Dare more progress

Alliance for Freedom, Justice and Sustainability

Coalition Agreement 2021 - 2025 between the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), Alliance 90/The Greens and the Free Democrats (FDP)

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1

2 I. Preamble

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4 Our three parties see the result of the Bundestag elections as a mandate to form a joint government5 coalition.

6

7 We have different traditions and perspectives, but we are united by a willingness to take joint 8 responsibility for Germany's future, the goal of driving forward the necessary modernisation, the 9 awareness that this progress must also be accompanied by a promise of security, and the confidence 10 that together we can succeed. We are committed to serving the well-being of all citizens.

11

12 What challenges the country

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We are taking responsibility at a time when the Corona pandemic continues to weigh heavily on the country. It causes great suffering for many, is accompanied by existential worries and demands considerable restrictions from everyone. Defeating the pandemic is our most urgent task these days, and we are fully committed to it. Implementing the necessary protective measures and promoting comprehensive vaccination protection is a task for the entire state and society.

19

The world is in transition at the beginning of a decade, so we cannot remain at a standstill. The climate crisis is endangering our livelihoods and threatening freedom, prosperity and security. In the face of intensified global competition, Germany and Europe must re-establish their economic strength. In the international systemic competition, we must resolutely defend our values with democratic partners. At the same time, digitalization is changing the way we do business, work and communicate with one another. Our society is becoming older and more diverse. It is also important to reduce social tensions in times of rapid change and to strengthen trust in our democracy.

27

These challenges are immense, interwoven and demanding in their simultaneity. They will shape the country and society for a long time. But if we shape these upheavals, they also offer great opportunities. It is the task of this coalition to give political impetus and orientation to the necessary innovations. In doing so, we want to trigger a new dynamic that will have an impact on society as a whole.

33

34 What we want to bring forward

Germany will only be able to act at the cutting edge if we modernise the state itself. We want to make
government action faster and more effective and better prepare it for future crises. We are driving
forward the comprehensive digitisation of the administration. The aim is to make life easier for citizens.
We will modernise public infrastructure, public spaces and networks and significantly accelerate
planning, approval and implementation to achieve this. The economy should also have an ally in the
administration.

42

More than 30 years after German unification, it remains our task to complete the internal unification
socially and economically. Living conditions in our regions, in cities and rural areas, are not the same,
but they should be of equal value. Good living conditions include affordable housing, fast Internet,
accessible health care and sustainable mobility options suitable for everyday use.

47

Achieving the Paris climate protection targets is our top priority. Climate protection secures freedom, justice and sustainable prosperity. The social market economy must be re-founded as a socialecological market economy. We are creating a regulatory framework that clears the way for innovations and measures to put Germany on the 1.5 degree path. We are setting a new pace in the energy transition by removing obstacles to the expansion of renewable energies. Step by step, we are ending the fossil fuel era, also by bringing forward the phase-out of coal to 2030 and leaving combustion engine technology behind.

55

56 Securing our prosperity in the face of globalisation is only possible if we continue to play in the top 57 league economically and technologically and develop the innovative forces of our economy. The basis 58 for this is fair competitive conditions; this also includes fair taxation - nationally and internationally -59 and the consistent combating of tax evasion.

60

There must be comprehensive investment in the modernisation of the country - both private and public. We will guarantee public investment, particularly in climate protection, digitisation, education and research, within the framework of the existing debt rule of the Basic Law, provide incentives for private investment and create scope for entrepreneurial venture in order to generate growth.

65

We want to attract the necessary skilled workers by improving educational opportunities, providing
targeted further training, increasing labour force participation and modernising immigration law.

68

Everyone should be able to shape their own life freely and self-determined. But opportunities are not
equally distributed for everyone. That is why the foundations for social advancement must already be

71 laid in kindergarten and school. We are concentrating on areas where support is particularly needed 72 and want to work more closely with the Länder. We want to strengthen families and lift more children 73 out of poverty. To this end, we are introducing a basic child allowance. Children have their own rights, 74 which we will anchor in the Basic Law.

75

Career biographies are often marked by breaks, especially in times of change. We want to provide security, even in transition, and encourage people to try something new. Performance must be recognised and work must be paid fairly. That is why we will raise the minimum wage to 12 euros and campaign for equal pay for women and men. We will keep the pension level stable, extend the statutory pension insurance to include partial capital cover and fundamentally reform the system of private old-age provision. We will replace the basic income support system with a new citizen's income, so that the dignity of the individual is respected and social participation is better promoted.

83

The strength of our Republic lies in its liberal diversity and in its democratic and social cohesion. Security and freedom are mutually dependent. The security authorities and their employees deserve respect and support. We want to make their structures and cooperation more efficient. We defend our constitutional state and ensure the protection of our citizens.

88

Our maxim is a free society in which the equality of women and men is realized and different life plans and biographies have their place. We are united by our understanding of Germany as a diverse immigration society. In order to take social reality into account, we enable equal participation and modernise legal norms - from family law to citizenship law. We work against any kind of discrimination.

93

A strong democracy lives from the people who support it. It needs a diverse culture and free media.
Volunteering and democratic engagement strengthen social cohesion. It is our task to reliably promote
them.

97

98 The great challenges of our time can only be overcome through international cooperation and together 99 in a strong European Union. We stand by Germany's global responsibility as a major industrial nation 100 in the world. For us, the commitment to peace, freedom, human rights, democracy, the rule of law and 101 sustainability is an indispensable part of a successful and credible foreign policy. We are committed to 102 our humanitarian responsibility to protect and want to order the procedures on flight and migration. 103

- 104 In doing so, we act in the European self-image and in coordination with our international partners. We 105 want to increase the strategic sovereignty of the European Union by basing our foreign, security, 106 development and trade policy on values and common European interests. 107 108 How we want to work 109 110 Germany is diverse and society has become freer and richer in perspectives, but also more complex 111 and contradictory. Public spirit, solidarity and cohesion must be redefined. This cannot be achieved by 112 ignoring differences, but by giving the different voices in our country an equal hearing. 113 114 In this sense, a coalition of our three such different parties also reflects part of the complex social 115 reality. If we manage to move things forward together, it can be an encouraging signal to society: that 116 cohesion and progress can succeed even with different points of view. 117 118 We want to promote a culture of respect - respect for other opinions, for counter-arguments and 119 disputes, for other lifestyles and attitudes. The present coalition agreement shows that we have found 120 viable joint solutions. It forms the working basis for our coalition. 121 122 II Modern state, digital awakening and innovations 123 124 125 Germany must be able to act and perform, especially in times of crisis. The state must work with 126 foresight for its citizens. To this end, we want to modernise it so that it enables opportunities and 127 provides security. A state that seeks cooperation with business and civil society, offers more 128 transparency and participation in its decisions and makes people's lives easier with an uncomplicated, 129 fast and digital administration. 130 131 For the tasks ahead of us, speed is needed in infrastructure development. Procedures, decisions and 132 implementation must become significantly faster. We will therefore modernise, de-bureaucratise and 133 digitalise planning and approval procedures and improve staff capacities. By involving citizens earlier, 134 we will make planning faster and more effective.
- 135

We want to make better use of the potential of digitalisation in the state and society. Our goal is nationwide coverage with fibre optics and the latest mobile communications standard. We will promote key digital technologies and improve conditions for start-ups at the technology location. 139

We have an appetite for new things and will promote technological, digital, social and sustainable innovation. Through better framework conditions for higher education, science and research, we want to make the science location more creative and competitive. Freedom of science and research is the key to creative ideas that help to overcome the great challenges of our time.

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- 145

146 Modern state and democracy

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We want a fundamental shift towards an enabling, learning and digital state that works proactively for citizens. The aim is to make life easier. Government action should become faster and more effective and promote and integrate economic and social innovation processes. We want to establish a new culture of cooperation that is also fed by the power of civil society.

152

153 Administrative modernisation

The administration should become more agile and digital. It must rely on interdisciplinary and creative problem solving. We will think consistently from the perspective of use. We want to overcome silo thinking and will equip permanent interdepartmental and interagency agile project teams and innovation units with concrete competences. We will anchor proactive administrative action in law through application-free and automated procedures.

159

We expect the management of the ministries and the executives in the public service to drive forward
a modern management and administrative culture and to ensure digital solutions. Employees' own
initiative and courage must be valued and rewarded.

163

164 The modernisation of the state can only succeed with a strong civil service. We will make this more 165 attractive. The state must set an example in diversity, equality and flexible and digital working 166 conditions. We will promote and simplify the exchange and rotation of staff between different 167 authorities, between the Federal Government and the Länder, and between the administration and the private sector. We make the hiring requirements more flexible in the direction of practical work 168 169 experience and strengthen the instrument of retirement pay. Digitalisation will become a general and 170 inter-agency core component of training. In order to ensure the integrity of the civil service, we will 171 ensure that enemies of the constitution can be removed from the service more quickly than before.

172

173 Living democracy

174 Democracy thrives on trust in all state institutions and constitutional bodies. We will therefore 175 strengthen parliament as a place of debate and legislation.

176

We want to improve the quality of legislation. To this end, we will discuss new projects at an early stage and across ministries, including in new formats. In doing so, we will better involve practitioners and affected groups from society and representatives of parliament, and take into account the experience and requirements of the Länder and local authorities in the actual implementation of legislation. In the run-up to the legislative process, the possibility of digital execution is to be examined (digital check). We will establish a centre for legislation.

183

We will create a digital legislative portal that will make it possible to see which phase projects are in.
We will test public commenting options there. In future, draft bills of the Federal Government will be
accompanied by a synopsis which compares the current legal situation with the planned amendments.
We want to make laws easier to understand. We will expand accessibility in the offerings of the
Bundestag and the Federal Government.

189

We want to improve decision-making by using new forms of citizen dialogue, such as citizens' councils, without abandoning the principle of representation. We will set up and organise citizens' councils on specific issues through the Bundestag. In doing so, we will ensure equal participation. We will ensure that the Bundestag is informed of the results. We will strengthen and digitize the petition process as a whole and create the possibility to discuss public petitions in committees and in plenary sessions.

195

196 Transparency

197 We want to strengthen our democracy through more transparency. We are guided by the principles 198 of open government - transparency, participation and cooperation. We will tighten up the Lobby 199 Register Act, include contacts to ministries from the level of the minister and expand the circle of 200 interest groups subject to registration in a way that protects fundamental rights and is differentiated. 201 We will comprehensively disclose the influences of third parties in the preparation of draft legislation 202 and in the drafting of bills (so-called footprint). The regulation finds its limits in the freedom of the 203 mandate. We want to implement and further develop the National Action Plans within the framework 204 of Germany's Open Government Partnership (OGP).

205

206 We will make the offence of bribery of members of parliament more effective.

208 We will make party sponsoring subject to publication above a de minimis threshold. The obligation to 209 immediately publish donations to parties will be reduced to 35,000 euros. Donations and membership 210 fees exceeding a total of 7,500 euros per year will have to be published in the statement of accounts. 211 We will protect the integrity of political competition from being impaired by covert campaign financing 212 by means of so-called parallel campaigns. The Bundestag administration will be better staffed and 213 funded for its supervisory and control function in the areas of transparency and party financing. We 214 want to bring the Political Parties Act up to date and, in particular, enable the parties to adopt more 215 digital resolutions and, within the limits of constitutional law, to hold digital elections. This should be 216 done with the involvement of as many democratic groups as possible.

217

Political education and democracy promotion are more in demand than ever, because in Germany, too, pluralistic, liberal democracy is under pressure. Actors of sustainable democracy promotion who work on the basis of respect, tolerance, dignity and human rights will continue to be supported with public funds in the future. We want to provide better legal safeguards for the work and funding of political foundations. This is to be done from the midst of parliament, with the involvement of as many democratic parliamentary groups as possible. We will further develop the freedom of information laws into a federal transparency law.

225

226 Federalism

Federalism is a fundamental pillar of the Federal Republic. In order to increase its efficiency, it needs clarity in terms of tasks and financing. We are striving for closer, more targeted and binding cooperation between the Federal Government, the Länder and the municipalities. To this end, we will conduct a federalism dialogue together with local authorities and the Länder to ensure a more transparent and efficient distribution of tasks, in particular on the topics of disaster management and civil protection, education and internal security, as well as on the use of the opportunities offered by digitisation.

234

We stand by the Bonn-Berlin Act. To this end, the federal government will conclude a supplementary
contractual agreement with the Bonn region and the states of North Rhine-Westphalia and RhinelandPalatinate.

238

239 *Right to vote*

240 We will revise the electoral law within the first year in order to prevent the Bundestag from growing 241 in size in the long term. The Bundestag must be effectively reduced in size in the direction of the statutory standard size. We reject a distortion of the distribution of seats through unbalancedoverhang mandates.

244

We will re-establish the "Commission on the Reform of Federal Electoral Law and the Modernisation of Parliamentary Work". The commission will address the goal of equal representation of women and men in parliament and discuss the legal framework. The Commission will also examine proposals for bundling election dates, extending the legislative period to five years and limiting the term of office of the Federal Chancellor.

250

We will lower the voting age for elections to the European Parliament to 16. We want to amend the Basic Law to lower the active voting age for elections to the German Bundestag to 16. We want to make it easier for Germans living abroad to exercise their right to vote.

254

255 Acceleration of planning and approval

256 In order to modernise Germany quickly, fast administrative, planning and approval procedures are a 257 key prerequisite. For this reason, all necessary decisions are to be made and enforced in the first year 258 of government in order to be able to implement private and state investments quickly, efficiently and 259 unerringly. Our goal is to at least halve the length of procedures. To achieve this, the state and society 260 as well as the federal, state and local governments must pull together. We want to establish a planning 261 culture in Germany based on legal certainty and mutual trust. All state agencies should simplify and 262 improve administrative procedures in such a way that legal disputes are avoided wherever possible. 263 We will exploit more possibilities within the framework of constitutional and Union law.

264

265 We will increase the personnel and technical capacities of authorities and courts. For a personnel and 266 further training offensive as well as digitisation at all levels, we will strive for a reliable and sustainable 267 pact with the Länder for accelerating planning, approval and implementation. The in-house consulting 268 capacities of the public sector will be expanded into acceleration agencies that can also be easily 269 accessed by the Länder and municipalities. The scope for private project managers will be extended. 270 For matters of planning law, we are creating the conditions for additional senates at the Federal 271 Administrative Court. The Federal Government is strengthening its competence to support dialogue-272 based public participation procedures.

273

We will prioritise the digitisation of planning and approval processes. We will equip authorities with the necessary technology, standardise IT interfaces between the Federal Government and the Länder and expand the digital portal for environmental data into a publicly usable central archive for mapping and species data. Data already collected should be made usable for as long as possible, if necessary
through plausibility checks. Building Information Modelling will make planning processes more
efficient, cost-effective and transparent. We will seamlessly continue the digital possibilities of the
Planning Security Act and develop them further, particularly with regard to public participation.

281

In order to speed up administrative procedures, we will introduce the earliest possible and most intensive public participation. This will be combined with a duty of participation for the recognised nature conservation associations and for the public concerned. We want to introduce an effective form of substantive preclusion that is permissible under EU law. We will introduce early procedural conferences in the authorities.

287

We will provide for the earliest possible cut-off dates for the applicable factual and legal situation. We want to clarify that repeated interpretation, objection and response loops can be avoided by only involving newly affected parties in the case of plan amendments following public participation and by only permitting objections to plan amendments. We will extend internal administrative deadlines and fictitious approval when additional authorities are involved.

293

In the case of particularly high-priority projects, the Federal Government should in future provide for
 short deadlines for issuing the planning approval decision, following the example of the Federal
 Immission Control Act.

297 We want to accelerate the launch of major and particularly important infrastructure measures, 298 including by means of permissible legal planning that complies with EU law, and implement them with 299 high political priority. By such infrastructure measures we mean systemically important railway lines, 300 power lines and engineering structures (e.g. critical bridges). We will coordinate closely with the 301 European Commission on the design, carry out the necessary environmental assessment and ensure 302 legal protection and the effectiveness of environmental law through access to the Federal 303 Administrative Court. In appropriate cases, the Federal Government could also take over the regional 304 planning procedure. We will start with rail projects from the Deutschlandtakt - the expansion/new 305 construction of the Hamm-Hannover-Berlin railway lines, the Middle Rhine corridor, Hanau-306 Würzburg/Fulda-Erfurt, Munich-Kiefersfelden-Grenze D/A, Karlsruhe-Basel, "Optimised Alpha E+", the 307 Eastern Corridor South, Nuremberg-Reichenbach/Grenze D-CZ, the Hamburg, Frankfurt, Cologne, 308 Mannheim and Munich nodes - as well as high-voltage direct-current transmission lines SüdLink, 309 SüdOstLink and Ultranet, which are central to the energy turnaround. Further projects will be added.

311 We will facilitate closer dovetailing between spatial planning and planning approval procedures in 312 order to avoid duplicate assessments. We want to make greater use of the instrument of planning 313 approval, particularly for maintenance, rehabilitation, renewal, replacement and supplementary 314 measures in the immediate spatial context of existing infrastructures within the European legal 315 framework. We aim to transfer special rules for individual areas of sectoral planning to general 316 administrative procedural law where this is possible and makes sense. We want to strengthen the 317 preservation of plans by expanding the standards for preserving plans and the procedures for deviating 318 from objectives.

319

We will speed up administrative court proceedings through an "early first hearing" as well as through a more efficient interim relief procedure, which will take significant account of error cures and focus on the reversibility of measures. Plaintiffs whose legal remedies contribute to the correction of errors will be able to terminate the proceedings without disadvantage.

324

We want to increase legal certainty in species protection law through uniform legal standardisation (especially significance thresholds) without lowering the overall level of protection.

327

328 For our common mission to drastically accelerate the planning of infrastructure projects, especially the 329 expansion of renewable energies, we want to clarify the relationship between climate protection and 330 species protection. In order to achieve the climate targets, the construction of facilities for the 331 generation or transport of electricity from renewable energies and the expansion of electrified railway 332 lines are in the public interest and serve public safety. We will enshrine this in law and, under certain 333 conditions, create a presumption that the exemption requirements of the Federal Nature Conservation 334 Act apply to such projects. We will advocate a stronger focus on population protection, clarification of 335 the relationship between species protection and climate protection, and more standardisation and 336 legal certainty, including in EU law.

337

Wherever possible, we want to combine similar reviews in the context of a licensing procedure in an integrated review without lowering the level of protection. We want to ensure, if necessary by means of opening clauses, that cooperation between municipalities and Länder succeeds in securing the supply of renewable energies. These measures will be accompanied by project-related and overall balancing compensatory measures that ensure a high level of environmental and nature protection.

We will set up an interministerial steering group with the involvement of the Länder to ensure the
rapid and high-quality implementation of our acceleration projects.

347

348 Digital innovations and digital infrastructure

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350 Germany needs a comprehensive digital awakening. We want to harness the potential of digitisation 351 for people's development opportunities, for prosperity, freedom, social participation and 352 sustainability. To this end, we will set ourselves ambitious and verifiable goals and take realistic and 353 quickly tangible measures. Competences in the Federal Government will be reorganised and bundled, a central additional digital budget introduced and laws subjected to a digitalisation check. The 354 355 administration will become more digital and consistently citizen-oriented. We promote digital 356 innovations as well as entrepreneurial and social initiative and focus on open standards and diversity. 357 We strengthen digital literacy, fundamental rights, self-determination and social cohesion. We ensure 358 security and respect even in times of change. We turn technological progress into social progress. We 359 are aware that a digital revolution that safeguards our values, digital sovereignty and a strong 360 technology location can only succeed within a progressive European framework.

361

362 Digital state and digital administration

363 People expect the state to provide digital services that are easy to use and up-to-date, user-oriented, 364 free of media discontinuity and comprehensive. Solutions through automation - such as the automated 365 payment of the basic child benefit - are a priority for us. The further development of the Online Access 366 Act (OZG) is accompanied by sufficient follow-up funding to support the clear standardisation and 367 unification of IT procedures in accordance with the one-for-all principle (EfA). As part of IT 368 consolidation, we are creating clear responsibilities and consolidating federal IT budgets centrally. We 369 are turning the Federal IT Cooperation (FITKO) into an agile, flexible unit with a multi-year global 370 budget. Municipalities must be able to benefit from federal funds and adopt solutions developed under 371 the EfA principle. We remove barriers to digitalisation (written form, etc.) by means of a general clause 372 and standardise terms (e.g. "income"). Trustworthy, generally applicable identity management and the 373 constitutionally sound modernisation of registers are a priority. For public IT projects, we mandate 374 open standards. Development contracts are generally commissioned as open source, and the 375 corresponding software is generally made public. Based on a multi-cloud strategy and open interfaces 376 as well as strict security and transparency requirements, we are building a public administration cloud.

