



# Germany's contribution to the Global Commission on Adaptation

Germany supports ambitious progress on adaptation to climate change

## BACKGROUND

Climate change does not only pose a threat to livelihoods and prosperity but also to development opportunities worldwide. Developing countries are particularly affected by its consequences. The World Bank estimates that, in the absence of ambitious action, an additional 100 million people or more could slide into extreme poverty as a result of climate change by 2030. Climate change mitigation and adaptation and efforts to increase resilience against the impact of climate change are therefore priority areas of Germany's development policy.

The **Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA)** was founded in October 2018 at the initiative of the Netherlands and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

Its purpose is to make adaptation to climate change and increased resilience a prominent item on the international agenda and to bring about progress on the implementation of relevant measures worldwide. The Commission puts a special focus on the poorest and most vulnerable people in developing countries. At present, the Commission consists of 34 high-ranking members from politics, the private sector and international organisations. It is chaired by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft.

There are already 22 countries, Germany among them, that are working to mobilise support for the Commission's work. Chancellor Angela Merkel is

the co-patron of the Commission, and Minister Gerd Müller is the member for Germany. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is also contributing funding (2 million euros) for the GCA Secretariat.

The Commission drew up a Flagship Report for the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019. Based on the latest scientific findings, the Report highlights climate risks for the poorest and most vulnerable people, presents benefits of adaptation, and proposes specific actions. The Report is intended to convince the general public and policymakers that there is a need for systematic action on adaptation. It highlights the key role of development policy for the poorest, who are hardest hit by climate change. It also points out that adaptation is economically viable. Every euro invested saves four euros in later costs, as it reduces vulnerabilities and losses and fosters climate-resilient growth. The Report also underlines the long-term benefits of adaptation. It calls, among other things, for systematically integrating climate risks in planning and decision-making processes.

The Flagship Report was presented on 10 September as part of the global "Follow the Sun" campaign. It was handed over to UN Secretary-General Guterres on 24 September. The handover also marked the beginning of the Commission's Year of Action, which will be used for global implementation of the Report's findings based on eight action tracks.

## BMZ CONTRIBUTIONS

In the Commission, the BMZ focuses its support on finance, food security and rural livelihoods, infrastructure, and disaster risk management. It concentrates on developing innovative and sustainable solutions for food security and for a climate-resilient agricultural sector.

### Climate-resilient agriculture

In the process of defining the GCA's approach, Germany has provided input, in particular, from its long-standing experience and expertise on climate-resilient agriculture. Working with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the BMZ made a major contribution to the drafting of the action track on food security and rural livelihoods.

The ambitious goal of this action track for 2030 is to bring about sustained improvements in the resilience of 300 million smallholders against climate change, to increase incomes and food security, and to help protect ecosystems. To that end, five areas of intervention have been defined:

- **Support international agricultural research** in the context of climate change in order to develop urgently needed ideas and technologies on the basis of scientific evidence. The necessary funding and resources are to be provided within the framework of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).
- **Mobilise private investment** to foster and develop climate-resilient value chains
- **Develop and expand tailor-made financial services** such as insurance and credit lines while simultaneously improving access for smallholders
- **Disseminate and expand digital solutions** for advisory services in agriculture, using real time weather data and risk analyses
- **Develop and disseminate agroecological practices and farming methods** to secure agricultural productivity on a **sustainable** basis

An announcement was made at the UN Climate Action Summit that, by 2022, a total of about 790 million US dollars would be made available by various international donors for the implementation of the action track on food security and rural livelihoods. The bulk of the commitments will go towards increasing the budgets of the CGIAR research centres. Germany, too, will make a substantial contribution towards implementing the priority actions on this action track. **The BMZ supports, for example, 60 million people in rural areas with a view to enhancing their climate resilience**, especially through the development and dissemination of agroecological approaches. Through these efforts, Germany is actively working to foster the transition towards low-emission, climate-resilient agricultural systems.

### Climate risk insurance

In its work with the GCA, the BMZ also draws on its activities on climate risk finance and insurance within the framework of the InsuResilience Global Partnership, which was established in 2017.

The Partnership will support the Commission on three action tracks. In the area of finance, it will help the Commission to ensure that risk data and models will be available for public and private decision-making and financing processes. In the field of food security and rural livelihoods, **access to appropriate microinsurance is to be improved for a total of 150 million people**, the majority of whom are smallholders. And on infrastructure, the InsuResilience Global Partnership will increase the financial protection of critical infrastructure against climate risks, which will also involve support for private investment in resilient infrastructure projects.