Shaping the future through international cooperation

Securing peace – Reducing poverty – Protecting the environment
Despite the many national strategies geared towards drafting policy on sustainable development and the numerous proposals for practical approaches, most developing countries are still a long way away from forming and instituting such policy. Although there is no alternative, the "principle of sustainability" all too often remains a hollow promise. This is a sobering realisation to arrive at just before the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. Certain questions must be answered: can sustainability be divorced from commitment? Can any policy be "sustainable" without an accompanying call for a paradigm shift that is consistent with this guiding principle?

Who could better raise these questions than GTZ? International cooperation clearly has, as a critical intermediary, a role to play in developing countries in establishing social justice and economic security - the fundamental factors in sustainable and peaceful development; yet this role remains insufficiently recognised outside development policy circles.

GTZ is well aware that economic development, social justice and the protection of ecosystems are interlinked. We have realised that confrontation and preferential treatment are not the way to resolve conflicts between nature, power centres and markets. Sustainable development calls for cooperation, the ability to negotiate, and a willingness to learn and to carry out reform. It can only grow out of internationally and broadly accepted basic values: respect for human rights, global responsibility and partnership, democracy and justice, and the environmentally sound use of natural resources. These fundamental values are instrumental to our building a peaceful future together. For it is only on the basis of solidarity that a society can bring about equitable distribution of its economic goods, nurture social values, and responsibly manage natural resources. In short, only this kind of society can ensure a secure future for us all.

The main issue at the Eschborn Dialogue 2002 was therefore how to shape international cooperation to provide a peaceful future that meets the goals set by Agenda 21, an aim which was a recurrent topic throughout the eight workshops on controversial development topics. This publication summarises the position of GTZ and of many of the 500 participants who accepted our invitation to attend the Eschborn Dialogue. The fruitful professional debate showed how national and global structures can be formed non-violently and harmonised to achieve sustainable development.
Eschborn Dialogue 2002
Forging ahead on the road to Johannesburg

The Eschborn Dialogue has lived up to its reputation as a forum for experts in development cooperation. Several hundred representatives from politics, business and society came to the Eschborn Dialogue 2002 at GTZ Head Office in Eschborn, Germany, to discuss current technical and international cooperation issues with GTZ experts. With the World Summit in Johannesburg only a few months away, the focus was on the common search for ways to advance sustainable global development.

Eight well-attended workshops concentrated on controversial topics ranging from reconstruction to the role of the environmental conventions or to more effective AIDS treatment. Panel experts and an interested audience discussed the demands the sustainability principle places on each development task. The more technical workshop debates were interspersed with three panel sessions that brought participants together to discuss more comprehensive topics.

Prelude to technical discussion

"The events of September 11 have made it clear that solving global problems calls for the combined efforts of all stakeholders and all fields of policy," said GTZ Managing Director Bernd Eisenblätter at the start of the two-day expert-level dialogue at the GTZ Head Office. In order to complete the tasks ahead, development cooperation must inevitably mean international cooperation, he continued. Technical cooperation must contribute to a form of sustainable development that is global in scope. Dr. Eisenblätter's speech opened up a discussion among a select group of participants, who sketched out the possibilities for and requirements of international cooperation in apposite and concise remarks broadcast via monitors to the GTZ lobby.

Jürgen Heraeus referred to globalisation as the process most likely to solve poverty. "Globalisation makes both rich and poor countries richer," said Mr Heraeus, chairman of the Supervisory Board of Heraeus Holding. He pointed to the "tiger nations" as a good example. The World Trade Organization gives developing countries a chance to profit from globalisation, he continued - assuming that rich countries open up their markets, of course.

At the moment China is suffering because the industrialised nations have not opened their markets to Chinese agricultural products since the country joined the WTO, he said. Yet China remains an up-and-coming nation economically, he continued - an indication of the success of this socialist market economy. As a political system, democracy can sometimes act as a brake on development, he noted, pointing to India as an example. Mr Heraeus has no
Erich Stather, BMZ

> icant contribution to global poverty reduction. As he remarked, "You can't win votes by saying you want to solve problems in someone else's country" - an observation that, he felt, applies to all prosperous countries.

According to World Bank expert Johannes Linn, the course of global development will be set during the next 50 years. Progress is being made in the fields of poverty reduction and environmental protection; worldwide per capita income has considerably increased while damage to the ozone layer has decreased. At the same time, however, child mortality has risen. He noted that, due to the growing world population, the demand for food is expected to double by 2050, and pollution to further increase. Comprehensive international solutions are required to counter these developments.

Mr Linn called on the industrialised nations to set a good example in the field of the environment as well as in peace and poverty reduction, so that they can gain in credibility among developing countries. Energy must be generated and transported in an environmentally friendly, resource-conserving manner, he stated, while ordinary people must participate more actively in political decision-making, and the position of women in developing countries must be strengthened. Private sector participation, he stressed, was absolutely vital. Development budgets in industrialised nations should be doubled, the number of bilateral programmes increased, and multilateral funds topped up, he added.

Christa Wichterich from ATTAC rejected the views of both Mr Linn and Mr Heraeus. Globalisation provides no guarantee whatsoever that poverty will be overcome, she said. Rather, the gap between rich and poor has grown. "Market liberalisation, growth and increased efficiency, the targets of Agenda 21, have failed as instruments for securing peace, reducing poverty and protecting the environment." She went on to say that the logic of markets and competition leads to rivalry, not cooperation; military and environmental disarmament are needed to achieve peace, protect the environment and reduce poverty. Resource consumption must be checked, Ms Wichterich emphasised, and a balance found between the interests of developing and industrialised countries, between men and women, and between young and old.

The exploitation and conservation of natural resources must be balanced. As a possible contribution that development cooperation could make, Ms Wichterich suggested democratisation from below by decentralising political power and levelling social inconsistencies and extremes. Limits must be placed on globalisation, she said. Cornelia Richter, head of the GTZ Planning and Development Department, agreed with her that globalisation cannot proceed unchecked. "Globalisation must be accompanied by development cooperation," she stressed, going on to conclude that development cooperation is impossible without a clear awareness that globalisation must be carefully shaped.

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**Intercultural dialogue**

"We are not going to tackle culture last, after everything else has been said," said GTZ Managing Director Wolfgang Schmidt as he introduced the plenary session on the first evening after the first round of workshops. A group of well-known panelists met to discuss the topic "Shaping the future: Cultural dialogue unites different worlds", with TV presenter Conny Herrmann. Mr Schmidt emphasised the close link between technical cooperation and culture, adding that "culture is no mere appendage to technical cooperation but something we live in. We therefore see cultural differences not as a problem but as an opportunity [...] Understanding our partner is the main form of our work.

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Director of the GTZ Office in India, said that cultural dialogue must refrain from any form of arrogance, as cultural dialogue worthy of the name takes place on an equal footing. At this point, Tirmiziu Diallo, a Guinean-born lecturer at Frankfurt University, commented that not everyone shared the same concept of culture, and explained that there was no word for culture in his native language, which instead employs the expression “our way of living.”