377

378 Digital Infrastructure

379 Our goal is to provide nationwide fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) coverage and the latest mobile 380 communications standard. The expansion of our own business has priority. In particular, we invest in 381 areas where there is the greatest need to catch up, especially in white spots. While protecting 382 investments, we enable open access on fair terms, with regulatory intervention where necessary. We 383 will speed up the expansion of infrastructure by streamlining digital application and approval 384 procedures, standardizing alternative installation technologies and establishing a nationwide gigabit 385 directory. We are strengthening consumer protection with regard to guaranteed bandwidths, if 386 necessary by means of lump-sum compensation claims. On the basis of potential analyses, we are 387 pushing ahead with fiber-optic expansion subsidies even without a take-up threshold. In the case of 388 full public financing, the operator model has priority. We are focusing on the promotion of entire 389 clusters and making market investigation procedures faster and more binding. We are initiating 390 voucher funding to complement FTTH and in-house fiber optic cabling where necessary. We bundle 391 competencies and tasks for fixed and mobile networks. We align the allocation of frequencies with 392 specifications for area coverage; negative auctions are also to be used. We are accelerating measures 393 for better mobile communications and WLAN reception on the railways. We are examining ways to 394 improve digital participation for all, e.g. through accessibility. We will safeguard net neutrality.

395

396 Digital citizenship and IT security

397 We strengthen digital civil rights and IT security. It is the state's duty to guarantee them. We are 398 introducing a right to encryption, effective vulnerability management with the aim of closing security gaps, and "security-by-design/default" requirements. The state must also offer the possibility of 399 400 genuine encrypted communication on a mandatory basis. Manufacturers are liable for damages 401 negligently caused by IT security vulnerabilities in their products. The cybersecurity strategy and IT 402 security law will be further developed. In addition, we are securing digital sovereignty, including 403 through the right to interoperability and portability, as well as relying on open standards, open source 404 and European ecosystems, for example in 5G or AI. We are initiating a structural reorganisation of the 405 IT security architecture, making the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) more independent 406 and expanding it as a central body in the field of IT security. We are obliging all government agencies 407 to report security vulnerabilities known to them to the BSI and to undergo regular external audits of their IT systems. The identification, reporting and closing of security gaps in a responsible procedure, 408 409 e.g. in IT security research, should be legally feasible. We fundamentally reject hackbacks as a means 410 of cyber defense a b. Non-trusted companies will not be involved in the expansion of critical infrastructures. 411

412

413 Use of data and data law

414 We are leveraging the potential of data for all by supporting the development of data infrastructures 415 and launching instruments such as data trustees, data hubs and data donations together with business, 416 science and civil society. We aim to improve access to data, in particular to enable start-ups as well as 417 SMEs to create new innovative business models and social innovations in digitalisation. A data institute 418 will promote data availability and standardisation, and establish data trustee models and licences. For 419 local authorities, we create access to data from companies on fair and competitive terms, insofar as 420 this is necessary for the performance of their public service tasks. For all those who have contributed 421 to the creation of data, we are strengthening standardised and machine-readable access to self-422 generated data. With a data law, we are creating the necessary legal basis for these measures. We 423 promote anonymisation techniques, create legal certainty through standards and introduce criminal 424 liability for unlawful de-anonymisation. We are introducing a legal right to open data and improving 425 the data expertise of public bodies. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a good 426 international standard-setter. To improve the enforcement and coherence of data protection, we are 427 strengthening European cooperation, institutionalising the Data Protection Conference in the Federal 428 Data Protection Act (BDSG) and want to enable it to take legally binding decisions where possible. We 429 are creating regulations on employee data protection in order to achieve legal clarity for employers 430 and employees and to effectively protect personal rights. We advocate the rapid adoption of an 431 ambitious e-privacy regulation.

432

433 Digital Society

434 We will make digital volunteering more visible, support it and strengthen it legally. We will better 435 involve civil society in digital policy projects and support them, especially in the areas of diversity and 436 civic tech. In the Digital Services Act, we are committed to safeguarding communication freedoms, 437 strong user rights, clear reporting procedures, access to data from very large platforms for research 438 purposes, the verifiability of their algorithmic systems and clear regulations against disinformation. Based on the European requirements, we will fundamentally revise the legal framework (including the 439 440 German Telemedia Act, TMG and the Network Enforcement Act, NetzDG). We will advance the 441 establishment of platform councils. We reject general monitoring obligations, measures for scanning 442 private communications and an identification obligation. We will protect anonymous and 443 pseudonymous online use. With a law against digital violence, we will remove legal hurdles for those 444 affected, such as gaps in the right to information, and set up comprehensive counselling services. We will create the legal framework for electronic procedures for reporting and for private proceedings and 445 446 enable account blocks ordered by a judge. We will examine the establishment of a Federal Agency for 447 **Digital Education.**

449 Key Digital Technologies

450 We will be the driver of a strong technology location based on European values that attracts talent and 451 secures the future viability and prosperity of our country. We are measurably strengthening and 452 prioritising investments in artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technologies, cyber security, distributed 453 ledger technology (DLT), robotics and other future technologies. We are strengthening strategic 454 technology fields, e.g. through Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) and driving 455 forward the announced EU Chips Act. With European partner countries, we are promoting cooperation 456 between strong European research locations, particularly in the field of AI, and enabling institutional 457 freedom. In the spirit of a learning, technology-enhancing state, we are deploying digital innovations 458 in the administration, creating the necessary legal foundations and transparency. We support the 459 European AI Act. We rely on a multi-level risk-based approach, safeguard digital citizens' rights, in 460 particular freedom from discrimination, define liability rules and avoid ex-ante regulation that hinders 461 innovation. Biometric recognition in public spaces as well as automated state scoring systems through 462 AI must be excluded under European law.

463

464 Sustainability in digitalisation

465 We want to use the potentials of digitalization for more sustainability. By promoting digital twins (e.g. 466 working on a virtual model of an analogue product), we help to reduce the consumption of resources. 467 We will align data centres in Germany with environmental sustainability and climate protection, 468 including by using waste heat. New data centers are to be operated in a climate-neutral manner from 469 2027. Public data centres will introduce an environmental management system in accordance with 470 EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme) by 2025. For IT procurements of the Federal Government, 471 certifications such as the Blue Angel will become standard. Spare parts and software updates for IT 472 equipment must be available on a mandatory basis for the normal useful life. This must be made 473 transparent to users.

474

475 Digital economy

476 We support a level playing field in competition and advocate ambitious Digital Markets Act (DMA) 477 regulations that must not fall behind existing national rules. This also includes uniform European interoperability obligations and rules on merger control. We are strengthening the Federal Cartel 478 479 Office in its dealings with platforms. We promote digital start-ups in late-stage financing and 480 strengthen the venture capital location. We want to increase the share of female founders in the digital 481 sector. To this end, we are creating a scholarship for female founders and reserving part of the Future 482 Fund. We will simplify public tenders and procurement processes, e.g. for Gov and EduTech start-ups. 483 We will make employee capital participation more attractive for start-ups. We will strengthen

Germany as a location for games and make funding more permanent. We will strengthen SMEs in
 digitisation through uncomplicated funding and expand support for IT security, DSGVO-compliant data
 processing and the use of digital technologies.

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- 488

489 Innovation, science, higher education and research

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491 Germany is a country of innovation. Strong science and research are the guarantors of prosperity, 492 quality of life, social cohesion and a sustainable society. We have an appetite for the future and the 493 courage to embrace change, are open to new ideas and will ignite new technological, digital, social and 494 sustainable innovation. We are giving new impetus to our science and research landscape. We will 495 strengthen our universities and universities of applied sciences (HAW) as the heart of the science 496 system, promote and accelerate innovation and transfer from basic research to application. In order 497 to make our science location more creative, more excellent and more competitive, we want to network 498 it further at European and international level. Gender equality and diversity in all their dimensions are 499 quality features and competitive factors in the science system. We want to increase the share of 500 general government spending on research and development to 3.5 percent of GDP by 2025.

501

502 Future research strategy

To find solutions to the major challenges facing society, we need a strong science and research policy. The development of a successful vaccine against SarsCoV2 in Germany shows: We can leverage our innovation potential if we pool and deploy our resources effectively. We want to build on this success by further developing programme lines, the High-Tech Strategy and departmental research in a mission-oriented way. In doing so, we will measure results against international target categories and network research projects across the board. There is room for daring research ideas in the strategy for the future. Research needs must be addressed more quickly and effectively across all ministries.

510

511 Key areas for the future include: Firstly, modern technologies for a competitive and climate-neutral 512 industry (such as steel and basic industries) in Germany. Ensuring clean energy production and supply 513 as well as the sustainable mobility of the future. Secondly: climate, climate impacts, biodiversity, 514 sustainability, the Earth system and corresponding adaptation strategies, as well as sustainable 515 agriculture and food systems. Thirdly: a preventive, crisis-proof and modern health care system, which 516 uses the opportunities offered by biotechnological and medical procedures, and which combats age-517 related diseases as well as rare or poverty-related diseases. Fourth, technological sovereignty and the 518 potentials of digitalisation, e.g. in artificial intelligence and quantum technology, for data-based

- 519 solutions across all sectors. Fifth: exploration of space and oceans and creation of sustainable uses.
- 520 Sixth, societal resilience, gender equality, cohesion, democracy and peace.
- 521

522 We will bring together research into future technologies in European alliances to a greater extent than

- 523 in the past. We will provide targeted support for pioneering large-scale research facilities. We want to
- 524 conduct research in all areas of application of biotechnological processes and use the results.
- 525

526 Innovations and transfer

527 With a modern funding policy, we are ensuring a successful start to an innovation decade. More 528 innovations strengthen Germany as a business location as well as the development of society as a 529 whole. The strength of our innovative power lies in the regions, because many new ideas arise locally, 530 where innovative work is done on the solutions of the future.

531 Our goal is to strengthen application-oriented research and transfer in order to create and strengthen 532 regional as well as supra-regional innovation ecosystems. To this end, we will establish the German 533 Agency for Transfer and Innovation (DATI) to promote social and technological innovations, 534 particularly at HAW and small and medium-sized universities, in cooperation with start-ups, SMEs, and 535 social and public organisations, among others.

536

We are expanding the existing funding programmes for HAW as key success factors for the agency. In the future, we want to bundle relevant funding programmes from the various departments under its umbrella. We will enable experimental spaces limited in time and space in which innovative technologies, services or business models can be tested under real conditions. We want to place selected locations as lighthouses among the top group of international research and transfer regions, each with a thematic focus. To this end, we want to create innovation regions based on the British model and use and expand the scope for action provided by national and European law.

544

545 Germany has the chance to become the leading international biotechnology location. The first mRNA 546 vaccine from Mainz has given our country global visibility. This is associated with a leading function for 547 the scientific and economic development of biotechnology. We want to further strengthen the existing 548 competences and development potentials by establishing a new research centre of the Helmholtz 549 Association for Ageing Research with additional funds.

550

551 For a real boost to innovation, we need to drive spin-offs. We will make federal funds available to 552 universities to create a start-up infrastructure for technological and social entrepreneurship. We want

- 553 to strengthen the culture of spin-offs in universities and non-university research institutions across the
- board. The necessary cultural change will be supported by science entrepreneurship initiatives.
- 555

We are open to the establishment of a German Tech Transfer Fund. We support platforms that make unused patents known and accessible to the market. We will immediately substantially improve the legal and financial framework conditions for the Leap Innovation Agency so that it can act and invest more freely. We will evaluate its work during the current legislative period.

560

561 Research Data

We want to use the untapped potential that lies in numerous research data more effectively for innovative ideas. We want to comprehensively improve and simplify access to research data for public and private research with a Research Data Act and introduce research clauses. We want to establish Open Access as a common standard. We advocate a more science-friendly copyright law. We want to further develop the National Research Data Infrastructure and promote a European Research Data Space. We want to enable data sharing of fully anonymised and non-personal data for research in the public interest.

569

570 Framework conditions for higher education, science and research

571 Universities and universities of applied sciences are the backbone of the German science landscape. 572 As such, we will strengthen them, because where progress is made, it must also be lived. We will 573 continue the cooperation between the Federal Government and the Länder for a sustainable science 574 system. We are working against a decoupling of budget development between universities and non-575 university research institutions.

576

We will make the "Zukunftsvertrag Studium und Lehre stärken" more dynamic from 2022 onwards, in line with the Pact for Research and Innovation. We will further develop the Foundation for Innovation in Higher Education Teaching, particularly in the area of digital teaching. With a federal programme entitled "Digital University", we will provide broad-based support for concepts for the expansion of innovative teaching, qualification measures, digital infrastructures and cyber security.

582

583 We want to initiate a federal-state process for the further development of capacity law. We are 584 creating a framework for continuing academic education alongside undergraduate teaching, within 585 which we are examining the introduction of micro-degrees.

The Excellence Strategy has proven its worth and, as a competitive area, should be provided with oneoff additional funding for further clusters. We are strengthening alliances to develop proposals for cooperative or interdisciplinary clusters of excellence that will be treated equally in the competition.

590

Free, curiosity-driven basic research is the foundation of government research funding. We want to 591 592 maintain the dynamism of the Pact for Research and Innovation (PFI). We will create transparency 593 about the status of the target agreement by the interim evaluation in 2025 and develop mechanisms 594 to make it more binding in the future. Our goal is: The decision for the Strategy Development Area will 595 be implemented immediately. The Academies of Science will be funded in the same way as the Joint 596 Initiative for Research and Innovation. We will implement the prospectively agreed increase in the 597 programme allowances of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in reliable increments until the end 598 of the contractual period of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation.

599

600 We will develop simplified and accelerated research funding procedures for crisis situations and 601 priority fields of action. We will reduce bureaucracy in research and administration through shared 602 service platforms, synergy management and more efficient reporting requirements.

603

604 In future, we will also consistently record innovation potential in the regulatory impact assessment.

605

606 Working conditions in science

607 Good science needs reliable working conditions. That is why we want to reform the Act on Temporary 608 Scientific Contracts on the basis of the evaluation. In doing so, we want to significantly increase 609 predictability and commitment in the post-doc phase and create prospects for alternative careers at 610 an earlier stage. We want to link the contract duration of doctoral positions to the total expected 611 project duration and work towards creating permanent positions for permanent tasks in science. We 612 will ensure improved quality assurance for doctoral studies.

613

We want to make the family and disability policy component binding for all. We will make the tenuretrack programme permanent, expand it and make it more attractive. We want to strengthen the programme for female professors. In future, we want to anchor and enforce gender equality and diversity in all funding programmes and institutions. With a federal-state programme, we want to promote best-practice projects for 1) alternative careers outside the professorship, 2) diversity management, 3) modern governance, personnel and organisational structures. Standards for leadership and compliance processes must be given even greater consideration in the science system.

622 International university cooperation

International cooperation has never been more important. That is why we attach great importance to it. We defend academic freedom at home and abroad, strengthen protection programmes and will continue to develop the internationalisation strategy in dialogue. We will strengthen Erasmus+. We will expand the European university networks with further locations and digitally. We will deepen Bologna cooperation with neighbouring countries. In order to attract international talent, we will remove administrative hurdles and support the recruitment of top international researchers with a platform.

630

631 We will increase institutional funding for the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) in line with the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation.

633 We want to significantly expand our expertise in Asia and China.

634

635 Science communication and participation

Science is not a closed system, but thrives on exchange and communication with society. We want to systematically anchor science communication at all scientific career levels and in the approval of funding. We advocate the promotion of science journalism through an independent foundation, further training for decision-makers, analogue and digital venues - from research museums to dashboards.

641

642 We will integrate perspectives from civil society more strongly into research through citizen science 643 and citizen science. We want to strengthen open access and open science.

644

645

646 III Climate protection in a social-ecological market economy

647

648 Our economy, with its companies, employees and consumers, lays the foundation for our prosperity. 649 However, as Europe's largest industrial and export economy, Germany faces profound transformation 650 processes in global competition in the 2020s - from decarbonisation to comply with the 1.5-degree 651 path to digital transformation and demographic change. Added to this is the long-lasting Corona 652 pandemic, which poses major challenges for parts of the economy. We therefore see the task of 653 injecting a new dynamism into our country's economic strength. The economic strength and prosperity 654 of our country will continue to lie in its diversity - from industry and small and medium-sized businesses 655 to crafts, trade and services. We are setting the course for a social-ecological market economy and 656 ushering in a decade of investment in the future. In doing so, we are laying the foundations for securing sustainable prosperity and creating space for innovation, competitiveness and greater efficiency, forgood work, social advancement and new strength.

659

We think economic development and ecological responsibility together. We must preserve what sustains us and protect our resources. The protection of the environment and nature is therefore an essential part of our political actions, and the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) guide our policies. In particular, the fight against species extinction requires a high level of attention and political action. Our goal is sustainable, future-proof agriculture in which farmers can operate in an economically viable manner and which does justice to the environment, animals and the climate. We strengthen regional value chains and contribute to the preservation of rural structures.

667

668 We want to enable sustainable, barrier-free, innovative and affordable mobility that is suitable for 669 everyday use by everyone. Mobility is part of the provision of public services and a prerequisite for 670 equal living conditions in cities and rural areas.

- 671
- 672

673 Economy

674

After the Corona pandemic, Germany's economy needs a new start. To achieve this, the public sector must provide impetus and create fair framework conditions both nationally and in the European single market. We want more innovation, more competitiveness, more efficiency, good jobs and climateneutral prosperity. To achieve this, we need a decade of investment in the future and more speed. Our goal is a social-ecological market economy.

680

681 *Industry*

682 Industry has a central role to play in the transformation of the economy with a view to climate 683 protection and digitalisation. We will strengthen the innovation, investment and competitiveness of 684 industry in order to remain a high-tech country. We are promoting regional transformation clusters 685 and will support structurally weak regions. We are developing an industrial strategy which, in 686 conjunction with the European Green Deal, is embedded in a European solution and prevents carbon 687 leakage through appropriate measures. In order to support our domestic industry, in particular the 688 basic materials industry, we will create suitable instruments to a sufficient extent to achieve the 689 climate targets, such as carbon contracts for difference (CCfD), in order to close the economic viability 690 gap in particular. These instruments will be designed in such a way that the payback phases are 691 achieved with sufficient probability. We support the introduction of a Europe-wide CO ₂limit

692 compensation mechanism or comparable instruments. It is crucial that this is WTO-compliant, does
693 not disadvantage the export industry, prevents greenwashing and is implemented unbureaucratically
694 within the existing emissions trading system.

695

We are committed to the establishment of a European Green Hydrogen Union. To this end, we want to quickly implement the IPCEI Hydrogen and financially support investments in the development of a hydrogen network infrastructure. In this way, we want to become the lead market for hydrogen technologies by 2030 and develop an ambitious update of the national hydrogen strategy for this purpose.

701

We are using the European Union and international bodies, together with European partners, to launch
 an initiative to establish an international climate club open to all countries, with a uniform CO
 ²minimum price and a common CO ₂border adjustment.

705

We create secure sales markets for climate-friendly products through minimum quotas in publicprocurement.

708

The Federal Government will ensure that industry in Germany receives competitive electricity prices
while making consistent use of its own renewable energy potential, which it needs on the way to
climate neutrality.

712

713 In addition to expanding the infrastructure, we will significantly increase the targets for electrolysis 714 performance, promote European and international climate and energy partnerships for climate-715 neutral hydrogen and its derivatives on an equal footing, and introduce quotas for green hydrogen in 716 public procurement to create lead markets. We are promoting the production of green hydrogen in 717 Germany. In the interest of a rapid market ramp-up, we promote future-oriented technologies even if 718 the availability of green hydrogen is not yet sufficiently assured. We do not want to limit the use of 719 hydrogen to certain fields of application. Green hydrogen should be used primarily in those sectors of 720 the economy in which it is not possible to convert procedures and processes to greenhouse gas 721 neutrality through direct electrification.

722

723 Germany is to become a centre for research, production and recycling of battery cells.

724

Together with social partners and local stakeholders, we are building regional transformation and
 qualification clusters. We want to make Germany a global location for the semiconductor industry. To

this end, the German semiconductor industry is to receive sufficient support along the entire value
chain, including financial support, in order to secure, strengthen and expand this key technology in
Europe in a future-proof manner.

730

731 Transformation of the automotive industry

732 We support the transformation of the automotive sector in order to achieve the climate targets in the 733 transport sector and to preserve jobs and value creation in this country. We are making Germany the 734 lead market for electromobility, the innovation location for autonomous driving and are massively 735 accelerating the expansion of the charging station infrastructure. Our goal is to have at least 15 million 736 fully electric passenger cars by 2030. The regional transformation of SMEs is equally central to the 737 value creation of this key German industry. We will therefore support the transformation in 738 automotive regions towards electromobility through targeted cluster funding. The continuation and 739 further development of the European Battery Projects (IPCEI) and the establishment of further cell 740 production sites, including recycling, in Germany are of central importance. To this end, strengthening 741 research into new sustainable battery generations is crucial. We want to bundle the existing 742 cooperation and dialogue formats at federal level in the area of the automotive industry in a 743 "Transformation Automotive Industry" strategy platform with the mobility industry, environmental 744 and transport associations, social partners, science, the Bundestag, the federal states and municipal 745 umbrella organisations with the responsible federal ministries in order to secure the goal of climate 746 neutrality, value creation and jobs and training places.

747

748 *aerospace*

749 Space and the New Space sector are key technologies of the future. We are strengthening the national 750 space programme and the European Space Agency (ESA) and preserving their autonomy. We are 751 developing a new space strategy, taking into account the avoidance and recovery of space debris. We 752 are strengthening Germany as an aerospace production location. We support research into and the 753 market ramp-up of synthetic fuels that enable climate-neutral flying. The contracting procedures in 754 connection with the aeronautics research programme for the development and use of digital tools, 755 process development, materials research and lightweight construction are to be further accelerated 756 and advance payments made possible. We are strengthening research into the use of sustainable fuels, 757 quieter engines and a platform for the simulation and optimisation of the entire aviation system in 758 terms of its impact on the climate.

