

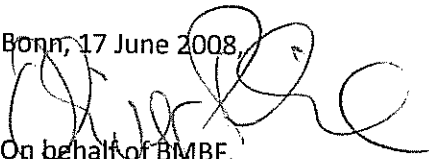
South African-German Dialogue on Science for Sustainability


Outcome Statement – 17 June 2008

1. The 1st South African – German Dialogue on Science for Sustainability was successfully hosted at the German Development Institute on behalf of DST and BMBF in Bonn between the 16th and 17th June 2008. It brought together delegations from the respective national systems of innovation for this first meeting. The participating institutions are listed in annex 1.
2. The Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Area of Science for Sustainability between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany signed in February 2008, defined the aim of the Dialogue on Science for Sustainability as a process to define joint interfaces of future science and research programming and the implementation of sustainable research solutions and ecological innovations.
3. The Dialogue acknowledged the importance of each country's evolving policy frameworks (such as the High Tech & Internationalisation Strategies in Germany and 10 Year Innovation Plan & National Framework for Sustainable Development in South Africa and their regional contexts) for building the capacities, capabilities and competences in their respective National Systems of Innovation. These policy formulations provide the guiding frameworks for the Dialogue. The dialogue further acknowledged the need for a balanced interaction between ongoing process of the dialogue and enhanced cooperation on strategic projects and interventions. The words sustainability and sustainable development could be used interchangeably respective of relevant contexts of either country.
4. The Dialogue is structured so that the future process meets the policy priorities of the respective partners set by the bilateral agreement (1996) between DST and BMBF and responds to the requirements of the science, innovation and policy communities. The Dialogue will generate inputs for national, bi-national and international sustainability research cooperation. It will generate innovative measures and instruments for further collaboration in the field of research for sustainability.
5. Based on various presentations, the 1st South Africa – German Dialogue on Science for Sustainability is unanimous in recognising the scale, urgency and scope of challenges generated by the need to balance social, economic & environmental objectives in the context of the global transition to sustainable development.
6. The Dialogue also confirmed that a response to such a complex set of challenges requires multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary and cooperative research which seeks sustainable solutions.
7. The Dialogue suggests that a programmatic approach would facilitate strategic cooperation between the two countries for enhancing sustainable development through research and is represented in the following objectives as well as the indicative framework for further discussion listed as annex 2:
 - a. Strengthening the Systems of Innovation for Sustainability
 - b. Supporting R&D in the Environmental Goods and Services sector
 - c. Promoting sustainable energy systems

- d. Supporting multidisciplinary research in fields such as global change, environment, human and social dynamics
 - e. Strengthening efforts to ensure sustainable resource management
8. The Dialogue further emphasised the need for the establishment of a structured mechanism which would encourage the generation of appropriate and relevant outcomes which enhance the resilience and responsiveness of the respective systems of innovation. An initial step towards coordination is the specification of DST and BMBF as national focal points.
 9. To support the Dialogue DST and BMBF will establish a joint working group and identify partner implementing agencies by July 2008. Each partner will provide an appropriate support mechanism which would clarify the definitions of the roles and responsibilities of the various institutions and agencies in the respective national contexts. The United Nations University and the German Development Institute will support and facilitate the Dialogue.
 10. The Dialogue concluded that this set of outcomes will be presented to the Joint Committee on 18th June 2008 in Bonn, Germany for its ratification and submission to the BNC.
 11. The Dialogue further recommends that the next iteration of this process will be convened as a Conference to be hosted in South Africa (date, venue and programme to be agreed) before the end of 2008.

Bonn, 17 June 2008,


On behalf of BMBF,
Oliver Diehl


On behalf of DST,
Imraan Patel

Annex 1

1st German-South African Conference on “Science for Sustainability” (Bonn, 16-17 June 2008)

Participating Institutions from the Republic of South Africa

- Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
- National Research Foundation (NRF)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- South African National Energy Research Institute (SANERI)
- Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)
- Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies

Participating Institutions from the Federal Republic of Germany

- Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)
- Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- International Bureau of the BMBF (IB)
- German Development Institute (DIE)
- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Pretoria
- Fraunhofer Gesellschaft
- Fraunhofer Institute for Innovation and System Research (ISI)
- Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig (UFZ)
- German Research Centre for Geosciences Potsdam (GFZ)
- VDI Technologiezentrum
- University of Halle
- University of Hamburg
- University of Jena

Participating Multilateral Institutions

- Directorate General for Research (RTD), European Commission, Brussels
- United Nations University

Annex 2

**1st German-South African Conference on
“Science for Sustainability” (Bonn, 16-17 June 2008)**

Indicative framework for further discussion

Dialogue for Sustainability (D4S)				
Thematic areas	Environmental Goods / Technologies and Services	Global Change	Sustainable Energy	Sustainable Resource Utilisation (land use, mining, ...)
Cross cutting	Research and innovation infrastructure			
	Capacity building for research and innovation			
	Policy and strategy support			
	Monitoring, evaluation and learning			
	Regional contexts of cooperation (EU, AU, NEPAD, ...)			
Country specific	Intra-governmental coordination			