Ms Vollmer’s comment that it was a piece of “structural stupidity” always to talk and never to listen was seconded by Mr Diallo, who offered a personal example from development cooperation. He asked whether dialogue really takes place “if we go to a village for the first time and the people that live there already know what our terms of reference are.” Ms Vollmer went on to doubt that the principle of mutual opening up is consistently taken seriously in development cooperation. We are deceiving ourselves if all we do is look for “a suitable women’s group” for a particular project concept, she said. In her opinion, “this is a very intelligent way of dealing with ourselves. But ultimately, with this approach, we reach only those elites who understand us the best.”

Generalisation is the enemy of cultural dialogue, Ms König warned. She pointed out that there were many examples that show that it is always necessary to develop an individual model. “It is not without reason that we are specialists and are particularly familiar with certain societies.” Examining individual cases was therefore a vital part of general cultural dialogue, she said. According to Ms Hayfa, GTZ staff have yet to grow into their role as a partner in dialogue. “We still see ourselves too much as experts who go to a country with ready-made solutions that we implement. But partner countries do not want experts: they want to interact with Germany on an equal footing. “We have to contribute our own and universal values to the cultural dialogue, values that are the subject of many international conventions,” Ms Hayfa stressed, suggesting that GTZ staff should in this respect not be as reserved as their newly designated role of “moderator” might indicate.

“Development does not proceed somehow from a lower to a higher position.” stated Mr Diallo at the end of the discussion, adding that this was fatal for dialogue. If we are to enter into dialogue without prejudice, we need to be utterly convinced of the wealth of all humanity and the variety of its cultures. In his view, “in the end, no culture can solve its own problems or the problems of other cultures by itself, let alone global problems. However, we can assume that each culture has a partial solution to offer.”
Trade without frontiers?

The expert dialogue at the GTZ Head Office came to a close in the early afternoon of the second day. There is nothing inherently wrong with different views. The important thing is to have an institutionalised process of consensus-building," said Dr Eisenblätter in his closing speech at the Eschborn Dialogue 2002. This statement summarised the preceding discussion on "Trade without borders or unbridled trade?", led by TV moderator Volker Angres. Representatives from business, the scientific community and governmental and non-governmental development cooperation discussed the meaning and purpose of general rules for global trade. Debate focused on whether or not certain regulatory mechanisms are required to make global trade balanced and equitable and to avoid special interests gaining one-sided advantages, not least through corruption.

Doubts were voiced even on the topic of justice: "There is no solid balance between those involved in trade at present. On the contrary, we are establishing a state of imbalance," said Achim Steiner, Director-General of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). He pointed out that the market for natural resources in particular, in which the IUCN is operating, offered ample opportunity for corruption. The private sector must be able to count on certain regulatory mechanisms to make global trade balanced and equitable and to avoid special interests gaining one-sided advantages, not least through corruption.

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Development cooperation has the increasingly important task of helping to create appropriate framework conditions. However, in view of the limited financial resources available for development assistance worldwide, the effectiveness of technical cooperation should not be overestimated, said IUCN Director-General Steiner. Nevertheless, it is important to take a closer look at which bodies and individuals in partner countries should be assisted with development cooperation funding, said Christoph Beier, Director of the GTZ Planning and Development Department, taking up a remark by Georg Elwert, head of the Institute of Ethnology at the Free University of Berlin. According to Mr Elwert, development policy has paid too little attention in the past to which countries received payments and what was done with such financial resources on site. "This failure has had repercussions in some cases," said Elwert, who is also a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Development (BMZ). Afghanistan, Somalia and Colombia are three of the countries that received the most development funds shortly before fighting broke out in each, he explained, and these funds were partly misappropriated for violence. According to Mr Elwert, "warlords are coldly calculating businessmen."

Friedrich Falkenberg, director of the EU Directorate for ACP-related trade issues, could nevertheless understand why assistance should be offered to these and other countries. It is a difficult moral decision, he pointed out, to cut off the flow of money to countries that are both plagued by corruption and by famine, as Zimbabwe is at the moment. Mr Falkenberg, who is currently re-negotiating the ACP-EU Agreement with the signatories concerned, additionally pointed out that there were "advantages in both directions."

"Learning includes being able to listen," concluded GTZ Managing Director Bernd Eisenblätter, and thanked those present for the many useful suggestions made during the Eschborn Dialogue 2002. According to Dr Eisenblätter, the goal on the road to Johannesburg must not be to negotiate yet more international conventions with complicated rules, but instead to form stronger, better links within the various fields of policy. <
Reconstruction scenarios

When conflict and war have ceased, it is time for a new start. The foundations must be laid for sustainable reconstruction at this early stage. As the Eschborn Dialogue 2002 showed, GTZ’s economic and employment promotion efforts meet this need.

Conflict and war, whether internal or international, threaten development. How international cooperation can respond to this threat was one of the questions raised by GTZ at the Eschborn Dialogue 2002. From the technical cooperation standpoint, the answer is that economic and employment promotion can help reduce the potential for conflict and create new structures for business and civil society in our partner countries.

Development cooperation contributes to this process in two ways: firstly, it helps prevent crises and conflicts by promoting more favourable economic framework conditions for employment and income. Economic factors, after all, are often at the root of crises and violent conflicts. Secondly, once the firing ceases, development experts can go beyond emergency aid to support a process of sustainable economic and social development – one that allows people to return to a more peaceful way of life with real prospects for income.

Humanitarian aid and technical cooperation are most effectively linked immediately following the termination of a conflict. Economic potential is specifically promoted. In this context, the development of small-scale enterprises is particularly important. In addition, GTZ helps develop civil structures at the local level and nurtures the population’s sense of justice. Politicians and development organisations should work together to determine how, after a ceasefire, international emergency relief and development-oriented emergency aid can lead to sustainable economic development. Technical cooperation can help create the political conditions necessary for this type of dialogue.

Business as a partner in development

Governments and international donors are not the only parties responsible for stimulating economic development. Development cooperation aims to integrate the local private sector and international private enterprises into crisis prevention and economic reconstruction. In collaboration with business associations, development cooperation can work at a supranational level and can thus mediate between international and local actors: in the rapid exploitation of existing local resources, long-term reconstruction and the reintegration of uprooted populations.

In general, foreign entrepreneurs are rarely prepared to play an active role in crisis countries, as too much risk is involved. Nevertheless, in partnership with development organisations such as GTZ, small- and medium-sized enterprises can venture into business activities in such countries. GTZ’s country-specific knowledge provides logistical security, and additional alliances with business associations give private sector partners in development the information they need, as well as establish mutual trust. A tripartite cooperation made up of a development organisation, a local enterprise and an enterprise from an industrialised country can contribute to social and economic stability, thereby serving the twin goals of crisis prevention and reconstruction.

Local approaches

But how can development cooperation find the right intervention level? In the
the strategies that have proved most useful are those that take account of the weaknesses of government structures in post-war situations. GTZ’s economic and employment promotion efforts are thus explicitly based on communities. In critical situations, community structures are closer to the population and can resume activities more rapidly than central government institutions. Wherever the physical and social infrastructures have been destroyed and economic stagnation, shortages, general hardship, and latent insecurity prevail, the lowest community level constitutes the best basis for reconstruction and government reform. Efforts to secure peace at a higher level must of course accompany approaches made at local level.