759

760 Maritime economy

761 Through innovation and technology leadership, we are ensuring a competitive maritime economy in 762 Germany, especially in climate-friendly ship propulsion systems. We are committed to the goals of the 763 Maritime Agenda. We are strengthening shipbuilding across the entire value chain, including ship 764 recycling, as an industrial core in Germany. At European level, we advocate fair competitive conditions 765 and the establishment of a European fleet modernisation programme. We will accelerate award 766 procedures by consistently classifying naval submarine and surface shipbuilding as well as government 767 and research shipbuilding as key technologies, including maintenance. We will initiate a new concept 768 for maritime training in cooperation with the federal states. We are committed to coordinating 769 sediment management between the Federal Government and the Länder. We want more ships to sail 770 under the German flag. We will speed up customs clearance.

771

772 Small and medium-sized enterprises, skilled crafts and liberal professions

Our economic policy focuses on future-oriented framework conditions for competitive small and medium-sized enterprises, for a strong craft sector and for the liberal professions. To this end, we will strengthen the opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in award procedures. Funding programmes and investment grants should be much easier to apply for and document, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises and the self-employed. To this end, we will digitalise and evaluate them and design them to meet needs.

779

To secure skilled labour in the skilled crafts sector, we will strengthen the dual system of vocational training and improve the transition from school to vocational training and promote training ambassadors within the framework of a training pact. In addition, we want to improve the permeability of vocational and academic education. We will provide targeted support for training in the skilled trades. In addition, we want to introduce support for gifted students in vocational education and training.

786

We want to facilitate access to master craftsman training by significantly reducing the costs of master craftsman courses and certificates for participants. In the training market, we want to strengthen people with a migration history with a support initiative. We will strengthen women in the skilled crafts sector. We want to strengthen collective bargaining in the skilled crafts sector and small and mediumsized enterprises. We want to strengthen voluntary participation and transparency in the chamber system in dialogue with the social partners.

- 793
- 794 *Retail*

Brick-and-mortar retail in Germany needs attractive framework conditions in order to survive the structural change compared to pure online retail and to benefit from digitalisation. We will continue to strive for fair competition between business models of large digital companies and locally rooted companies. We want to support digitally supported value creation in industry, trade, crafts and services and create a level playing field for this.

800

We are using the "Sustainable inner cities and centres" funding programme and continuing the federal government's inner city strategy, in particular the "Living Centres" programme as part of the federal and state urban development funding. These are to be used to improve the quality of stay and experience in the inner cities.

805

806 We will examine the specific repayment modalities of the Corona aid.

807

808 Health economy

809 An innovative healthcare industry is the basis for further medical progress and at the same time holds 810 great potential for employment and prosperity. We want to continue to invest in research to enable 811 cutting-edge medical achievements (such as the current application of mRNA vaccines). We are 812 committed to high medical technology "made in Germany". At the same time, we want to use the 813 potential of digitalization to achieve better quality of care, but also to leverage efficiency potential. In 814 order for healthcare workers to be able to master the digital transformation, early training 815 opportunities are essential. At the same time, we will counteract the shortage of personnel in the 816 healthcare sector through our measures to secure skilled workers.

817

818 Tourism

819 Domestic tourism is an important economic factor with great potential for the future, especially in 820 rural areas. We are resuming the process on the national tourism strategy, improving the coordination 821 of tourism policy in order to make Germany a sustainable, climate-friendly, socially just and innovative 822 tourism location after the Corona crisis. With a modernisation programme "Future Tourism", we are 823 providing unbureaucratic support for new and re-established tourism businesses. National Natural Landscapes, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks are important components 824 825 of German tourism. For sustainable, nature-compatible tourism, we support increased development 826 of the appropriate infrastructure, especially for hiking, cycling and water tourism. For a long-term 827 dialogue on the future issues of the industry, climate neutrality, digitalisation, skilled workers, we are 828 establishing a "National Platform Future of Tourism". Where possible, we will abolish the analogous 829 obligation to register tourist overnight stays in the Federal Registration Act. In future, registration

830 forms will be handled completely digitally. We will make it easier to attract foreign skilled workers to

the German tourism industry by reducing bureaucratic hurdles.

832

833 Start-up, foundation and innovation support

834 We will strengthen the promotion of start-ups and entrepreneurs. We will support start-ups from all 835 walks of life and a second-chance culture and create a new funding instrument for this purpose that is 836 also open to business successions. We will adopt a comprehensive start-up strategy. We will remove 837 obstacles for women and people with a migration background in accessing financing and funding; we 838 will ensure better access to venture capital for female founders. We are enabling simplified, legally 839 secure access for start-ups and young companies to public contracts. We are creating the conditions 840 for nationwide "One Stop Shops", i.e. contact points for start-up advice, promotion and registration. 841 The aim is to make it possible to set up a company within 24 hours. The state development bank KfW 842 should act more strongly as an innovation and investment agency and as a co-venture capital provider, 843 especially for AI, quantum technology, hydrogen, medicine, sustainable mobility, the bioeconomy and 844 the circular economy. We want to enable private capital from institutional investors, such as insurance 845 companies and pension funds, to be mobilised for start-up financing. We want to significantly 846 strengthen the participation of women in investment committees of state funds and investment 847 companies. We will make employee share ownership more attractive, among other things by further 848 increasing the tax allowance. A modern corporate culture also includes new forms such as social 849 enterprises, or companies with tied assets. We are developing a national strategy for social enterprises 850 in order to provide greater support for public-interest enterprises and social innovation. We are 851 improving the legal framework for public welfare-oriented business, such as cooperatives, social 852 enterprises and integration enterprises. For companies with tied assets, we want to create a new 853 appropriate legal basis that excludes tax-saving structures. We will remove obstacles to access to 854 financing and funding. We will create the legal framework to enable assets in orphan accounts to be 855 used to promote the common good.

856

857 We are creating new confidence in the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation and entrepreneurship. 858 To this end, we are strengthening and de-bureaucratising innovation funding and financing. We will 859 further develop funding programmes such as the Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM), 860 Industrielle Gemeinschaftsforschung für Unternehmen (IGF), INNO-KOM, go-digital and Digital Jetzt, 861 as well as the Innovation Programme for Business Models and Pioneering Solutions (IGP). Federal innovation funding is to be consistently opened up to social and ecological innovations. The funding 862 programmes are to be flexibly equipped in line with demand and dynamically updated. We will create 863 864 a Reallabor and Freedom Zones Act which will provide uniform and innovation-friendly framework conditions for reallaboratories and allow new freedom to test innovations. Among other things, the law will enshrine in law overarching standards for reallabs and experimentation clauses that offer companies, research institutes and municipalities attractive conditions while promoting regulatory learning. We also want to support the development steps from innovation to market entry within the framework of existing funding structures.

870

871 Fair competition

872 We are improving the framework conditions for fair competition. These must also take account of the 873 needs of small and medium-sized enterprises and integrate the aspects of innovation, sustainability, 874 consumer protection and social justice. We will evaluate and further develop the Act against Restraints 875 of Competition (GWB). We will examine how the Federal Cartel Office can be strengthened to 876 investigate and remedy infringements in the event of significant, persistent and repeated breaches of 877 economic consumer law standards in analogy to breaches of the ARC. We will reform the ministerial 878 authorisation procedure in such a way that appropriate legal action against a ministerial authorisation 879 is again possible and the German Bundestag is involved in the procedure. We advocate the possibility 880 of unbundling at European level, irrespective of abuse, as a last resort in entrenched markets. We want 881 to anchor an obligation to interoperability at European level and via the ARC for market-dominant 882 companies. This should ensure - based on international technical standards - the secrecy of 883 communications, a high level of data protection and IT security, as well as end-to-end encryption. Data 884 portability is to be strengthened. At the EU level, we also advocate the adoption of an ambitious Digital 885 Markets Act (DMA) and its enforcement by the competition authorities of the member states. At 886 European level, we will advocate an adjustment of merger control to prevent innovation-inhibiting 887 strategic acquisitions of potential competitors (so-called killer acquisitions).

888

889 Bureaucracy reduction

890 We want to simplify processes and rules and create more time for the economy, in particular for the 891 self-employed and entrepreneurs, for their actual tasks. We will introduce a new law to reduce 892 bureaucracy, which will relieve the burden on business, citizens and the administration compared to 893 the previous bureaucracy, without sacrificing the necessary standards of protection. We will reduce superfluous bureaucracy. We will consistently continue the interdepartmental "one-in-one-out" 894 895 regulation. The Federal Government will develop a systematic procedure for reviewing the bureaucratic burden of laws and regulations, which provides for regular stakeholder involvement 896 897 (practice check). When implementing EU law, we will ensure that it is done effectively, with little red 898 tape and in the spirit of the single European market. We will introduce the "once-only" principle as 899 soon as possible. The basic business data register, which has already been adopted, is to be

implemented quickly and its funding secured. We will examine the extent to which we can reduce the
expense for and through the purely electronic storage of receipts and business documents.
Unnecessary requirements for A1 certificates in the case of cross-border provision of services must be
abolished quickly by introducing a European electronic real-time register.

904

We want to amend the Postal Act and in the process further develop socio-ecological standards and strengthen fair competition. We use the federal financing body to regularly review whether the objectives pursued with the participation are also being achieved and whether they are still needed for the provision of public services.

909

910 We want to integrate a report on prosperity in the Annual Economic Report that covers not only 911 economic but also ecological, social and societal dimensions of prosperity. We will strengthen the 912 Federal Government's scientific advisory bodies along the lines of the Monopolies Commission and 913 guarantee their independence. We will discuss the reports of the expert councils as a separate agenda 914 item after their publication in the Bundestag.

915

916 Professionals

917 The lack of qualified skilled workers in many sectors can be one of the greatest obstacles to economic 918 growth, to securing prosperity, to high quality in health, care, support and education, and to the 919 success of Germany's transformation. The Federal Government will therefore continue to develop its 920 Skilled Workers Strategy and the National Continuing Education Strategy. Key building blocks are:

921

Firstly, we aim to increase the participation of women in the labour market. Our labour market, genderequality and family policies serve this goal.

924

925 Secondly, we want to enable all older workers who are able and willing to do so to continue working926 at least until the regular retirement age.

927

928 Thirdly, we need a new impetus for vocational training, further training or reorientation also in mid-929 life, especially when technological change requires it.

930

Fourthly, Germany needs more labour immigration. We will continue to develop our immigration law
and remove the time limit on tried and tested approaches under the Skilled Workers Immigration Act,

such as the Western Balkans regulation. In addition to the existing immigration law, we will establish

a second pillar with the introduction of an opportunity card based on a points system to enable workers

- to gain controlled access to the German labour market in order to find a job. We will extend the Blue
 Card in national law to non-academic professions; the prerequisite will be a concrete job offer at
 standard market conditions.
- 938

At the same time, we will lower the hurdles in the recognition of educational and professionalqualifications from abroad, reduce bureaucracy and speed up procedures.

941

942 Fifthly, working conditions need to be made more attractive in areas where there is already a shortage943 of skilled workers or where this is foreseeable.

944

945 Public procurement law

We want to simplify, professionalise, digitalise and accelerate public procurement procedures. The Federal Government will align public procurement and awarding economically, socially, ecologically and innovatively and strengthen bindingness without jeopardising the legal certainty of award decisions or raising access barriers for small and medium-sized enterprises. We will specify the existing requirements in accordance with European public procurement law in national public procurement law. The public sector should participate in the development of a system for calculating climate and environmental costs.

953

We want to drive forward legally compliant digitisation in this area and, to this end, create a userfriendly central platform via which all public procurement contracts can be accessed and which enables companies to be pre-qualified. We want to promote quick decisions in public procurement procedures and in doing so we support Länder and municipalities in simplification, digitalisation and sustainability.

958

959 Raw materials, supply chains and free trade

We want to support our economy in securing a sustainable supply of raw materials, facilitate domesticraw material extraction and orient it ecologically.

962

963 We want to modernize federal mining law.

964

We want to make full use of the economic and ecological potential of recycling, reduce resource
consumption and thus create jobs (product design, recyclate, recycle). We will speed up the approval
processes for untied financial loans without lowering sustainability standards.

We support an effective EU supply chain law based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights that does not overburden small and medium-sized enterprises. The law on corporate due diligence in supply chains will be implemented unchanged and improved where necessary. We support the EU Commission's proposal on the Deforestation-Free Supply Chains Act. We support the EU's proposed ban on imports of products from forced labour.

974

975 We want to strengthen rules-based free trade on the basis of fair social, ecological and human rights 976 standards and advocate a German and European trade policy against protectionism and unfair trade 977 practices. In this way we guarantee prosperity and sustainable economic growth. We support the 978 strengthening of multilateralism and the further development of the World Trade Organization (WTO), 979 including the renewal of the rules on market-distorting subsidies, the lifting of the blockade of the 980 Dispute Settlement Mechanism and an alignment with the Paris Climate Agreement and the UN Global 981 Sustainability Goals. We support the reorientation of the EU trade strategy and want to equip future 982 EU trade agreements (with Chile, New Zealand, Australia, ASEAN, India, among others) with effective 983 sustainability standards using a dispute settlement mechanism. We advocate at European level that 984 the decision-making powers of the EU Parliament be strengthened in the further development of 985 treaties through regulatory cooperation.

986

We use European competition law and the strength of the European internal market precisely with a
view to unfair competition practices of authoritarian regimes. We support the creation and further
development of autonomous trade policy instruments against unfair trade practices at European level.

We support credit guarantees for exports in the form of Hermes guarantees, especially for small-ticketSMEs. At the same time, they should not conflict with climate policy objectives.

993

Europe should seize the opportunity to enter into an intensive exchange with the new US administration to promote trade and investment with high environmental and social standards, in order to be able to set global standards with the transatlantic economic area. Together with the US, we want to advance multilateral trade, WTO reform, the establishment of environmental and social standards, prosperity and the dynamics of sustainable world trade.

999

We are committed to an ambitious agreement with the USA that will allow for a legally secure and data protection-compliant data transfer at a European level of protection. We will make the decision on the ratification of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) after the Federal Constitutional Court has completed its review. We will only support the ratification of the Mercosur 1004 Agreement if the partner countries have previously entered into legally binding commitments on 1005 environmental, social and human rights protection that can be implemented and verified, and if 1006 practically enforceable supplementary agreements on the protection and conservation of existing 1007 forest areas have been concluded. Ratification of the EU-China Investment Agreement in the EU 1008 Council cannot take place at present for various reasons. We will work for reciprocity. We are 1009 committed to investment agreements that focus investment protection for companies abroad on 1010 direct expropriation and discrimination and want to prevent the misuse of the instrument - including 1011 in the agreements that are still outstanding.

1012

1013 We will strengthen the German Trade and Investment Institute (GTAI) and the network of foreign 1014 chambers of commerce. We want to examine whether, in the case of clearly defined security threats 1015 from the takeover of critical infrastructures, e.g. in the German electricity grid or broadband network, 1016 the legal instruments are sufficient for foreign investors and, if necessary, create suitable instruments 1017 for this so that the Federal Government can react appropriately and quickly.

1018

1019 *Regional economic development*

1020 As part of the overall German funding system, we will increase funding for the joint task of regional 1021 economic development for innovation promotion, digitalisation, operational productivity targets, 1022 sustainability and decarbonisation. In this context, the existing 50 km rule is to be reviewed and, if 1023 necessary, abolished. The aim is to use this to provide additional regional growth impetus. We will use 1024 the experience gained with this instrument to focus the entire federal funding system even more 1025 strongly in future on creating equal living conditions and transforming the economic structure. All 1026 ministries will review their funding guidelines. All departments will disclose the regional distribution 1027 of their funding programmes and establish uniform data standards for this purpose. We will strive for 1028 a balanced regional distribution of non-university research institutions, including within the major 1029 science and research organisations. We will give priority to supporting the expansion and relocation of 1030 non-university research institutions in regions that are currently under-equipped, such as many parts 1031 of eastern Germany.

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1033

1034 Environmental protection and nature conservation

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1036 The 17 United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) guide our policies. In doing so, 1037 we protect the freedom and opportunities of current and future generations. We will continue to develop the German Sustainability Strategy and the Sustainability Action Programme and review thegovernance structures.

1040

1041 We increase the binding nature of sustainability strategies, goals and programmes in concrete 1042 government action and in the drafting of laws, and strengthen parliamentary participation rights. The 1043 public sector sets a good example in its procurement.

1044

1045 Nature conservation and biodiversity

The conservation of biodiversity is a human task and an ethical obligation. We want to protect and improve biodiversity, ensure its sustainable use and exploit the potential of natural climate protection. To this end, we are making an ambitious contribution at international level, strengthening nature conservation and seeing cooperation with land users as a central component. We will take and finance the necessary measures. At the Biodiversity Conference we will advocate an ambitious new global framework. We will significantly increase our financial commitment to implementing the global framework.

1053

Within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), we are working in the spirit of the European Biodiversity Strategy to achieve 30 per cent protected areas and to protect them effectively. For national implementation, we will further develop the National Strategy on Biological Diversity (NBS) with action plans, concrete targets and measures, anchor it in binding form and strengthen scientific monitoring.

1059

1060 We support the designation of the European Green Belt, taking into account the culture of 1061 remembrance and the injustices committed by the SED. We are launching an action plan for protected 1062 areas with the aim of improving their management. Federally owned land in the countryside is of 1063 considerable importance for climate protection, both as potential sites for wind power and 1064 photovoltaic installations and for biodiversity - such as biotope networks, national natural heritage, 1065 wilderness areas, watercourse and species protection - and can support development in rural areas 1066 and be made available for sustainable use. Land suitable for this purpose will in future be exempted 1067 from privatisation and transferred to the Federal Agency for Real Estate Tasks (Bundesanstalt für 1068 Immobilienaufgaben) insofar as it is not already in its ownership. The Federal Agency will lease this 1069 land and land from its own portfolio on a permanent basis for the purpose in question. The BVVG areas 1070 that are prepared and listed for transfer to the National Natural Heritage at the Federal Agency for 1071 Nature Conservation will be transferred quickly and developed in such a way that they increase their 1072 function as CO ₂sinks.

1073

1074 We are implementing European nature conservation law on a one-to-one basis. We are significantly 1075 strengthening contractual nature conservation for the implementation of nature conservation 1076 measures above statutory minimum standards and are allowing regional leeway and flexible solutions 1077 such as the Dutch approach. We are strengthening nature conservation in the Joint Task for 1078 Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection (Gemeinschaftsaufgabe Agrarstruktur und Küstenschutz 1079 - GAK) and increasing funding for the Länder's contractual nature conservation programmes.

1080

We will push ahead with the energy transition without dismantling ecological protection standards. We will set up a national species assistance programme that will in particular improve the protection of those species where there are conflicts with the expansion of renewable energies in order to make the energy turnaround compatible with nature and ensure financing with the participation of the operators.

1086

1087 We are committed to consistent insect protection, will significantly reduce the use of pesticides and1088 promote the development of nature- and environmentally-friendly alternatives.

1089

1090 We want to intensify the fight against poaching and prevent illegal trade in protected species, including 1091 online trade, and strengthen enforcement through a task force. We advocate a ban on imports of wild-1092 caught animals for the pet market.

1093

Our aim is to ensure that grazing animals, humans and wolves live together in such a way that as few conflicts as possible occur despite the still increasing wolf population. We will establish an institutionalised dialogue on "grazing livestock and wolves" with all organisations and associations involved in these issues. By revising the monitoring standards, we will provide a realistic picture of the number of wolves living in Germany and want to enable the federal states to manage the population on a regionally differentiated basis in accordance with European law.

1100

1101 Natural climate protection

We are developing a Natural Climate Action Programme to create synergies between nature conservation and climate protection and are strengthening the resilience of our ecosystems, in particular peatlands, forests, floodplains, grasslands and marine and coastal ecosystems, against the climate crisis through renaturation measures. We provide sufficient funding from the Energy and Climate Fund. In addition, we are establishing a Federal Nature Conservation Fund and pooling existing federal nature conservation programmes. Peatland protection is in the public interest. We will adopt and swiftly implement a National Peatland Protection Strategy. We will accompany the implementation of peatland protection measures with a participatory process to draw up sustainable development concepts, develop prospects for the regions and strengthen alternative forms of management (including paludiculture). We will develop alternatives to peat use and adopt a phaseout plan for peat extraction and use.

1113

1114 We will protect the existing natural heritage on the Oder and Middle Elbe. We will strengthen the 1115 competences of the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV) for climate protection and 1116 climate adaptation.

1117

1118 We will improve the natural CO₂ storage capacity of the oceans through a targeted rebuilding1119 programme (seagrass meadows, algal forests).

