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“Plus 5” Review

of the 2002 Special Session on Children and the Action Plan “A World Fit for Children”

Summary of the national progress report of the

Federal Republic of Germany

1. Introduction

This report deals with the drafting and implementation of the “National Action Plan. For a Germany fit for children 2005-2010” (NAP). The NAP follows the recommendations of the Second Special Session on Children of the UN in 2002, the so-called World Summit for Children. In their closing report, “A World fit for Children”, the participating countries, including a German delegation, undertook to submit national action plans with the aim of making the world a better place for children.

A national action plan needs to have the shared responsibility and acceptance of broad levels of society. From the start, the German government therefore worked closely with key players from politics and civil society. This cooperation involved representatives from federal, state and local governments, from the Lower House’s (Deutsche Bundestag) children’s committee, experts from NGOs, academics as well as children and young people. In addition to a coordination group, six workshops were held on different topic areas to draw up the basic issues for the NAP.

In February 2005, the Federal Cabinet approved the NAP. The NAP records the measures already taken by the German government to improve the opportunities for children and their families and the measures it plans to implement by 2010. At the end of 2005, the new federal government confirmed its intention to implement the NAP in the coalition agreement between the two ruling parties, the CDU/CSU and SPD.

The fields of action, the goals and structures for implementing the NAP as well as the current areas of focus of the federal government with regard to child and youth policy are described in the second chapter of this report. The third chapter expounds the importance of monitoring to achieve the goals of the NAP. New alliances and the participation of children and young people in decision-making are described in the fourth chapter. The report closes with the status quo of the implementation of “Millennium Development Goals“

A national interim report on the NAP is currently being drawn up. Unlike this short report, this interim report will offer a complete and detailed overview of the measures initiated. It will be published at the end of 2007 and be available on request.

2. Main activities to implement the goals set in the Special Session on Children

2.1 The National Action Plan “For a Germany Fit for Children 2005-2010”

2.1.1 Fields of action and goals

The National Action Plan “For a Germany Fit for Children 2005-2010” is divided into six fields of action, which, in the view of the federal government, will be particularly important in the coming years to make Germany a better place for children to live:

- **Equal opportunities through education**
Goals: Early and individual learning, overcoming the selective nature of the educational system and making it more supportive
- **A non-violent upbringing**
Goals: Promoting an upbringing without violence, studying the problem of “violence through neglect of children”
- **Promoting a healthy life and environment**
Goals: Preventing new health risks, enhancing integrated and interdisciplinary health promotion as well as treatment geared towards children and young people
- **Participation of children and young people**
Goals: Developing quality standards for participation, embedding children’s and young people’s participatory rights in curricula and in further education
- **Developing an adequate standard of living for children**
Goals: Combating the causes of child poverty, showing ways out of poverty-related circumstances
- **International commitments**
Goals: Combating poverty and implementing children’s rights in developing countries, further developing international agreements on child protection

The NAP presents a total of around 170 measures. It specifies which measures the federal government has already implemented to improve the lives and opportunities of children and their families and which it intends to implement by 2010. The objective is to establish child and youth policy as a field of politics in its own right as well as an interdisciplinary task.

2.1.2 Structure of the implementation process

Experience with national action plans at an international level and in Germany has shown that the government can only implement a project of this size with the wide-spread and active participation of all areas of politics at state and local level, players from civil society and voluntary organizations and with the involvement of children and young people.

To both manage the process and ensure widespread participation, the following structures and committees have been set up to implement the NAP:

- **A steering group** with representatives from federal ministries, state and local government, and various social groups

- **Working groups** on the six topics with federal, state and local representatives, representatives from associations and experts on the topic
- **Scientific support** from the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut, DJI)
- **Communication support** from an agency with a media and communication concept, including internet, road shows, regional conferences, and support for local initiatives

The purpose of the **steering group** is to bundle the different processes and thereby ensure that the work is results-driven. The members of the steering group

- observe, reflect on and support the implementation of the NAP up to 2010
- receive important information from the working groups
- promote the implementation of the NAP in their own fields of work
- support monitoring of the implementation of the NAP.

While the steering group coordinates the overall process, the task of the **working groups** is to deal with the implementation of the individual measures and goals of the NAP in detail. The working groups act as a link between the various players. Their role is to finalize the measures and put them into practice, to plan and organize the implementation process and monitor and evaluate the results.