In Sierra Leone, in more than 50 communities throughout the country, this method has enabled a link to be forged between acute emergency aid and international cooperation for longer-term development. In order to enable timely responses to crisis, tension and post-war scenarios, GTZ will be setting up, together with the African Development Bank and the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR, a Regional Fund for Reconciliation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration. Strengthening weakened financial systems is particularly important in priming the economies of post-war societies. On the basis of up-to-date technical cooperation experience, development experts outline minimum conditions for the establishment of stable small-scale credit systems and other microfinance services.

Once the initial institutional infrastructure is in place and ownership rights are guaranteed, private actors can make an effective contribution towards crisis prevention and reconstruction. Economic and employment promotion efforts serve as bridges to the solid ground of private sector development.

Reconstructing for a bright future: forging links between economic development and employment promotion

According to Peter Lock, coordinator of the European Association for Research on Transformation, war and post-war economies are characterised by three global spheres: the regular, informal and criminal circulation of people and goods. Speaking at the workshop on “Reconstructing for a bright future – forging links between economic development and employment promotion”, he said that to stabilise a post-war situation and to initiate reconstruction, incentives and controls had to be used to take actors from the informal and criminal spheres and integrate them in the regular sphere. He added that integrating these actors was a difficult and often protracted process, but that failure to do so would lead to new crises and conflicts. The workshop therefore focused on the issue of how development cooperation can help initiate sustainable development in post-war economies, particularly by interacting with the private sector.

Avoiding islands of prosperity

As a rule, countries are politically unstable in the aftermath of conflict, their infrastructure is destroyed, security cannot be guaranteed and the economy stagnates. Berthold Bös, director of a GTZ International Services multilateral programme in West Africa, therefore recommends a local-level approach. He said that after unsatisfactory results with ad hoc interventions, GTZ had designed a multi-sectoral development strategy geared towards communities. He explained that the approach took account of the weaknesses of infrastructure in the public sector and specifically strengthened capacities at community level. Mr. Bös went on to say that Technical Cooperation had to start creating “many islands of prosperity” at local level, and that these islands must be linked up in the further course of cooperation. As a further step, private companies are to be integrated into this approach.

“The private sector needs the support and know-how of development cooperation”, said Jens Bruns, a board member at the medium-sized German waste disposal company Nehlsen AG. Nehlsen took a risk when it invested in Angola, a country plagued by civil war, and built up a waste disposal system in the capital Luanda at the end of the 1980s. Some 1,100 employees perform all the local waste disposal services. Luanda has become cleaner. Nevertheless, Mr. Bruns said that the country still lacked a waste management concept, waste disposal standards and fee models. Technical Cooperation know-how would have been helpful here.

According to Judith van Doorn from the International Labor Organization (ILO), the use of microfinance systems also needs to be carefully calculated and well prepared in post-war societies. “Microfinance basically has the potential to re-establish markets, reunite people and improve solidarity within the community,” Ms. van Doorn said. However, she went on to list several minimum requirements: there should be adequate security and a cash economy, and potential borrowers should have fixed abodes. She argued that even if these criteria were met, microfinance in post-conflict countries should only be given to target groups that are able to set up economically viable micro- and small enterprises.
The pillars of a global social order

The architecture of a future global social order has already been drafted, but our shared home is still far from complete. What has been agreed, and what remains unresolved? At the Eschborn Dialogue 2002, GTZ analysed progress towards a global social regulatory framework.

It is seven years now since a global social agenda was adopted at the World Social Summit in Copenhagen, but turning the 1995 action programme into reality is a painstaking task. A number of difficulties are hampering efforts to shape a global social policy and a social order that can apply internationally. The Eschborn Dialogue 2002 shed light on the current debate. GTZ identified points of consensus that technical cooperation can use to help make the desired global social regulatory framework socially sound in the interests of sustainable development.

There is broad consensus on the pillars of a future global social order. Civil, political, social and cultural human rights form one pillar. The second and third are the internationally binding standards of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the safeguarding of children's rights. The international community broadly recognises this framework. All parties also agree that progress in the anti-poverty and poverty reduction programmes worldwide. Since 1999 at the very latest, the Bretton Woods organisations have shown a greater commitment to social objectives. They have agreed to finance the debt relief initiative drafted at the G7 summit in Cologne for the poorest heavily indebted countries. In future, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank will be gearing their programmes more closely towards poverty reduction. A certain consensus has therefore been reached within which development cooperation can operate.

However, the points of agreement on the road to a future global social order are still far too few, and are outnumbered by various complications. In the GTZ's view, the development of a global social order is currently being slowed by around half a dozen factors: the complexity of the international regulatory framework, a greater number of ambitious objectives and concepts, the many actors with often unclear priorities, the conflicting interests of the developing and industrialized worlds, insufficient resolution on the part of governments, unsatisfactory control instruments and limited financial resources.

Struggling to set priorities

In view of the plethora of international agreements, one of the major tasks on the road towards a fair global social order is therefore to set clear priorities. Agreement by ILO member states on core labour standards is one such step and GTZ takes account of these norms in its cooperation with partner countries.

A further attempt to curb the inflation of development goals and to come closer to establishing an international framework for action was made in 'Shaping the 21st Century', published in 1996. In this publication, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) laid the cornerstones for policy orientation. However, the OECD countries were not willing to submit to scrutiny their own compliance to the very obligations they placed on developing countries. Thus, after a good start, donor contributions to the 20/20 initiative, for instance, fell far short of the agreements. The UN Millennium Declaration, a new attempt to establish an international system of objectives, is based on the OECD's original set of targets for poverty reduction and new adapted.
A global social order: a utopian notion? Making sustainable development socially sound

"The global social order is still a patchwork today, but it can take on a more discernable pattern in future." This was Bernd Baron von Maydell’s answer to the question "Is a global social order utopian?", posed by senior planning officer Sabine Trommershäuser of the GTZ Division State and Economic Reform, Civil Society during the second Eschborn Dialogue workshop. Baron von Maydell is director of the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Law in Munich. He was one of five panellists taking part in three workshop sessions chaired by Thomas Fues of Duisburg University's Institute for Development and Peace. Session 1 gave a scientific and political overview of the current status of international social standards and social agreements, while Session 2 addressed the role of the private sector in shaping a global social order. These were followed by lively discussion between the panel and an audience of around 200 people on how development cooperation can work with the agreements’ strengths and weaknesses to push for a global social order.

Baron von Maydell suggested that ratification of international social agreements must be linked to commitments on the basis of which claims can be made in developing countries. He added that international courts of law could intensify the reach of global justice, and that regional groupings should learn from the models of other supranational organs with legal authority, as in the case of EU bodies. Wolfgang Heller, head of the International Social Policy Department at the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Bonn, called for "greater empowerment for national representatives to adopt resolutions at large international conferences", and criticised agreements as being "too inflexible". Instead of imposing rigid minimum standards, they would do better to offer developing countries the latitude to make binding commitments to global social guidelines in their own countries, he said.

