



Dr. Valerie Wilms

Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

Reisebericht zur Konferenz „Essential ingredients for a sustainable future: Why do we need independent institutions, and how should they work for the long term“ am 28. und 29. April in Cardiff, Wales

Vom 28. bis 29. April 2015 fand im St. David's Hotel im walisischen Cardiff auf Einladung des Commissioner for Sustainable Futures des Regionalparlamentes von Wales die Konferenz über die verschiedenen nationalen Konzepte für unabhängige Nachhaltigkeitsinstitutionen statt. Es handelte sich dabei um die Nachfolgekonferenz der im Jahre 2014 in Budapest vom ungarischen Ombudsman for Future Generation ausgerichteten ersten Konferenz zu diesem Thema. Ziel dieser Konferenz war es, die verschiedenen Arbeitsweisen in den einzelnen Ländern zu analysieren, Anregungen für eine Weiterentwicklung der Nachhaltigkeitsinstitutionen zu gewinnen und die in Budapest entstandene Zusammenarbeit in einem informellen Netzwerk zu stärken.

Auf dieser Konferenz waren ca. 60 Teilnehmer aus verschiedenen Ländern vertreten. Im Wesentlichen waren es dieselben Teilnehmer wie bei der Konferenz in Budapest. Die Konferenz wurde organisatorisch unterstützt vom World Future Council. Die Tagesordnung der Konferenz sah folgende Punkte vor (siehe Programm und Referenten als Anlage):

1. Konferenztag 28.04.2015

- Eröffnung
- Grundsatzrede
- Panel 1: Neue Nachhaltigkeitsinstitutionen, um den Wandel in Gang zu setzen
- Vier parallele Workshops zu folgenden Themen:
 - WS 1: Rechtliche Grundlagen für die unterschiedlichen Nachhaltigkeitsinstitutionen
 - WS 2: Indikatoren als Werkzeug, um langfristige Effekte zu messen
 - WS 3: Einbindung und Mobilisieren von Stakeholdern
 - WS 4: Sicherstellen von Wirksamkeit und Verantwortlichkeit im demokratischen politischen System
- Panel 2: Aus den reichen Erfahrungen der vorhandenen nationalen Nachhaltigkeitsinstitutionen lernen

2. Konferenztag 29.04.2015 mit lokalen walisischen Nachhaltigkeitsbeauftragten

- Eröffnung
- Grundsatzrede
- Panel 3: Identifizieren von Lücken im Hinblick auf eine Verbesserung der Nachhaltigkeitsstrukturen
- Panel 4: Ein Blick in die Zukunft – Perspektiven für die praktische Umsetzung
- Schlusswort

1. Konferenztag 28.04.2015

Die Konferenz wurde mittags von **Peter Davies (Wales)**, Commissioner for Sustainable Future in Wales, eröffnet. Danach folgten kurze einführende Wort der Mitorganisatoren der Konferenz, und zwar von **Andrew Charles (Wales)** von der Regierung von Wales, **Catheri-**

ne Pearce (UK) vom World Future Council und **Prof. Simon Caney (UK)** vom Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations.

- **Grundsatzrede**

Die einführende Rede, die Bezug auf die letztjährige Startkonferenz des Netzwerkes nahm, wurde per Videobotschaft übermittelt von Professor **Edith Brown Weiss (USA)** von der Georgetown University aus Washington DC.

- **Panel 1**

Im darauf folgenden Panel unter Leitung von **Paula Tiihonen (Finnland)** wurden an vier Beispielen Lösungsansätze beschrieben, wie und mit welchen Erfolgen neue Ansätze für Veränderungen in der Gesetzgebungspraxis und im Vollzug im Hinblick auf die Umsetzung der Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) angewendet werden können. **Jan van de Vries (Niederlande)** von Waterlex erläuterte, dass gerade NGOs häufig genau wissen, was geändert werden muss, aber die praktischen Umsetzungsmöglichkeiten im Gesetzgebungsverfahren und im Vollzug nicht erkennen wollen. Entscheidend für eine erfolgreiche Umsetzung der SDGs sei aber ein verantwortungsbewusstes Regierungshandeln. **Juliet Michaelson (UK)** von der New Economics Foundation erläuterte, dass unbedingt sogenannte „Headline Indicators“ erforderlich seien, um die Menschen bei der Umsetzung erfolgreich mitzunehmen. **Sandor Fülöp (Ungarn)** erklärte deutlich, dass Bürgerbeteiligung ein entscheidendes Hilfsmittel ist, um Systemfehler im staatlichen Handeln zumindest teilweise zu heilen. **Andrea Westall (UK)** machte die Probleme deutlich zwischen dem an kurzfristigen Zielen orientierten politischen Handeln (Wahlperiode) und dem im Sinne der Nachhaltigkeit erforderlichen langfristigen Handeln. Gerade die in Deutschland vom Parlamentarischen Beirat für nachhaltige Entwicklung gestartete Überprüfung der Gesetzentwürfe auf Nachhaltigkeitsfolgen (impact assessment for legislation) könnte da eine wesentliche Hilfe sein.

- **Workshops**

An dieses Panel schlossen sich 4 parallele Workshops an, wobei ich am Workshop 2 zu Indikatoren unter Leitung von **Juliet Michaelson (UK)** teilgenommen habe. Insbesondere stand in der Diskussion die Frage im Vordergrund, wie der derzeit wichtigste Indikator „Bruttoinlandsprodukt“ ergänzt werden kann im Hinblick auf zusätzliche Berücksichtigung von ökologischen und sozialen Auswirkungen. Eine integrative Kennzahl wurde von den Workshop-Teilnehmern für diesen Zweck bevorzugt. Es zeigten sich aber verschiedene Ansätze:

- eine Erarbeitung im Top-Down-Prinzip oder durch eine breite Konsultation interessierter Stellen im Bottom-Up-Prinzip,
- Vorrang für die Berücksichtigung der Interessen der Menschen oder Festhalten an herrschenden Denkmustern.

- **Panel 2**

In diesem Panel wurde unter Leitung von **Derek Osborn (Wales)** über Umsetzungsbeispiele aus verschiedenen Ländern berichtet. Zunächst berichtete **Robert Neil (Australien)** über die Situation in Australien. Entscheidend für ihn als Commissioner sei die Zusammenarbeit mit den Stakeholdern. Er sei als Commissioner zwar unabhängig, hätte aber erhebliche Probleme bei der Umsetzung seiner Vorschläge mit der Bürokratie. Die neue Commissioner **Juli Gelfand** aus **Kanada** beschreibt ihre Position als unabhängig. Ihre Aufgabe sei die Überprüfung der Umsetzung von nachhaltiger Entwicklung in der Strategie des Bundes in Kanada. Dazu stehen ihr 35 Mitarbeiter zur Verfügung. Sie berichte dem kanadischen Parlament. Gerade durch diese Transparenz und ihre Einbindung in das Büro des Auditors General habe sie bessere Wirkungsmöglichkeiten gegenüber Regierung und Parlament, als wenn sie ein eigenständiges Amt hätte. **Marcel Szabó (Ungarn)** gab einen kurzen Bericht über den Start der Netzwerkarbeit mit der ersten Netzwerkkonferenz im Jahr 2014 in Budapest und verweist auf die im Entstehen befindliche Homepage. Die Erfahrungen in Deutschland nach der Einführung der Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie zeigen nach seiner Auffassung, dass ein eingeführtes System im Regierungs- und Parlamentshandeln gut durchgeschüttelt werden und man dann zu weiterführenden Ergebnissen kommen könne.

