still the very concrete and serious threat posed by Islamism. A well-defended democracy must consistently counter the current threats to the free democratic basic order.

With early prevention, we prevent people from becoming radicalised. We need programs like "Live Democracy!" that educate about right-wing extremism and Islamism in the analogue and digital

space. We need services for victims of right-wing and racist violence. We need offers for dropouts from the extremist scenes or deradicalisation programmes for the prison system. We want to strengthen this work financially and secure it permanently with a democracy promotion law.

Extremist networks must be detected by the security authorities at an early stage, intensively observed and bans on associations must be consistently pronounced. The state must ensure that enemies of the constitution do not hold public office and do not bear responsibility in public administration or work in security agencies or the Bundeswehr. This requires legally secure examination procedures. Enemies of the constitution must not be allowed to get hold of weapons and must be consistently disarmed. To this end, we are focusing in particular on the right-wing extremist scene. We advocate that a prejudice motivation be consistently taken into account in criminal offences and that it be examined whether legal adjustments are necessary for this purpose.

We will counter the new and complex dangers by investing in our internal security. To this end, we will strengthen the security authorities in the fight against terrorism and equip the BKA and the Office for the Protection of the Constitution with sufficient personnel, technology and constitutional powers so

that they can track down terrorists and uncover attack plans at an early stage. We are taking measures to enable the authorities to detect and drain financial flows of extremist groups. Top threats must always be in the eye of the security authorities across countries, monitored continuously and – wherever possible – prosecuted. For this to succeed, it must be uniformly clear throughout Europe who we are looking at as a threat.

At the national level, all responsible federal and state authorities must work closely together in the Joint Counter-Terrorism Centres – with clearly defined responsibilities and a solid legal basis. It must be ensured that information reaches the competent authorities at an early stage. We will check whether the security authorities have all the necessary powers to fight terrorism effectively and in a targeted manner. We will analyse and implement the results of the overall monitoring account. We oppose actionism with a responsible security policy. We will integrate the scientific investigation of developments in phenomena more strongly into security policy.

In recent years, Germany has been shaken by many terrible right-wing extremists and Islamist

acts of terrorism. Many mistakes were made in dealing with their victims. That is why we want to further strengthen and financially secure support from the state for the victims of terrorism and their relatives. To ensure that they have a reliable point of contact, we have created the office of the Victims' Commissioner. We want to continue the reappraisal of terrorist attacks and commemorate the victims appropriately.

consideration in civil protection planning.

For crisis-proof population protection

Extreme weather events or disasters: extraordinary events can turn the lives of thousands of people upside down in the blink of an eye, destroy livelihoods and cause enormous environmental damage. As a result of the climate crisis, storms, floods and droughts will continue to increase.

Effective civil protection and good crisis prevention can help to avert or reduce damage. With around 1.7 million volunteers in population protection and its decentralised structure, Germany has an efficient support network. We want to support and promote volunteering in the volunteer fire brigade, the Federal Agency for Technical Relief and the aid organisations – for example with good leave regulations, equal treatment for volunteers in operations or training, or facilitation for volunteers. We want to actively involve people with disabilities in civil protection. We will also ensure that vulnerable groups are given greater

Efficient civil protection needs good real estate, up-to-date equipment, modern vehicles and advanced training. We will continue to invest in civil protection. These include a sufficient reserve of materials and the expansion of capabilities for CBRN hazards. We are creating reliable digital systems, modern cyber aid and expanding the warning infrastructure. We want the federal government to become more involved, the Federal Office for Population Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) to be given more powers and cross-border cooperation to be expanded.

We are expanding the cross-border disaster control exercises on the basis of risk scenarios and supplementing them with a stronger and practical involvement of aid organisations. We strengthen the population's ability to help themselves by further developing the Civil Protection Day and offering services for all people in crisis prevention. In addition, we want to examine the upgrading of existing protective structures. The turning point must also be reflected in civil protection.

For the combination of internal and external security

In order for our country to remain secure, for our power grids, mobile phone services or servers to be protected – our critical infrastructure (KRITIS), which is crucial for our prosperity – we must think more closely about internal and external security. This is because the boundaries between criminal or terrorist organisations and states are becoming increasingly blurred. Countries such as Russia are deliberately using hybrid attacks, sabotage actions and influence campaigns to stir up fear, destabilize alliances and inflict damage in Germany and Europe. Damage to data cables and critical infrastructure, drone overflights at Bundeswehr bases or incendiary devices in air freight have shown how vulnerable our infrastructure is and how concrete the threat is. We are countering states that carry out hostile attacks on us with targeted actions in the gray area. To this end, we want to push ahead with new instruments of international law that guarantee the protection of global infrastructure. For us, an integrated concept of security, which we have anchored in the National Security Strategy, is the guiding principle.