From standards to stipulations

Karl-Hermann Blickle, Managing Partner of Sunlife/Bitzer zur Rose GmbH & Co. KG in Balingen, and a member of the German Business Ethics Network (Deutsches Netzwerk Wirtschaftsethik) for several years now, bridged the gap from social standards to social stipulations. He stressed the pioneering role of the private sector in instituting social principles in developing countries. Private enterprises can exert considerable influence on trading partners and their suppliers to accept social clauses, he claimed, and the transfer of entire branches of production to developing countries provides a similar opportunity. Voluntary commitments improve a company’s image among customers. They are now a standard factor in competition strategy, he added, noting that market pressure is more effective than international sanctions in the implementation of social clauses.

Tajana Chahoud, academic assistant at the German Development Institute in Bonn, emphasised two instruments for voluntary self-regulation in the private sector: the Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Companies in the Global Compact make a public commitment to comply with social standards: in their annual reports, with best practices on the Internet, and in cooperation with the UN. The OECD Guidelines also integrate the government and NGOs in monitoring. GTZ’s task is first to make people in developing countries aware of social standards, so that they can then be implemented there, she concluded.
Private-sector impetus for infrastructure

The state no longer bears sole responsibility for infrastructure: private partners often prove to be a more reliable alternative. At the Eschborn Dialogue 2002, GTZ argued that what works in developing countries is also worth trying in certain sectors in Germany.

That infrastructure is best left to government institutions was accepted as a truism 25 years ago. Private sector participation in infrastructure then seemed undesirable or even dubious. Now, however, there has been a fundamental shift of attitude. At the Eschborn Dialogue 2002, GTZ reiterated its view that the state alone cannot cope with organisation, network development and quality of supply. When it comes to a division of labour between the public and private sector, Germany has something to learn from developing countries.

The lack of an adequate water and energy supply or of a functioning transport system is an obstacle to economic and social development. In most countries, the state is inefficient. Public funds are no longer sufficient to cover the costs of constructing and operating supply networks, a problem compounded by the fact that foreign financial institutions are rarely willing to support inadequate supply systems. In order to meet their costs, many state-subsidised infrastructure companies rely on fiscal hand-outs rather than increasing revenues. The political influence wielded in state-owned companies can easily lead to uncontrolled growth of bureaucracy and thus corruption.

Problems such as these have led to a profound rethinking of the organisation of infrastructure services throughout the world. The key concepts are commercialisation of state companies, market-oriented operation. The reforms are designed to create more efficient services for consumers and to ease the strain on national budgets.

Learning from the developing world
Discussion about public-private partnerships in both the road and water sectors is gaining momentum in Germany as well. The Eschborn Dialogue 2002 looked at these two sectors as areas in which Germany has been late to liberalise services. Neighbouring European countries, for example, have long since reorganised their motorway systems on the "user pays" principle.

Newly industrialising countries such as Chile and Mexico have also been gathering experience in this field for many years now. GTZ believes that the lessons they have learned about privately operated infrastructure can provide valuable input for Germany. In the 1990s, developing countries financed around 35,000 kilometres of motorways, tunnels and bridges using private funds. Not every experience was positive, however: investor earnings were considerably lower than forecast due to overly optimistic traffic predictions, and private investors reacted cautiously as a result.

Although the interstate network in Germany continues to be dominated by the state, tolls for lorries are planned in the freight sector, a first step towards greater user financing. Operator solutions are also being discussed: one model favours multilane motorway development financed by lorry tolls revenue, while another proposes the private financing and operation of bridges, tunnels and mountain passes. At the moment, however, there is no great impetus towards private toll roads in Germany.

Water means accountability
The discussion about private sector solutions for the German water sector is more controversial. Many people oppose the calls by certain scientists and members of the EU Commission that the private sector should play a greater role here. Water, opponents say, is too fundamental to life to be made a source of competition and profit-making. But experience with operator models in other countries shows that the state can indeed still retain responsibility for supply and control. Management agree-
At the Eschborn Dialogue, GTZ presented its advisory services as a government-owned enterprise for international cooperation with worldwide operations, GTZ supports governments in partner countries in formulating and implementing their infrastructure policies. At the Eschborn Dialogue, GTZ presented itself as a force for advisory services, helping to find creative and innovative solutions for setting up cooperatives, privatising large supply networks and granting operation and maintenance concessions. GTZ advisory services aim at economic, social and environmental sustainability: an effective and efficient infrastructure is crucial if the living conditions and future prospects of people in developing and transition countries are to be improved.

An advisory force
Infrastructure policy that entails greater involvement of the private sector is another concern for technical cooperation. As a government-owned enterprise for international cooperation with worldwide operations, GTZ supports governments in partner countries in formulating and implementing their infrastructure policies. At the Eschborn Dialogue, GTZ presented itself as a force for advisory services, helping to find creative and innovative solutions for setting up cooperatives, privatising large supply networks and granting operation and maintenance concessions. GTZ advisory services aim at economic, social and environmental sustainability: an effective and efficient infrastructure is crucial if the living conditions and future prospects of people in developing and transition countries are to be improved.

Local authorities in Germany are also increasingly on the lookout for public-private partnerships, one reason being the amount of investment needed to rehabilitate wastewater disposal. The experience of many cities in developing and newly industrialised countries with public-private partnerships in the water sector is thus of interest to German communities.

It's the preparation that counts
Armin Keppel, head of the section for Special Construction Programmes on Road Construction at the German Federal Ministry for Transport, explained that discussions in Germany came down to two models, in both of which the private sector is designed to take over construction, operation and maintenance. The projects are financed by toll fees paid by all users of tunnels, bridges and mountain passes, he said. The private operators charge a general lorry toll on motorways and receive start-up funding from the government. Frank Kehlenbach of the Federation of the German Construction Industry said that the large German construction companies support models such as these. They have already gained considerable experience in foreign markets, he said, particularly in England and France and in newly industrialising countries. However, due to mistakes in planning and contract design, he maintained that toll roads had proven a failure in developing countries. GTZ Planning Officer Stefan Opitz confirmed this view, pointing out that the top priority in developing countries was to maintain the road network and not to promote rapid expansion.

"In the interests of the environment and the conservation of natural resources, water supply and sanitation are best left in the hands of the public sector," said Peter Kessler, section head at the Ministry of the Environment in the German state of Hesse, adding that, in his view, liberalisation in Europe showed that private-sector companies do not act responsibly in terms of social and environmental issues unless governed by strict regulations. He noted, however, that inefficient public-sector suppliers and waste management service companies that pass on high costs to consumers must also be stopped. In contrast, Christian Thomasius from RWE Aqua/Thames Water, which is supporting a water project in Croatia, explained that "as a result of risks and responsibilities being shared, both operators and consumers profit from PSP models." The important thing was to ensure correct planning and preparation, he stressed, and suggested that GTZ could bring its strengths into play here. Helmut Lang, GTZ Planning Officer in the water sector, agreed, adding that the main concern of technical cooperation was to ensure that more people have access to safe drinking water.
Conventions: the driving force behind structural policy

Environmental conventions are effective instruments for sustainable policy, but they are scarcely being tapped in either industrialised or developing countries. As the Eschborn Dialogue 2002 showed, GTZ provides advice on how to align national priorities with global regulatory frameworks.