Von mir wurde über die Erfahrungen mit der Nachhaltigkeitsprüfungsbewertung im Gesetzgebungsprozess im Deutschen Bundestag berichtet. Dabei wurde von mir deutlich gemacht, dass das System des Parlamentarischen Beirats für nachhaltige Entwicklung nur so lange funktioniert, wie die Bereitschaft zum überfraktionellen Handeln vorhanden sei. Sollte dies künftig nicht mehr möglich sein, könnte das Amt eines Nachhaltigkeitsbeauftragten des Parlamentes, der eine vergleichbare Unabhängigkeit wie der Wehrbeauftragte hätte, ein besser geeignetes Instrument sein, um die Nachhaltigkeitspolitik der Regierung mit mehr Wirkungsmacht parlamentarisch zu begleiten.

In der anschließenden Diskussion wurde von **Jan van de Vries** darauf hingewiesen, dass z.B. in Brasilien das Menschenrecht auf Umweltschutz für nachfolgende Generationen in die Verfassung aufgenommen sei. Das europäische und nordamerikanische Verfassungssystem sei aber sehr konservativ angelegt im Hinblick auf eine Einbringung einzelner Menschenrechte in die Verfassungen.

Auf die Frage von **Andreas Westall**, welche Auswirkungen die Nachhaltigkeitsprüfungsbewertung von Gesetzentwürfen (impact assessment) in Deutschland auf deren Qualität hätte, berichtete ich von den positiven Lerneffekten in den einzelnen Ressorts. Von einfachen pauschalen Aussagen hätte sich die Nachhaltigkeitsbeurteilung von Gesetzentwürfen durch die Ressorts deutlich in Richtung auf qualitativ hochwertigere Aussagen weiterentwickelt.

Von **Julie Gefland** wurde in der Diskussion deutlich gemacht, dass sie für ihre Arbeit im Wesentlichen keine Unterstützung von den Ressorts bekommt („wir werden nicht geliebt“), wohl aber von der NGO-Community. Auch die Wissenschaft nutze die vom Commissioner erarbeiteten Aussagen sehr gerne.

2. Konferenztag 29.04.2015

Am 2. Konferenztag nahmen Nachhaltigkeitsbeauftragte aus den walisischen Kommunen am Netzwerktreffen teil. Nach einer kurzen Zusammenfassung des ersten Konferenztages erläuterte **Peter Davies** den Entwurf eines Gesetzes für Wales: „Well-being of Future Generations Act“. Darin werden keine zusätzlichen Aufgaben definiert, sondern festgehalten, dass die öffentlichen Institutionen im Sinne von langfristigen politischen Entscheidungen besser zusammenarbeiten sollen. Dazu werden Indikatoren mit langfristigen Zielen für eine walisische Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie festgelegt.

Peter Davies wies darauf hin, dass diese Aufgabe in Wales und den dortigen Kommunen (Counties) gut angelaufen sei, im restlichen Vereinigten Königreich seien aber alle Ansätze für eine Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie wieder eingestellt worden. Der Gesetzgebungsprozess läuft und soll bis Anfang 2016 abgeschlossen sein. Offiziell soll das Programm im April 2016 mit der Installation des neuen Commissioner for Future Generation starten. Die Ziele aus den SDGs der Vereinten Nationen würden in das künftige Gesetz für zukünftige Generationen aufgenommen.

- **Grundsatzrede**

In seiner Grundsatzrede machte der walisische Minister für natürliche Ressourcen (Minister for Natural Resources) **Carl Sargeant (Wales)** darauf aufmerksam, dass Politik nur funktioniert, wenn die Politiker von den festgelegten Zielen überzeugt sind und die notwendigen Maßnahmen ergreifen. Dazu gehöre dann auch ein System von „check and balances“: Wenn Ziele nicht eingehalten werden, muss es auch Konsequenzen für die Verantwortlichen geben. Dies sei in dem neuen Gesetz vorgesehen.

In einem kurzen Grußwort forderte **Nikhil Seth** von den Vereinten Nationen (**UN**) die Anwesenden auf, für eine konsequente Umsetzung der SDGs in ihren Ländern zu arbeiten.

- **Panel 3**

In diesem Panel wurde unter Moderation von **Jaakko Kuosmanen (UK)** versucht, die Lücken im Handeln für die Nachhaltigkeit zu lokalisieren. Dazu berichtete zunächst **Tara Shine (IRL)** über Möglichkeiten, wie die Interessen künftiger Generationen in die Klimaverhandlungen eingebracht werden könnten. Am sinnvollsten wäre dafür eine internationale Kommission für künftige Generationen. Deren Effektivität würde sich sowohl durch die Qualität ihrer Mitglieder als auch durch formale Einflussmöglichkeiten ergeben. Insbesondere sollte dabei die Teilnahme der jungen Generation organisiert werden. Die Aufgabe dieser Kommission könnte dann die Umsetzung des Indikators der Intergenerationen-Gleichheit aus den SDGs sein. **Nikhil Seth** wies in seinem Panelbeitrag deutlich darauf hin, dass die neuen SDGs im Gegensatz zu den bisherigen Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) deutlich weiterreichend angelegt sind. Es handelt sich dabei um Ziele für alle Staaten. Auch die entwickelten Staaten benötigen für deren Umsetzung eine ambitionierte Agenda. **Farooq Ullah (UK)** erläuterte in seinem Panelbeitrag, dass gerade die Datenbeschaffung für die SDGs in vielen Ländern Probleme bereiten könnte. Er beklagte, dass gerade die für diesen Prozess wichtigen Stakeholder bislang nicht in die internationalen Beratungen zu den SDGs eingebunden seien.

- **Panel 4**

Das letzte Panel beschäftigte sich unter der Leitung von **Catherine Pearce (UK)** mit den praktischen Problemen bei der Umsetzung von Zukunftsprojekten. Zunächst erläuterte **Elin Harvard (Wales)**, wie in der Landwirtschaft in Wales junge Menschen für Zukunftsthemen interessiert werden könnten. Dies ist genauso schwierig wie in anderen Ländern, denn die Jugend zieht es in die Städte. Im Anschluss machte **Simon Caney (UK)** deutlich, dass dringend eine Umorientierung der politischen Institutionen weg von einer kurzfristigen Handlungsperspektive hin zu einer langfristigen erforderlich sei. **Maryam Niamir-Fuller (UNEP)** erläuterte aus der Sicht des Umweltprogramms der Vereinten Nationen die Notwendigkeit eines Ansatzes zu einer Gleichheit zwischen den Generationen bei politischen Handlungen. Im Anschluss erläuterte **Martha Battlevell (Katalonien)**, wie langfristige Ziele auch regional umgesetzt werden könnten. Dazu sind in Katalonien auf lokaler Ebene 20 Indikatoren und Ziele festgelegt worden, die regelmäßig wie bei der deutschen Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie mit einem Indikatorenbericht ausgewertet werden. Auch die Schweiz würde regelmäßig einen vergleichbaren Indikatorenbericht erstellen.