The objective of **scientific support** is to observe and document the implementation process through research, collecting and analyzing data and to identify factors that might be conducive or obstructive to implementation.

Communication support has the task of motivating and activating local players through an information campaign, committing them to the NAP and gaining a broad support base for the implementation of the NAP. At the same time, the agency acts as a service point for the different players at a regional and local level and offers support in implementing their projects. This ensures that initiatives that do not (yet) have sufficiently professional means or the necessary resources can also be involved in the implementation of the NAP.

2.2 Focus of the federal government's child and youth policy

The majority of the measures specified in the NAP have already been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. The interim report of the NAP that will be published at the end of 2007 gives a detailed overview of the status quo of implementation. This interim report will be available on request.

The following examples demonstrate the federal government's policy in recent years and where its current focus lies:

- The "Act on the outlawing of violence in bringing up children" (Gesetz zur Ächtung der Gewalt in der Erziehung) came into effect in November 2000 (amendment of § 1631 of the German Civil Code and § 16 of Volume VIII of the Social Security Code). For the first time, the new act gave children a right to an upbringing without violence: "Children have a

right to an upbringing free of violence. Corporal punishment, psychological violence and other acts that degrade our children are not permitted”.

- The amendment to the law giving children the right to grow up without violence was accompanied by the German-wide campaign “More respect for children” initiated by the Federal Ministry for the Family, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth (BMFSFJ). The aim of the campaign was first and foremost to make the amendment known to the public. A further objective was to increase awareness of the problem in society. It offered support to parents to help them manage conflicts and stressful situations without using violence.

Analyses carried out in recent years have revealed that the act has caused a shift in awareness in the population. The use of violence in bringing up children is rejected more clearly today and has declined overall.

- Since 2001 mothers and fathers can share the job of bringing up their children in the first years of their lives thanks to the new law on parental leave.
- The federal government has given its family policy a new direction with the law on child credit and parental leave (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz) that came into force on 1st January 2007. One particular challenge in this area is to support families early on by providing a financial cushion. The child credit helps parents with a low income in the first twelve to 14 months of their child’s life so that they can get used to life as a family without major financial restrictions.
- In 2003 the new Youth Protection Act (Jugendschutzgesetz) came into force.
- The capital investment program “Future of Education and Care” (Investitionsprogramm Zukunft Bildung und Betreuung, IZZB) is a federal measure to build up and expand all-day schooling in Germany. The aim is to give all children and young people individual support to and promote an atmosphere conducive to learning through new forms of co-operation between schools and extracurricular partners. The goal is primarily to raise the quality of education and to break the close ties between social background and academic performance.
- At the so-called “crèche summit” in April 2007 and prompted by the federal government, the national, state and local governments agreed to extend the number of places in child care available for children under three years from 285,000 at present to 750,000 by 2013. The aim is to provide care for around 35 % of children aged three years or less in nursery schools, kindergartens and similar early childhood care facilities.

This means that from 1st August 2013, all parents who wish can enlist child care for their child aged three years or less in a nursery school, kindergarten or similar early childhood care facility.

To accompany this measure, the government will also adopt measures to improve the quality of work in nursery schools, kindergartens and similar early childhood care facilities. It also plans to give financial support to companies offering childcare.

- The campaign "Early Assistance for Parents and Children and Social Early-Warning Systems" conducted by the Federal Ministry for the Family, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth undertakes to develop social early-warning systems to identify risks at an early stage and thereby prevent threats to children’s well-being. The objective is to protect children more against neglect and maltreatment, in particular by boosting parenting skills. The campaign targets children from before birth up to three years, pregnant women and

young mothers and fathers in difficult circumstances. The state has funded €10 million in this campaign, which is used to promote model projects in the states and support monitoring. Furthermore, a “National Centre for Early Assistance” has been set up as a place where people can exchange experience and knowledge. The centre in Cologne is financed by the Federal Centre for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung, BZgA) and the German Youth Institute (Deutsche Jugendinstitut, DJI). The joint responsibility for the project sets an example for interdisciplinary collaboration in the area of early assistance.

- The campaign for health and the environment (Aktionsprogramm Umwelt und Gesundheit, APUG) links the policy areas of environmental, health and consumer protection. Since 2003, the campaign has targeted its efforts on children. The program aims to throw a light on the correlation between environmental pollution and its impact on health. It also highlights activities in cities and communities to improve children’s immediate environment to make it healthier and more ecologically sound.
- From a physical, psychological and social perspective, children and young people need physical exercise, a balanced diet and the ability to cope with stress in order to develop healthily. The Federal Ministry of Health (Bundesgesundheitsministerium, BMG) and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz, BMELV) are backing this approach with a joint action plan to prevent malnutrition, lack of exercise and obesity.