One task of development cooperation is to help shape international structural policy. The development organisations are entering new spheres of action here, and ongoing projects need to be refocused. At the Eschborn Dialogue 2002, GTZ brought out aspects of particular importance to technical cooperation that help to shape global environmental structures: at the national level in the industrialised, developing and transition countries as well as at regional and international levels.

In the GTZ’s view, the most important contribution to be made to international structural policy in the environmental sector is to provide advisory services to governments on how to translate international conventions and other regulatory frameworks into practice. However, these processes are complex and protracted, and not only in partner countries. Throughout the world, these conventions are only very slowly being absorbed into national and partnerships promoted at all levels. Despite the many difficulties that have arisen, environmental conventions have already prompted economic and social innovations in the signatory states. New environmental technologies are being used, and opposing parties are coming closer to one another on environmental issues both within and across national borders.

Coherence in donor and recipient countries

The key elements needed if progress is to be made are coherence and synergy with other sectoral policies within the country itself, with international policies, and with those of donors. Partner countries need support to achieve a balanced overall policy themselves. But is donor promotional policy sufficiently coherent in itself, and does it allow partner countries to shape their own development? Do donors provide advisory services that are consistent with the main concerns of international regulatory frameworks and which enable partner countries to help shape these frameworks in their own interests? Such questions are justified. Implementation processes in donor countries all too often fail to set a good example.

We, too, need cooperation and greater coherence. For Germany, this means closer cooperation between the key ministries and between German actors from municipalities, the scientific community, the private sector, NGOs and international cooperation institutions. These various levels must come closer together if a coherent global structural policy that benefits developing countries is to be achieved.

Instruments with a wealth of potential

The development focus of the Rio environmental conventions can easily be combined with national strategies for sustainable development, poverty reduction, decentralisation, good governance and emergency preparedness. Their great potential makes the conventions decisive instruments for development cooperation. They can only be effectively exploited, however, if international cooperation is able to redirect its attention away from project approaches that address only part of each problem. Development cooperation needs to exert influence at the policy level. It must aim to forge links between different levels.
GTZ is responding to this need by increasingly combining projects into programmes. In technical cooperation efforts to implement international environmental regulatory frameworks, GTZ cooperates worldwide with the institutions and programmes of the United Nations, NGOs and scientific institutions, the World Bank, regional development banks, the European Commission, and bilateral donors and their development institutions.

Conventions offer a framework for national legislation. By ratifying conventions, countries make a commitment to the principles they embody. International regulatory frameworks are therefore not short-lived constructions. They are usually internationally binding, and they provide guidelines on development and the future.

International environmental regulatory frameworks are like a roof shared by the various actors, beneath which cooperation among them can be advanced and new forms of partnership developed at all levels: local, national and international.

**Global environmental policy: an engine of economic and social innovation**

Can global environmental policy spur economic and social innovation? This was one of the central issues addressed at the Eschborn Dialogue by the workshop on "global environmental policy as a driving force". The workshop was attended by 100 people, and a variety of answers were proposed.

Udo Simonis from the Berliner Wissenschaftszentrum (Berlin Science Centre) is convinced that developing countries' power to conserve global resources has considerably increased since the 1992 Rio Conference. The world summit coined the expression "common but differentiated responsibility", a responsibility explicitly emphasised in several conventions, he continued. Simonis reminded those present that the Rio Conventions and their instruments were the first to introduce joint decision-making processes, and that the Montreal Protocol contained a "double-weighted veto". Globalisation of environmental policy is a highly topical item on developing countries' political agendas, he maintained, although he found it discouraging that environmental protection was insufficiently prioritised in many developing countries. Weak environmental ministries were in a difficult position in the developing world, he went on: environmental policy has to be further strengthened and its status enhanced at the international level. As Simonis states, "There is no convincing argument for having a powerful world trade organisation but no comparable institution for the environment."

"In theory that's correct, but not in practice," replied Hans-Peter Schipulle from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), contradicting Simonis' view that developing countries had gained influence and power over environmental issues. "In reality, the developing countries have only limited options for advancing the processes in their own interests," claimed Schipulle. They do not fully exploit the potential offered by environmental agreements, which have also focused strongly on development since Rio, he continued. Moreover, the human and financial resources of not only developing countries but also industrialised nations are strained by increasingly complex regulatory frameworks. "A lack of understanding about the subject complicates implementation worldwide," Schipulle warned, calling on development cooperation to address this issue, and on the industrialised nations to assume their responsibility as role models.

**Advisory services get the engine started**

What can make environmental agreements a powerful driving force? Moderator Ramesh Jaura, head of the German branch of the news agency IPS in Bonn, summarised the results of discussion on this topic: "The greater theoretical power of the developing countries must be converted into reality through good advisory services." In addition, these countries should develop an interest of their own in environmental agreements, Jaura added. Economic incentives are necessary here, he said, and environmental policy has to play a more important role - not only in national but also in bilateral and multilateral policy. Jaura called on German development cooperation not to view the new regulatory frameworks merely as guiding principles for content; instead, "development cooperation must see itself as an instrument to create added value for these regulatory frameworks and to take appropriate action."
defined by the territorial principle. International law is the law of nations.

However, this simple picture no longer applies. International legalisation is becoming increasingly complex, as can be seen in international humanitarian law, human rights (including women’s rights), and business, commercial and environmental law. The implications of the increasing density of national law have only been touched upon so far. The same applies to those rights that international agreements grant to individuals, such as the right to sue and the right of appeal.

New legal constellations

These changes and shifts in the national and international legal spectrum are only gradually becoming apparent. Nevertheless, it is already sufficiently clear that development cooperation must draw conclusions from this if it is to promote global civilisation through legal means. GTZ believes that development cooperation that aims to play a role in global structural and peace policy cannot ignore global legal developments. It has to seek cooperation in the particular field of international legalisation and the refinement of national law. GTZ therefore intends to increase its efforts to promote the rule of law in developing countries with a view to promoting international legalisation.

After all, it is not only developing countries that must face the new challenges created by international legalisation; these challenges have to be met by industrialised countries as well. As a result, development cooperation must contribute to political and substantive dialogue on international legalisation. Transnational discussion on the direction legal developments should take and their consequences must take place in a spirit of partnership and equality. It is only through dialogue that international legalisation can become a process shared by all.

GTZ will need new methods and approaches to foster the process toward consensus on international legal development. Technical cooperation must be prepared for a longer-term commitment, a combination of political and technical dialogue and, not least, a learning process. The differing trends in legal developments at the international level and within each country must be assessed before they can be influenced in such a participatory global dialogue.
legalisation and national legal reform, making legal promotion conform to progressive civil liberty principles will no doubt be one of the most difficult tasks facing development cooperation.