Zum Abschluss der Konferenz informierte **Peter Davies (Wales)**, dass die Ausschreibung für die Stelle des walisischen Commissioner unter dem geplanten neuen Gesetz jetzt gestartet sei. Er selber würde sich nicht wieder für diese Position bewerben.

Zusammenfassung

Die Konferenz setzte den 2014 in Budapest gestarteten Austausch über die unterschiedlichen Konzepte fort, mit denen das Prinzip der Nachhaltigkeit in den Ländern in die Politik Einzug gehalten hat. Dieses Netzwerk sollte nach einhelliger Auffassung der Teilnehmer fortgeführt werden. Das kommende Treffen in 2016 könnte in Kanada oder Finnland stattfinden. Zur Unterstützung der Vernetzung wird jetzt ein Webauftritt gestartet.



Dr. Valerie Wilms

Berlin, 15.06.2015

Anlagen:

- Programm der Konferenz
- Mein Bericht über die Arbeit des Parlamentarischen Beirats für nachhaltige Entwicklung (in englischer Sprache)

Essential ingredients for a sustainable future

Why do we need independent institutions, and how should they work for the long term?



Two-day Conference

28-29 April 2015

ST DAVID'S HOTEL, CARDIFF, WALES

#FutureCymru15



Essential ingredients for a sustainable future – Why do we need independent institutions, and how should they work for the long term?

Tuesday 28 - Wednesday
29 April 2015, St David's Hotel,
Cardiff, Wales

Welcome Croeso

The organisers wish to extend a warm welcome to all delegates, and thank you for joining us.

We come together because we all share the desire to safeguard the needs of future generations and in doing so create a sustainable future. Over the next two days we will discuss what needs to be in place to create a sustainable future, and how our institutions can play a role in realising it.

In a globally important year for sustainable development, Wales is legislating for its own well-being goals. This is an opportunity for you to learn about the groundbreaking Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill and how it is contributing to the international post-2015 agenda.

These two days are an opportunity to reflect, discuss, and share best practice. We hope your time here will be fruitful and we invite you all to actively contribute and to take ideas and insights back home.



Essential ingredients for a sustainable future – Why do we need independent institutions, and how should they work for the long term?

Tuesday 28th - Wednesday 29th
April 2015, [St David's Hotel](#),
Cardiff, Wales

The programme is centred around a core 24 hours (1-6pm on Day 1 and 9-1pm on Day 2). Optional activities will take place on either side of the core 24 hours, including a tour of The Senedd, National Assembly for Wales, at 9.30 on Tuesday 28 April.

Day 1 – Tuesday 28th April		
Session	Description / Speakers	
12.00 – 12.45	Registration	
12.40 – 13.00	Press Conference	
13.00 – 13.20	Opening and Welcome	Host Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Davies – Commissioner for Sustainable Futures • Andrew Charles – Welsh Government • Catherine Pearce – World Future Council • Professor Simon Caney – Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations
13.20 – 13.35	Keynote Address <i>Moderated by Peter Davies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Edith Brown Weiss, Francis Cabell Brown Professor of International Law, Georgetown University Law Centre (via video-recording)
13.35 – 14.20	Panel Session 1: New institutions to drive the change - working with purpose and impact to protect our common future. What works? <i>Chaired by Dr. Paula Tiihonen, Committee for the Future, Finland</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to ensure the legislative foundation and legally enshrine the institution? (related to WS1): Jan van de Venis, Director Legal Desk WaterLex; Chair of Committee 'Dutch Ombudsperson for Future Generations', Worldconnectors • Indicators as tools to measure the long term (related to WS2): Juliet Michaelson, Senior Researcher Wellbeing, New Economics Foundation • Stakeholder participation and access, to ensure strong citizen contact, with powers to address their complaints and legal redress (related to WS3): Dr Sándor Fülöp, President of the Environmental Management and Law Association and former Commissioner for Future Generations, Hungary • Ensuring real power and impact within democratic political systems (related to WS4): Andrea Westall, Strategy and Policy Consultant; Senior Research Fellow, Open University; and Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development
14.30 – 15.30	Workshops Delegates to choose which of the four workshops to attend	Co-facilitators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WS1: Legal context of model institutions Jan van de Venis • WS2: Indicators as tools to measure the long term Juliet Michaelson • WS3: Access and stakeholder mobilization involvement Dr Sándor Fülöp • WS4: Ensuring real power and impact within democratic political systems Andrea Westall
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break	Reports from workshops
16:00– 18:00	Panel Session 2: Learning from the rich experience of existing examples elsewhere <i>Chaired by Derek Osborn: Chair, Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating the long-term for more peaceful and resilient societies: Robert Neil, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, ACT, Australia • Perspectives from Canada: Julie Gelfand, Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development, Canada • A view from Germany: Dr. Valerie Wilms, Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, Deutscher Bundestag • 1 year on from Budapest – the network. How can this network work together to champion and spread best policies and learn from each other?: Dr Marcel Szabó, Ombudsman for Future Generations, Hungary
18:00– 19.00	Evening Reception	

Essential ingredients for a sustainable future – Why do we need independent institutions, and how should they work for the long term?

Day 2 – Wednesday 29th April		
	Session	Description / Speakers
8.45 – 9.15	Registration	
9:15 – 9.35	Opening and welcome	<p>Summary of day 1 and Introduction to day 2</p> <p>Introduction to Well-being of Future Generations Act and the National conversation on The Wales We Want</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Peter Davies, Commissioner for Sustainable Futures</i>
09.40 – 10.00	Keynote Address <i>Moderated by Peter Davies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Natural Resources, Welsh Government</i> • <i>Nikhil Seth, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs</i>
10.00 - 10.15	Press Conference	
10.00– 11.00	Panel Session 3 Identifying the gaps for institutional innovation <i>Dr. Jaakko Kuosmanen, Research Fellow, Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextualising future generations in the climate negotiations: <i>Dr Tara Shine, Head of Research and Development, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice</i> • Shaping the new global goals for a sustainable future, news on the Sustainable Development Goals: <i>Nikhil Seth, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs</i> • The contextualisation of future generations in the post 2015 frame: <i>Farooq Ullah, Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum</i>
11.00 – 11.30	Break	
11.30– 13.00	Panel Session 4 Looking to the future – perspectives in practice <i>Chaired by Catherine Pearce, Director Future Justice, World Future Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking future generations to environmental protection, resonance with youth: <i>Elin Harvard, Young Farmers Club Wales</i> • Research presentation ‘Politics for the Future: Reorienting Political Institutions Towards the Long-Term’: <i>Professor Simon Caney, Co-Director, Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations & Professor of Political Theory and Fellow and Tutor of Magdalen College, Oxford</i> • Towards Intergenerational Equity: <i>Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Special Advisor to the Executive Director on SDGs and Post 2015 Agenda, UN Environment Programme</i> • What are the most effective ways of spreading best policies for future generations?: <i>Marta Subirà, General Director for Environmental Policies within the Ministry for Sustainability and Territory of the Government of Catalonia, speaking as nrg4SD Co-Chair for the North</i>
13.00 – 13.15	Closing	Key conclusions and wrap up
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch	

Speaker Biographies



Professor Edith Brown Weiss

Francis Cabell Brown Professor of International Law, Georgetown University Law Centre, Washington DC

Professor Brown Weiss has a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, an LL.D. from Chicago-Kent College of

Law and an LL.D. from the University of Heidelberg.