1120

1121 It is precisely in the forest that the consequences of the climate crisis become visible. At the same time, 1122 they are indispensable for achieving our climate protection goals. Species-rich and climate-resilient 1123 forests with predominantly native tree species must be created through targeted forest conversion. 1124 Forest management plays an important role in this. In accordance with these objectives, we are 1125 amending the Forest Act. We will evaluate the Forest Damage Compensation Act and adapt it if 1126 necessary. We will review the intervals and form of the Federal Forest Inventory and introduce digital 1127 forest monitoring. Together with the Länder, the Federal Government will develop a long-term 1128 approach that addresses concrete requirements for additional climate protection and biodiversity 1129 services that go beyond the existing certification systems, rewards these services and thus enables 1130 forest owners to further develop their forests in a climate-resilient manner and, if necessary, to convert 1131 them or support reforestation and afforestation. We stop logging in old-growth, near-natural beech 1132 forests in public ownership. In the medium term, federally owned forests should be managed at least 1133 according to FSC or Naturland standards. We promote international forest protection and forest 1134 restoration. At EU level, we advocate a legally binding regulation that prevents the import of products 1135 and raw materials that are associated with deforestation. We support regional timber value chains 1136 with a timber construction initiative. We want to anchor cascade use as a principle. We will strengthen forestry associations. We will develop nationwide prevention and control strategies and expand forest 1137 1138 fire-fighting options on the ground and from the air, also within the framework of the rescEU 1139 mechanism. We promote soil-conserving forest cultivation, e.g. with saddle horses and seed drones.

1140

1141 Marine Conservation

1142 Intact oceans are crucial for climate protection and biodiversity. We want to reconcile protection, 1143 security and sustainable use of the oceans. We are launching a marine offensive to protect marine 1144 nature, developing a coherent and binding marine strategy, establishing marine coordination under 1145 the leadership of a marine commissioner and establishing a national marine conference. We want to 1146 preserve the ecosystem services of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. To this end, we will effectively 1147 manage the protected areas in the German EEZ and make the necessary human and infrastructural 1148 resources available for this purpose. We will strictly protect 10 percent of the EEZ in accordance with 1149 the EU Biodiversity Strategy and designate zones there free of harmful use. We advocate the swift 1150 conclusion of a UN agreement on the protection of biodiversity on the high seas, an internationally 1151 binding framework to combat marine litter, and the establishment of international protected areas, 1152 especially in the Weddell Sea. We advocate a ban on dolly ropes at the European level. For the salvage 1153 and destruction of ammunition dumps in the North and Baltic Seas, an emergency programme will be 1154 set up and a federal-state fund for medium- and long-term salvage will be established and solidly 1155 financed. We advocate strict international environmental standards and a binding review of the 1156 environmental compatibility of deep-sea mining and will continue marine research in order to expand 1157 our knowledge of the deep sea. We do not want to issue any new permits for oil and gas drilling beyond 1158 the framework operating permits issued for the German North Sea and Baltic Sea.

1159

1160 *Climate adaptation*

1161 We are developing a precautionary climate adaptation strategy, especially against the background of 1162 the flood disaster in 2021. With a Climate Adaptation Act, we are creating a framework for 1163 implementing a national climate adaptation strategy with measurable targets, for example in the fields 1164 of heat prevention, health and allergy prevention and water infrastructure, together with the federal 1165 states, and to be able to take follow-up action in good time. We will also get the first urgent measures 1166 underway very quickly with an emergency programme. We aim to anchor joint funding by the Federal 1167 Government and the Länder for climate prevention and climate adaptation and provide them with 1168 sufficient financial resources. We are creating more space for innovation, digitalisation and private 1169 sector initiatives for climate adaptation. We see coastal and flood protection as a task for society as a 1170 whole and will strengthen the Länder and municipalities financially. We are creating uniform federal standards for the assessment of flood and heavy rainfall risks and the preparation and publication of 1171 1172 hazard and risk maps. We are reviewing the catalogue of exceptions for the approval of building projects in designated floodplains and, if necessary, adapting it with the aim of minimising risks. We 1173 1174 support private households with KfW funding for private flood and heavy rain prevention. We support 1175 municipalities in investing in climate resilience, especially in climate-proof water infrastructure that

- 1176 takes account of extreme precipitation and low water levels. With unsealing projects, we strengthen1177 the infiltration of rainwater and reduce the risks of flooding.
- 1178

1179 Water protection

1180 Together with the Länder, we are consistently and swiftly implementing the EU Water Framework 1181 Directive to protect water as a public good. We are swiftly implementing a National Water Strategy 1182 jointly supported by the Federal Government and the Länder with the aim of integrated water 1183 management. Together with the Länder, we are developing a guideline on water abstraction that gives 1184 priority to public drinking water supplies. With regard to the reuse of waste water, we are striving for 1185 the rapid implementation of European requirements and a safe and legally secure design. We will 1186 amend the Waste Water Levy Act with the aim of improving water protection. We will set incentives 1187 to efficiently prevent water pollution. We want to restrict the use of water-polluting substances in 1188 products to essential uses in order to protect against unacceptable risks. We are improving the state 1189 of knowledge about water quality in Germany with validated data, including from water suppliers, and 1190 are introducing digital mapping. We are anchoring an environmental quality standard for active 1191 pharmaceutical ingredients in water law in order to be able to assess substance inputs in a 1192 differentiated manner. We support a European ban on deliberately added microplastics in cosmetics 1193 and detergents and on liquid polymers. Substances in wastewater can also be raw materials that 1194 should be used in the sense of the circular economy.

1195

We are taking all necessary measures to safely achieve European legal obligations to reduce nitrogenemissions to water and air, thus averting penalty payments to the EU.

1198

1199 *Air pollution control*

We want to further reduce air pollution in order to protect human health and the environment in the long term. We support the European Commission's plan to amend the EU Air Quality Directive in order to gradually achieve the latest standards. We will ensure transparency in the dumping of kerosene and develop ways of avoiding it. We will support local authorities on their way to better air quality. We will implement BAT conclusions in a timely and sustainable manner. In order to achieve the reduction targets of the National Emission Ceilings Directive on time, we will implement all necessary measures in the national clean air programme.

1207

1208 Soil protection

We will evaluate the Federal Soil Protection Act and adapt it to the challenges of climate protection,climate adaptation and the preservation of biodiversity, taking into account the different uses. At EU

1211 level, we will campaign for improved soil protection and binding regulations. We will establish a 1212 national soil monitoring centre. In order to reduce land consumption for settlement and transport 1213 purposes to the 30 ha target by 2030 at the latest, we will set incentives, avoid false incentives and 1214 reduce sealing through effective initiatives.

1215

1216 *Chemicals policy*

1217 The chemical industry is in global competition. We strengthen its competitiveness and innovative 1218 strength, sustainability and climate protection as well as Germany as a production location, safeguard 1219 jobs and reduce the risks of using substances that are hazardous to health (e.g. perfluorinated and 1220 polyfluorinated chemicals). We are making a constructive contribution to the debate on the EU 1221 chemicals strategy. With this in mind, we want to further develop REACH (EU Regulation on the 1222 Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals), whereby substances and groups 1223 of substances are assessed for their risks. Following a risk assessment in the context of use, 1224 authorisation can be granted. We are developing a national plan for protection against endocrine 1225 disruptors. We will better protect our businesses and consumers from imports that do not meet EU 1226 standards by working with countries to strengthen enforcement of controls and facilitate product 1227 recalls. We will strengthen human biomonitoring and ensure continuous funding. For a comprehensive 1228 evaluation of substances and the development of sustainable chemicals, we will strengthen research 1229 and Germany as a production location.

1230

1231 *Circular economy*

1232 We promote the circular economy as an effective climate and resource protection, opportunity for 1233 sustainable economic development and jobs. We aim to reduce the primary consumption of raw 1234 materials and close material cycles. To this end, we are adapting the existing legal framework, defining 1235 clear targets and reviewing waste legislation. We are bundling existing raw materials policy strategies 1236 in a "National Recycling Management Strategy". On this basis, we advocate uniform standards in the 1237 EU. Requirements for products must be defined ambitiously and uniformly throughout Europe in 1238 dialogue with manufacturers. Products must be durable, reusable, recyclable and, if possible, 1239 repairable. We are strengthening extended producer responsibility at European level. We are 1240 introducing digital product passports, supporting companies in their implementation and upholding 1241 the principle of data economy. We strengthen waste avoidance through legal targets and ecologically 1242 beneficial reusable, return and deposit systems as well as industry agreements. We support innovative, 1243 sustainable ideas such as shared use. We are establishing an incentive system to dispose of certain 1244 electrical appliances and hazardous lithium-ion batteries in an environmentally friendly manner and 1245 to feed them into the circular economy. We will reduce the destruction of returned goods. We will 1246 reward resource-conserving and recycling-friendly packaging design and the use of recycled materials 1247 with a fund model anchored in law. We will introduce a recycling label. By accelerating the 1248 development of quality standards for recyclates, we are creating new high-quality material cycles. 1249 Quality-assured waste products are to be released from waste legislation and gain product status. We 1250 are stipulating higher recycling quotas and a product-specific minimum quota for the use of recyclates 1251 and secondary raw materials at European level. We include chemical recycling as a recycling option in 1252 the Packaging Act. We advocate a Europe-wide end to the landfilling of municipal waste. Together with 1253 the federal states, we are taking decisive action against illegal waste exports. Under European law, 1254 waste can only be exported to certified recycling plants. We want a level playing field for plastic 1255 recyclates.

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- 1257

1258 Agriculture and food

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Sustainable agriculture serves the interests of farms, animal welfare and nature at the same time andis the basis of a healthy diet.

1262

1263 Animal Welfare

1264 We will introduce mandatory animal husbandry labelling from 2022, which will also cover transport 1265 and slaughter. Our goal is to achieve corresponding binding EU-wide uniform standards. We are also 1266 introducing comprehensive origin labelling. We are accompanying the introduction with an 1267 information and education campaign. We want to support farmers in restructuring livestock farming 1268 in Germany in a manner that is appropriate to the species. To this end, we are striving to develop a 1269 financial system supported by market participants, the revenue from which will be earmarked to offset 1270 the running costs of farms and to promote investment without imposing a bureaucratic burden on the 1271 trade. In future, investment support will be geared to farming criteria and, as a rule, granted only to 1272 the upper tiers. The building and licensing laws are to be adapted accordingly. The development of 1273 livestock is to be oriented towards the area and will be brought into line with the objectives of climate, 1274 water and emission protection (ammonia/methane). We want to significantly reduce emissions from 1275 ammonia and methane while taking animal welfare into account. Farmers are to be supported on the 1276 path to climate neutrality as part of the restructuring of livestock farming.

1277

1278 We strive to establish planning and investment security. We are introducing a testing and approval 1279 procedure for barn systems and for mass-produced stunning equipment. We are improving the 1280 legislation on protection against fires and technical faults in stables, taking into account appropriate transition periods. We close existing gaps in the Farm Animal Husbandry Ordinance and improve the
Animal Welfare Act (concretise torture breeding, significantly reduce non-curative interventions, end
tethering in ten years at the latest).

1284

We will develop an animal health strategy and establish a comprehensive database (incl. processing
plants of animal by-products). We will record and reduce the use of antibiotics on farms in relation to
active substances and applications.

1288

1289 In future, live animal transports to third countries will only be permitted if they take place on routes 1290 with proven animal welfare-friendly supply facilities. We are also campaigning at EU level for better 1291 regulations for animal transports and an expansion of the TRACES database system. We promote 1292 decentralised and mobile slaughter structures. They create the legal basis for the introduction of a 1293 standardised camera-based monitoring system in areas of particular relevance to animal welfare in 1294 slaughterhouses of a relevant size and above. We close legal and enforcement gaps in the area of 1295 animal welfare in order to meet the responsibility arising from the competence to intervene which is 1296 exclusively vested in the state. We transfer parts of animal protection law to criminal law and increase 1297 the maximum penalty. We present a reduction strategy on animal experiments. We strengthen 1298 research into alternatives, their implementation in practice and establish an interdepartmental 1299 competence network.

1300

1301 We are introducing mandatory identity verification for online pet trade. The identification and 1302 registration of dogs will become mandatory. We update the guidelines for animal exchanges and 1303 develop a positive list for wild animals that can still be kept in circuses after a transitional period.

1304

We will support the educational work of zoological gardens. We will support animal shelters through a consumer foundation. We advocate an EU-wide ban on the keeping and breeding of fur animals. In cases of crisis and epidemic such as the African swine fever, the Federal Government will take on a coordinating and supporting role and eliminate legal deficiencies. We create the office of an animal protection commissioner.

1310

1311 European agricultural policy

We will immediately ensure that the accompanying regulations to the national strategic plan of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are adapted with the aim of environmental and climate protection as well as income security.

The current architecture will be reviewed by the middle of the legislative period at the latest and adjusted to achieve the objectives. For reliable further development from 2027 onwards, the German government is presenting a concept with this evaluation on how direct payments can be adequately replaced by rewarding climate and environmental services. This also serves the purpose of income effectiveness.

1321

1322 Joint Task for the Improvement of Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection (GAK)

1323 In line with the reform of the GRW, we will realign the joint task with our objectives and advocate 1324 flexible funding over the course of the year. New tasks such as nature conservation and climate 1325 adaptation must be secured through additional funding. Cooperation between nature conservation 1326 and agriculture should be given a legal basis for agricultural funding.

1327

1328 Nutrition

We will, particularly with children in mind, adopt a nutrition strategy with stakeholders by 2023 to create healthy environments for nutrition and physical activity.

1331

1332 We will update the standards of the German Nutrition Society, establish them as the standard in 1333 communal catering, continue to operate networking centres and conduct model region competitions. 1334 Our goal is to increase the share of regional and organic products in line with our expansion targets. 1335 Together with all parties involved, we will reduce food waste in a binding, sector-specific manner, 1336 clarify questions of liability law and facilitate tax relief for donations. We will strengthen plant-based 1337 alternatives and advocate the approval of innovations such as alternative protein sources and meat 1338 substitutes in the EU. Advertising to children of foods high in sugar, fat and salt must be banned from 1339 future programmes and formats aimed at under-14s. We will further develop an EU-wide Nutriscore 1340 in a scientific and generally understandable way. We support the development of criteria for an 1341 ecological footprint. We will strengthen consumer health protection and research into substances that 1342 are hazardous to health, such as endocrine disruptors, multiple exposures, contact materials. 1343 Lebensmittelwarnung.de will be further developed in a more practicable way. We will create 1344 scientifically based reduction targets for sugar, fat and salt that are tailored to target groups.

1345

1346 Agriculture

The extinction of species, the loss of biodiversity, is another ecological crisis. We want to limit the use of plant protection products to what is necessary. We want to ambitiously reduce the use with the following measures: We will orient all agriculture in its diversity towards the goals of environmental protection and resource conservation (organic farming). We want to further develop agriculture in harmony with nature and the environment. We want to achieve 30 percent organic farming by 2030. To this end, we want to increase federal funding for the Federal Organic Farming Programme and make agricultural research funds available for research into organic farming in line with the expansion target. We are expanding the future strategy for organic farming to include the entire organic value chain.

- Integrated pest management will be supplemented, we will strengthen its research and promotion
 and further develop the National Action Plan.
- Plants are to be protected in such a way that side effects on the environment, health and biodiversity are avoided. The authorisation of plant protection products must be transparent and legally secure, based on scientific criteria, and existing gaps at European level must be closed. At the same time, decisions must be taken more quickly.
- In addition, we are improving the availability of plant protection products, especially for small scale applications in diversely grown special crops, for stock protection and for appropriate
 resistance strategies.
- We also rely on digital applications and modern application technology for targeted application
 and avoidance of drift.
- We strengthen alternatives to chemical-synthetic plant protection products (biologicals, low risks,
 plant strengthening agents, physical, biological, cultivation methods, robotics, drones,
 digitalisation, forecasting models, etc.) and improve the associated processes.
- Analogous to existing regulations on pesticides in nature conservation areas, where farmers
 receive compensation for hardship, we want to find rules for drinking water protection areas.
- We are taking glyphosate off the market by the end of 2023.
- A digital origin and identification system for nutrients and plant protection, with the aim of
 advancing the reduction strategy, is to be introduced.
- We want to support the breeding of climate-resistant plant varieties. To this end, we are also
 improving the framework conditions for population varieties, promoting model projects such as
 crowd-breeding and digitalisation, creating transparency about breeding methods and
 strengthening risk and detection research.
- 1380

1381 Digitalization in agriculture

We will make the public data required by agriculture and food freely available to authorised users in a simpler way and with appropriate quality and timeliness, and to this end we will establish a genuine platform with central access to all government data and services, in particular also for corresponding administrative services. In future, government data at all levels of administration will be made available in uniform formats. The agricultural data space in Gaia-X as the basis of a European data infrastructure with clear rights of use for farmers to the farm-specific data they have helped to create will be further developed with standardised interfaces. Open source formats are explicitly supported.

1389

1390 *Land policy*

We are actively accompanying the EU Commission's debate on the "Carbon Removal Certification Guidelines". We need an update of the Soil Protection Act, a soil monitoring centre and we must support the EU with a soil directive. We are stepping up research and funding for climate-friendly crop cultivation. To this end, it is launching a federal programme entitled "Zukunftsfähiger Ackerbau" (Sustainable Arable Farming). We are continuing to develop the protein crop strategy.

1396

1397 The BVVG areas are used for compensation and replacement measures as well as climate and species1398 protection. Agricultural land is primarily leased to sustainable or organic farms and not sold.

1399

1400 Fishing

We are committed to preserving fisheries on our coasts. We will call for a fair, science-based determination and allocation of fishing quotas at European and international level. To this end, we will initiate a "Future Commission on Fisheries" to develop recommendations for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, inland and deep-sea fishing. We want to limit bottom trawling and adapt fishing techniques to specific species, as well as regulate gillnets in a way that respects nature conservation. We recognise the contribution of anglers to nature conservation and species protection.

1407

1408 Food market

We support fair competition with fair prices in the food market. We will strengthen antitrust abuse supervision and merger control at the Federal Cartel Office. We will take action against unfair trading practices and examine whether the sale of food below production costs can be prevented. We will continue to monitor the milk market and evaluate the balance of supply relationships.

- 1413
- 1414
- 1415 <u>Mobility</u>
- 1416

1417 We want to use the 2020s for a departure in mobility policy and enable sustainable, efficient, barrier-1418 free, intelligent, innovative mobility that is affordable for all. We are seeking acceptance for the 1419 necessary change processes and will implement our goals in a dialogue-oriented manner and regularly review the measures. We will take the necessary decisions to achieve our climate protection targets for 2030 and 2045 with the aim of decarbonising the mobility sector and significantly accelerate practical implementation. For us, mobility is a central component of services of general interest, a prerequisite for equal living conditions and the competitiveness of Germany as a business and logistics location with future-proof jobs. To this end, we will expand and modernise the infrastructure and further develop the framework conditions for a wide range of mobility options in cities and rural areas.

1426

1427 Infrastructure

1428 Investments in transport infrastructure must be further increased and secured for the long term. In 1429 doing so, we want to invest considerably more in the railways than in the roads, in order to give priority 1430 to the implementation of projects for a "Deutschlandtakt". In the case of federal trunk roads, we want 1431 to focus more strongly on maintenance and rehabilitation, with particular emphasis on engineering 1432 structures. To this end, we will gradually increase the share of maintenance funds up to 2025 as the 1433 budget grows.

1434

We are striving for a new infrastructure consensus on federal transport routes. To this end, we will launch a dialogue process with transport, environmental, economic and consumer protection associations in parallel with the current review of the requirements plan, with the aim of reaching agreement on the priorities for implementing the current Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan. Up until the review of the requirements plan, there will be joint coordination on the current projects.

1440

We will launch a new Federal Transport Infrastructure and Mobility Plan 2040 on the basis of new criteria. We want to abolish the coexistence of Autobahn GmbH and Deutsche Einheit Fernstraßenplanungs- und -bau Gesellschaft (DEGES). We want to conclude a long-term financing agreement between the federal government and Autobahn GmbH.

1445

In 2023, we will introduce a CO ₂differentiation of the truck toll, include commercial road haulage from
3.5 tonnes and introduce a CO ₂surcharge, on condition that a double burden through the CO ₂price is
excluded. We will use the additional revenue for mobility.

1449

We want to reduce noise pollution from traffic, work to reduce wanton noise and provide more active and passive noise protection. In order to arrive at appropriate noise protection measures, we will take the entire noise situation into account. We will improve the financing of noise remediation programmes for federal trunk roads and railways. We will support innovative noise abatement technology, for example for new freight wagons, until it is launched on the market.

1455

1456 Rail traffic

We will continue to develop the Rail Transport Master Plan and implement it more quickly, increase rail freight transport to 25 per cent by 2030 and double passenger transport performance. We will align the target timetable of a "Deutschlandtakt" and the infrastructure capacity with these goals. As far as budgetary feasibility allows, the use of rail is to be made cheaper in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the railways.

1462

We will connect more regional centres to long-distance transport. We will secure the implementation
of a "Deutschlandtakt" infrastructurally, financially, organisationally, in terms of railway law and in
compliance with European law.

1466

1467 We want to strengthen cross-border transport and develop night train services with the EU and its 1468 member states. By 2030, we want to electrify 75 percent of the rail network and support innovative 1469 drive technologies. We will prioritise the digitisation of vehicles and routes. We will launch a "Rapid 1470 Capacity Expansion" programme, improve accessibility and noise protection, bundle and strengthen 1471 station programmes, expand the rail network, reactivate lines and avoid closures, and set up a Rail 1472 Acceleration Commission. We want to accelerate the introduction of Digital Automatic Coupling, 1473 strengthen single-wagon transport and provide investment incentives for sidings. In the case of new 1474 commercial and industrial areas, rail connections are to be examined on a compulsory basis. We want 1475 to further promote combined transport terminals, promote the craneability of standard semi-trailers 1476 and exempt the inward and outward journeys up to a maximum of 50 kilometres from the HGV toll.