**Classic tasks within the legal sector**

GTZ is also continuing to focus on classic development tasks in the legal sector. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GTZ helps strengthen human rights in Latin America and Africa by supporting reforms of the judicial machinery, criminal law and criminal procedural law. Technical cooperation is also assisting in the creation of a legal basis for a socially equitable market economy. Reform of business law, particularly in the transition countries, is a crucial lever in this context. China and South Africa are modernising their administrative laws with GTZ support. Innovative approaches are intended to strengthen the position of women by making them aware of their rights.

All projects operate at the national level. Following the principle “global village, local law”, their conceptual approach and the corresponding GTZ advisory input naturally conform to international developments. As part of the process of international legalisation, GTZ can contribute experience where it counts: strengthening the position of its partner countries as equal players with equal rights.

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**WORKSHOP**

**Law and peace: the chances for global civilisation through law**

Globalisation is increasing the number of legal entities, stated Burkhard Königitz, Managing Director of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), at the start of the Eschborn Dialogue workshop on “Global civilisation through law”. Mr Königitz pointed out that statehood was changing, and raised the question of how developing countries might be integrated into international legal debate. Discussion was based on a paper by GTZ’s Helen Ahrens outlining the changes and shifts increased international legalisation has caused in the national and international social development context.

Keebet von Benda-Beckmann, head of the project group on Legal Pluralism at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, described the form legal pluralism takes and its impact. The different time frames for development in different areas of law was typical, she said, adding that rights and balances of power were changing in a similar fashion to established values and recognised authorities. Development cooperation must give greater consideration to legal processes, she continued, in the form of a long-term commitment. Cornelius Prittwitz, Professor of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Criminology and Philosophy of Law at Frankfurt University, explained the respective political functions of law: law as a means of controlling power, and as a means of exercising power. In many countries, law is used for the latter, although greater international legalisation tends to lend law greater importance as a means of controlling power. According to Professor Prittwitz, “legal pluralism is not an obstacle but rather an important stage on the road to global law.”

Ulrich Karpen, Director of the Research Department on Cultural Constitutional and Administrative Law at Hamburg University, believes legal pluralism is both unavoidable and desirable. Supranational laws, he added, are a step forward and result in greater national flexibility, so that discussion on updating international law should be encouraged. GTZ must help developing countries engage in creating the network of an international legal order and see that they can ultimately participate in it.

In order to create a link between national traditions and international debate, parliaments must be strengthened, said German Member of Parliament Adelheid Trösscher. In many countries, members of parliament are subject to arbitrary decisions by the executive branch, she explained, so that support for parliaments and their members is an important task for development cooperation. Ursula Schäfer-Preuss, section head at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), believes that development cooperation must narrow the divergence between national and international law. The BMZ has provided EUR 84 million for assistance in the field of law and justice in recent years, she said. One of the basic principles of German development cooperation is its openness to different models, she continued. International legalisation requires a combination of technical and political dialogue. National training and upgrading systems, ways of dealing with pluralistic systems, access to the legal system for disadvantaged groups and a system of ombudspersons must be promoted in the future, too, she stated.
Prospects for the "no future" generation

Many developing countries have very young populations. The fact that their young people grow up in a culture of violence jeopardises sustainable development. GTZ must help ensure that young people learn practical skills – and become acquainted with democratic principles and global dangers.

Children and young people in many developing countries grow up in a culture of violence. Civil wars, robbery, drugs and arms trafficking, unemployment, black markets and violence within the family shape their attitude towards everyday life. The fatal consequence is that young people's negative experiences come to define the perspective of the society as a whole; young people under 25 years of age make up more than 60 per cent of the population of developing countries. As highlighted at the Eschborn Dialogue 2002, development cooperation must therefore devote particular attention to the prevention of violence and to peace education.

Technical cooperation can only make a limited contribution to turning conflict into dialogue and violence into non-violence. It can only make a limited contribution to the counter-violence among young people. Youth in developing countries often know only violence as a method of resolving conflicts. In addition, violence often exercises a particular fascination on the young. Guerrilla troops and gangs offer them power, a life focus and an identity – feelings that are hard to find elsewhere.

Between violence and creativity

Contributions to greater economic security and the creation of new jobs are usually not enough to rescue young people from this fate. An important prerequisite for sustainable peace promotion is psychological stability. It is the task of education and youth work to encourage young people to live together on a peaceful basis. School and off-school education must teach values that promote peace and thus help prevent future crises. Members of gangs should not simply be dismissed as troublemakers.

A closer look at young people's survival strategies shows that the young are highly creative and strong-willed. Initiatives for the non-violent resolution of conflicts, intercultural understanding, and the reconciliation and management of collective traumas should therefore focus on the younger generation.

For GTZ's education and youth work, this means that in addition to attitudes and practical skills, technical cooperation must also introduce a knowledge of democratic principles, human rights and global dangers. The message sent to young people is: strengthen your own faculties of judgement, play an active part in community social life and make a place for yourself within it.

To do so, the young must have an adequate basic education. And if the class as a whole is to pass muster, education policy-makers must also do their homework and create an integrated educational system, promoting native and foreign languages, setting up bilingual schools and encouraging intercultural learning. New teaching material must be prepared and examination content revised with a view to conflict resolution and reconciliation. Peace promotion and conflict prevention should be part of the curriculum. Education policy must support structures that allow children to participate in democratic processes. Peer education – youth teaching each other – has proved particularly effective.
Communities must ensure that leisure activities are available for children and young people, particularly for traumatised, homeless and refugee children. Families also play an important role, and work with pre-school children should be intensified. The dialogue between young and old fosters reconciliation and can teach cultural and social values in a particularly sustainable way.

Practical training and youth work

Technical cooperation is making a contribution in this sphere in many countries. Both in Kosovo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, GTZ is supporting youth centres in which young people from different ethnic groups can spend their free time together. The activities on offer range from recreational pursuits and training to courses on peaceful conflict resolution. Psychosocial group activities can also help children cope with war experiences. In Rwanda, technical cooperation combines job-oriented training with basic education that prepares young people for life. This approach is supplemented by a youth centre where young people can get together for reconciliation and self-help. The community as a whole stands to gain from training centres for young people, their products being sold at local markets, the integration of local craft workshops, and opportunities for sport and music.

In South Africa, young unemployed men and women help reduce violence in their townships by serving with the police as community peace workers. In this role, they mediate in all kinds of conflicts and pass on criminal cases to the police. After a year of community service, they can sign up for six months of vocational training and increase knowledge among children and young people.

And technical cooperation in Sri Lanka is helping raise awareness among teachers and school principals of post-traumatic disorders in schoolchildren. GTZ is training teachers, revising curricula and promoting extracurricular activities such as the "peace day".

Learning to live together – violence prevention and peace education among children and young people

International cooperation for peace can only succeed if the generations communicate with one another. The role of children and youths as social policy actors must be strengthened. This was the conclusion drawn by the Eschborn Dialogue workshop "Learning to live together – violence prevention and peace education among children and young people". Four project presentations rounded off the discussion organised by Stephanie Schell-Faucon and chaired by Christian Seufert, in which 100 people took part.