Professor Brown Weiss is highly active in the areas of public international, environmental, and water resources law. In September 2002 she was appointed to a 5-year term on the 3-member Inspection Panel of the World Bank and from 2003-2007 served full-time as the Chairperson of the Inspection Panel, an appointment at the Vice-Presidential level. Since January 2012, she has served as a Judge on the International Monetary Fund's Administrative Tribunal. Professor Brown Weiss is also a member of the nine person United Nations Environment Programme's International Advisory Council on Environmental Justice for UNEP's programme on the rule of law.

Her past professional experience includes positions as Associate General Counsel for International Activities at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1990-92, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering and Politics at Princeton University, and Research Associate at Columbia University and the Brookings Institution.

Her numerous professional activities have included positions as President of the American Society of International Law, April 1994-96, U.S. Special Legal Advisor to the North American Commission on the Environment 1996-2002, chair of the Committee for Research on Global Environmental Change of the Social Science Research Council, 1989-94, and elected member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Law Institute, and the Commission on Environmental Law of the IUCN.

Professor Brown Weiss is the author of many articles and books and the winner of many prestigious awards, including the Manley O. Hudson Medal from the American Society of International Law (2010), the Award for International Environmental Law (2008).



Professor Simon Caney

Co-Director, Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations and Professor of Political Theory and Fellow and Tutor of Magdalen College, Oxford

Professor Simon Caney is Co-Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations; Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Justice; Fellow and Tutor in Politics, Magdalen College; and Professor in Political Theory in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford.

Simon works on issues in contemporary political philosophy. Recently he has worked on the ethical issues surrounding global poverty, inequality, climate change, obligations to future generations.

Simon is also working on the ethical issues surrounding demographic change, how best to reform democratic institutions in order to give due protection to the interests of future generations, and the question of what those who bear the brunt of injustice are entitled to do to secure their own rights.



Andrew Charles

Head of Sustainable Development, Welsh Government

Andrew heads up the team responsible for facilitating sustainable development within the Welsh Government and the policy underpinning the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill to put sustainable development at the heart of the public service.

He joined the Welsh Government to take up a role as a Senior Planning Manager within the Planning Division in 2007, taking forward policy and guidance on areas such as sustainable buildings, renewable energy, climate change and design. He started his career as a National Management Trainee under the National Graduate Development Programme funded by the Employers Organisation. Under the programme he worked for Ashford Borough Council, Kent where he worked on an array of policy and project work, predominantly within a Town and Country Planning capacity in areas such as sustainable development, urban design, renewable energy, sustainable buildings, masterplanning and SEA.

Speaker Biographies



Peter Davies

Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, Wales

Peter Davies is Wales' first Commissioner for Sustainable Futures following his appointment by the Welsh Government in

April 2011, providing independent advice to the Welsh Government. The role involves providing advice to Ministers, convening stakeholders to develop solutions to difficult issues, monitoring and reporting on progress. Current responsibilities include chairing Ministerial advisory groups on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill, Marine Conservation Zones and the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. He is also Chair of the Climate Change Commission, the independent, cross party, cross sector Commission established by Welsh Government to tackle the causes and results of climate change in Wales. Peter's career background is in the field of corporate responsibility working for the Confederation of British Industry, Department of Trade and Industry and Business in the Community.

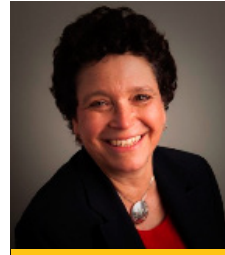


Dr Sándor Fülöp

President, Environmental Management and Law Association (EMLA)

Mr Fülöp is president of the Hungarian Environmental Management and Law Association (EMLA), works on public interest environmental cases

as a private attorney, teaches and does international consultancy work in environmental law and policy matters. Mr Fülöp has been a councillor of the World Future Council since 2008, where he has been the co-chair of the Future Justice Commission since 2012. He is the former Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations in Hungary. Dr. Fülöp has authored numerous publications in the field of environmental protection legislation, including "Environmental protection democracy in the practice. Handbook on community participation for environmental protection and water management authorities" (2002), "Some internal contradictions of the environmental protection law: Is the re-codification necessary?" (2002) and "Preliminary examination - impact study - IPPC" (2007).

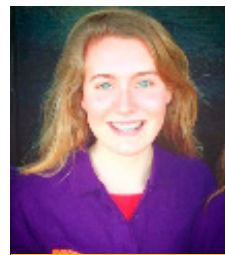


Julie Gelfand

Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development, Canada

Julie Gelfand was appointed as Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development in March 2014. On behalf of the Auditor General

of Canada, she provides parliamentarians with objective, independent analysis and recommendations on the federal government's efforts to protect the environment and foster sustainable development. The Commissioner conducts performance audits, and is responsible for assessing whether federal government departments are meeting their sustainable development objectives, and overseeing the environmental petitions process. Appointed by the Auditor General, the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development is an Assistant Auditor General who leads a group of auditors specialized in environment and sustainable development.



Elin Havard

Chairman, Wales Young Farmers Clubs (YFC) Youth Forum

Elin Havard is a farmer's daughter and sixth form student from the Brecon Beacons. She currently serves as Wales YFC Youth Forum Chairman,

voicing the opinions of junior members of the movement from across the country. She recently took part in The Wales We Want's National Conversation Report Launch event and hopes that the thoughts and feelings of young people can be given the opportunity to contribute towards a sustainable and happy future for Wales. She has been offered a place at Oxford University next year to study biology.

Speaker Biographies



Juliet Michaelson

**Senior Researcher, Wellbeing
New Economics Foundation**

Juliet is Senior Researcher and Programme Co-ordinator at the New Economic Foundation's Centre for Well-being. She leads research projects

which explore the measurement of well-being and its implications for policy, including work on National Accounts of Well-being and the Happy Planet Index.

She is a member of the Technical Advisory Group working with the UK Office for National Statistics on Measuring National Well-being. Juliet has worked on projects examining the implications of well-being research for policy areas such as the built environment, housing and public health and has led NEF's work on well-being and local government. She is also involved in NEF's broader work exploring headline alternative indicators of progress.



Robert Neil

**Commissioner for Sustainability and
the Environment, Australian Capital
Territory, Australia**

Mr Robert Neil was appointed to the position of Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment on

7 September 2011. Mr Neil has extensive experience in the ACT Public Service, particularly in the area of environment protection, delivering high quality, sustainable outcomes on environmental issues for the ACT. He has been a leader and advocate in the areas of environmental protection, water resource management, heritage and tree protection. Prior to taking up the position of Commissioner, Mr Neil held the statutory position of the ACT's Environment Protection Authority and was Director of Environment Protection and Water Resources Regulation. In his current role as Commissioner, Mr Neil is building on the substantial work of previous ACT Commissioners for the Environment. The 2011 ACT State of the Environment Report and the Report on the Investigation into the State of the Water Courses and Catchments for Lake Burley Griffin are two important recent projects brought to successful conclusion under the guidance of Commissioner Neil.