The intelligence services play an important role in internal and external security. They must be adequately equipped and urgently need a solid legal basis so that they can identify and

manage dangers at an early stage. We will position the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) in counterintelligence and the Federal Intelligence Service in foreign intelligence in such a way that they can protect democracy from attacks better than before. We want the BfV to include more academic, civil society and public sources in its analysis. To this end, we also want to strengthen and promote independent scientific research on anti-constitutional tendencies. We want to set up the Military Counterintelligence Service in such a way that it can carry out its tasks and provide good protection for members of the Bundeswehr worldwide. We want to improve European cooperation by setting up a European Intelligence Agency. We rely on intelligence services acting in accordance with the rule of law and effective parliamentary control.

With the KRITIS umbrella law, which formulates concrete safety standards, we have laid a foundation stone. However, we need to further strengthen our infrastructure and at the same time a resilient economy. We want our infrastructures to be secure, to retain control over them and to protect our key technologies. With an investment review law, we want to close loopholes in the acquisition of critical infrastructure by foreign investors. For KRI-TIS operators, we want to strengthen counselling services for protection options

For IT security and against systematic disinformation

Authoritarian states and other actors systematically use disinformation campaigns to attack our democracy, influence our elections and divide our societies. This is a massive challenge that all democratic societies around the world are facing and that also endangers cohesion and democracy in our country. That is why we are further developing measures in a nationwide strategy against disinformation, involving academia and civil society organisations. Vigilant institutions and reliable information are needed, for example through independent media. Media education can support people in recognizing disinformation. In addition, we see in other democratic societies how important it is to have independent bodies that detect deepfakes, large-scale and controlled campaigns with fake news and other content that undermines democracy at an early stage. We will also hold the major media platforms accountable at EU level to take effective measures against the spread of disinformation. We want to criminalise the systematic spread of disinformation on behalf of a foreign state. We will fight systematic disinformation. To this end, we are also looking at the manipulative and artificial dissemination of corresponding content, for example by bots. We want to prohibit the purchase or offering of likes or followers on online platforms as an unfair business practice. We are strengthening the effective possibilities of German law enforcement authorities in the digital space to take

action against organised crime and hate crime and to enable prosecution with the login trap and account blocks ordered by courts in the case of anonymised accounts, which are currently hardly prosecuted. We will take action against platforms used by authoritarian states to spread systematic disinformation.

Public service broadcasting ensures pluralistic, state-independent and independent reporting and can therefore be a point of orientation even in the face of disinformation campaigns and false reports by observing the highest journalistic standards. It is important that they can also fill and develop this proven function in the digital world. We are securing the necessary reforms with adequate funding and reliable framework conditions, and we are referring, among other things, to the proposals of the Commission for the Determination of the Financial Needs of Broadcasting Corporations (KEF). At the European level, we are supporting a platform that, among other things, brings together and makes public service information services accessible across countries and

represents an alternative to the current, purely commercial offerings.

The German economy suffers damage of more than 200 billion euros annually from cyber attacks, data theft and espionage. Scientific institutions are also increasingly being targeted. These attacks come mainly from abroad, especially from China and Russia. We will use a Cybersecurity Strengthening Act to toughen our IT infrastructure and make it more resilient to attacks. The Federal Office for Information Security must be given a stronger and independent role in protecting digital infrastructure and expanded into a central office. Our goal is to make digital networks and facilities robust against hacker attacks through effective IT security measures. We want to create the legal and technical framework conditions for secure "digital embassies". In this way, we want to secure relevant public databases so that they can also be kept available in the event of a crisis. We will implement the European Cybersecurity Directive quickly and with little bureaucracy. We want to give legal certainty and support to people who are structurally looking for security gaps in the interest of the general public.

For the defense of peace and freedom

Russia's invasion of Ukraine makes it clear that peace, freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted. They must be defended and strengthened again and again. Especially in these times, peace requires diplomacy and cooperation, as well as the ability to resist and defend oneself. This requires a European effort. A comprehensive approach is needed to meet the spectrum of challenges and threats. Security policy is more than the sum of diplomacy and the military; it must bring together all strands of our policy. Integrated security for Germany means thinking about internal and external security together and ensuring the protection of our democracy, our welfare state and our livelihoods — in line with a feminist foreign and development policy and a strong international climate policy. All these elements of integrated security need reliable financing.