1477

We will maintain Deutsche Bahn AG as an integrated group, including the group's internal labour market, under public ownership. We will make the internal structures more efficient and transparent. The infrastructure units (DB Netz, DB Station und Service) of Deutsche Bahn AG will be merged within the Group to form a new, public-interest infrastructure division. This will be wholly owned by Deutsche Bahn as the Group as a whole. Profits from the operation of the infrastructure will remain in the new infrastructure unit in future. The rail transport companies will continue to operate in a competitive market and profit-oriented manner.

1485

1486 We want to increase the investment funds for DB infrastructure.

1487

1488 Public transport and new mobility offers

1489 We want to enable federal states and municipalities to improve the attractiveness and capacities of 1490 public transport. The aim is to significantly increase public transport passenger numbers. In 2022, we 1491 will continue to compensate for pandemic-related revenue shortfalls. We want an expansion and 1492 modernisation pact in which the Federal Government, the Länder and the local authorities agree, 1493 among other things, on financing up to 2030, including the Länder's and local authorities' own 1494 contributions and the distribution of federal funds, and discuss tariff structures. Regionalisation funds 1495 will be increased from 2022. Together, we will define quality criteria and standards for services and 1496 accessibility for urban and rural areas.

1497

For seamless mobility, we oblige transport companies and mobility providers to make their real-time
data available under fair conditions. We want to enable digital booking and payment across providers.
We will continue to develop the mobility data space.

1501

1502 We will strengthen intermodal links and promote barrier-free mobility stations.

1503

1504 We will support digital mobility services, innovative mobility solutions and car sharing and include 1505 them in a long-term strategy for autonomous and connected public transport.

1506 To ensure that all new buses, including the infrastructure, are climate-neutral as soon as possible, the 1507 federal government will extend the existing subsidy and make it more SME-friendly.

1508

We are committed to fair working conditions in public transport. To this end, we are strengthening tariff compliance and creating the legal basis for making collective agreements a condition for tenders. The interests of small and medium-sized enterprises must be taken into account when awarding

- 1512 contracts. We maintain the priority of self-supported transport.
- 1513

We will upgrade mobility research on an interdisciplinary basis, reorganise and expand the Centre forthe Future of Mobility, and strengthen the Centre for Rail Transport Research.

1516

1517 Freight

We support regional freight transport concepts, promote emission-free urban logistics such as loading zones and logistics hubs. We want to make it easier to obtain permits for heavy goods and largevolume transports. We will strengthen the control authorities and enforce better social standards and working conditions. We will expand safe truck parking areas on and around motorways and optimise them telematically. We will counteract the shortage of skilled workers, modernise qualification and reduce bureaucracy. 1524

1525 Car traffic

We will support the transformation process of the German automotive industry against the backdrop of digitalisation and decarbonisation. We will align framework conditions and support measures to ensure that Germany is the lead market for electromobility with at least15 million electric cars in 2030.

According to the proposals of the European Commission, only CO₂ -neutral vehicles will be allowed in the transport sector in Europe in 2035 - this will have a correspondingly earlier effect in Germany. Outside the existing system of fleet limits, we are working to ensure that only vehicles that can demonstrably be fuelled with e-fuels can be newly registered.

1534

We are committed to the adoption of an ambitious and feasible EURO 7 pollutant standard, taking intoaccount value creation and jobs.

1537

1538 The expansion of the charging infrastructure must precede demand. We will therefore accelerate the 1539 expansion of the charging point infrastructure in advance with the goal of one million publicly and non-1540 discriminatorily accessible charging points by 2030 with a focus on fast charging infrastructure across 1541 all ministries, review it for efficiency and reduce bureaucracy. We are focusing on mobilising private 1542 investment. Where competitive solutions are not effective, we will establish reliable accessibility of 1543 charging points by imposing supply conditions where construction is possible. We will make funding 1544 for the expansion of the charging infrastructure more effective and efficient. We will remove obstacles 1545 in approval processes, network infrastructure and network connection conditions and support local 1546 authorities in forward-looking planning of the charging infrastructure. We will enable bidirectional 1547 charging, we will ensure transparent electricity prices and a publicly visible occupancy status. We will 1548 accelerate the development of a nationwide network of fast charging hubs and increase the number 1549 of hubs put out to tender. We will quickly revise the charging infrastructure master plan and bundle 1550 necessary measures from the areas of construction, energy and transport in it, as well as placing an 1551 emphasis on municipal networking of solutions. We are committed to ambitious expansion targets at 1552 European level.

1553

We advocate further development of the CO₂ fleet limits for commercial vehicles and support the European Commission's proposals for the development of refuelling and charging infrastructure for trucks.

We are creating a Mobility Data Act and ensuring free access to traffic data. For the competitionneutral use of vehicle data, we are striving for a trustee model that adequately takes into account the access needs of users, private providers and state bodies as well as the interests of affected companies and developers. In the law on autonomous driving, we will improve the regulations, clarify liability issues and ensure the data sovereignty of users.

1563

1564 *Traffic regulations*

We will adapt the Road Traffic Act and Road Traffic Regulations in such a way that, in addition to the fluidity and safety of traffic, the objectives of climate and environmental protection, health and urban development are taken into account in order to open up scope for decision-making for the Länder and local authorities. We want an opening for digital applications such as digital parking control. In implementing Vision Zero, we will further develop the road safety programme. There will be no general speed limit.

1571

1572 In order to train young people for the dangers in road traffic at an early stage, we will enable 1573 accompanied driving from the age of 16. We want to enable more digital elements of driving licence 1574 instruction, drive forward the digitalisation of vehicle documents and abolish the monopoly on driving 1575 licence examinations while maintaining applicable quality standards.

1576

We want emergency braking and distance assist systems in commercial vehicles not to be switched
off. We will continue to promote the retrofitting of truck cornering assistance systems until they
become mandatory.

1580

1581 *Cycling*

We will implement and update the National Cycling Plan, promote the expansion and modernisation of the cycle path network and the promotion of municipal cycling infrastructure. To strengthen cycling, we will secure funding until 2030 and promote the combination of cycling and public transport. We will provide structural support for walking and underpin it with a national strategy.

1586

1587 Shipping

We will develop a National Ports Strategy and promote close cooperation between our ports. The Federal Government stands by its shared responsibility for the necessary port infrastructures. We want to increase the share of shipping in freight transport and strengthen hinterland connections to this end. We will promote shore-side electricity and alternative propulsion systems and fuels. We will adapt

- the fleet renewal programme for climate-friendly inland navigation. When designing Fit for 55, wewant to keep an eye on the overall burden on shipping.
- 1594

1595 We will strengthen the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency in order to introduce a uniform flag 1596 state administration and to accelerate offshore wind energy development.

1597 We will accelerate the renovation and expansion of locks. We will initiate a dialogue across society on 1598 climate resilience and nature conservation in waterways. We will strengthen the waterways and 1599 navigation administration and increase its efficiency.

1600

1601 Air traffic

We want to further develop the German aviation industry and economy as key sectors in a sustainable and efficient manner, draw up an aviation concept 2030+ for the future of airports in Germany in a comprehensive participation process, promote rail links to hubs and reduce the number of short-haul flights through better rail connections.

1606

1607 Germany should become a pioneer in CO₂ -neutral flying while maintaining fair framework conditions 1608 in international competition. Our goal is to create a fair framework in international competition for 1609 effective climate protection in air transport that effectively reduces emissions and avoids carbon 1610 leakage. Pending a European decision on the introduction of a kerosene tax based on energy content, 1611 we will work to introduce an aviation levy throughout Europe, as is the case in Germany. We will lobby 1612 the European Union to ensure that airline tickets cannot be sold at a price below taxes, surcharges, 1613 fees and charges. In view of the current pandemic-related crisis in the aviation industry, we will not 1614 consider increasing the air traffic tax until after 2023. We will use revenues from the aviation tax to 1615 promote the production and use of CO 2-neutral, electricity-based aviation fuels as well as for research, 1616 development and fleet modernisation in aviation. We support ambitious quotas for power-to-liquid 1617 (PtL) in aviation and shipping to stimulate a market ramp-up. We want to reduce aircraft noise and 1618 increase the share of noise-based airport charges. We promote climate-neutral airport operations.

1619

1620 The task of German air traffic control will be expanded to include the issue of effective noise 1621 protection. We will consider amending the Aircraft Noise Protection Act on the basis of the Federal 1622 Government's evaluation report. We will lobby at EU level for the implementation of the "Single 1623 European Sky" and a lower sulphur content of kerosene.

1624

1625 Detection and defence against drones is a sovereign task.

1627

1628 Climate, Energy, Transformation

1629

1630 Man-made climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We must tackle the climate 1631 crisis together. This also presents great opportunities for the modernisation of our country and for 1632 Germany as an industrial location: new business models and technologies can create climate-neutral 1633 prosperity and good jobs. The new German government will make the expansion of renewable 1634 energies a central project of its government work. We will align our climate, energy and economic 1635 policies nationally, in Europe and internationally with the 1.5 degree path and activate the potential at 1636 all levels of government. To achieve this, we will ambitiously derive our goals from the joint 1637 contribution to which the European Union has committed itself under the Paris Agreement.

1638

1639 In doing so, we are safeguarding the freedom of future generations in line with the decision of the 1640 Federal Constitutional Court by designing a reliable and cost-efficient path to climate neutrality by 1641 2045 at the latest, with no restrictions on technology. We are sticking to the German nuclear phase-1642 out. We are committed to a social-ecological market economy and to concrete measures that will be 1643 implemented in the coming years and that will bring people along with them.

1644

1645 In the negotiations on the EU's "Fit for 55" programme, we support the EU Commission's proposals 1646 and want to make the instruments in the individual sectors as technology-neutral as possible.

1647

1648 *Climate Protection Act*

We will consistently further develop the Climate Protection Act before the end of 2022 and launch an emergency climate protection programme with all the necessary laws, ordinances and measures. We will make climate protection a cross-cutting task by having the responsible ministry examine its draft legislation for its impact on the climate and its compatibility with national climate protection targets, and by providing an appropriate justification (climate check).

1654

All sectors will have to contribute: Transport, construction and housing, power generation, industry and agriculture. We will monitor compliance with the climate targets on the basis of a cross-sectoral and, analogous to the Paris Climate Agreement, multi-year overall account. The basis for this is annual monitoring.

1659

1660 On the path to climate neutrality, all sectors must make their contribution to achieving the climate 1661 targets. We want to do everything in our power to prevent Germany from having to buy EU emissions 1662 trading certificates under the EU burden-sharing scheme, which would burden the federal budget, if it 1663 fails to meet its climate targets. 1664 1665 We will launch and complete an immediate climate protection programme with all the necessary laws 1666 and projects by the end of 2022. 1667 1668 Renewable energies 1669 We are making it our common mission to drastically accelerate the expansion of renewable energies 1670 and to remove all hurdles and obstacles. 1671 1672 We are gearing our renewables target to a higher gross electricity demand of 680-750 TWh in 2030. 1673 Of this, 80 percent is to come from renewables. We are accelerating grid expansion accordingly. We 1674 are dynamically adjusting the annual tender volumes. 1675 1676 We need a mix of instruments to achieve the massive expansion: In addition to the EEG, we will 1677 strengthen instruments for subsidy-free expansion, such as long-term power supply agreements 1678 (PPAs) and Europe-wide trading in guarantees of origin in the interests of climate protection. 1679 1680 We want to strengthen the decentralised expansion of renewable energies. It should be possible to 1681 use renewable electricity more in the region in which it is generated, especially from plants that have 1682 been subsidised and plants that are not subsidised under the Renewable Energy Sources Act. To this end, we will review all necessary regulations. Green electricity must also be allowed to be used as 1683 1684 green electricity in the region where it is generated. 1685

We will significantly accelerate planning and approval procedures. Renewable energies are in the public interest and serve security of supply. When weighing up the interests to be protected, we will ensure that renewable energies are given priority for a limited period of time until climate neutrality is achieved. We will create legal certainty in species protection law, among other things by applying a uniform nationwide assessment method in the species protection assessment of wind energy projects. Furthermore, we will advocate a stronger focus on population protection at the European level and make the exceptions legally secure.

1693

We are committed to ensuring that the regulatory authorities are effectively relieved of their workload
through the use of external project teams. The start of the statutory approval periods is to be ensured

by clear requirements for the application documents. A clarification of the implementation deadlinesfor approvals is also to be made.

1698

All suitable roof surfaces are to be used for solar energy in the future. This should be mandatory for new commercial buildings and the rule for new private buildings. We will remove bureaucratic hurdles and open up ways to avoid overburdening private builders financially and administratively. We also see this as an economic stimulus package for small and medium-sized enterprises and the skilled trades.

- Our target for the expansion of photovoltaics (PV) is around 200 GW by 2030. To achieve this, we will remove all obstacles, including accelerating grid connections and certification, adjusting remuneration rates, and reviewing the tendering obligation for large rooftop systems and caps. We will also strengthen innovative solar energy such as agri- and floating PV and enable co-utilisation.
- 1708

Two percent of the state's land area is to be designated for onshore wind energy. The details of the
area target will be set out in the Building Code. We are strengthening the federal-state cooperation
committee.

1712

1713 In the first half of 2022, we will initiate all necessary measures together with the federal government,
1714 the federal states and local authorities in order to organise the common goal of an accelerated
1715 expansion of renewable energies and the provision of the necessary land for this.

1716

We will ensure that the expansion of wind energy also makes significant progress in less windy regions,
so that onshore wind energy is also available close to consumption throughout Germany (and grid
bottlenecks are avoided).

1720

Where there are already wind farms, it must be possible to replace old wind turbines with new ones without major approval effort. We want to defuse the conflict between the expansion of wind power and the protection of species through innovative technical avoidance measures, including anti-collision systems. We want to reduce the distances to rotating radio beacons and weather radars in the short term. When designating low-flying corridors, greater consideration should be given to the expansion of wind energy.

We will substantially increase offshore wind energy capacity to at least 30 GW in 2030, 40 GW in 2035 and 70 GW in 2045. To this end, we will secure corresponding areas in the foreign economic zone. Offshore installations should enjoy priority over other forms of use. We also see co-use as an opportunity for a better balance of interests. We will continue to drive forward European offshore cooperation and strengthen cross-border projects in the North Sea and Baltic Sea.

1733

We will connect the additionally generated offshore wind power in an accelerated, interventionminimising and bundled manner. We will make the necessary technological decisions immediately, for example on the role of hybrid interconnectors, meshed offshore grids or multi-terminal connections, while also keeping an eye on onshore grid integration.

1738

Bioenergy in Germany should have a new future. To this end, we will develop a sustainable biomassstrategy.

1741

We want to make greater use of the potential of geothermal energy for energy supply, among otherthings by improving the data situation and examining an exploration risk insurance.

1744

We want to ensure that municipalities can benefit appropriately financially from wind turbines andlarger open-space solar plants on their territory.

1747

We are strengthening citizen energy as an important element for greater acceptance. As far as possible
under European law, we will improve the framework conditions for citizen energy (energy sharing,
examination of a fund to cover the risks) and make full use of the de minimis rules as a contribution to
reducing bureaucracy.

1752

We will simplify and strengthen the promotion of tenant electricity and neighbourhood concepts aspart of the amendment to the tax, levy and apportionment system.

1755

1756 We will advocate comprehensive municipal heating planning and the expansion of heating networks.

We are aiming for a very high share of renewable energies in heating and want to generate 50 percentof heat in a climate-neutral manner by 2030.

1759

We will invite the states to discuss how the federal government can best support them in implementingclimate education as enshrined in the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

1763 Coal phase-out

1764 In order to meet the climate protection targets, it is also necessary to accelerate the phase-out of coal-1765 fired power generation. The decision of the Federal Constitutional Court, the stricter 2030 climate 1766 target and the upcoming tightening of EU emissions trading, which we support, are increasingly 1767 limiting the scope for action. This requires the massive expansion of renewables and the construction 1768 of modern gas-fired power plants, which we are striving for, in order to meet the rising demand for 1769 electricity and energy over the next few years at competitive prices. To this end, we will carry out the 1770 review step envisaged for 2026 in the Coal Phase-out Act by the end of 2022 at the latest, analogously 1771 to the law.

1772

The gas-fired power plants required until security of supply is ensured by renewable energies should also be built at existing power plant sites in order to use the existing (grid) infrastructures and to secure future prospects. They must be built in such a way that they can be converted to climate-neutral gases (H2-ready). We will regularly review security of supply and the rapid expansion of renewables. To this end, we will further develop the monitoring of the security of supply with electricity and heat into a real stress test.

1779

1780 The regions affected and those affected by coal mining can continue to count on solidarity-based 1781 support. Measures under the Structural Strengthening Act, such as the Cottbus University Medicine 1782 project, will be brought forward or accelerated. The accompanying labour policy measures such as the 1783 adjustment allowance will be adjusted accordingly and supplemented by a qualification component 1784 for younger employees. No one will be left without a job. Our aim is not to pay any additional 1785 compensation to companies as part of the coal phase-out, in addition to the benefits promised to 1786 municipalities in the law to date. We want to preserve the villages in the Rhenish mining area that will 1787 be affected in the third resettlement phase. The courts will decide on Lützerath.

1788

1789 The establishment of a foundation or company to organise the dismantling of coal-fired power1790 generation and renaturation is being examined.

1791

1792 Gas and hydrogen

An energy infrastructure for renewable electricity and hydrogen is a prerequisite for Europe's ability
to act and compete in the 21st century. We want to diversify the energy supply for Germany and
Europe. European energy law applies to energy policy projects in Germany as well.

We are accelerating the massive expansion of renewables and the construction of modern gas-fired power plants in order to meet the rising demand for electricity and energy over the next few years at competitive prices. The gas-fired power plants that will be needed until renewable energies provide security of supply must be built in such a way that they can be converted to climate-neutral gases (H2ready). Natural gas is indispensable for a transitional period.

1802

The hydrogen strategy will be updated in 2022. The goal is a rapid market ramp-up. The first priority is domestic production based on renewable energies. For a rapid ramp-up and until there is an inexpensive supply of green hydrogen, we are relying on a technology-neutral design of hydrogen regulation.

1807

We want to press ahead as quickly as possible with the development of an efficient hydrogen economy and the necessary import and transport infrastructure. We want to achieve an electrolysis capacity of around 10 gigawatts by 2030. We will ensure this, among other things, through the expansion of offshore wind energy and European and international energy partnerships. This will require a dedicated build-up of the necessary infrastructure. To this end, we will create the necessary framework conditions, including efficiently designed funding programmes, and in particular also strengthen European cooperation in this area.

1815

1816 Once adopted, we will implement the amended Renewable Energies Directive as openly and1817 ambitiously as possible, while continuing to exclude nuclear power.

1818

1819 When importing hydrogen, we will consider the climate policy implications and ensure fair competitive1820 conditions for our economy.

1821

We advocate a uniform certification of hydrogen and its downstream products at European level and strengthen European import partnerships. We will quickly implement the IPCEI Hydrogen together with the federal states and promote investments in the development of a hydrogen infrastructure. We want to further develop programmes such as H2Global on a European scale and provide them with appropriate funding.

1827

1828 Networks

1829 Electricity and hydrogen grids are the backbone of the energy system of the future. For the massive
1830 expansion of renewable energies, we need more speed and commitment in grid expansion at all levels.
1831 In future, we want to plan grid infrastructures more jointly and with greater foresight at all political

levels. To this end, we will immediately commission the Federal Network Agency and network
operators to calculate a plan for a climate-neutral network that goes beyond the current network
development plans and update the Federal Requirements Plan accordingly. Particular attention must
be paid to the electricity highways in all measures.

1836

1837 We will initiate further measures as part of the immediate climate protection programme. We will 1838 accelerate the planning and approval procedures for faster planning and implementation of electricity 1839 and hydrogen grids. We will ensure a clear allocation of political responsibility for good early citizen 1840 participation in grid expansion. We will present a "Roadmap System Stability" by mid-2023. We will 1841 modernise and digitise the distribution grids, including through forward-looking planning and greater 1842 controllability. We will significantly accelerate the rollout of smart metering systems as a prerequisite 1843 for smart grids while ensuring data protection and IT security. We will legally define storage as an 1844 independent pillar of the energy system. The provision of capital for the grid infrastructure will 1845 continue to require attractive investment conditions in comparison with the rest of Europe. In 1846 accordance with European law, we will ensure state influence on critical infrastructure where security 1847 interests are affected.

1848

1849 Electricity market design

1850 In the course of expanding renewable energies, we will develop a new electricity market design. To 1851 this end, the German government and the coalition parties will jointly establish a platform entitled 1852 "Climate-neutral electricity system", which will make concrete proposals in 2022 and involve 1853 stakeholders from science, industry and civil society. In doing so, we are committed to further 1854 integration of the European internal energy market.

1855

1856 In order to stimulate the rapid addition of secured capacity and to secure the nuclear and coal phase-1857 out, we will evaluate existing instruments and examine competitive and technology-neutral capacity 1858 mechanisms and flexibilities. These include secured renewable capacity, highly efficient gas-fired 1859 power plants with combined heat and power generation as part of the further development of the 1860 relevant law, an innovation programme to encourage H2-ready gas-fired power plants at coal-fired 1861 power plant sites, storage facilities, energy efficiency measures and load management.