Dr Maryam Niamir-Fuller

**Special Advisor to the Executive
Director on Post 2015 and Sustainable
Development Goals, UNEP**

Maryam Niamir-Fuller is currently serving as the Special Advisor to the Executive Director on Post 2015

and Sustainable Development Goals. She was formerly the Director of the Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination (DGEF) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

She brings to UNEP 27 years of experience in the technical areas of sustainable rural development and environmental management in Africa, West Asia, Asia and Latin America, including work with USAID, several UN Agencies and international NGOs.

Maryam also has seven years of experience with the GEF, and since 2003, as Principal Technical Advisor for UNDP's GEF Unit in the Focal Area of Land Degradation, and Head of the Sustainable Land Management Team. She has authored numerous technical publications, is an accomplished public speaker as well as a member of several scientific communities. She holds a Master's Degree in Regional Planning and a PhD in Rangeland Management and Soil Conservation.



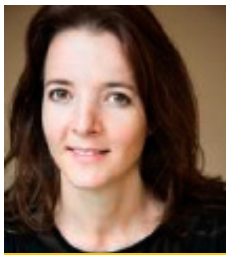
Derek Osborn

Chair, Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales

Derek Osborn, Cynnal Cymru Chair, has many years' experience as a policy analyst at national and international levels. Previous roles include working within the civil service, where he led

the UK preparations for the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Since leaving the civil service, he has pursued sustainable development as board member to organisations within the private sector and NGOs. Derek has also been an active sustainable development advocate in Europe, including his role as Chairman of the Sustainable Development Observatory for the European Economic and Social Committee. He is now a board member of Dwr Cymru and has links with Creative Rural Communities.

Speaker Biographies



Catherine Pearce

Director, Future Justice, World Future Council

Catherine Pearce joined the WFC in September 2011. She was previously Senior Policy Officer on Climate and Environmental Policy Integration

with the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) where she had worked for just over two years. Catherine has some nine years of experience working on climate and energy policy, having worked with the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group, liaising with mayors and their advisors on how to reduce emissions and energy use in some of the world's largest cities. Catherine co-ordinated the climate campaign for Friends of the Earth International, working with groups across 71 countries and lobbying some of the world's leading governments and institutions on national and international policy. Finally, as co-ordinator of the Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group in Westminster she has advised members of the UK Parliament on sustainable energy policy.



Carl Sargeant AM

Minister for Natural Resources, Welsh Government

In September 2014, Carl Sargeant AM was appointed Minister for Natural Resources. He is responsible for the Well-being of Future Generations

(Wales) Bill, which sets a framework for Welsh public authorities to work in a sustainable way.

He was first elected to the National Assembly for Wales in 2003. He has sat on the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks subject committee and was a member of the Railway, Infrastructure and Passenger Committee. He was also a member of the Assembly's Audit Committee. In 2007, Carl was re-elected to the National Assembly for Wales and was appointed as Labour Chief Whip and Deputy Business Manager for the Welsh Assembly Government. In December 2009, Carl was appointed as Minister for Social Justice and Local Government. Following re-election to the National Assembly for Wales in May 2011, Carl Sargeant was appointed Minister for Local Government and Communities and in March 2013 was appointed Minister for Housing and Regeneration.



Nikhil Seth

Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Nikhil Seth is currently the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic

and Social Affairs (DESA) and he was also Head of the Rio+20 Secretariat.

As Head of the Rio+20 Secretariat, he spearheaded the preparations for the UNCSD Conference in Rio.

During his career with the United Nations since 1993, Mr. Seth has served as Special Assistant and Chief of Office to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch in the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, as Secretary of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Second Committee of the General Assembly, and as Director of the DESA Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, where he guided the ECOSOC's work in implementing several new key mandates, including its Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum.

Before joining the UN Secretariat, he was a delegate to the UN in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and involved with various UN conferences and summits including the Rio Summit on Environment and Development, the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development, the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, the Mauritius Conference on Small Island Developing States, the Millennium Summit, World Summit on Sustainable Development and the UN World Summit.

He joined the Indian diplomatic service in 1980 and his diplomatic assignments included Geneva, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

Speaker Biographies



Dr Tara Shine

Head of Research and Development at the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice

Dr Tara Shine currently works as Head of Research and Development at the Mary Robinson Foundation -

Climate Justice. Much of her work has been carried out in developing countries resulting in an acute understanding of the issues and challenges faced by governments, research organisations and the non-governmental sectors in combating poverty, environmental degradation and climate change.

Dr Tara Shine has been actively involved in the climate change negotiations since 2003 as a member of the Irish, Dutch and Luxembourg delegations and as an EU negotiator on issues including capacity building, adaptation and finance. She is also a former member of the UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts, the EU Expert Group on Adaptation and the Irish Impacts and Adaptation Steering Group.



Marta Subirà i Roca

Director General for Environmental Policy, Government of Catalonia

Previously, Marta worked for 12 years in Sant Cugat del Vallès, a city noted for its leadership in innovation in the crowd of urban space as Deputy

Mayor for the Environment, Transport, Communications and Civic Values. She was Vice President of the Institute of Strategic Management, Economic Development and Information Society of Sant Cugat from 2003-2007. Marta has a law degree from Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) and is also a graduate in Corporate Communications, IDEC, Pompeu Fabra University where she studied Accountability and Management Control, Public Policy and External Communications in Public Administration and ESADE Executive Education.

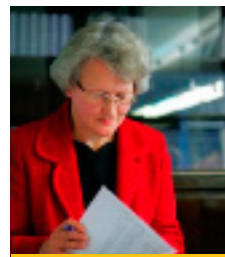


Dr Marcel Szabó

Ombudsman for Future Generations, Hungary

Dr Marcel Szabó serves as the Ombudsman for Future Generations at the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary since 2012.

Dr Szabó participated in the preparation of the study revealing the international law and European law implications of sustainable development, upon the request of the National Council for Sustainable Development. This study served as a background material for the National Sustainable Development Strategy. He had an international environmental law consultation with the colleagues of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations, in relation to the environmental policy statement on the development of the Danube Valley. He is also Chair of the European Law Department at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University (from 2003); Chair of the European Law Department (from 2012); associate professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University (from 2003).



Dr Paula Tiihonen

Committee Counsellor for the Committee for the Future, Finnish Parliament

Paula Tiihonen studied administrative sciences at the University of Tampere and after graduating, moved to

Helsinki. For 40 years she has worked and continued her studies. She received her doctorate in 1986 while she was working as a Counsellor of Legislation in the Ministry of Justice. She also worked at the University of Kuopio as Assistant Professor and continues there as Docent. For the last 25 years she has been worked in the Finnish Parliament as Counsellor for the Economic Affairs Committee and the Committee for Labour Affairs and since 1989 for the Committee for the Future where she has written and edited books and papers on innovation, new ideas, cooperation of politicians, scientists and future oriented people, well-being and democracy. She has also written books on democracy, comparing Europe with America, and global responsibility.

Speaker Biographies



Farooq Ullah

Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum

Farooq Ullah has been Executive Director since September 2012. He joined Stakeholder Forum as Head of Policy and Advocacy in September 2011. Farooq has eight years of public

sector experience at international, national and local government levels, as well as private sector consultancy experience. Currently, Farooq is a Specialist Advisor to the UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee and a member of the Alliance for Future Generations. Additionally he is a founding member of Brighter Future, a climate-change action group in London.