With the Russian attack on the whole of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, we woke up in a different world. Since then, millions of Ukrainians have been defending their lives, their freedom and the European peace order against Russia's brutal aggression day after day. We stand firmly by their side — with diplomatic, financial, humanitarian and military support. Ukraine must be able to defend itself and ensure a strong position for a possible peace process. To this end, we want to further strengthen their right to self-defence and improve their ability to defend themselves. This is also our best self-protection here in the heart of Europe. Russia's hybrid attacks have long been directed against us. Ukraine's sovereignty in European solidarity must be ensured. We support the diverse diplomatic peace efforts of Ukraine, its partners and all states that are credibly interested in peace, under the principle: "Nothing about Ukraine, without Ukraine". We also reaffirm the right to freely choose an alliance and support Ukraine on its path to membership in the EU and NATO. We are also countering Putin's war of attrition against the civilian population with our support for reconstruction and contributing to the construction of basic infrastructure such as heat supply, schools and hospitals.

C. A strong European Union

For an EU that defends our democracy

The EU is the most successful peace project and the basis for our economic success. It is the answer to two world wars and the Holocaust. It is our life insurance for peace, security and prosperity. But European cohesion is threatened: from the outside by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and against our European peace order, from the inside by extremists and populists. That is why we want to strengthen the EU. As the largest and economically strongest country, we bear a special responsibility for this. We reject national unilateralism and a constant "German vote" is harmful. We are working towards a Europe that is internally united by freedom and democracy, that guarantees social security and that externally provides cooperative offers and robust responses to the major challenges that the development of the world has in store for us. That is why we want to enlarge the EU in order to stabilise our neighbourhood and consolidate peace, freedom and prosperity throughout Europe. In order to create positive incentives for candidate countries that implement genuine democratic reforms, we are committed to visible intermediate steps in the accession

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

Our core values are the foundation of the EU. If Member States violate this, this cannot remain without consequences. We want to make use of the rule of law procedure under Article 7 of the EU Treaty by allowing decisions to be taken by qualified majority at all stages of the procedure. We want to strengthen the rule of law dialogue and protect the freedom of civil society in a more targeted manner and throughout Europe. For us, the following also applies: no EU funds for anti-democrats. In the context of the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework, we are advocating for stricter rules in order to ensure democracy and the rule of law in all member states beyond the existing conditionality mechanism.

In order to make the EU closer to its citizens and more democratic, the European Parliament is to be given a full right of initiative for the introduction of laws and to pass laws on an equal footing with the Council in all policy areas. In future, some of the members of parliament are to be elected via transnational lists. Citizens should be involved more broadly and effectively. To this end, we want to

strengthen the European Citizens' Initiative and European Citizens' Panels.

For an EU that is capable of acting

The enlargement of the EU is a success story and is in our geopolitical interest. We support the accession aspirations of the Western Balkan states, Ukraine, Moldova and the Georgians, provided that all accession candidates meet the necessary criteria. We see the courageous and tireless efforts of the pro-European, democratic forces, for example in Georgia, Serbia and other countries with accession prospects. We support such initiatives, which are central to giving these countries a future in the EU. We support candidate countries and close EU partners such as Armenia in their fight against destabilisation by Russia and other threats. A democratic Turkey also has its place in the EU, but a resumption of accession talks requires a credible change of course in democracy, the rule of law and the protection of minorities. We want to strengthen the diverse relations between Turkey, Germany and Europe and support Turkish civil society.

With the aim of a stronger, more effective EU, we want to make the current legislature a reform legislature. To this end, the principle of unanimity is to be replaced by majority voting in all policy areas

– including the Common Foreign and Security Policy. Where reforms with all member states are not possible, we want to move forward within the framework of the "enhanced cooperation" laid down in the EU treaties, which is always open to all member states. We want to move the EU forward together, especially with France and Poland. That is why we have invested so heavily in German-French cooperation and the Weimar Triangle. A number of the reform proposals that we advocate require an amendment to the EU treaties. That is why we want to work to convene a constitutional convention. Our vision is a Federal Republic with its own constitution.

businesses to access EU funding.

Only a strong Europe is in a position to strengthen the economy in global competition and thus secure good jobs. To meet the urgently needed investments in infrastructure and the climate-neutral expansion of the European economy, the next EU financial framework must focus more strongly on innovation and the future viability of the European economy. We will strengthen European public goods such as infrastructure, Erasmus and other exchange and education programmes, research cooperation and a common European asylum policy. In addition, binding targets for climate and nature protection, a strong social pillar and investments in economic and social cohesion, European resilience and international cooperation are needed. It must be easier for civil society actors and

However, this also requires more financial strength at the European level. We want to improve the EU's financial resources by increasing the EU financial framework and adding new own resources. The majority of revenues generated by European instruments are to benefit the EU budget. If the US no longer implements the global agreements on the taxation of large digital corporations, we in the EU will campaign for a European digital corporation tax. We want to make investments with the highest priority for our security, prosperity, social peace and climate protection together with the member states, taking into account all financing options. Common European bonds, for example within the framework of the European Investment Bank, have also proven their worth in overcoming major challenges.