1862

1863 We will take appropriate account of market prices in future CHP support.

1864

1865 In addition, there is a need for a rapid and comprehensive reform of the financing architecture of the 1866 energy system. The way forward must be to consistently strengthen incentives for the cross-sector use of renewables, decentralised generation models and the avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions. We
ensure that renewable electricity is used economically for sector coupling instead of shutting down
plants due to grid bottlenecks.

1870

We will fundamentally reform the state-induced price components in the energy sector, aiming for
systematic, consistent, transparent and, as far as possible, distortion-free competitive conditions,
enabling sector coupling and thus creating a level playing field for all energy sources and sectors. The
carbon ₂price plays a central role in this.

1875

1876 We are pushing for a reform of grid fees that strengthens transparency, promotes the transformation1877 to climate neutrality, and fairly distributes the costs of integrating renewables.

1878

1879 Socially fair energy prices

1880 In order to ensure socially just energy prices that are competitive for the economy - also in view of higher CO₂ price components - we will end the financing of the EEG levy via the electricity price. We 1881 1882 will therefore transfer it to the budget on 1 January 2023. It will be financed by the EKF, which is fed 1883 by the revenue from the emissions trading systems (SES and ETS) and a subsidy from the federal 1884 budget. The EKF will be able to finance the necessary climate protection measures and the EEG levy. 1885 With the completion of the coal phase-out, we will phase out support for renewables. As part of these 1886 changes, all exemptions from the EEG surcharge and energy taxes as well as the compensation 1887 regulations will be reviewed and adjusted. The aim is to reduce tax concessions that relate to the 1888 economic use of electricity, taking into account the relief provided by the abolition of the EEG 1889 surcharge. As a result, companies should no longer be burdened overall.

1890

We want to revise European emissions trading and the Fuel Emissions Trading Act (SESTA) in line with the EU's Fit for 55 programme. We rely on an increasing CO₂ price as an important instrument, combined with a strong social compensation and will support people with lower incomes in particular. What is good for the climate will become cheaper - what is bad will become more expensive.

1895

We therefore support the European Commission's plans to strengthen the existing emissions trading system and advocate an ambitious reform. In particular, we advocate an ETS minimum price at the European level and the creation of a second emissions trading scheme for the heating and mobility sectors (ETS 2). Provision should be made for social compensation in the respective EU member states. In the 2030s, there should be a uniform EU emissions trading system across all sectors that does not shift burdens unilaterally to the detriment of consumers. 1902

The price in the ETS is currently around 60 euros/tonne. According to all forecasts, it will not structurally fall below this level, but rather rise. Should the development of the next few years be different and the European Union has not agreed on an ETS minimum price, we will decide on the appropriate national measures (such as certificate deletion or minimum price, etc.) to ensure that the CO ₂price does not fall below 60 euros/tonne in the long term.

1908

We want to review the Fuel Emissions Trading Act (BEHG), including covered fuel emissions in industry (industrial process heat), for its compatibility with a possible ETS 2 and, if necessary, adapt it to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. We consider energy prices and CO₂ prices together. Given the current level of prices due to non-CO -price ₂drivers, we maintain the existing SES price path for social reasons. We will make a proposal on the design of the market phase after 2026. To compensate for a future price increase and ensure acceptance of the market system, we will develop a social compensation mechanism beyond the abolition of the EEG levy (climate money).

1916

1917 External climate and energy policy

We are strengthening multilateral cooperation within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and will expand German environmental, climate and energy cooperation. Among other things, we will use the German G7 Presidency in 2022 to launch an initiative to establish climate partnerships and an international climate club open to all countries. Our goals include climate neutrality, the massive expansion of renewable energies and their infrastructure, and the production of hydrogen. We are striving for a global emissions trading system that will lead to a uniform CO ₂price in the medium term.

1925

We will fulfil our pledges for the German share of the 100 billion US dollars of international climate
financing within the framework of a coherent external climate policy and increase it in the long term.

We want to make our external climate policy more coherent and stronger, among other things withthe Climate Cabinet.

1931

1932 We are committed to reforming the Energy Charter Treaty.

1933

1934 Transformation of the economy

1935 We want to increase the competitiveness of Germany as a business location as the basis for sustainable1936 growth, prosperity and high employment in a social-ecological market economy. We will provide the

1937 best possible support for companies and employees, promote innovation and create new confidence1938 in the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation and enterprise.

We must tackle the climate crisis together. This also presents great opportunities for our country andfor Germany as an industrial location: new business models and technologies can create climate-

1941 neutral prosperity and good jobs.

1942

We see the path to a ₂carbon-neutral world as a great opportunity for Germany as an industrial location. New business models and technologies can create climate-neutral prosperity and good jobs if we ensure the right framework conditions for industry and SMEs, such as a massive expansion of renewable energies, competitive energy prices, security of supply with electricity and heat, and fast and unbureaucratic approval procedures.

1948

We want to activate more private capital for transformation projects. To this end, we are alsoexamining what contributions public development banks can make to risk hedging.

1951

In dialogue with business, trade unions and associations, we want to forge an "Alliance for
Transformation" and discuss stable and reliable framework conditions for transformation in the first
six months of 2022.

1955

1956 In order to support companies in their investments on the path to climate neutrality, we rely on 1957 targeted instruments. To this end, we are setting up a transformation fund at KfW, using differential 1958 climate protection agreements, promoting lighthouse projects and creating incentives for lead markets 1959 and climate-neutral products. We will also accompany and support small and medium-sized 1960 enterprises on their way to climate technology transformation.

1961

1962 We advocate effective carbon leakage protection (boarder adjustment mechanism, free allocation).

1963

1964 In the revision of the European climate, environment and energy aid guidelines and other regulations,

1965 we will ensure that the competitiveness of companies is maintained.

1966

Energy and resource efficiency plays an important role in the transformation, i.e. such as linking
industrial incentives to the implementation of economic energy efficiency measures or further
developing product standards. This applies equally to the energy transition.

1970

1971 We acknowledge the necessity of technical negative emissions and will develop a long-term strategy1972 for dealing with the approximately 5 percent of unavoidable residual emissions.

1973

1974 In dialogue with the companies, we will seek solutions on how to grant operating licences for energy 1975 infrastructure (power plants or gas pipelines) using fossil fuels in a legally secure manner so that 1976 operations can continue beyond 2045 using non-fossil fuels only, without triggering an investment 1977 freeze, bad investments and compensation claims.

1978

1979 Atom

1980 In the international efforts to achieve climate neutrality, Germany is clearly committed to the 1981 expansion and use of renewable energies. At the international and European level, we are working to 1982 ensure that nuclear energy itself pays for the costs it causes. We accept responsibility for radioactive 1983 waste. The search for a site for a final repository for highly radioactive waste should be continued in 1984 accordance with the principles laid down by law: science-based, participatory, transparent, self-1985 questioning and learning.

1986

Approved repositories must be completed and put into operation quickly. This also includes siteselection and the construction of the necessary logistics centre.

1989

We will advocate the shutdown of the high-risk reactors close to the border. We are in favour ofpooling competences in this area.

1992

1993

1994 IV. Respect, opportunities and social security in the modern world of work

1995

A high level of employment and fair pay are the basis for our prosperity and the financing of our social security. We want to enable everyone to have as secure an employment biography as possible and maintain employability through qualification and healthy work. Every job deserves respect and recognition. We will increase the minimum wage and create a modern labour law that enables security and fairly negotiated flexibility.

2001

We are committed to a welfare state that protects its citizens, but also helps them to seize new opportunities in life. Pensions must be reliable and adequate, which is why we are safeguarding the pension level and supplementing it with funded elements. With the citizen's income we are renewing the system of basic security. 2006 2007 All people in Germany should be well cared for - in the city and in the countryside. Our goal is a modern 2008 cross-sector health and care policy. The pandemic has shown us the vulnerability of our healthcare 2009 system. We are learning lessons and ensuring that health care is tailored to needs and that medicine 2010 and nursing care are humane and of high quality. 2011 2012 Housing is a basic need. We will help to ensure that sufficient living space is created and that the 2013 construction and housing of the future is affordable, climate-neutral and barrier-free. Lively public 2014 spaces are important for the living environment. 2015 2016 2017 Work 2018 2019 We want to shape the modern world of work, enabling career opportunities and reconciling security 2020 and flexibility. 2021 2022 Education 2023 To strengthen and modernise vocational schools, we are establishing a pact with the Länder, local 2024 authorities and relevant stakeholders. Together with the Länder, we are expanding vocational 2025 guidance and youth employment agencies across the board. We want a training guarantee that gives 2026 all young people access to fully qualifying vocational training, always with priority given to in-company 2027 training. We will continue the Alliance for Vocational Training. We are expanding introductory training, 2028 assisted training, training-accompanying assistance and joint training. We are opening up assistance 2029 for refugees. We welcome collectively agreed compensation funds. In regions with a considerable 2030 undersupply of training places, we will initiate needs-based extra-company training programmes in 2031 close consultation with the social partners. We are increasing training mobility. For people who are 2032 unemployed or in receipt of basic social security benefits, we will promote fully qualifying training 2033 courses in the context of continuing vocational training, irrespective of their duration. Full-time school 2034 education must be remunerated and free of school fees. We are launching a vocational education and 2035 training excellence initiative, including the expansion of InnoVet and the opening up of the Federal 2036 Government's programmes for the promotion of gifted students to vocational education and training. 2037 We are recognising equivalent vocational qualifications for higher career paths in the public service. 2038 We will swiftly discuss the results of the evaluation of the dual study programme with all relevant 2039 stakeholders.

2041 Further education

2042 In times of digital and demographic change, a targeted National Continuing Education Strategy is 2043 essential to achieving our economic and social goals. We are improving opportunities for professional 2044 reorientation, training and further education - including part-time. We are coordinating the 2045 instruments of education policy and active labour market policy.

2046

To support personally motivated lifelong learning, we are expanding the Upgrading Training Assistance Act (Aufstiegs-BAföG), opening up the maintenance contribution for part-time further training, promoting further training also at the same level of the German Qualifications Framework and also for a second fully qualified training, significantly increasing the funding rates and allowances and closing funding gaps to BAföG. The aim is for upgrading courses and examinations to be free of charge at reasonable prices.

2053

With the "Lebenschancen-BAföG" we are creating a new instrument for self-determined further education for all, even beyond vocational and degree-related qualifications. To this end, we are creating a simple opportunity to save for education in a free account. People with low incomes will receive annual subsidies for this.

2058

With a training (part) time scheme based on the Austrian model, we offer employees financial support for further training related to the labour market. This makes it possible, for example, to catch up on a vocational qualification or to reorient oneself professionally. The prerequisite is an agreement between employer and employee. The BA checks the eligibility requirements.

2063

The Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit, BA) will play a stronger role in qualification and related counselling. In order to support all those interested in further training and companies, we are creating a network of the BA with the regional players and uniform contact points. To this end, we are expanding the continuing training networks and supporting the establishment of continuing training agencies. The National Online Continuing Education Platform and the Education Platform will be further developed, interlinked and consolidated. In this way, we are creating clear access to education and guidance services as well as funding instruments.

2071

2072 With a qualification allowance based on the short-time allowance, the BA can enable companies in 2073 structural change to keep their employees in the company through qualification and to secure skilled 2074 workers. Company agreements are a prerequisite for this. At the same time, we are creating incentives for transformation collective agreements. We are also expanding the transfer short-time allowanceand further developing the instruments of SGB III in transfer companies.

2077

For people in unemployment and in basic benefits, we are expanding the independent promotion of basic skills and making it clear that placement in work does not take precedence over vocational training and further education that strengthens employment opportunities. In the case of vocational qualification, those entitled to SGB II and III benefits will receive an additional monthly further training allowance of 150 euros, so that there is an effective incentive for further training. After further training, people should be entitled to at least three months' unemployment benefit.

2084

2085 Working hours and place of work

2086 In order to respond to the changes in the world of work and to take up the wishes of employees and 2087 companies for more flexible working time arrangements, we want to support trade unions and 2088 employers in enabling flexible working time models. We maintain the principle of the 8-hour day in 2089 the Working Time Act. Within the framework of a temporary regulation with an evaluation clause to 2090 be adopted in 2022, we will make it possible for employees to organise their working time more flexibly 2091 within the framework of collective agreements under certain conditions and within deadlines to be 2092 observed. In addition, we want to create a limited possibility to deviate from the currently existing 2093 regulations of the Working Time Act with regard to the maximum daily working time, if collective 2094 agreements or company agreements, based on collective agreements, provide for this (experimental 2095 areas). In dialogue with the social partners, we are examining what need for adjustment we see in the 2096 light of the case law of the European Court of Justice on working time law. Flexible working time 2097 models (e.g. trust-based working time) must continue to be possible.

2098

2099 We legally distinguish home office as a possibility of mobile work from telework and the scope of the 2100 Workplace Ordinance. Occupational health and safety, good working conditions and the existence of 2101 a company workplace are important prerequisites for mobile working. This requires information and 2102 advice for employees as well as appropriate support from their employers. For the healthy design of 2103 the home office, we develop appropriate and flexible solutions in dialogue with all parties involved. 2104 Coworking spaces are a good option for mobile work and for strengthening rural regions. Employees 2105 in suitable jobs are given a right to discuss mobile working and home office. Employers can only object 2106 to employees' wishes if operational concerns are opposed. This means that a refusal must not be 2107 irrelevant or arbitrary. There must be room for deviating collective bargaining and company 2108 regulations. Mobile working should be possible throughout the EU without any problems.

2110 Self-employed

The self-employed are an essential part of our society and economy. Following the current reform of the status determination procedure, we are conducting a dialogue with self-employed persons and their associations in the light of experience in order to accelerate and improve this. The aim is to create unbureaucratic legal certainty in the digital and agile world of work.

2115

By facilitating access to voluntary unemployment insurance, we also support the self-employed and start-ups. We check whether and how access without a pre-insurance period is possible. Anyone who has worked as a managing director in a limited liability company (etc.) and has paid contributions for this should be entitled to unemployment benefits. We are removing the time limit on the special unemployment insurance scheme for employees, especially those working in the cultural sector, and are examining simplification and further development.

2122

2123 To support solo self-employed people in the ongoing Corona pandemic, we are continuing the new 2124 start assistance under Bridging Assistance III Plus for as long as needed. In order to be able to help the 2125 self-employed to finance their living costs more quickly and better in the event of future serious crises 2126 that lead to loss of earnings for which they are not responsible, we are making provision for tax-2127 financed economic aid. In doing so, we are evaluating the experience gained with the new start-up aid. 2128 We are not creating a new regulatory system. During the Corona pandemic, the special importance of 2129 the artists' social insurance fund for the social security of creative and cultural workers proved its 2130 worth. We want to ensure this in the future as well.

2131

2132 *Minimum wage*

We will increase the statutory minimum wage to twelve euros per hour in a one-off adjustment. Following this, the independent Minimum Wage Commission will decide on any further increases. We support the EU Commission's proposal for a directive on appropriate poverty-proof minimum wages to strengthen the collective bargaining system. In this context, while respecting the European order of competences as well as different systems and traditions of industrial relations in the member states, we advocate binding minimum standards in the negotiations, such as will apply in Germany with the new Minimum Wage Act once it has been passed.

2140

2141 *Mini and midijobs*

We will make improvements to mini- and midi-jobs: We want to remove obstacles that make it difficult to take up employment subject to compulsory insurance. We will increase the midi-job limit to 1,600 euros. In future, the mini-job limit will be based on a weekly working time of 10 hours at minimum wage conditions. Accordingly, it will be increased to 520 euros when the minimum wage is raised. At the same time, we will prevent mini-jobs from being misused as a substitute for regular employment or from becoming a part-time trap, especially for women. We will increase our monitoring of mini-jobs to ensure that they comply with current labour law.

2149

2150 Household-related services

By promoting household-related services, we support the reconciliation of family and work, the participation of spouses and partners in the labour market and at the same time create more jobs with social insurance. We facilitate the use of family and everyday support services by means of an allowance and voucher system and the possibility of accompanying tax-free employer subsidies. The allowances and the existing tax subsidy will be offset. It serves to promote employment in the household that is subject to social insurance contributions. Initially, single parents, families with children and relatives in need of care will benefit, and gradually all households.

2158

2159 Time limits

In order for the civil service to set a good example as an employer, we will abolish the possibility of fixed-term contracts that only exists there. At the Federal Government as an employer, we are gradually reducing fixed-term contracts without a material reason. In order to avoid chain fixations, we are limiting fixed-term employment contracts with the same employer to six years. Only in very limited exceptions is it possible to exceed this maximum duration.

2165

2166 Labour leasing and labour mobility

In the case of the Temporary Employment Act (Arbeitnehmerüberlassungsgesetz), in the event of European case law, we will examine whether and which legal changes need to be made, taking into account the evaluation of the law. We are improving the protection of employees on cross-border assignments and reducing bureaucratic hurdles. We are ensuring full health insurance cover for seasonal workers from day one. We are strengthening "Fair Mobility" and thus better informing employees about their rights. We ratify International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 184 on Occupational Safety and Health in Agriculture.

2174

2175 Contracts for work and temporary employment are necessary instruments. We prevent structural and 2176 systematic violations of labour law and occupational health and safety through more effective law 2177 enforcement. In this way, we will also ensure greater security for work on call. We will evaluate the 2178 crisis regulations for short-time working allowances after the Corona pandemic, especially with a view 2179 to people on low incomes. 2180

2181 Collective

bargaining

autonomy

2182 We want to strengthen the autonomy of collective bargaining, the collective bargaining partners and 2183 collective bargaining coverage so that fair wages are paid in Germany - this also promotes the 2184 necessary wage adjustment between East and West. In order to strengthen collective bargaining 2185 coverage, the award of public contracts by the federal government will be tied to compliance with a 2186 representative collective agreement in the relevant sector, with the award being based on a simple, 2187 non-bureaucratic declaration. We will prevent spin-offs where the previous owner is the same in order 2188 to evade collective agreements by ensuring that the applicable collective agreement remains in force. 2189 Section 613a of the German Civil Code (rights and obligations in the event of a transfer of an 2190 undertaking) will remain untouched. In dialogue with the social partners, we will work out further steps 2191 to strengthen collective bargaining and in particular discuss possibilities for further experimental areas.

2192

2193 *Co-determination*

2194 We will continue to develop co-determination. Works councils should be able to decide for themselves 2195 whether they work in analogue or digital form. Within the framework of the constitutionally required 2196 standards, we will test online works council elections in a pilot project. We will create a contemporary 2197 right for trade unions to digital access to workplaces that corresponds to their analogue rights. The 2198 socio-ecological transformation and digitalisation can only be effectively shaped with the workers. 2199 With regard to these issues, we will evaluate the Betriebsrätemodernisierungsgesetz. In future, we will 2200 classify the obstruction of democratic co-determination as an official offence. Together with the 2201 churches, we will examine the extent to which church labour law can be brought into line with state 2202 labour law. Activities related to proclamation remain exempt.

2203

Germany occupies an important position worldwide in terms of corporate co-determination. We will preserve the existing national regulations. We want to prevent abusive circumvention of existing codetermination law. The Federal Government will work to ensure that corporate co-determination is further developed so that the growth of SE companies no longer leads to complete avoidance of codetermination (freezing effect). We will transfer the group attribution from the Co-Determination Act to the One-Third Participation Act if there is de facto real control.

2210

2211 Digital platforms

Digital platforms enrich the world of work, which is why good and fair working conditions are important. With this in mind, we are reviewing existing law and improving the data basis. To this end, we are conducting a dialogue with platform providers, platform workers, the self-employed and social partners. We are constructively supporting the EU Commission's initiative to improve working
conditions on platforms. In shaping AI in the world of work, we rely on a people-centred approach,
social and economic innovation as well as a focus on the common good. We support the risk-based EU
approach.

2219

2220 Occupational health and safety

We maintain the high level of occupational health and safety in the changing world of work and adapt it to new challenges. We devote particular attention to mental health and are developing a mobbing report. We support small and medium-sized companies in particular in the prevention and implementation of occupational health and safety. We are strengthening occupational integration management.

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- 2227

2228 Welfare state, old-age provision, basic security

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2230 We will make the welfare state more citizen-friendly, more transparent and less bureaucratic, and align 2231 it with the realities of life in our time. One step towards greater proximity to citizens is the 2232 comprehensive digitalisation of services. Information, advice, applications as well as communication 2233 and queries among the responsible offices must be made possible digitally and simply, while preserving 2234 data protection. The quality of analogue advice should also be improved through digital support. 2235 Wherever possible, benefits to which citizens are entitled should be paid automatically. Citizens should 2236 receive the benefits to which they are entitled as if from a single source, within the framework of 2237 uniform local contact points that are as low-threshold as possible. To this end, we will set up a federal-2238 state working group and involve the social insurance institutions.

2239

2240 Retirement provision

A good and reliable pension after many years of work is important for employees. It is about creating a good independent security in old age with one's own work. We will therefore strengthen the statutory pension and secure the minimum pension level of 48 percent (definition before the recent revision of statistics) in the long term. In this legislative period, the contribution rate will not rise above 20 percent.