The main question during the first session was how we can learn to live with one another. Christian Büttner from the Hesse Foundation for Peace and Conflict Research (Hessische Stiftung für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung) and Christine M. Merkel from the German UNESCO Commission examined the issue from the standpoint of peace education. Adults must be prepared to give young people room to develop, Büttner suggested. Building "enduring relationships" also means that adults have to accept that young people are different, he said. This is the only way for both sides to get along together. However, this will take time. Merkel noted that "sustainable effects cannot be achieved in cycles of one to two years."

Peace education should target not only young people who experience violence directly, but also those confronted with violence in the media, she continued.

Young people taking part in the discussion agreed with the experts. Janaki Kumari, a trainee teacher from Sri Lanka, reported on traumatised children who need special support. She pointed out that peaceful development can only be achieved in Sri Lanka if language barriers between the conflicting parties are overcome. Beavance Lesenyeho said that violence was part of everyday life where he came from in South Africa. Many young people in the township were addicted to alcohol and drugs and involved in crime, he explained, the reasons for this being broken homes, parents who neglect their children, high unemployment and a low standard of education.

Hidden potential

How can peace education strengthen the faculty of judgement, promote social participation and increase knowledge among children and young people? Answers and approaches to these questions were the focus of powerful project presentations from Rwanda, Kosovo/Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sri Lanka and South Africa. Peter Strack from Terre des Hommes said that everyone, however young, was shaped by his or her own personal experience: by exposure both to violence and also to conflict resolution. Young people are not "empty vessels", he said. Everyone agreed that their potential was still not sufficiently acknowledged. "We have to make radical changes here," said Uwe Kivelitz from the GTZ sectoral project Crisis Prevention and Conflict Management. A member of the audience added that, in future, technical cooperation for peace education should analyse project impacts more thoroughly.

Hans-Heiner Rudolph from the GTZ activity area Education, Science, Youth summarised the requirements to be met by development cooperation: peace education requires comprehensive, sensitive approaches, and to this end the roles of the state and civil society must be balanced. Material investment was required to create better prospects for the future, he said: in basic education, teacher training and employment, and innovative prevention, particularly among young people prone to violence.

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Dialogue on watermarked boundaries

Transboundary water bodies are more often the object of conflict than consensus, despite the great potential of cooperation between riparian states. At the Eschborn Dialogue, GTZ highlighted opportunities and emphasised its aim of establishing strong institutions for dialogue.

Water knows no political boundaries. There are more than 250 water catchment areas throughout the world that are shared by at least two countries. About 40 per cent of the world's population live next to transboundary rivers, lakes or groundwater reservoirs. Competition for access to and use of these resources harbours considerable potential for conflict. Access to water places a strain on relations between countries and often prevents economic cooperation. However, transboundary water bodies can also have a positive impact, as GTZ showed at the Eschborn Dialogue 2002: they are often catalysts for regional cooperation, providing that the riparian states recognise the advantages cooperation can bring.

The potential for cooperation has hardly been tapped so far. To exploit this potential, a common understanding must be reached on the minimum amount of water each country is entitled to. No country should be put at a disadvantage. In addition to the issue of water quotas, the specific economic benefits of cooperation need to be stressed. Energy supply and tourism are two sectors that particularly profit from cooperation, as does environmental protection. All riparian states have an interest in an intact ecosystem, because all stakeholders stand to lose from water pollution and the unlimited exploitation of resources.

Acceptable rules

The international community has now developed rules for the joint use of transboundary water resources and for the peaceful resolution of conflicts over water. Germany has played a major role in this field. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supports international dialogue forums and regional initiatives to resolve water conflicts. In 1998, the water policy forum at Petersberg near Bonn resulted in a series of recommendations to prevent conflicts over transboundary water bodies. The central points are: cooperation at regional level, improved institutional framework conditions for joint water use, increased partnership between the public and private sectors, and knowledge transfer through experience exchange. Involvement in water issues has brought Germany considerable international recognition as a fair mediator, and this was once more in evidence at the Bonn International Conference on Freshwater in 2001.

Inter-country commissions play a major role in constructive cooperation over transboundary water bodies, and Europe has had very good experience with such committees in regard to the Rhine and the Danube. The key topics for cooperation are economic development, water conservation and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. International cooperation should create the trust needed in this context, as trust plays a major role both between riparian states and in project work.

Regional solutions

In future, development cooperation will be concentrating on regional cooperation to a greater extent than it has done in the past, because freshwater scarcity and water pollution are intrinsically regional problems. There are already several very good possible solutions, which derive not least from the considerable experience that Germany can contribute.

GTZ is successfully supporting crisis prevention and crisis management over transboundary water bodies. In the Middle East peace process of the 1990s, Israel, Palestine and Jordan were persuaded to enter into dialogue and to think about future water needs in the Jordan Valley. The results of the “Middle East Regional Study on Water Supply and Demand Development” presented in 1999...
now serve as the basis for water resource development throughout the region. And on the Mekong River, technical cooperation is promoting environmental management. GTZ experts are providing the riparian states here with advisory services on how to develop joint principles to manage their natural resources. The establishment of generally accepted rules of operation can quickly flare into political crises.

GTZ is currently stepping up its work in Africa. A few years ago, the 15 member states of the Southern African Development Community signed a Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems, proposing the establishment of commissions for all transboundary river basins, among other aspects. A commission has already been set up for the Orange-Senqu river basin, and the Technical Committee for the Limpopo region is intended to evolve into a similar institution. Technical cooperation supports the establishment of river basin commissions. Political decision-makers and operating units are offered sectoral and organisational consulting services. In providing these services, GTZ has taken on a new role: in addition to traditional know-how transfer, our partners are calling for a moderator for social policy decision-making processes and for conflict mediation.

GTZ is thus acting as a catalyst in a fundamental political reform process. In a controversial international debate, technical cooperation is heightening the advantages that arise from joint water use.

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### WORKSHOP

**From confrontation to cooperation: international cooperation on transboundary water bodies**

"Countries that share bodies of water must demonstrate the resolve to cooperate," said Zebediah Murungweni at the Eschborn Dialogue on transboundary bodies of water, addressing politicians from developing countries. Mr Murungweni is a water sector consultant for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and a former Senior Advisor on Zimbabwe's water reform process. At the workshop on international cooperation on transboundary water bodies, he said that the focus should be on finding a balance between different interests. The workshop presented the position of the German Government, outlined German efforts in this sector during recent decades and initiated discussion on this difficult topic by presenting examples from several SADC member states.

![Zebediah Murungweni](image1)  
Zebediah Murungweni, Zimbabwe

![Thomas Schild](image2)  
Thomas Schild, GTZ

![Dr. Michael Blank](image3)  
Dr. Michael Blank, SAFRI

![Harm Oterdoom](image4)  
Harm Oterdoom, ICPR

![Dr. Fritz Holzwarth](image5)  
Dr. Fritz Holzwarth, Federal Ministry for the Environment

#### An impartial mediator

Germany has gained a reputation as an "impartial mediator" in dialogue with riparian states, said Fritz Holzwarth, head of the Section for Water Management, Soil Conservation and Contaminated Sites at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. He pointed to the International Conference on Freshwater held in Bonn at the end of 2001, and emphasised the central message of the Petersberg Round Table, which took place in 1998 in Bonn at the initiative of the German Government and the World Bank. As the country with the most shared water bodies in Europe, Germany has a great deal of experience, he continued. Water can be a catalyst for international cooperation and peace, he noted, but this requires cooperation at several levels and must include the private sector.