Jan van de Venis

Director, Legal Desk, WaterLex

Jan van de Venis is Director Legal Desk of Swiss based WaterLex and owner of JustLaw, Corporate Law and Human Rights. In particular, Jan's work concentrates on human rights

and sustainable development issues. Jan is President of Stand Up For Your Rights and (recently launched) 'Crowd funding for Justice' Platform Grrrowd. Jan chairs the Worldconnectors Thematic Committee "Ombudsperson for Future Generations" and has contributed to the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals on a Rights based approach to SDGs, including the rights of future generations. Jan is a special guest lecturer on human rights at several universities and institutes and author of several publications on human rights law and sustainable development. He is a member of the Professional Advisory Council of The Hague University of Applied Science (LAW) and was a member of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI 4 norms) Working Group 'Governance and Remuneration'. Previously Jan was legal counsel at Greenpeace International and (senior) associate lawyer at several Dutch law firms.



Andrea Westall

Strategy and Policy Consultant; Senior Research Fellow, Open University; Trustee Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development

Andrea Westall is a Strategy and Policy Consultant, and Senior

Research Fellow at the Open University in the Department of Law and Business.

Most recently she has been an international member of a Taskforce looking at the links, conflicts and synergies between social development and environmental protection in China.

Her main areas of interest and impact include policy (social enterprise and third sector, business, innovation and science policy, and local economic development), as well as decision-making, governance and participation (recently becoming an accredited mediator, and editing an e-book on *Revisiting Associative Democracy*).



Dr. Valerie Wilms MP

German Bundestag

Dr. Valerie Wilms studied mechanical engineering in Hanover. She became a member of the German Bundestag in 2009. She has also been a lecturer at Dresden University of Applied

Sciences since 2004 and chairwoman of the Stadtwerke Lübeck supervisory board since 2014.

Ms Wilms worked as an industrial design engineer in Hamburg from 1981 to 1983, and has been a freelance author and self-employed engineer since 2006.

Ms. Wilms is correspondent for Transport Infrastructure, Freight Traffic and Logistic, correspondent for Maritime Policy and commissioner for Sustainable Development for the parliamentary group Alliance 90/ The Greens. From 2010 until 2013 she was member in the Study Commission in matter of GDP Beyond.

Since 2009 she has been a member of the German Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development and mainly concerned with further development of German sustainable development strategy also with European sustainable development strategy and with institutional strengthening of sustainable development in the parliament.

Participants List

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Antony	Mason	Intergenerational Foundation
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Juliet	Michaelson	Centre for Wellbeing, New Economics Foundation
Alan	Morris	Wales Audit Office
Robert	Neil	Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, ACT, Australia
Maryam	Niamir-Fuller	United Nations Environment Programme

Participants List

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Anna	Piggot	Swansea University
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John	Rose	Big Lottery Fund
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Alexandra	Schiffmann	World Future Council
Nikhil	Seth	UN Division for Sustainable Development
Tara	Shine	Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice
Mark	Shorrocks	Tidal Lagoon
Rita	Singh	Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales
Graham	Smith	Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development
Marta	Subirà	Ministry for Sustainability and Territory of the Government of Catalonia
Marcel	Szabó	Office of the Commission for Fundamental Rights, Hungary
Steve	Thomas	Welsh Local Government Association
Paula	Tiihonen	Committee for the Future, Finland
Farooq	Ullah	Stakeholder Forum
Robert	Unteregger	Stiftung Zukunftsrat
Jan	Van de Venis	WaterLex
Alice	Vincent	World Future Council
Halina	Ward	Freelance Sustainability Consultant and Evaluator
Adrian	Webb	Public Policy Institute for Wales
Andrea	Westall	Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development
Melissa	Wilmott	Welsh Government/nrg4SD
Valerie	Wilms	Parliamentary Council on SD, German Bundestag

Croeso i Gymru – Welcome to Wales

Your visit to Cardiff 28-29 April – General Information

Arriving by Air

The Wales International Airport is about 10 miles from Cardiff city centre and a taxi will cost approximately £31.00.

You can also take the Cardiff Airport Express Bus (T9) which runs every 20 minutes and stops at Cardiff Central Station and the Red Dragon Centre, Cardiff Bay.

Arriving by Train

If you are travelling by train please alight at Cardiff Central Station. The station is very close to the city centre but about a mile from [St David's Hotel](#) (Havannah Street, Cardiff CF10 5SD) in Cardiff Bay. You will find your [location here](#).

Walking from the station - If you plan to walk from the station take the back exit, turn left on to Callaghan Square and after 100 yards turn right into Bute Street. About 3/4 mile you will pass Cardiff Bay train station on your left, go over the traffic lights and when you get to the next lights, turn right on to James Street and soon after left on to Adelaide Street. At the bottom of this street cross the road, turn right, go past Techniquest and turn left into Havannah Street where you will find St David's Hotel at the end of the street. It will take you between 20 – 30 minutes)

Taking the bus

- From the back of station take the Baycar which runs every 15 minutes, then get off at the Wales Millennium Centre (WMC – the arts centre with the copper dome roof) and along James Street, turning left after Techniquest into Havannah Street.

Or

- From the front of the station take a No 8 bus which runs every 20 minutes, alight at [Mermaid Quay](#) and again along James Street, etc.

Taxi

If you prefer you can take a taxi from right in front of the station. Capital Cabs (0)29 2077 7777, Dragon Taxis (0)29 2033 3333, Premier Cars Ltd (0)29 2055 5555

Cardiff Bay

If you have time you can take a pleasant stroll around the Bay where you will find many buildings of interest, both old and new:

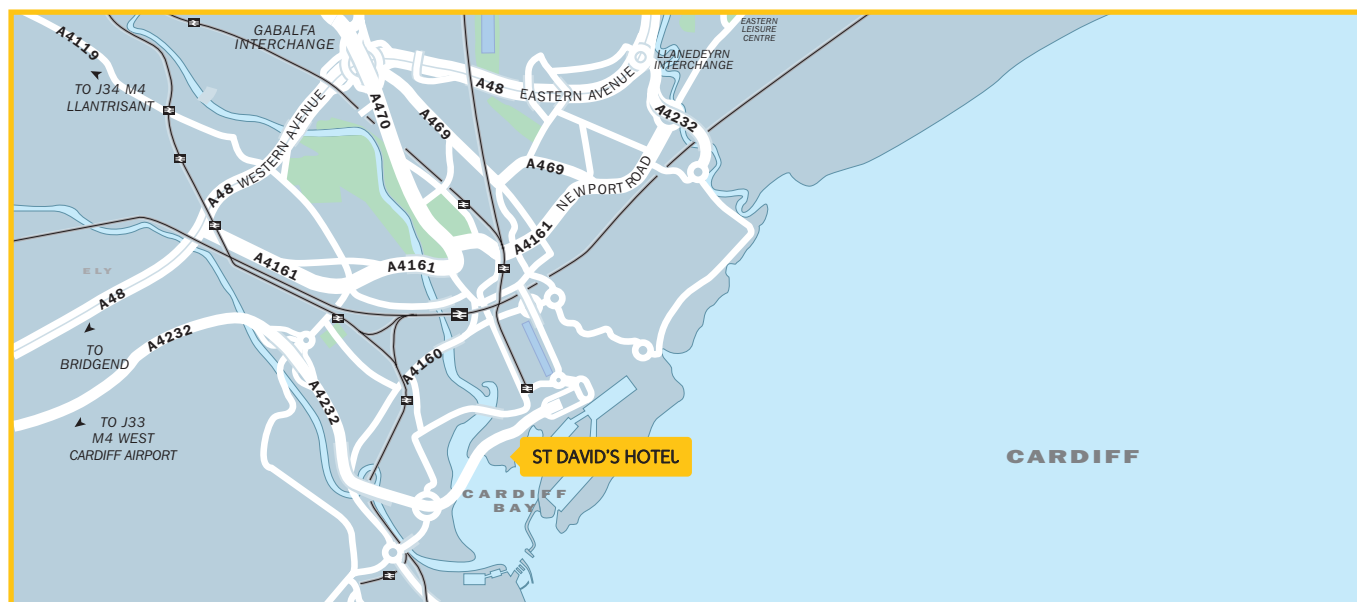
- The Senedd – the National Assembly debating chamber, designed by Richard Rogers
- The old Pierhead Building which is very much part of Cardiff's industrial heritage
- The Wales Millennium Centre with its big copper dome which looks an armadillo where various arts organisations reside, including the Welsh National Opera, National Dance Company Wales, Hijinx Theatre, Urdd Gobaith Cymru (The Welsh Youth Movement), BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Touch Trust, Arts Council of Wales, and Ty Cerdd (a music information centre)
- The Norwegian Church
- The Barrage – there is a 5 mile circular route around the Bay if you fancy an early walk or run.

There are, of course, plenty of bars and restaurants in Mermaid Quay overlooking the Bay.

Cardiff City Centre

If you are on foot take the Taff Trail (which you can follow for 30 miles to Brecon!) along the river. Here you will find:

- Cardiff Castle with its beautiful grounds
- The National Museum of Wales
- Cardiff University
- Shopping centres



#FutureCymru15

hello@thewaleswewant.co.uk

www.thewaleswewant.co.uk/global-conference





Dr. Valerie Wilms

Member of the German Bundestag

Berlin, 10.04.2015

Learning from the rich experience of existing examples elsewhere

– A view from Germany –

14.869/17.139 Zeichen

- Lecture on 28 April 2015 in Cardiff, Wales -

Mr Szabò, Colleagues from the area of sustainable development in government and parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Some of you attended last year's launch event in the Hungarian Parliament and it's good that we are keeping the ball rolling. Thank you, Mr Szabò, for calling this meeting here in Cardiff.

Our bodies, regardless of whether they are governmental or parliamentary, have a special status. It is only by coming together beyond national borders, as we are doing with this event in Cardiff, that we can exchange ideas on how we can organise ourselves better.

In Germany the Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development is a Bundestag body. There are also a series of further bodies which have an exceptional status vis-à-vis the regular specialised committees. They are furnished with very different competences. I believe this is also the case in other countries. I would like to mention a few examples here and then relate that to the competences of our Parliamentary Council:

Example 1: We have, as you no doubt do, a Budget Committee which is consulted on all draft legislation which has a bearing on the budget. This includes in particular the annual federal budget on the basis of which decisions are taken on which projects are to be funded and which not. The obligation for the Budget Committee to be

consulted is enshrined in the constitution in Germany. The Budget Committee, as you will all know, is powerful – and you also know that the Opposition has no influence. One might say that the Budget Committee is concerned with the purely financial dimension of sustainability.

Example 2: The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union is enshrined in the Rules of Procedure of the German Bundestag and works on a cross-sectoral basis. It has the right to table a motion for an amendment to a Union document even in the case where it is not the lead committee for that particular subject. That is a noteworthy power which we who are responsible for sustainability wish we had. This is again an example of the Coalition taking decisions without the Opposition being able to exert any influence.

Example 3: A further example in the German Bundestag is the Office of Technology Assessment. This has been enshrined in the Rules of Procedure of the German Bundestag since 1990. It is staffed by scientists and attached to the Committee on Education, Research and - precisely - Technology Assessment. All parliamentary groups and all committees, as well as individual members of parliament, have the possibility of formulating a request for a report on particularly sensitive topics relating to the future impact of technologies. From these many requests the Committee selects a few which are then processed by the Office of Technology Assessment in the course of the electoral term. One such request related to the sustainability institutions in Germany and other European countries. I have brought you the summary of this report from 2013 on *Nachhaltigkeit und Parlamente – Bilanz und Perspektiven Rio+20* (Sustainability and Parliaments – Progress and Prospects Rio+20, Bundestag printed paper 17/14075). If you have have corresponding reports and studies, I would be delighted if you could let us have them. We in the Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development are interested in knowing how other countries regard and assess the institutionalisation of sustainability in Germany. For the most part, however, the Office of Technology Assessment deals with narrowly defined subjects such as the transition to renewable energies or genetic engineering, that is to say, particular aspects of sustainability. What happens to the findings of the reports is up to the German Bundestag. The reports are rarely deliberated and frequently merely noted.

Example 4: Finally, the German Bundestag has a Commission for Children's Concerns, the Children's Commission for short. From the name one might at first think that this is an institution looking after the rights of future generations and working in the spirit of the Rio Agenda. But that is not the case. The Children's Commission is a sub-committee of the Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and is primarily concerned with children as members of society worthy of protection, education, rights of protection and educational opportunities. While decisions here are generally taken on a consensus basis, this is only a detail area of sustainable development.

This ends my list of examples of cross-sectoral bodies in parliament and in the political structure. The question is: how do sustainability bodies differ from these examples?

We who are responsible for sustainability in government or parliament are organised in different ways but we are united by the philosophy of the Rio Agenda 21, which, as stated in its preamble, has the goal of creating prosperity and improving living standards for all the people in the world. Agenda 21 is about living and engaging in economic activity within the ecological guardrails of our planet, first and foremost climate protection and conservation of resources; it is about abolishing hunger and poverty, giving disadvantaged regions of the world an opportunity for economic development, upholding human rights and human dignity, including labour and health protection, and preserving biodiversity.

We are concerned with the overall direction in which global society – first and foremost our own respective nation states – must go. It is about the direction in which we must all go in order to have a viable future. But all must be able to travel in that direction with us, that is to say be able to live well, and we must bear in mind that future generations, too, need scope to shape their lives – instead of being poisoned by our mountains of rubbish and instead of the elites retreating to a safe haven in order to have enough oxygen to breathe while others live and die in misery.

That may well sound overwrought. But you know what I am talking about. We are not concerned with individual topic areas in the way that the regular committees in parliament are; rather we link the individual areas together. We are the people who have to say to the committees that not everything that was possible in the decades of expansion is now feasible. And that political responsibility now goes far beyond one's

own national borders. We work on behalf of all the people of the world and on behalf of all those who are not yet born.

In order to achieve this noble aim, many countries have already implemented sustainability strategies. It is the task of those responsible for sustainability to scrutinise and evaluate these strategies regularly. We must identify specific weak points and, if possible, suggest improvements.