3. *Monitoring the goals of the World Summit for Children*

As announced in the NAP (p. 77), the federal government has installed a process to facilitate the management and implementation of the nation action plan (see chapter 2.1.2). This applies both to monitoring and analyzing ongoing activities and to reviewing and evaluating the results.

The government will incorporate tried-and-tested child policy structures and tools in Germany in this process. All key players involved in implementing the national action plan will therefore also be responsible for monitoring.

The federal government will propose that the Conference of Youth Ministers (Jugendministerkonferenz) and the Working Group of the Supreme Youth Authority of the State Government (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der obersten Landesjugendbehörden) regularly deal with the implementation of the national action plan in their meetings. The latter has already addressed the topic of the NAP at its meeting in March 2007, and the Conference of Youth Ministers plans to discuss the topic in 2008.

The government intends to use the Children and Youth Reports that are brought out every 4 years by an independent expert commission for monitoring and evaluation purposes. The 13th Children and Youth Report Commission will address the question of whether child and

youth services have a responsibility for ensuring the health and well-being of children and young people, thus dedicating itself to one of fields of action specified in the NAP.

The Third Country Report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, due in 2009, will also include an evaluation of the NAP's results. With this, the federal government is following a recommendation contained in the World Summit on Children 2002's final document.

In spring 2008, the federal government will convene a conference, including NGOs, with the objective of stocktaking and updating the NAP. To this end, the government will publish an interim report on the implementation of the NAP by the end of 2007.

4. *New partnerships and alliances for children and participation*

4.1 *Social alliances*

Local alliances for the family

The Germany-wide initiative "Local alliances for the family", launched by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in 2004, encourages key players in politics, industry and society to work together to carry out projects to improve living and working conditions for families.

These alliances form one of the largest networks in Germany. Over 420 local alliances (*as at 17 July 2007*) have been founded; by the end of 2007 there will be over 450. More than 41 million people live within the reach of these alliances. Around 10,000 people and almost 3,500 companies are actively involved.

Key topics for the alliances are, for example, "balancing family and working life" or "adequate child care". Around 4,500 projects have already been carried out, ranging from company childcare, rent-a-granny services, emergency childcare, training courses during parental leave, family-friendly working hours, networks to help children and young people cope with everyday problems, or father and child activities. Local alliances for the family help make towns more family-friendly. The initiative is co-funded by the European Social Fund.

The **German Forum for Prevention and Health Promotion (Deutsche Forum Prävention und Gesundheitsförderung)** was founded in 2002 on the initiative of the federal government and is currently a platform for 71 associations and organizations that deal with prevention. Recommendations and quality standards for healthy kindergartens and schools, for example, are developed here in a broad consensus and presented with practical examples.

4.2 Participation of children and young people

The federal government aims to involve children and young people in political decision-making and design processes that affect their future, as this is indispensable for the sustainability of a democratic society.

The “Action program for more youth participation” (2006-2009) is a joint initiative between the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Federal Centre for Political Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, bpb) and the German Federal Youth Council (Deutschen Bundesjugendring, DBJR). With this campaign, the federal government is continuing in the 16th legislative period its youth policy focus established in the 14th legislative period and in its coalition agreement to “improve the participatory rights of children and young people”. The program is geared towards children and young people, both in youth organizations and non-organized, and focuses particularly on children and young people from underprivileged families or with an immigrant background.

The participation of children and young people is a fixed structural element both in the development and implementation of the NAP. Children and young people have already contributed to the draft of the NAP with ideas collected at their own children’s conferences.

From August 2005 to January 2006, children and young people were able to participate in the NAP for the second time. The results are compiled in the Children and Youth Report on the NAP (see appendix). Besides suggestions for developing the NAP further, the report also contains numerous practical examples. It emphasizes in particular the idea of “creating room to grow” as a topic that should be given special attention in the upcoming implementation process.