D. Responsibility for foreign, security and development policy

For an active foreign policy

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

The EU is a guarantor of peace and freedom, prosperity and democracy. The EU as a global political actor is at the heart of our foreign policy. Because we have a stronger weight on the international stage if we appear united with our European partners and speak with one voice. Together we stand by Ukraine's side – until Ukrainians can live in peace again. Peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is a life of freedom, security and dignity. We want to take responsibility for shaping a permanently stable peace order in Europe, taking into account in particular the partner countries bordering Russia.

Putin's Russia currently poses the greatest threat to peace and security in Europe. What is needed is a new strategic confrontation with this authoritarian and increasingly totalitarian Russia of today. The forcible shifting of borders must not be successful. Because if the imperial aspirations of an aggressor prevail over international law, peace worldwide is also in danger. We are committed to economic and security policy measures that prevent Russia's military victory, increase economic pressure on the regime and preserve our own ability to act. We are committed to extending the sanctions against Russia to contain aggression, for example to the nuclear industry. The EU and its member states must take decisive action against sanctions violations and also hold international partners accountable. In addition, we want to examine the extent to which, in addition to the proceeds, the decommissioned Russian assets can also be used in a legally secure manner to support Ukraine. We reach out to those Russians who, as part of democratic civil society, are credibly committed to an end to the war, peace and freedom. We will also support the Belarusian democracy movement in the best possible way on the ground and in exile in

of its fight against the

Lukashenko dictatorship.

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The United States is Europe's central partner in global crises and conflicts. Despite all the differences and uncertainties regarding the future direction of the USA, we are united by common values, interests and deep cultural, historical and social ties. We will continue to be a reliable ally for the United States in the future. At the same time, we must strengthen European sovereignty, stand united and resolutely for our values and interests, and address political differences honestly and openly.

We remain firmly anchored in our alliances. At the same time, we are dependent on diverse and strong partnerships – especially in the Global South. We want to expand our cooperation with countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East in a targeted manner and promote partnerships based on mutual trust and transparency as well as common interests. In this way, we are also gaining allies for the reform of the multilateral system, for the commitment to human rights worldwide, for global challenges such as the fight against climate change and in the systemic confrontation with authoritarian regimes.

China is increasingly aggressively trying to restructure the international system according to its interests and

increase military pressure in the Taiwan Strait. For us, China is a systemic rival, competitor and partner, but rivalry is increasingly becoming Beijing's focus. With the Federal Government's first China Strategy, we have begun to put an end to the naivety of years in Germany's China policy – which must now be consistently implemented and further developed together with our European partners. This also includes so-called de-risking: we want to reduce one-sided and risky dependencies on China and broaden our trade relations in order to ensure economic stability and political freedom of action in the long term. We are strengthening our cooperation with partner states in the Indo-Pacific, especially in the areas of security, trade, climate, science and technology. As part of the One China Policy, we regard Taiwan as an important democratic partner in values and want to intensify exchanges. A change in the status quo in the Taiwan Strait must not take place against Taiwan's will.

Our foreign policy is aware of our history and the responsibility that our country has assumed with the horrors of the Second World War and the Holocaust. Israel's right to exist is non-negotiable for us. This entails Israel's right to defend itself against attacks within the framework of international law. We stand up for the safety of Israelis and Palestinians. We condemn the continuing threat to the

State of Israel as well as the attacks and terror against its people. Lasting security for Israelis and Palestinians is only possible through a political process and a negotiated two-state solution based on the 1967 borders. This is what we are committed to. That is why we also condemn settlement construction and annexation plans by the Israeli government, which violate the right of self-determination of Palestinians, as well as settler violence.

Our history also gives rise to a responsibility to stand up for international humanitarian law in order to prevent human suffering and to take warning signals seriously. That is why we have worked so hard to free the hostages held by Hamas, to protect the civilian population, to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches the people and that there is a ceasefire. The suffering in Gaza is unbearable. Too many civilians have lost their lives, which was also part of the cynical calculation of Hamas, whose fighters had hidden among the civilians. Despite intensive efforts by UN and aid agencies, the population lacks almost everything they need to live. Large parts of Gaza lie in ruins.