2246

There will be no pension cuts and no increase in the statutory retirement age. In order to safeguard this commitment in a way that is appropriate for the generations, we will enter into a partial capital cover of the statutory pension insurance in order to stabilise the pension level and pension 2250 contribution rate in the long term. This partial capital cover is to be professionally managed as a 2251 permanent fund by an independent body under public law and invested globally. To this end, in a first 2252 step we will inject a capital stock of €10 billion into the German Pension Insurance Scheme from 2253 budgetary resources in 2022. The funded part of the statutory pension must be permanently property-2254 protected for the collective of contributors. We will also enable the German Pension Insurance Scheme 2255 to invest its reserves on the capital market in a regulated manner. We want to strengthen the pay-as-2256 you-go pension through the labour force participation of women and older workers as well as work-2257 related and qualified immigration.

2258

We will reactivate the so-called catch-up factor in the pension calculation in good time before the pension adjustments from 2022 onwards and allow it to take effect within the framework of the applicable ceilings. In this way, we will ensure that pensions and wages develop in line overall in the wake of the corona crisis and strengthen intergenerational justice as well as the stability of contributions in this legislative period. We want to implement improvements for pensioners with reduced earning capacity in the portfolio.

2265

In addition to the statutory pension, occupational and private pension schemes remain important for a good life in old age. We want to strengthen occupational pension provision, among other things by allowing investment opportunities with higher returns. In addition, the social partner model already launched in the penultimate legislative period with the Company Pension Strengthening Act must now be implemented.

2271

We will fundamentally reform the current system of private pension provision. To this end, we will examine the offer of a publicly accountable fund with an effective and low-cost offering with the option of opting out. In addition, we will examine the legal recognition of private investment products with higher returns than Riester. A subsidy should provide incentives for lower income groups to take up these products. There will be grandfathering for current Riester contracts. We want to increase the lump sum for savers to 1,000 euros.

2278

We want to make pension splitting better known, among other things by having the German Pension
Insurance refer to this option as part of the annual pension information. In addition, unmarried couples
should also be allowed to use it.

2282

In the course of the legislative period, we will evaluate the effect of the basic pension and draw upproposals for improvement, in particular with regard to the auditing of capital gains.

2285

We will implement the planned fund from the 19th legislative period to mitigate hardship cases from the East-West pension transition also for Jewish contingent refugees and late repatriates. We want to make it possible for prisoners and persons in preventive detention working in prisons to become regular members of the statutory pension insurance scheme and will seek dialogue with the Länder responsible for this.

2291

2292 Prevention and rehabilitation

We are making longer, healthier working hours a focus of our old-age security policy. To this end, we will launch a "Healthy Work" action plan and strengthen the principle of "prevention before rehabilitation before retirement". We will focus rehabilitation more strongly on the labour market and oblige the various social insurance institutions to conclude co-operation agreements. We will simplify access to prevention and rehabilitation measures and make the rehabilitation budget more needsoriented. In order to counteract a reduction in earning capacity at an early stage, we want to anchor the Ü45 health check in law and roll it out nationwide, taking the evaluation results into account.

2300

2301 Retirement

We want to increase awareness of the flexi-retirement scheme by providing better advice, and we want to remove the time limit on additional earnings in the event of early retirement. Together with the social partners, we will enter into a social dialogue process on how wishes to remain in working life for longer can be realised more easily and, in particular, include flexible retirement on the Scandinavian model and the situation of particularly stressed occupational groups in the discussion.

2307

2308 Insurance for the self-employed

2309 We will relieve the burden on the self-employed by ensuring that contributions to statutory health 2310 insurance above the mini-job threshold are only levied on a strictly income-related basis. We will 2311 introduce compulsory old-age provision with freedom of choice for all new self-employed persons who 2312 are not subject to a compulsory old-age provision scheme. Self-employed persons will be insured 2313 under the statutory pension scheme unless they choose a private pension product as part of a simple and unbureaucratic opt-out. This must be insolvency- and garnishment-proof and lead to a level of 2314 2315 protection above the basic security level. A waiting period of two years applies to each new product. 2316 The subsidised additional private pension provision is open to all employed persons.

2317

2318 Citizen's Income

We will introduce a citizen's income instead of the current basic income (Hartz IV). The citizen's income should respect the dignity of the individual, enable social participation and be digitally and easily accessible.

2322

In the first two years of receipt of the citizen's income, we will grant the benefit without taking assets into account and recognise the adequacy of housing. We will increase the amount of sheltered assets and make its verification less bureaucratic, digitalised and pragmatically simplified. In order to make the reimbursement of housing costs more transparent and legally secure, we will create an improved legal framework for the application of municipal adequacy limits and ensure that these are reviewed annually and adjusted if necessary.

This makes it easier for the municipalities to pay out the costs of accommodation and heating as region-specific flat rates.

2331

2332 The citizen's income focuses on people's potential and assistance for sustainable integration into the 2333 labour market and enables social participation. We are changing the legal framework in such a way 2334 that in future counselling at eye level will be possible and a relationship of trust can develop. Strengths 2335 and development needs will be identified by means of a competence assessment procedure, which 2336 will also make it possible to certify "soft skills". The offers and measures are jointly agreed with the 2337 recipients of the citizen's allowance within the framework of a participation agreement, formulated in 2338 simple language and adapted if necessary. This replaces the previous integration agreement. A six-2339 month period of trust applies. We are creating an independent mediation mechanism for cases of 2340 conflict.

2341

2342 We are adhering to the obligations to cooperate that are set out in the participation agreement. They 2343 will be reorganised by law by the end of 2022 at the latest. The new regulation will be preceded by an 2344 evaluation. In doing so, we are also implementing the ruling of the Federal Constitutional Court, such 2345 as exempting the costs of accommodation from sanctions and treating under-25s equally. In the event 2346 of sanctions, we will offer them coaching in coordination with local youth welfare services (in 2347 accordance with Section 16h of Book II of the Social Code). Until new legislation is passed, we will 2348 create a one-year moratorium on sanctions below the subsistence level, which must also apply to 2349 municipal job centres. We will place the sustainability of integration into the labour market at the 2350 centre of the target control system of SGB II and take into account the necessary steps of social 2351 stabilisation and participation as well. The citizen's income should provide individual, holistic support. 2352 Instruments from other social security codes are also to be used for this purpose. In this way, we will 2353 increase permeability and reduce interfaces. We want to intensify cooperation between job centres

and municipalities through cooperation agreements. We will give the job centres more room for
manoeuvre and regional responsibility and enhance the value of free support (§ 16f SGB II).

2356

The placement priority in SGB II will be abolished. We will strengthen the promotion of further training and qualification. We will abolish the time limit for the bonus regulation for qualification-related further training. We will promote fully qualifying training within the framework of continuing vocational training, irrespective of duration and basic skills, including the use of digital information and communication technologies. Those entitled to the citizen's income can be paid a temporary bonus within the framework of the participation agreement for participation in promotion or support measures serving the integration.

2364

We want to remove the time limit on the Participation Opportunities Act (§ 16i and § 16e SGB II) and develop it further. Accompanying coaching and outreach work will become standard instruments in SGB II and SGB XII.

2368

2369 Children and young people need special support for a successful education and training process. We 2370 will expand Section 16h of Book II of the Social Code to strengthen cooperation with youth welfare 2371 services and create joint contact points. We cannot do without older people entitled to a citizen's 2372 income on the labour market. We will provide women with targeted support in the form of suitable 2373 offers and pay particular attention to ensuring that mothers of young children are better reached 2374 earlier, including through part-time offers (e.g. part-time training). Based on the experience of the 2375 model projects within the framework of "RehaPro", we will strengthen preventive health promotion 2376 in the job centres. We want to give special support to women with a migration and refugee 2377 background. In general, we will link offers more strongly with language promotion in an everyday 2378 context.

2379

We will improve the opportunities for additional income with the aim of increasing incentives for employment subject to social security contributions. The crediting of school and student jobs of adolescents and young adults in families in need according to SGB II as well as foster children or children in care is to be abolished. We will increase the tax-free allowance for trainees.

2384

We will initiate a reform that coordinates or, where possible, combines the Citizen's Income (formerly Unemployment Benefit II), housing benefit and, if applicable, other tax-financed social benefits in such a way that the transfer withdrawal rates achieve the most favourable effects in terms of employment effects and labour market participation in employment subject to social security contributions, the opportunities for additional earnings are improved and marginal burdens of 100 and more percent are
 excluded. An independent commission consisting of several qualified independent institutes will be
 commissioned to develop the reform model.

2392

We also want to extend the possibility for people with reduced earning capacity and pensioners on basic benefits to improve their income through gainful employment. The crediting of expense allowances for voluntary work is to be structured along the lines of tax law with an annual allowance.

Precisely tailored and holistic support requires an adequately dimensioned support key and wellqualified staff at the job centres. We will therefore provide appropriate funding for integration and
administration. We will continue the transferability of residual funds.

2400

We want to examine whether employed persons in receipt of the citizen's allowance who are subject to social security contributions can switch to being looked after by the employment agencies, also in order to create capacities for a better support ratio in the job centres and to grant them access to the qualification and further training offers in SGB III.

2405

By introducing a de minimis limit of up to 50 euros, we will relieve the job centres of bureaucracy. In order to strengthen the individual character of the citizen's allowance, we will also switch from horizontal to vertical income imputation in SGB II. The determination of earning capacity will be standardised and in future will be carried out exclusively by the statutory pension insurance.

2410

2411 We are setting up a federal-state working group on the problem of homelessness among EU citizens. 2412

We see the non-profit charitable organisations and the variety of services they offer as an important partner in promoting social commitment and cohesion. In the preparation of the 7th Poverty and Wealth Report, we also focus on hidden poverty and include people with experience of poverty to a greater extent.

2417

2418 Inclusion

We want Germany to become barrier-free in all areas of public and private life, but especially in mobility (including Deutsche Bahn), housing, health and the digital sphere. To this end, we are implementing the Federal Accessibility Programme. To this end, we are revising, among other things, the Act on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the Act to Strengthen Accessibility as well as the General Equal Treatment Act. We set ourselves the goal of making all federal publicbuildings comprehensively barrier-free.

2425

During this legislative period, we are obliging private providers of goods and services to remove barriers within an appropriate transition period or, if this is not possible or reasonable, to take appropriate precautions. We are setting up appropriate funding programmes and expanding the advisory work of the Federal Agency for Accessibility.

2430

We will completely abolish the exemption possibilities of the Passenger Transport Act (ÖPNV) by 2026. Furthermore, we will ensure as soon as possible that press conferences and public events of federal ministries and subordinate authorities as well as information on laws and administrative actions are translated into sign language and subtitled, and that the offers in easy or simple language are expanded. To this end, we are setting up a language service in a separate Federal Centre of Competence for Easy Language/Sign Language.

2437

2438 We will focus on the labour market integration of people with disabilities. We will further develop the 2439 newly created single points of contact for employers and introduce a fourth stage of the equalisation 2440 levy for those who do not employ a person with disabilities despite having an employment obligation. 2441 Applications submitted in full to the Integration Office will be deemed to have been approved after six 2442 weeks without a decision (fictitious approval). We will further strengthen and expand the budget for 2443 work and the budget for training. We want to use all the funds from the equalisation levy to support 2444 and promote employment on the general labour market. We want to gear all our support structures 2445 to ensuring that people can participate in working life as long and inclusively as possible. We want to 2446 establish occupational integration management more firmly as an instrument for employers and 2447 employees, with the aim of making it compulsory across the board in accordance with uniform quality 2448 standards (e.g. the "Hamburg Model"). In doing so, we also rely on the expertise of the representatives 2449 of the severely disabled.

2450

We will focus the services offered by sheltered workshops for people with disabilities (WfbM) more strongly on integration and the support of employment relationships on the general labour market. We will continue the participation project for the development of a transparent, sustainable and future-oriented remuneration system in sheltered workshops and their prospects on the general labour market and implement the findings. In addition, we will further develop the participation offers also for those whose goal is not or not only participation in working life. We will strengthen inclusive enterprises, also through formal privileges in the Value Added Tax Act. 2458

2459 As part of the regular exchange of the classic severely disabled person's ID card, this will be converted 2460 to the digital participation ID card. We take the evaluation of the Federal Participation Act seriously 2461 and want it to be implemented consistently and quickly at all levels of government and by all service 2462 providers. Transitional solutions are to be ended and bureaucratic obstacles dismantled. We will 2463 remove obstacles that stand in the way of the establishment and use of the personal budget or, for 2464 example, unacceptably restrict the right to choose. Building on the evaluation, we want to take further 2465 steps in exempting income and assets. We will push ahead with more binding measures to prevent 2466 violence.

2467

We will clarify the relationship between integration assistance and long-term care with the aim of ensuring that there are no gaps in the optimum provision of care for the people concerned. We will put together a package of measures to achieve faster, less bureaucratic and barrier-free application procedures in the interests of those entitled to benefits. We will create an assistance dog law. We will expand the study adopted in the Participation Strengthening Act to include the aspect of cost savings. We will set up a funding programme for its implementation and expansion. We will examine the standard needs level 1 in special forms of housing.

2475

We will ensure more participation and political involvement of persons with disabilities in important projects at federal level. We want to increase and stabilise the resources of the Participation Fund. We will strengthen inclusion in sport, including the "InduS" project and inclusive leagues. We support the preparation and implementation of the Special Olympics World Games 2023 in Berlin. We are examining a reform of the structures of the Thalidomide Foundation to give those affected a greater say.

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2484 Care and health

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All people in Germany should be well cared for - in the city and in the countryside. We want to make a start on a modern cross-sectoral health and care policy and learn lessons from the pandemic, which has shown us the vulnerability of our health system. We will ensure that health care is provided in line with needs and that medicine and nursing care are humane and of high quality. We improve the working conditions of health professionals and caregivers. We are enabling innovation and driving forward digitalisation. The basis for all this is stable financing of the health care system and nursing care in the long term. 2493

2494 *Care*

The nursing staff in Germany are doing an outstanding job during the pandemic. In the currently very challenging situation in hospitals and care facilities, we want to recognise this commitment. The Federal Government will make one billion euros available for this purpose. To this end, we will increase the tax-free nursing bonus to 3,000 euros.

2499

We will limit the co-payments in inpatient care and make them plannable. We will monitor the regulation on percentage subsidies to the co-payments that comes into force on 1 January 2022 and examine how the co-payment can be reduced further. We will remove the apprenticeship cost allocation from the co-payments and finance non-insurance benefits such as the pension contributions for nursing relatives and the pandemic-related additional costs from tax revenues, as well as transfer treatment care in inpatient care to the statutory health insurance system and compensate it on a flatrate basis. We are raising the contribution to social long-term care insurance (SPV) moderately.

2507

We are supplementing the Social Code Book XI (SGB XI) with innovative forms of housing close to the neighbourhood and are enabling their promotion together with the Federal Government, the Länder and the municipalities. We are giving the local authorities binding opportunities to help shape the provision of local nursing care within the framework of the care contracts. We support the demandoriented expansion of day and night care and, in particular, of solitary short-term care.

2513

We are combining benefits such as short-term and preventive care in an unbureaucratic, transparent and flexible relief budget with an obligation to provide evidence in order to strengthen home care and also include families of children with disabilities.

2517

We are making the care allowance more dynamic on a regular basis from 2022. We are further developing the laws on care leave and family care leave and are giving caregiving relatives and loved ones more time sovereignty, also by providing a wage replacement benefit in the event of care-related time off.

2522

We are examining the possibility of supplementing the social long-term care insurance system with a voluntary full insurance scheme financed on a parity basis that provides comprehensive cover for the full costs of long-term care. A commission of experts is to submit concrete proposals by 2023 that are suitable for all generations. We would give private nursing care insurance comparable options.

In the case of intensive care, the free choice of place of residence must be maintained. The Intensive
Care and Rehabilitation Strengthening Act (IPReG) is to be evaluated with this in mind and, if necessary,
readjusted. We are creating a legally secure basis for 24-hour care in the family environment.

2531

2532 We are responding to the dramatic situation in nursing care with measures that will improve working 2533 conditions quickly and perceptibly. In the short term, we are introducing the nursing staff regulation 2534 2.0 (PPR 2.0) as a transitional instrument for binding staffing levels in hospitals, with the aim of 2535 achieving a skills mix in line with requirements. In inpatient long-term care, we are accelerating the 2536 expansion of staffing measurement procedures. We are improving the wages and working conditions 2537 of nursing staff there in particular with the aim of closing the pay gap between nursing care for the sick 2538 and nursing care for the elderly. We want to make the nursing profession more attractive, for example 2539 by exempting supplements from tax, by abolishing split shifts, by introducing the providers' own float 2540 pools and by entitling people with children in need of care to family-friendly working hours.

2541

We are harmonising training, for example by means of uniform federal occupational laws for nursing assistants, midwives' assistants and paramedics, and are ensuring joint financing by the Federal Government and the Länder. We are strengthening academic nursing training together with the Länder. We are closing regulatory loopholes in areas where nursing staff in training or at university do not yet receive training allowances. We are supplementing professional nursing care with curative activities and creating, among other things, the new occupational profile of the "community health nurse".

2549

We are launching a general health professions act and further developing the electronic health professions register. We are making painkillers in the Narcotics Act delegable for health care professions. We are launching a pilot project on direct access for therapeutic professions.

2553

2554 We simplify and accelerate the necessary recruitment of foreign skilled workers and the recognition 2555 of vocational qualifications acquired abroad.

2556

With a nationwide survey of all professional nursing staff, we want to gain insights into how the selfadministration of nursing can be organised in future. We are strengthening the German Nursing Council as the voice of nursing in the Federal Joint Committee and other bodies and are supporting it financially in the performance of its tasks.

2561

2562 Education and training in health and care

2563 As part of the reform of hospital remuneration, funds for further training in the case-based lump sums 2564 will in future only be paid proportionately to those hospitals that provide further training. We are 2565 updating the concept for the further development of the qualification of physicians in order to also 2566 make medicinal abortions more easily available. We are implementing the teaching of digital skills in 2567 the training of health and nursing professions as well as in further and advanced training. Nursing 2568 training is to be made possible in facilities providing integration assistance and rehabilitation, insofar 2569 as they meet the requirements. The licensing regulations will be geared more towards digitalisation, 2570 outpatient care, specialisation, individualisation and inter-professional cooperation.

2571

2572 Public Health Service

2573 As a lesson from the pandemic, there is a need for a strengthened public health service (ÖGD), which 2574 is ensured in cooperation between the federal government, the Länder and the municipalities. In the 2575 Pact for the Public Health Service, we are extending the recruitment deadlines and calling on the social 2576 partners to create an independent collective agreement. On the basis of the interim report, we will 2577 provide the necessary funds for a permanently functioning public health service. In particular, we will 2578 ensure the efficient and decentralised stockpiling of drugs and medical products as well as regular 2579 emergency drills for staff to deal with health crises. We are creating a Germany-wide network of 2580 competence centres and interdisciplinary outpatient clinics to further research and ensure needs-2581 based care around the long-term effects of Covid19 and for chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS).

2582

The Federal Centre for Health Education will be merged into a Federal Institute for Public Health at the Federal Ministry of Health, in which the activities in the public health sector, the networking of the ÖGD and the health communication of the Federal Government will be located. The RKI will not be bound by directives in its scientific work.

2587

2588 Digitization in the healthcare sector

In a regularly updated digitisation strategy in the health care system and in nursing care, we place a special focus on solving care problems and on the perspective of users. In nursing care, we will use digitalisation to relieve the burden of documentation, to promote social participation and for therapeutic applications, among other things. We will make telemedical services possible on a regular basis, including prescriptions for medicines, remedies and aids, as well as video consultations, teleconsultations, telemonitoring and tele-emergency medical care.

2595

2596 We are accelerating the introduction of the electronic patient file (ePA) and the e-prescription as well 2597 as their beneficial use and are connecting all players to the telematics infrastructure at an accelerated pace. All insured persons will be provided with a DSGVO-compliant ePA; its use is voluntary (opt-out).
We are expanding gematik into a digital health agency. In addition, we are initiating a register law and
a health data use law for better scientific use in accordance with the GDPR and are establishing a
decentralised research data infrastructure.

2602

We are reviewing the German Social Code Book V and other standards with regard to documentation requirements that have become obsolete due to technical progress. We are reducing hurdles to good patient care through a bureaucracy reduction package. The burdens of bureaucracy and reporting obligations beyond the scope of statutory regulations will be made clear. We are consolidating the procedural simplifications that proved their worth during the pandemic. Language mediation, also with the help of digital applications, will become part of the SGB V in the context of necessary medical treatment.

2610

2611 Health Promotion

2612 We are further developing the Prevention Act and strengthening primary and secondary prevention. 2613 In line with the guiding principle of preventive care and prevention, we are addressing the task of 2614 society as a whole in a target-group-specific and comprehensive manner. We support the health 2615 insurance funds and other stakeholders in actively working together to keep everyone healthy. We are 2616 creating a National Prevention Plan as well as concrete packages of measures, e.g. on the topics of 2617 geriatric dental health, diabetes, loneliness, suicide, resuscitation and the prevention of climate- and 2618 environment-related health damage. In favour of increased prevention and health promotion, we are 2619 reducing the possibilities for health insurance funds to use contribution funds for advertising measures 2620 and promotional gifts.