The participation of children and young people will be dealt with at two levels in the implementation process: On the one hand, the objectives and measures specified in the field of action of the same name in the NAP will be pursued further. These include developing quality standards for the participation of children and young people in decision-making and embedding children’s participatory rights in curricula, training regulations and vocational training courses for trained staff. On the other hand, the topic of children and youth participation will be continued throughout the entire implementation process, in other words, in all fields of action specified in the NAP. A project to enable children and youth to participate in the implementation of the NAP is currently in preparation. This focuses on initiating and supporting regional projects with the objective of promoting the implementation of the NAP through specific activities in the regions. The results of the children and young people’s participation will be incorporated in the structures of the implementation process in a suitable form.

5. *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*

The Millennium Development Goals in German development cooperation:

Focus on children and young people

Promoting the rights of girls and boys has been mainstreamed into German development cooperation. Hence it is important that the measures undertaken by the German government in order to contribute towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals are also directed towards satisfying the specific needs of children and young people. The objectives laid down in the MDGs, the first and foremost of which is poverty reduction, always concern children and young people as well, albeit sometimes only implicitly.

This is also a special area of focus for the German government: the 2002 UN Action Plan “A world fit for children” also forms part of the context for Germany’s projects for implementing the MDGs.

5.1 *Promoting healthy lifestyles*

The health of children and young people is the basis for sustainable development. The greatest global threat to children's health is poverty and, for the German government, fighting poverty is its most important international commitment. Projects within the framework of MDG 1 (Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger) particularly serve to realise this goal.

Children are affected by poverty to a shocking degree. Some 1.9 of the world’s 2.2 billion children live in developing countries, one billion of them in poverty. There are some 600 million children living on less than 1 US dollar a day. Children are far more likely to be affected by poverty than adults. In addition, young people account for more than half of all unemployed people.

- A key component in eradicating poverty among children and young people is improving vocational training through technical cooperation measures. The German government is engaged in activities in this field, especially with partner countries from the Maghreb/Mediterranean region.
- Providing school meals can not only help ensure that children’s basic food needs are met, it can also increase the probability that children at risk of starvation will attend school (regularly). Thanks to a World Food Programme (WFP) school feeding pro-

gramme in Sudan supported by the German government, in some regions an increase of up to 71% has been observed in the number of pupils enrolled. For 2007, the WFP is seeking to feed 330,000 children.

The German government is also carrying out measures which are aimed at improving children's health and medical care as part of its strategies for the implementation of MDGs 4 (Lowering child mortality) and 5 (Improving maternal health).

Worldwide 30,000 girls and boys under five die each day of diseases that in the majority of cases are avoidable or treatable. The international community has set itself the goal of achieving a two-thirds decrease in child mortality by 2015.

- More than 80% of Germany's bilateral health projects in 72 countries are promoting aspects that contribute towards improving the health of children and young people. These include, for example, general measures such as strengthening health systems and improving the availability and quality of health services. Targeted activities such as vaccination programmes (e.g. a polio inoculation programme in India with under-fives, especially from slums, as the particular target group); distributing impregnated mosquito nets and serial treatment programmes against infectious diseases; youth-friendly services; family planning; HIV prevention; prenatal and postnatal care, all play a major role.
- Close cooperation between the health sector and other sectors – especially education, food and water – is needed so that the impact of such measures on the health of children and young people is mutually reinforcing.

The measures to improve the health of mothers particularly benefit young women. Each year 14 million girls aged between 15 and 19 fall pregnant, thereby becoming exposed to a high health risk. Their risk of dying during pregnancy is twice as high as that of women over 20 years of age.

- Worldwide approx. 540,000 mothers (estimated figure from 2005) currently die each year as a result of poor medical care during pregnancy and birth. The maternal mortality

rate will probably be unchanged come 2015; i.e. the Millennium Development Goal of reducing maternal mortality by three quarters will not be reached.¹

- The German government is focussing in particular on ensuring that preventive health care measures in its partner countries are designed to meet the special needs of young people. For example, materials that are appropriate for young people are to be elaborated for information campaigns and sex education, and pertinent health services are to be made accessible to young people. A focus within this work is on those regions where sexual activity among young people is a taboo topic and hence does not receive adequate attention. Young people are also to be actively involved in the process, thus boosting their self-determination, ownership and participation in society.
- All these measures are also intended to help prevent unsafe abortions, facilitate better access to information and reproductive health services, and encourage young people to adopt risk-reducing patterns of behaviour in matters of health from an early age.