The ceasefire agreements are a relief, they offer an opportunity to improve the humanitarian situation and must now be fully implemented so that the suffering on

both sides can finally come to an end. In Lebanon, too, after years of crisis, there is a moment of opportunity for reform and change. We continue to advocate the consistent implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and the stabilisation of Lebanon. Every human life is worth the same. Humanity is indivisible.

Israel must be able to defend itself and its citizens against the terror of Hamas as well as the rockets of the Iranian regime and its proxies in the region. But this is not a blank check for arms exports. International humanitarian law must be observed in every decision on arms exports. If the protection of the civilian population is not given sufficient consideration, such weapons may not be exported in individual cases.

The Assad regime is responsible for decades of repression, torture, murder and displacement. This dark phase of Syrian history ends with his fall. Many Syrians now hope for a life in peace and freedom. In this way, we support them within the framework of the EU and the UN: for a peaceful and democratic transformation process that involves all Syrians – regardless of their faith, ethnicity and gender – in the political process, grants them rights and offers them protection. All population groups – including Kurds,

Yazidis, Druze, Alawites and Christians – must be taken into account. To make such a process possible, we expect neighbouring states to respect Syria's right to self-determination, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

repatriations to be wrong.

For a peaceful and inclusive future for Syria, it is important that the most serious violations of human rights are dealt with. War crimes and crimes against humanity must be dealt with – also in Germany according to the principle of world law – and perpetrators must be held accountable.

We will do our part to ensure that Syria becomes a stable, free and peaceful country to which people who have found refuge in our country can return safely and self-determinedly. This includes continuing to provide humanitarian aid, promoting reconstruction and dismantling existing EU economic sanctions in order to support a new start in Syria and sustainable stability in the region. We offer the people who have found refuge with us in recent years a reliable perspective. Many want to play an active role in this reconstruction. We are supporting them in this by reducing bureaucratic requirements that have so far stood in their way without losing their residence permits in the current volatile situation. Because it is still completely unclear in which direction Syria is developing. In this unclear situation, we consider the hasty demands for

The Iranian regime commits massive human rights violations in its own country and destabilizes the entire region, including through proxies such as Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis. We will continuously review and develop the sanctions against those responsible for the regime and strictly monitor compliance with them. The aim of our sanctions policy is to hit the Iranian power apparatus, not the people of Iran. That is why we continue to advocate for the legally secure terrorist listing of the Revolutionary Guards at EU level and support Iranian civil society. Joint diplomatic efforts are also needed to secure the release of political prisoners and prevent Iran's nuclear armament. In doing so, we want to learn the lessons from the negotiations on the Vienna nuclear agreement with Iran (JCPoA).

The war in Sudan has led to one of the biggest humanitarian crises of our time. Together with our partners, we are working to ensure that the parties to the conflict return to the negotiating table and provide humanitarian access. This is the only way to end the famine. We provide humanitarian aid, support civil society actors and use the opportunities available to us within the EU to curb external support to the parties to the conflict.

We are committed to a forward-looking and coherent foreign, security and development policy that identifies crises and conflicts at an early stage and prevents human suffering through targeted and coordinated measures. The basis for this is a joint departmental situation picture and situation centre on the threats, risks and opportunities for our security, impact-oriented strategies and strong interdepartmental coordination.

We want to create a centre for strategic foresight that develops future scenarios with a view to the challenges of a comprehensive security policy and with broad expertise from a wide range of areas and derives possible courses of action from them. Modern forms of participation are also intended to take up impulses from citizens and create space for debate.

For a future-proof multilateralism

The rules-based international order is the foundation of our peace. Multilateral cooperation and strong international organisations are key to overcoming global challenges. This order is coming under increasing pressure: violations of the common rules are increasing,

segregation and protectionism are on the rise. We stand up for a world in which cooperation prevails over competition and war, and the strength of the law triumphs over the law of the strongest.

With the UN Pact for the Future, we have laid the foundation for a reform of the UN. This includes a reform of the Security Council, with which we want to ensure a fairer representation of the world's regions. We now want to implement these agreements together with the UN member states. In the event of ongoing blockades in the Security Council, we are committed to making use of the possibilities of the UN General Assembly in accordance with the resolutions "Uniting for Peace" and the "Veto Initiative" and thus improving the international community's ability to act. In addition, as part of a digital foreign policy, we want to actively advocate for a global, open and self-governing Internet and for the responsible use of artificial intelligence in the UN and in international forums.