Harm Oterdoom, Secretary General of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine, stressed the role of the Rhine Commission as a model for joint river basin commissions in developing countries. However, he pointed out that the Commission's history also revealed the difficulties initially encountered. Although the Rhine Commission was set up in 1950, pollution of the Rhine, which provides drinking water for some 20 million people, was not significantly reduced until the end of the 1970s.

According to Thomas Schild, Germany's reputation as an impartial mediator benefits technical cooperation with river basin commissions. GTZ uses its contacts with decision-makers in water ministries and water users in rural areas to invite people to attend "round tables". On the Nile, for example, he cited cooperation between the World Bank, the EU and the UN.

German private-sector umbrella organisations are jointly promoting development approaches in Africa through the Southern Africa Initiative of German Business (SAFRI). The focus is on tourism, said Michael Blank, head of the Africa Section responsible for SAFRI at the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHT). He explained that transboundary peace parks that incorporate large bodies of water could create investment opportunities and encourage the population to cooperate. "If the inhabitants benefit from the increased value of the areas," he said, "they become more willing to conserve resources." According to Mr Murungweni, riparian states must prove their readiness to engage in dialogue in supranational institutions. In addition, each country must ensure that the various user groups are integrated into the political decision-making process.
AIDS therapy for all

AIDS therapy cannot be accessible for all patients in developing countries. However, the past has shown us that with the right strategies and policies, we can learn from the mistakes and improve the future. AIDS can be Q C A 1

AIDS therapy for all can be achieved through different approaches. GTZ has gathered considerable experience in the fight against the immune deficiency syndrome AIDS. Prevention programmes, the control and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and the establishment of basic health services are essential parts of integrated health and specific anti-AIDS projects. At the Eschborn Dialogue 2002, GTZ discussed how treatment approaches can be integrated into established health projects.

GTZ is promoting medication programmes in pilot projects in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. These programmes are designed to prevent transmission of the HIV virus by pregnant women to their children either during pregnancy or directly after birth. The Institute of Tropical Medicine in Berlin is supporting the pilot projects by introducing what is known as "anti-retroviral" treatment: the drugs are provided free of charge by the pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim. Starting this year, the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, set up in 2001, is providing funds for the treatment of infectious diseases.

At the Eschborn Dialogue 2002, GTZ raised several general points about access to anti-retroviral drugs. The WHO List of Essential DrugsAchieving equal access to innovative drugs to fight HIV and AIDS is proving particularly difficult. According to the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), less than ten per cent of those with HIV or AIDS in developing countries currently have access to anti-retroviral drugs. This is a serious violation of these people's right to life-saving drugs. There are several reasons for this situation: the capacity of healthcare systems is too limited, local healthcare personnel receive little specific training, and national medication policies are inadequately structured.

GTZ has therefore raised five questions in the debate about an integrated fight against AIDS, including access to treatment. The most important is: how can policy, research and the private sector support the broad-based use of essential drugs in developing countries? Second, a question our development experts are now examining, is how anti-retroviral treatment in partner countries can be made part of a systemic healthcare approach that guarantees a minimum standard of care and fulfils criteria for rational drug treatment. Third, which criteria might govern public access to medication without sparking conflict over internal distribution. Fourth, can or how can - national and international incentive and financing systems contribute to providing equitable care for those affected by AIDS? And finally, which global instruments might be used to promote the idea of health as a public good? Brazil is an example of a newly industrialising country with an active healthcare policy that is making strides in designing and producing its own less expensive drugs - one opportunity to observe the impact on the course of the country's AIDS pandemic.

Do patents obstruct treatment?

Highly active anti-retroviral therapy and structurally integrated healthcare systems have dramatically reduced the mortality rate among AIDS patients in the USA and Western Europe and have considerably improved their quality of life. However, most people with AIDS in developing countries are excluded from these developments. In Africa, only about 10,000 of an estimated 25 million HIV-positive patients are currently being treated with anti-retroviral substances. Calls are thus increasing for a change in legislation.
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GTZ: Providing services for partner countries

The GTZ is a government-owned corporation for international cooperation with worldwide operations. GTZ's aim is to positively shape the political, economic, ecological and social development in our partner countries, thereby improving people's living conditions and prospects. Through the services it provides, GTZ supports complex development and reform processes and contributes to global sustainable development.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH was founded in 1975 as a corporation under private law. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is its main financing organisation. GTZ also undertakes commissions for other government departments, for governments of other countries, for international clients such as the European Commission, the United Nations or the World Bank, as well as for private-sector corporations. GTZ operates on a public-benefit basis. Any surpluses are exclusively rechannelled into its own development cooperation projects.

The organisation has more than 11,000 employees in around 120 countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Eastern European countries in transition and the CIS states. Around 8,700 are national personnel. GTZ maintains its own field offices in 67 countries. Some 1,100 people are employed at Head Office in Eschborn near Frankfurt am Main.

International and local experts and managerial personnel form the mainstay of GTZ's presence in its partner countries. With many years of experience, GTZ is skilled in tailoring solutions to specific problem situations in partner countries, and in developing project strategies and measures jointly with its partners. Emphasis is on interlocking regional, sectoral, commercial and logistic capabilities and on integrating management know-how and intercultural expertise.

Success through alliances

However, international cooperation also calls for new alliances. GTZ aims to establish new partnerships in the social, economic and cultural sphere. It has always cooperated closely with other national and international development cooperation organisations, availing itself - wherever technically and financially expedient - of the knowledge available in the private consulting sector from independent experts and specialist public institutions both in Germany and abroad. GTZ dovetails inputs delivered by various project actors, so as to achieve the best possible results.

In the field of international cooperation, GTZ assumes the tasks of Technical Cooperation (TC). Technical Cooperation transfers and mobilises knowledge and skills, and, together with its partners, creates and develops the environment in which these can be applied. The aim is to strengthen people's own initiatives, enabling them to improve their living conditions through their own efforts. However, Technical Cooperation does not merely transfer know-how. It also acts as a facilitator between the government and civil society and as a mediator where there are conflicts of interest within society.

GTZ's consultancy services span a wide range of activity areas, from economic development and employment promotion, through health and basic education to environmental protection, resource conservation and regional rural development. Government advisory services have increased significantly in recent years. GTZ is now supporting numerous partner countries in their efforts to introduce comprehensive reform processes and to initiate the necessary changes in the policy, economic and social frameworks. Where acute need means that immediate human survival is jeopardised, GTZ also responds with emergency aid and refugee programmes, but even these short-term relief measures are designed to enhance people's potential and capacity to help themselves and to achieve long-term positive impacts.

GTZ services include:
- advising organisations in partner countries on project and programme planning, implementation and evaluation
- recruiting and briefing experts for their tasks, and attending to their professional and personal welfare during their period of service.