Also of importance for improving the health situation of children are the activities of German development cooperation within the framework of MDG 7 (Ensuring environmental stability), to be more precise: MDG indicator 10 (Reducing the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by half by 2015).

- 1.1 billion people in developing countries have no access to clean drinking water. As a result each year 4 million children die of diseases caused by polluted water and inadequate hygiene.²
- Children and young people are particularly affected by water shortages; they especially are more likely not to be connected to mains water supplies. Development cooperation with the aim of helping more people to get better connections to water supplies and basic sanitation therefore benefit this target group in particular.
- An important flanking measure is raising awareness among children and young people and informing them about the topic of hygiene through special education measures. This

¹ From: Jeffrey D. Sachs, UN Millennium Project 2005, p. 77 (Table 9)

² "UN-Konvention als weltweites Grundgesetz für Kinder – Kinder haben Rechte", p. 3 (paper produced by the German Committee for UNICEF)

is particularly important because very often it is they who make up the majority of the population and whose health is also particularly affected by water-borne diseases.

- In other cooperation endeavours, e.g. the Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme 2002-2012, which the GTZ and KfW are carrying out in Peru, ways are being sought to make access to drinking water and sanitation generally available, particularly for poor families. Children will also benefit in other ways from these activities since, for example, more money will be available for education.³

5.2 Providing quality education

Access for all to primary education (MDG 2: Achieving universal primary education) is an important step in order to enable children and young people to experience a self-determined future. Measures aimed at achieving universal access to primary education for children and young people are making an important contribution towards poverty reduction.

- In Heiligendamm, the G8 pledged financial support for programmes aimed at achieving universal access to primary education in developing countries. The German government will also continue its engagement with regard to this issue in its function as co-chair of the Education for All Fast-track Initiative (decided upon as part of the Dakar Framework for Action), a function that it is exercising as holder of the G8 Presidency in 2007.
- The German government is also aware that school enrolment rates alone are not a sufficient indicator for the quality of the education on offer. It is therefore engaged –together with other German development cooperation players – in measures to improve the quality of teaching staff and provide them with in-service training, or is supporting such activities under national education initiatives, as in the case of Guatemala or South Africa. The aim of these measures is particularly to give children in rural areas the same educational opportunities as they would have in large urban centres.
- A key role is played by projects providing basic education for young people in post-conflict situations. Such projects also pose particular challenges. Among such projects that are being supported by the German side are also a special primary education

³ Division 313 (Nickel)

measure in Sierra Leone, which consists of a general educational component and a practical (vocational) component linked with socio-pedagogical counselling for children and young people who have been traumatised by the experiences of war.

In many developing countries in particular, girls are at a disadvantage. Their lack of access to basic social goods such as food, water, health and education is especially problematic.

The German government is engaged in addressing the question of equal educational opportunities for girls, especially in connection with MDG 3 (Promoting gender equality and empowering women). The need for action is clearly evident here: women account for about 60% of the 770 million illiterate people in the world. The problem of gender inequality with regard to basic education is one that is concentrated in regional terms on the Arab countries, south and west Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Because of their importance when it comes to sustainable development, promoting the empowerment of girls and women is seen as the most effective single area of investment.

- In order to address this problem in a targeted manner, the German government systematically assesses the gender relevance of all the projects that it finances. Additional coordination between the various actors is ensured by the sector project Sector Policy Advice and Girls' Promotion in Education.
- In addition to providing material support for basic education (building and equipping schools, classrooms and teacher training centres), support is also to be provided for efforts to promote the gender-sensitive design of teaching programmes and offer teachers in-service training in gender-specific teaching methods, as part of curriculum development.
- Under the Education for All Fast-track Initiative, the German government made a commitment to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to help bring about equal educational opportunities for girls and boys by 2015. To implement these goals, the German government has made education a priority area of its bilateral development cooperation with numerous countries.

5.3 *Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence*

By signing the Millennium Declaration, the German government underlined once more the special significance of supporting children and young people as part of development cooperation efforts and made a particular commitment to fight violence against children, trafficking in children and the sexual exploitation of children.