More responsibility in the UN requires Germany and the EU to further strengthen their commitment diplomatically, financially and in terms of personnel. Humanitarian aid funds are to be used more flexibly, allocated over several years and more closely interlinked with development policy measures in order to meet challenges in fragile contexts, improve predictability and prevent crises sustainably. While the UN plays an indispensable role in humanitarian aid, we also want to further strengthen local humanitarian organizations. Through humanitarian diplomacy, we are helping to ensure that aid reaches the people in need and that aid workers are protected.

For human rights and democratic development

Our historical responsibility for the crimes of the Nazi regime as well as the colonial past results in a special obligation for us to protect international law. As an international community, we have a responsibility to take action against the most serious human rights violations and to punish them under criminal law. That is why we want to strengthen international criminal justice and international criminal law and actively promote their further development. We stand steadfastly behind the International Criminal Court and its mandate to hold those responsible for crimes against international humanitarian law and international criminal law accountable. Because no one is above international law – it applies everywhere. In close coordination with our international partners, we are committed to the prosecution of the crime of aggression and a corresponding reform of the statute of the International Criminal Court.

A strong civil society is the backbone of a well-defended democracy and sustainable peace. People around the world who are committed to sustainable development, democracy, women's rights and human rights are coming under increasing pressure. Authoritarian regimes and autocratic tendencies restrict freedom of expression, art and the press, suppress civil society engagement, endanger activists and persecute dissidents – including abroad and in the digital space. In this systemic debate, we are resolutely committed to liberal democracy and are committed to ensuring that human rights are consistently implemented in all areas. In doing so, we also strengthen our security, our freedom and our prosperity.

We want to support civil society organisations in their fight for freedom of expression and the rule of law in a targeted and uncomplicated way. This also includes protection programmes for persecuted human rights defenders, journalists, artists, academics and students on site or, if necessary, in exile. Germany is also a safe haven for many persecuted people. We want to continue to support the admission of particularly vulnerable activists through humanitarian visas and accelerated procedures, as well as improve protection against transnational repression through joint

European investigations and sanctions against those responsible.

Especially in times of crisis, culture can build bridges and promote mutual understanding. That is why we want to strengthen intermediary organisations in cultural relations and education policy and expand international research cooperation based on interests and values. Germany has an everlasting responsibility towards the countries and people who experienced immeasurable suffering under the occupation and the crimes of National Socialism. With former German colonies such as Namibia, we have driven forward the reconciliation and reappraisal process with the involvement of the descendants of the victims. We will continue to take these steps consistently. In doing so, we want to find common ways to take responsibility for our past and to make moral and material reparations within the framework of international law.

Equality makes societies more peaceful, fairer, more resilient and more economically successful. People are at the centre of a feminist foreign and development policy. Such a policy identifies unjust power structures, names them and aims to break through them. It means strengthening the rights, resources and representation of women, girls and marginalised groups worldwide and reducing all forms of discrimination, including multiple discrimination. We

want to strengthen our efforts against sexualised and gender-based violence, better support survivors, promote the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and the protection of queer people from discrimination and violence worldwide, anchor gender equality more firmly in all international cooperation projects and provide more funding for women's and human rights organisations. After all, the extent to which women participate in society is an indicator of the strength of societies.

We see this in particular in countries where women's rights are trampled underfoot – such as in Afghanistan, Iran or under the reign of terror of the so-called Islamic State (IS). We continue to advocate for the rights and support of women and marginalised groups in Afghanistan, who have been subjected to serious human rights violations since the Taliban seized power. As long as the de facto government does not comply with its international human rights obligations, there can be no return to the international community. We also stand by the feminist protest movement in Iran and want to continue to protect Yazidis who have experienced particularly severe suffering and displacement at the hands of IS. We call on the interior ministers of the federal states to

nationwide deportation stop to Iran and Yazidis.



to use European synergy effects.

For security and peace in Europe and the world

Our security is embedded in the EU and NATO. We are strengthening NATO's European pillar. Germany and Europe must take more responsibility for their security and beyond, regardless of US policy. We can do this more effectively and cost-effectively the closer we work together in the EU.

We stand by our alliance obligations and the associated necessary expansion of our capabilities. The security situation and the backlog of German capabilities for overall defence make this particularly urgent. This requires reliable financing with a defence budget that permanently meets the goals and needs agreed in NATO and also nationally defined, and that permanently invests well over 2 per cent of gross domestic product in our security and defence capability. This will not be financed solely from current revenues, but will also have to be financed in the medium term through higher borrowing in order to prevent investments in the defence sector from being at the expense of other necessary investments in the future. As in the times of the euro crisis and the pandemic, a joint financial effort is also needed at the European level to secure peace in Europe, as the European Commission has proposed. In this way, we also want

It is in our interest to work for peace and stability on a global scale and to focus on human security. In doing so, we rely on civilian crisis prevention and conflict management, which is closely coordinated with our European partners. To this end, we want to strengthen the capacities of civil society actors, the EU and the UN, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and regional organisations such as the African Union in a needs-oriented and systematic manner. In order to improve the coordination of our development, security and peace policy measures, we want to specifically increase the diplomatic capacities of our foreign representations.