What then is the task of and opportunity for parliaments in terms of monitoring sustainability strategies and goals, including the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Parliament represents all the people, at least the electorate, even if, as here in Germany, there is a right of exclusion: any party in Germany who receives less than five per cent of the votes cast in Bundestag elections cannot enter parliament. Other countries have other similar rules.

Overall, however, parliament represents a broad electorate. Because sustainability needs to be broadly embedded in society, the German Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development attempts wherever possible to achieve a consensus between all the parliamentary groups in the German Bundestag for its decisions. This rule does not exist on paper; it is simply the way the Council has operated from day one for the past eleven years.

In terms of substance therefore, the decisions of the Parliamentary Council represent the highest common denominator of all the parliamentary groups in the Bundestag. In my eyes these decisions have greater value added for society than the decisions taken by the Coalition majority, because these decisions are taken by the whole of parliament and therefore extend beyond any one electoral term. The Parliamentary Council does not therefore have to change course when the government changes.

To sum up: we who are responsible for sustainability work on a cross-sectoral and cross-cutting way. And we need a broad consensus in society for this long-term task which affects the whole of society.

Admittedly I am saying this as a member of the smallest Opposition parliamentary group in the German Bundestag and it may sound as though I simply want more of a voice as a member of the Opposition. But my parliamentary group was part of a strong coalition government when the Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development was created. It was the parliamentary groups supporting the

government at the time which established the consensus principle in order to work with the Opposition to drive forward sustainable development.

A coalition of all parliamentary groups in parliament - can this work well in the long term? And if so, under what conditions? Or are there perhaps better ways to promote sustainable development?

Yes, it can work well in the long term, but there need to be clear and binding rules which are accepted by everybody in the Bundestag. And here there are some major obstacles to overcome:

Obstacle 1: The Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development is established afresh after every Bundestag election. The period after the election, however, is dominated by wrangling between and within the parliamentary groups over the size of the committees, the allocation of chairs, membership of the committees and the appointment of spokespersons. Only after all these negotiations have been completed are people receptive to talking about the establishment of the Parliamentary Council. Endorsements are required from all the parliamentary groups in order to establish it. After eleven years since the establishment of the first Council, those prepared to endorse it are people who were members before the election and want to continue to be. The establishment of the Council therefore depends on a few people who then have to work hard to convince others – in their own parliamentary group and, in some cases, also in other parliamentary groups.

Obstacle 2: How does one create clear and binding rules governing cross-sectoral and cross-party cooperation? They may be defined to a degree in the resolution to establish the Council but the details have to be passed on from one electoral term to the next. If many members are lost, this is difficult, particularly when, as in the present electoral term, some parliamentary groups change their members completely. A short briefing is not enough. The challenges and hence the difficulties of creating a cross-party position are ongoing. Question marks repeatedly hang over its current working methods. Some find the voting procedures too elaborate and too long-winded. Some want to avoid votes where experts from their own parliamentary group are involved and would rather refrain from making positions public, preferring to simply go with the government. They shy away from confrontation with their own expert colleagues. But it is precisely through this process of engagement that sustainability can be become embedded in the specialised committees and in

regular, day-to-day decision-making. That is the great advantage of a parliamentary sustainability body.

These two obstacles, the search for people to endorse the establishment of the Parliamentary Council and helping new colleagues to learn the ropes can only be surmounted in the long term if the Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development, together with its remit and its working methods, are enshrined in the Rules of Procedure. And that, at the same time, is the third obstacle.

Obstacle 3:

How do we convince our parliamentary group colleagues that the Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development should have prime responsibility for the national and European sustainability strategy and for the Rio Process and its follow-up, that it should work on an interdisciplinary basis on these subjects and take decisions which encroach on the competence of the specialised committees? There are few colleagues who are willing to give this *carte blanche* in relation to the complex multi-disciplinary task of sustainable development. Even with respect to the future Sustainable Development Goals which will replace the Millennium Development Goals, there is wrangling in the German Bundestag about where competence lies. The Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development was created out of the Rio Process - as was the case with your bodies -, but in the German Bundestag primary responsibility rests with the Bundestag Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development, because this was the lead committee for the Millennium Development Goals – and also because the Parliamentary Council does not have any position of primary responsibility within parliament. The Environment Committee is the lead committee for the national sustainability strategy and the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union for the European sustainability strategy.

Let me return to the examples I mentioned at the beginning:

The committees I mentioned such as the Budget Committee and the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union work on a cross-sectoral basis and have decision-making powers, albeit very limited in technical terms. But they both work with coalition majorities. The selection of requests for reports submitted to the Office of Technology Assessment and the resolutions of the Children's Commission are made on a consensus basis but do not encroach on the competence of the specialised committees.

If the Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development were to be organised like a regular committee, it would overreach itself. Already it evaluates the sustainability impact assessments for all draft bills and regulations of the Federal Government. This is a process requiring a great deal of effort and is done on a consensus basis, even if so far only on a formal basis – here too we are working to improve things. If in addition the Council were to scrutinise bills introduced by the parliamentary groups – after all, there are hardly any areas not relevant to sustainability – we would a) be taking on more than we could cope with and b) have to abandon the principle of consensus. None of us members of parliament can regularly vote against the motions tabled by our own parliamentary group, but what would such a Parliamentary Council be worth if it only rubber-stamped coalition bills? Nothing more than a lead committee; in other words it would be superfluous.

Then there are its consensus-based working methods without which sustainability in parliament would be worthless. There are likely to be further opponents here. Many regard it as a threat to democracy if instead of the Coalition majority, all the parliamentary groups agree on a consensus position.

Let me conclude by saying that the enthusiasm for doing something good for humanity meets its rough limits in the process of everyday interaction and these limits have to be permanently renegotiated. And that precisely is our job: to work to convince people. We in the Parliamentary Council on Sustainable Development find ourselves at present right in the middle of this discussion. Whether the Council together with its remit and working methods become enshrined in the Rules of Procedure remains an open question. It may be that this issue is not resolved in the course of the current electoral term. There is no guarantee, however, that the Parliamentary Council will still be in existence in the next electoral term.

While the Parliamentary Council fights for its status to be upgraded, bills are being introduced at various levels – by the government and parliamentary groups – which aim to go back to square one. These include linking growth to environmental and social considerations, and developing strategies for prosperity and living standards at zero growth or for a good life in Germany. This includes my own parliamentary group.

What are the alternatives? I like the idea of an ombudsman for parliament, as there is in Hungary. Of course it could equally well be an ombudswoman, although maybe work needs to be done on the terminology. Equally there could be a parliamentary

commissioner for sustainability, just as in Germany we already have a Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces who looks after the concerns of service personnel and reports regularly to the German Bundestag. There could also be a type of federal sustainability court, in the same way that we have a Federal Court of Audit (the *Bundesrechnungshof*), an independent institution which is not attached to any of the three branches of government (legislature, executive, judiciary). The *Bundesrechnungshof* monitors and reviews the financial management of the federation – as the regional courts of audit do in each *Land* – and submits an annual report.

The great disadvantage is that in the German Bundestag all these reports are discussed in the respective lead committee and, in the way the committees typically work, are in practice simply noted. Within parliament itself there is in turn nobody responsible to monitor and support the painstaking battle for sustainable development.

Many thanks for your attention.