- The German government's contribution in this context is being made within the framework of the convention project Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation, a project commissioned by the BMZ that is being executed by the GTZ. Targeted advisory services contributions are being provided in order to achieve the following: revision of legislation; implementation of prevention measures; and advanced training of specialised staff from the police, the judiciary, and the health and education sectors. Effective protection and rehabilitation services are to be put in place for the children and young people who are the victims of such exploitation. Work is also to be carried out with regard to informing the public and making them more aware of the problem of sexual exploitation of children. To achieve this, cooperation with a network of non-governmental actors has also been implemented. The target groups and main intermediaries include national, regional and international institutions.
- The German government has been supporting the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) since the 1990s and was actively involved in pushing through International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The German government intends to step up its efforts in this regard within the framework of its development cooperation. In addition, the German government is also involved in the implementation of ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment.
- Since 1999, the BMZ has stepped up its support for initiatives to stamp out the practice of female genital mutilation. The focus here is on assertive information and publicity campaigns. Public information campaigns have been carried out in pertinent countries with the help of the supra-regional project Promotion of Initiatives to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). By taking a careful line with regard to cultural sensibilities, in many cases it has proved possible to overcome the taboo on mentioning such topics.

5.4 Combating HIV/AIDS

Ongoing efforts under German development cooperation to realise Millennium Development Goal 6 (Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) are linked to the strategy to halt the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The particular aim of the German government in this regard is to address the threat to children and young people.

The problem of the HIV/AIDS pandemic is increasingly becoming a problem that affects children and young people in a special way. On the one hand it has a direct impact on them because more than half of the 14,000 new HIV infections each day involve young people who are under 25 years of age. On the other hand there is an indirect impact due to the shocking number of AIDS orphans (14 million worldwide), eleven million of whom are to be found in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa alone.

- With an average contribution of 90 million euros a year, German bilateral development cooperation is making a significant contribution towards the global fight against HIV/AIDS.
- Under the German Presidency, the G8 countries have made a commitment to provide 1.5 billion US dollars to support the PMTCT Programme. This programme, which was established by the GTZ in East Africa in 2001, is helping to prevent the transfer of HIV from mothers to their newborns by providing targeted information and medical treatment. The aim behind the decision to support the programme is to enable universal access to this prevention measure in partner countries.
- In order to help prevent the risk of infection from sexually transmitted diseases as a result human trafficking, the German government is also participating in awareness-raising and empowerment programmes specially designed for children and young people. To enable orphans in particular to resist the financial incentives which human traffickers use to lure them, various programmes are being carried out to provide children and young people with the qualifications they need to compete on the legal labour market.
- With the aim of contributing towards a reduction in the growth of HIV infection rates and in birth rates whilst upholding individual freedom of choice, German development cooperation is involved in promoting, for example in Cameroon, the nationwide distribution of low-price condoms. Within this framework, the German government is also supporting

the work of national non-governmental organisations which have information campaigns and events that are specially aimed at young people.

There is also a need to improve gender equality with regard to medical care. The majority of those dying of HIV/AIDS today are women and girls. The German government, which is contributing around 300 million euros to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), wants to work with its partners to urge for the gender-sensitive use of these funds.

5.5 Mobilising resources

The contributions made by the industrialised countries in supporting the developing countries will be essential for the implementation of both the UN Action Plan and the MDGs. Millennium Development Goal 8 addresses this issue, committing the international community to build a global partnership for development. The industrialised countries are called upon to create the necessary overall conditions to enable the developing countries to meet their commitments under the Millennium Declaration. MDG 8 essentially envisages an increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) in order to support the efforts of the developing countries. It is also about achieving trade liberalisation and debt cancellations.

- In order to realise these goals, the Member States of the European Union have agreed upon a plan to gradually increase their ODA contributions. Under this plan, it is envisaged that the combined volume of the EU Commission's development assistance together with that of the Member States will reach 0.56 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2010. Member States that joined the EU before 2002, like Germany, have made a commitment to raise their contributions to 0.51 per cent of GNI by 2010 and to 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2015. The significant increase of 15 per cent which is envisaged for the BMZ budget in the government's draft budget for 2008 is an important step in this direction.
- MDG 8 also includes a concrete goal for improving the situation of young people. MDG indicator 16 is concerned with addressing the problem of youth unemployment by creating conditions that are conducive to the improved integration of young people in the working world. The German government is also supporting concrete projects aimed at achieving this goal, for example in Senegal, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic

Congo, as well as efforts within the framework of the Youth Employment Network, the Youth Employment Summit and the World Bank-led Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (MDRP).

- In all these projects attention is also paid to actively involving young people and to the principle of ownership, an aspect that is one of the guiding principles of German development cooperation and also an important prerequisite for the efficiency, sustainability and success of all measures.