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

nuclear-weapon-free world has become even more important due to Russia's aggressive imperialism. We will strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and expand cooperation with civil society organisations and survivors of nuclear weapons dropping or testing. Germany's constructive monitoring of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as an observer is a success of Green participation in government and a first step on the long road to successive, joint accession. Because real disarmament and more security for all will only be possible if all states take credible steps in this direction. At a time when Putin's Russia is destroying existing disarmament initiatives and threatening its nuclear capabilities, nuclear sharing within NATO is an essential pillar of our security.

New rules are urgently needed in the areas of autonomous weapons, cyber and space. Developments in these areas are fundamentally changing the way wars are waged. For us, it is clear that we consider the development and use of lethal, fully autonomous weapon systems, which decide on life and death without any human control, to be wrong. That is why we are campaigning intensively at the international level for an outlaw. We want to regulate the military use of artificial intelligence internationally.

The international arms control architecture is extremely challenged in times of war and crisis. We are strengthening the security of all people by working with our partners to uphold our obligations under international treaties even in difficult times and by further developing humanitarian and preventive arms control.

For a modern, defensible Bundeswehr

The Bundeswehr is a cornerstone of our ability to defend ourselves. As an army firmly integrated into NATO, it serves to maintain peace and stability. In view of the changed security situation in Europe, the Bundeswehr's core mission – national and alliance defence – is once again becoming the focus of our attention. Once again, it is a matter of defending our peace and security militarily in the event of an extreme emergency, as well as effectively deterring potential aggressors and deterring them from attacking. This must go hand in hand with civil defence and resilience supported by the state and society as a whole.

The security policy challenges are also growing globally. We will therefore continue to accept our international responsibility in international peace operations. Foreign missions of the Bundeswehr must be anchored within the framework of international law and multilaterally and embedded in an overall political concept in which diplomatic, development policy and military measures are intertwined. We want to further improve parliamentary co-determination and control and to this end we want to improve the evaluation of operations. The lessons and recommendations of the Bundestag's Commission of Inquiry on Afghanistan and future networked crisis engagement deserve careful consideration.

As one of the largest employers in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Bundeswehr has a great social responsibility and duty of care for all those who serve and have served in it. The principles of Innere Führung with the model of the soldier as a "citizen in uniform" as well as the integration of the Bundeswehr into state and society are guiding for us. We stand up for a Bundeswehr that reflects the diversity of our society and is a safe place for all people. We reject the recruitment of minors. Even after leaving the service, it must be clear that those who were willing to risk their lives for peace deserve our attention and support.

In order to ensure the operational readiness of the Bundeswehr, it must be well equipped in terms of personnel and equipment. Instead of reintroducing the general basic military service, which has been suspended for good reasons since 2011, we want to make voluntary

military service and the reserve more attractive for a broad target group and bind personnel in the long term through good living and working conditions for soldiers. In addition to the necessary investments, structural reforms are also needed. These include, for example, a better work-life balance, a reduction in bureaucracy, appropriate equipment and training opportunities. For the potential case of defence, rapid recruitment mechanisms are needed – supported by a new form of military registration that also strengthens civil and homeland protection. In addition, we want to make cooperation between armed forces within the EU and NATO the rule, for example through permanent multinational units.

We want to ensure our defence capability and equip our Bundeswehr well and modernly with the help of an efficient European armaments industry. We want to dismantle inefficient duplicate structures among EU member states in favour of joint development, production and procurement of armaments and strengthen our technological sovereignty by expanding European production capacities. This requires financial incentives, joint investments and the political will to put national industrial policy interests at the service of greater common security. In view of the threat situation, it is unfortunately necessary for us and many of our allies around the world to invest even more in security to protect ourselves from aggression and war. A needs-oriented European arms market

and a restrictive common export policy are therefore two sides of the same coin. A responsible arms export policy helps to protect our partners and at the same time prevents German and European weapons from violating human rights and supporting autocratic or dictatorial regimes. To this end, we want to enshrine clear, transparent criteria for arms exports that are geared to human rights, our values and security interests more firmly in law at national and European level – with preceding risk analyses, enforceable sanctions and end-user controls. In each individual decision, Germany must comply with its national and international legal obligations.

For global climate protection

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

Many countries have recognised the opportunities offered by an effective climate policy: the energy transition and sustainable technologies not only

stabilise the climate, they also create massive and sustainable economic growth opportunities. With consistent climate policy in this country and effective climate foreign policy, we are making Germany a pioneer and at the same time supporting other countries on their way to climate-neutral prosperity.

Despite the most adverse circumstances, we have successfully argued for a move away from fossil fuels, accelerated the energy transition and resolutely advanced climate justice. We have shown that it makes a difference when Greens sit at the negotiating table. We want to continue on this path.

We are committed to ensuring that German and Europe make their fair contribution to international climate finance, in accordance with the resolutions of the international climate conference COP.

To this end, we want to use innovative financing instruments and, together with our partners, work to ensure that investments and trade relations are brought into line with the goals of climate neutrality and the 2030 Agenda. We are helping to encourage multilateral banks to withdraw from financing fossil fuels. In the interests of climate justice, special support is given to the states and communities particularly affected by climate change, especially in Africa and small island developing states. In doing so, we

are committed to strengthening the rights and participation of indigenous peoples across departments.

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For strong partnerships and international justice

In line with the resolutions of the World Nature Conferences and World Climate Conferences, we want to dovetail global climate and biodiversity conservation more closely. We support our partners in protecting important ecosystems that store large amounts of CO₂, thus protecting biodiversity, climate and our livelihoods in equal measure.

We are also taking advantage of the opportunities offered by an ambitious climate policy for our economic, financial and trade policy. In doing so, we rely on instruments such as foreign trade promotion or the dense network of climate, energy and development partnerships with now over 30 countries in the Global North and South. We are committed to ensuring that technology partnerships are also concluded with our companies within this framework. This includes the transfer of know-how and the development of local production capacities, also in order to prevent new, fatal dependencies from being created by other forces. At the same time, we want to learn from countries that are ahead of us in the decentralised energy transition. Climate foreign policy can also build bridges to partners who do not share all of our values.

The great challenges of our time are global. We address them through international partnerships in mutual interests: for climate and biodiversity, for global health, for sustainable prosperity, for human security and for human rights. Last but not least, we are making an urgently needed credible counter-offer to the influence of China and Russia in particular.

We stand by our historically grown responsibility for the poorest countries and the realisation and further development of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It needs a final spurt and ambitious follow-up goals. Our approach to this is feminist, inclusive and decolonial. We want an independent development policy that reduces structural injustices and creates equal partnerships worldwide. This also includes a development ministry that cooperates more closely with civil society actors and the diaspora, as well as strong, participatory development policy information and education work in Germany.

We support countries of the Global South in their quest for fair representation in international organisations – this is the only way to ensure that multilateral forums remain fit for the future. We are pushing ahead with reforms at the international

financial institutions and shaping trade agreements in a fair and sustainable way. We advocate rule-based and legally supported procedures for debt restructuring and debt relief for particularly burdened countries in order to strengthen their autonomy and ability to act. We are working on this together with partners in the EU, the G20 and G7, international organisations, the private sector and civil society.

We want to realize the right to water and food. To this end, for example, we promote agroecological approaches, end the export of pesticides and pesticide active ingredients that are not approved or banned in our country due to environmental and health risks, protect the land rights of smallholder farmers and support effective mechanisms against excessive financial market speculation with water, land and food. The Covid-19 pandemic and increasing antibiotic resistance worldwide show that health requires global and forward-looking cooperation. With this in mind, we want to support partner countries in building up their health systems, strengthen the World Health Organization (WHO) and promote an international pandemic agreement. All people should have access to essential medicines, vaccines and tests. That is why we promote active technology and knowledge transfer and, where necessary, the sharing of intellectual property in order to produce these healthcare products more cost-effectively and in line with demand. We support the development of social security systems as a sustainable

instrument against poverty.

We are committed to ensuring that Germany keeps its international commitments and invests at least the quota of 0.7 per cent of gross national income agreed in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations in development cooperation, and makes 0.2 per cent of this available for the so-called least developed countries. In addition, we are providing additional funding for international climate and biodiversity financing and are committed to ambitious new financing targets for achieving the 2030 Agenda. In order to help meet the massive investment needs, we want to mobilise additional funds and to this end also give German development banks greater access to the capital market, in particular by increasing the Federal Government's guarantee framework. In doing so, we want to provide effective incentives to mobilise private funds in addition to public money. Impact orientation and coherence are the aspirations of all our international activities.



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