2621

2622 **Outpatient and inpatient health care**

2623 In order to promote the outpatientisation of services that have so far been unnecessarily provided in 2624 inpatient settings, we are swiftly implementing sectoral remuneration for suitable services by means 2625 of so-called hybrid DRGs. By expanding multi-professional, integrated health and emergency centres, 2626 we are ensuring that outpatient and short-stay inpatient care is provided close to patients' homes and 2627 in line with their needs, and are promoting this through specific remuneration structures. We are also 2628 increasing the attractiveness of population-based care contracts (health regions) and expanding the legal scope for contracts between health insurance funds and service providers in order to strengthen 2629 2630 innovative forms of care. In particularly disadvantaged communities and urban districts (5 percent), we 2631 are establishing low-threshold counselling services (e.g. health kiosks) for treatment and prevention. 2632 In rural areas, we are expanding services through community nurses and health guides. Together with

the Länder, we are developing outpatient demand and inpatient hospital planning into cross-sectoralcare planning.

2635

2636 Emergency care is to be provided in integrated emergency centres in close cooperation between the 2637 associations of panel doctors (KV) and the hospitals (KH). We grant the KVs the option of providing 2638 outpatient emergency care there themselves or transferring this responsibility in whole or in part to 2639 the operators in agreement with the state. By interlinking the rescue control centres with the KV 2640 control centres and standardised assessment systems (by telephone, telemedicine or on site), we 2641 achieve more demand-oriented control. We include rescue services as an integrated service area in 2642 SGB V and regulate the scope of mountain rescue services as well as the responsibility for water rescue 2643 beyond coastal waters.

2644

Together with the KVs, we ensure the provision of care in underserved regions. We will abolish the budgeting of doctors' fees in the GP sector. We are facilitating the establishment of municipally funded medical care centres and their branch practices and reducing bureaucratic hurdles. In future, decisions by the admissions committee must be confirmed by the competent state authority.

2649

We are improving the supply of medicines by pharmacies at integrated emergency centres in underserved areas through more flexible specifications in the pharmacy operating regulations. We are further developing the night and emergency service fund into a guarantee fund and creating prescribability for emergency messenger services in outpatient emergency care. We are amending the "Act to Strengthen On-Site Pharmacies" in order to better reward pharmaceutical services and to exploit efficiency gains within the financing system.

2656

We are implementing the National Health Goal "Health around Childbirth" with an action plan. We are evaluating possible disincentives around spontaneous births and caesarean sections and are introducing a staffing ratio for 1:1 care by midwives during essential phases of birth. We strengthen the expansion of midwife-led delivery rooms and create the possibility and remuneration for outpatient, outreach antenatal and postnatal care for employed midwives at hospitals.

2662

For a diverse, inclusive and barrier-free health care system, we are developing an action plan with stakeholders by the end of 2022, strengthening the care of severely disabled children and relieving their families of bureaucracy. We are expanding the medical treatment centres for adults with mental disabilities or severe multiple disabilities and the social paediatric centres in all federal states.

We take gender-related differences into account in care, health promotion and prevention, and research, and reduce discrimination and barriers to access. Gender medicine will become part of medical studies, education, training and further education of the health professions.

2671

We strengthen the equal participation of women in the management bodies of the associations of panel doctors and dentists as well as their umbrella associations at the federal level and the statutory health insurance funds.

2675

2676 We are launching a nationwide information campaign to destigmatise mental illness. We are reforming 2677 psychotherapeutic demand planning in order to significantly reduce waiting times for a treatment 2678 place, especially for children and adolescents, but also in rural and structurally weak areas. We are 2679 improving outpatient psychotherapeutic care, especially for patients with serious and complex 2680 illnesses, and ensuring access to complex outpatient services. We are expanding capacities in a needs-2681 based, tailored and more coordinated way. In the inpatient sector, we are ensuring that 2682 psychotherapeutic care is in line with guidelines and that staffing levels are in line with requirements. 2683 We are expanding psychiatric emergency and crisis care nationwide.

2684

2685 Hospital planning and financing

2686 With a federal-state pact, we are initiating the necessary reforms for modern and needs-based hospital 2687 care. A government commission set up at short notice will submit recommendations on this and, in 2688 particular, draw up guidelines for hospital planning based on service groups and care levels and 2689 oriented towards criteria such as accessibility and demographic development. It will present 2690 recommendations for the further development of hospital financing, which will supplement the 2691 current system with a system of non-revenue-related lump-sum payments, differentiated according to 2692 the level of care (primary, basic, standard, maximum care, university hospitals). In the short term, we 2693 will ensure adequate funding for paediatrics, emergency care and obstetrics in line with demand.

2694

2695 Patients' rights

We are transforming the Independent Patient Counselling Service (UPD) into a permanent, nongovernmental and independent structure with the participation of the relevant patient organisations.

With a reform of the G-BA, we are accelerating the decisions of the self-administration, strengthening patient representation and granting nursing and other health care professions further opportunities to have a say as soon as they are affected. The Innovation Fund will be made permanent. For

- successfully funded projects, such as the patient pilots, we will set out a path for their transfer tostandard care.
- 2704
- 2705 In the event of treatment errors, we strengthen the position of patients in the existing liability system.2706 A hardship fund with capped claims will be introduced.
- 2707

2708 Supply of medicines and vaccines

We ensure the supply of innovative medicines and vaccines. We are resolutely combating supply bottlenecks. We are taking measures to relocate the manufacture of medicines, including the production of active ingredients and excipients, back to Germany or the EU. This includes reducing bureaucracy, examining investment subsidies for production facilities, and looking into subsidies to ensure security of supply. In order to avoid conflicts of interest, we are creating more transparency about financial contributions to service and aid providers.

2715

2716 Drug Policy

We are introducing the controlled distribution of cannabis to adults for consumption purposes in licensed shops. This will control quality, prevent the passing on of contaminated substances and ensure the protection of minors. We will evaluate the law for social impact after four years. We are enabling and expanding drug checking models and harm reduction measures.

2721

2722 In alcohol and nicotine prevention, we are focusing on increased education with a special focus on 2723 children, young people and pregnant women. We are tightening the regulations for marketing and 2724 sponsoring alcohol, nicotine and cannabis. We constantly measure regulations against new scientific 2725 findings and align health protection measures with them.

2726

2727 Health financing

We are committed to stable and reliable financing of the statutory health insurance system (SHI). We will make the federal subsidy to the SHI system more dynamic on a regular basis. We will finance higher contributions for recipients of unemployment benefit II from tax revenues. We will maintain the existing price moratorium. We will further develop the Act on the Reorganisation of the Pharmaceutical Market (AMNOG). We are strengthening the possibilities of the health insurance funds to limit drug prices. The negotiated reimbursement price applies from the seventh month after market entry.

- In future, the statutory health insurance funds are to disclose their service and care quality on the basis
 of uniform minimum criteria. They will increasingly be given the option of granting their insureds
 monetary bonuses for participating in prevention programmes. For children and adolescents in private
 health insurance, the principle of direct billing is to apply in future.
- 2740
- We will examine and clarify access to health insurance and care for people with unclear insurance status, such as homeless people in particular.
- 2743
- 2744

2745 Building and living

2746

Housing is a basic need and as diverse as people. We will design the building and housing of the future
to be affordable, climate-neutral, sustainable, barrier-free, innovative and with lively public spaces. In
doing so, we have the diversity of framework conditions and forms of housing and the individual needs
of people in rural and urban areas in mind.

2751

To this end, we are launching a new departure in construction, housing and urban development policy. Our goal is to build 400,000 new homes per year, including 100,000 publicly subsidised homes. To this end, we will continue the federal government's financial support for social housing construction, including the promotion of social housing for owner-occupiers, and increase the funds.

2756

We will conclude an "affordable housing alliance" with all important players. We will promptly launch a new non-profit housing association with tax incentives and investment subsidies, thus generating new momentum in the construction and permanent social commitment of affordable housing. In accordance with the principles of economic efficiency, it is intended to complement the structure of the established housing industry without disadvantaging it.

2762

We will set up a federal-state programme for student housing, for young housing and housing for trainees. We will launch a construction and investment offensive that will create the conditions for creating and maintaining additional living space quickly and inexpensively, thereby giving both the construction and real estate industry long-term planning perspectives and tenants security.

2767

We will introduce a construction, housing cost and climate check. We want to help municipalities tointroduce registers of potential land.

We are continuing the work of the Construction Cost Reduction Commission within the framework of the Alliance. We are incorporating the non-railway properties of the Federal Railway Assets into the Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben (BImA) and aligning the BImA with our construction, housing, urban development and ecological goals. We will give the BImA more freedom and enable it to take out loans. In future, the BImA should be able to invest and build itself and continue to support municipal construction. To this end, we want to concentrate responsibility for the planning, construction and operation of federal buildings and federal properties with the BImA.

2778

We will step up our commitment to age-appropriate housing and barrier reduction and adequatelyincrease the funds for the KfW programme.

2781

2782 Digitization and simplification

We will reduce the costs of housing construction through serial construction, digitalisation, debureaucratisation and standardisation. We want to accelerate modular and serial construction and refurbishment through type approvals. We want to adapt the processes of standardisation so that building becomes cheaper.

2787

2788 We will support the construction and real estate industry as well as all levels of administration in 2789 mastering digitisation, implementing Open-BIM and uniform interfaces/standards. The federal 2790 construction sector is a role model for digitisation and our construction, housing and climate policy 2791 goals.

2792

2793 We will amend the Building Code (BauGB) with the aim of being able to apply its instruments even 2794 more effectively and in an uncomplicated manner, to strengthen climate protection and adaptation, 2795 community orientation and internal development, as well as to mobilise additional building land and 2796 to further accelerate planning and approval procedures. We will remove the time limit on the relevant 2797 provisions in the Building Land Mobilisation Act and create the legal basis for the complete 2798 digitalisation of urban land use planning procedures. We will examine whether the ruling of the Federal 2799 Administrative Court of 9 November 2021 on the municipal right of first refusal in areas with a 2800 preservation statute (milieu protection statute) gives rise to a need for legislative action. We want to 2801 strengthen building research.

2802

2803 *Climate protection in the building sector*

As part of the immediate climate protection programme, we will introduce a support programme for new residential construction in 2022 after the expiry of new construction support for the KfW

Efficiency House Standard 55 (EH 55), which will focus in particular on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per m² of living space, and amend the Building Energy Act (GEG) as follows: As of January 1, 2025, every newly installed heating system is to be operated on the basis of 65 percent renewable energies; as of January 1, 2024, the standards for significant extensions, conversions and extensions of existing buildings in the GEG will be adjusted so that the parts to be replaced correspond to EH 70; in the GEG, the new building standards will be aligned with KfW EH 40 as of January 1, 2025. In addition, equivalent measures following the GHG emission reduction target can be used under the innovation clause.

2813

We will resume the innovation partnership with the housing industry and continue the neighbourhood approach and the innovation clause. We will raise the straight-line depreciation rate for new housing construction from two to three percent, while keeping an eye on the different effects on the various building owners. This is how we are launching the climate-friendly new-build offensive.

2818

In order to ensure an economically efficient, socially acceptable implementation of the climate protection targets, in particular based on the tonne of CO₂ saved, we are relying on tailor-made and technologically open measures consisting of optimisation of the building envelope, technical systems for the generation and supply of renewable energy in the building and neighbourhood solutions. We will continue to develop and restructure the funding programmes in line with the objectives and requirements.

2825

We will create the basis for taking a closer look at the use of grey energy and life cycle costs. To this end, we are introducing, among other things, a digital building resource passport. In this way, we also want to achieve a circular economy in the building sector. We will also launch a national timber construction, lightweight construction and raw materials security strategy. We want to make it easier for innovative materials, technologies and start-ups to enter the market and obtain approvals.

2831

2832 In the negotiations on the EU's "Fit for 55" programme, we support the EU Commission's proposals in 2833 the buildings sector. In order to overcome the tenant-landlord dilemma, we are examining a rapid 2834 switch to the partial warm rent. In the course of this, the modernisation levy for energy-efficiency 2835 measures will be absorbed into this system. We want to achieve a fair division of the CO 2price to be 2836 paid in addition to heating costs between landlords on the one hand and tenants on the other. We want to introduce a phased model by building energy class on 1 June 2022, which will regulate the 2837 2838 allocation of the CO ₂price according to BEHG. If this is not successful in terms of time, the increased 2839 costs due to the CO ₂price will be shared equally between landlord and tenant from 1 June 2022.

We are aiming for a broad, systematic use of renovation roadmaps and will make them free of charge,e.g. for condominium associations and when buying a building.

2843

We will promote serial refurbishment by continuing the funding programme and expanding it within the BEG. As part of the "Zukunft Bau" research programme, we will further develop serial and modular construction and refurbishment, e.g. according to the Dutch Energiesprong principle, and identify and remove obstacles to building planning and building regulations. We will improve, standardise and digitise the building energy certificate. We will examine the creation of a digital building energy register.

2850

We will strengthen the housing allowance, introduce a climate component and pay a one-off increasein the heating allowance in the short term.

2853

2854 *Protection of tenants*

As long as not enough affordable housing is built, the housing shortage, especially in conurbations, prevents reasonable rents from forming in the housing market. We will therefore evaluate and extend the current tenant protection regulations. In tight markets, we will lower the cap to eleven percent in three years. We will extend the rent brake until 2029. We will strengthen and broaden qualified rent indices and make them legally secure. The rental contracts of the last seven years are to be used for the calculation. We will ensure greater transparency in the billing of ancillary costs.

2861

Qualified representative lists of rents will become mandatory for municipalities with more than
100,000 inhabitants. We will launch a pilot project to create a rent index in selected municipalities
based on information in the tax return.

2865

In order to eliminate the causes of imminent homelessness, we will evaluate and counteract tenancy
law, especially where grace period payments stand in the way of continued tenancy. We set ourselves
the goal of overcoming homelessness by 2030 and are launching a National Action Plan to this end.

2869

2870 Home ownership

2871 We want to enable more people in Germany to live in owner-occupied property. We want to lower the

2872 hurdles to home ownership by means of equity-replacing loans and support emerging households in

- the long term, e.g. with repayment subsidies and interest rate reductions for home ownership.
- 2874

We want to give the federal states more flexibility in structuring the real estate transfer tax, e.g. by means of an allowance, in order to facilitate the acquisition of owner-occupied residential property. To counteract this, we are using the closing of tax loopholes in the acquisition of real estate by groups (share deals).

2879

We want to combat the illegal financing of real estate through appropriate measures. This includes proof of taxation for commercial and private real estate buyers from abroad, for any real estate purchase in Germany, and a ban on purchasing real estate with cash. In the land register, a summonable address will be obligatory in case of changes. We are commissioning a feasibility study to investigate whether a land register on the blockchain is possible and beneficial.

2885

2886 We are introducing a genuine certificate of competence for estate agents, rental and condominium 2887 administrators. We want to strengthen the KfW programme for the purchase of cooperative shares.

2888

2889 Urban planning

2890 We want liveable cities, communities and rural regions throughout Germany and are guided by the 2891 New Leipzig Charter. We secure urban development funding on a permanent basis and increase it. The 2892 reduction of GHG emissions and climate adaptation are central components. We are lowering the 2893 hurdles for financially weak municipalities and examining the possibilities of multi-year federal-state 2894 agreements. We want to make the existing funding measures in the field of urban development more 2895 flexible and less bureaucratic and strengthen the institutions of building culture. We are further 2896 developing the smart city step-by-step plan, strengthening BIM Germany and establishing a smart city 2897 competence centre. We want a mixed-use city.

2898

To protect health, we want to take the entire noise situation into account in future and will examine the introduction of an overall noise assessment. This could, for example, combine the impacts of road, rail and air traffic as well as industrial and commercial facilities. We will modernize the TA Lärm (Technical Instructions on Noise) and adapt it to the changed living conditions in inner cities in order to resolve conflicts of interest between noise protection and approaching residential development.

2904

2905 We recognize for clubs and live music venues their cultural reference. For both, we will adapt the 2906 Building Use Ordinance and TA Lärm. We want to reform the Fee Structure for Architects (HOAI) and 2907 adapt the service profiles.

2909 We are making the "Sustainable inner cities and centres" programme compatible with urban 2910 development funding. 2911 2912 We support municipalities in preventing and coping with heavy rainfall events and adapting to climate 2913 change. The flood disaster in the summer of 2021, particularly in the Ahr Valley and parts of North 2914 Rhine-Westphalia, impressively demonstrated to us the devastating consequences extreme weather 2915 can have. Together with the federal states, we will press ahead with reconstruction there with all our 2916 might. 2917 2918 We will back up the Federal Republic's sustainability target for land consumption with concrete 2919 measures. The provision of § 13b BauGB will not be extended. 2920 2921 We are looking into the introduction of an inner development measures area. 2922 2923 V. Opportunities for children, strong families and the best education throughout life 2924 2925 2926 We want to offer all people, regardless of their background, the best educational opportunities, enable 2927 participation and advancement, and secure them through inclusive education. To this end, we are 2928 strengthening early childhood education, launching the Digital Pact 2.0, making BAföG more parent-2929 independent and expanding it to promote further vocational training. Children deserve the best 2930 education. Every child should have the same opportunities. This. However, this equality of opportunity 2931 is still far from being a reality. We want to get more children out of poverty, will create better 2932 opportunities for children and young people with the basic child allowance and focus on those who

- 2933 need the most support.
- 2934

2935 Children have their own rights, which we want to anchor in the Basic Law. We also want to strengthen 2936 child protection. Families are diverse. They are everywhere where people take responsibility for each 2937 other and need time and recognition. We support parents in sharing the work of earning a living and 2938 caring for their children more fairly.

2939

2940 We want to make support services more accessible. As the legal framework for diverse families still 2941 lags behind social reality, we want to modernise it. We want to support self-determined living for older 2942 people and promote cohesion between the generations.

2944

2945 Education and opportunities for all

2946

Together with the federal states, we will significantly increase public spending on education and ensure that the support reaches where it is most urgently needed. With a strengthening of early childhood education, better starting opportunities in socially disadvantaged schools, a Digital Pact 2.0 and a fundamentally reformed BAföG, we are laying the foundations for a decade of educational opportunities.

2952

2953 We strive for closer, more targeted and binding cooperation between all levels (cooperation 2954 requirement). To this end, we want to unite the local implementation power of the school authorities, 2955 the cultural sovereignty of the Länder and the supportive potential of the Federation into a new 2956 strength and establish a new culture of educational cooperation. We want to work together to ensure 2957 that every child has the same opportunity to develop and achieve. To this end, we will convene an 2958 education summit at which the Federal Government, the Länder, local authorities, academia and civil 2959 society will agree on new forms of cooperation and joint ambitious educational goals. We will set up a 2960 working group of the Federal Government, the Länder and the local authorities to structure and 2961 improve cooperation and ensure that the goals are achieved. Together with the Länder, we want to 2962 exhaust all possibilities for jointly creating equal living conditions and strengthening the quality, 2963 performance and further development of the education system. To the extent necessary, we offer 2964 talks on amending the Basic Law.

2965

2966 Early childhood education

2967 We will continue the Good Childcare Act (Gute-Kita-Gesetz) on the basis of the results of monitoring 2968 and evaluation and, together with the Länder, transform it into a quality development act with 2969 nationwide standards by the end of the legislative period. In doing so, we will focus on improving the 2970 childcare ratio, promoting language skills and offering all-day care in line with demand. An investment 2971 programme is to be launched to further expand the number of day-care places. We want to further 2972 develop and promote day care for children as an offer of day care for children and further develop and 2973 consolidate the "Sprach-Kitas" programme. We will promote the professional use of digital media with 2974 appropriate technical equipment in early childhood education and strengthen media competence.

2975

2976 All Day

2977 We will continue to support the expansion of all-day provision with a particular focus on quality. We 2978 will reach agreement with the Länder and local authorities on the implementation of the legal entitlement to all-day education and care and on the further development of quality, and will develop
a common quality framework taking into account the specific characteristics of the Länder. We will
simplify the use of the funds provided by merging the basic and bonus pots and extending the deadline
for the acceleration pot.

2983

We want to enable the sensible joint deployment of specialists in and out of school. We support, promote or strengthen programmes such as "Kultur macht stark", the MINT Action Plan - especially for girls -, language support and language of origin programmes, "Haus der Kleinen Forscher", mentoring and sponsorships, support for gifted children as well as sports and exercise programmes. We support civic engagement in education and the involvement of non-school actors.

2989

2990 Startup Opportunities Program

2991 With the new "Startchancen" programme, we want to give children and young people better 2992 educational opportunities regardless of their parents' social situation. We will particularly strengthen 2993 more than 4,000 general and vocational schools with a high proportion of socially disadvantaged 2994 pupils. To this end, we want to support these schools with an investment programme for modern, 2995 climate-friendly, barrier-free schools with a contemporary learning environment and creative 2996 laboratories. We will make an opportunity budget freely available to these schools in order to further 2997 develop schools, teaching and learning opportunities and to promote extracurricular cooperation. We 2998 support these schools permanently with positions for school social work and promote school 2999 development and career orientation there within the framework of further programmes.

3000

In addition to this programme, we will provide targeted and permanent support for up to 4,000 more schools in disadvantaged regions and neighbourhoods with additional posts for school social work. At schools with a high proportion of pupils entitled to benefits from the education and participation package, we want to establish permanent and unbureaucratic offers for learning support and sociocultural participation in order to ensure that the take-up of these benefits increases.

3006

3007 Digital Pact for Schools

We want to provide long-term support for the Länder and local authorities in the digitisation of education. We will accelerate and reduce the bureaucracy involved in calling in funds for the Digital Pact for Schools. The Federal Government, the Länder and the local authorities will jointly identify proposals for short-term solutions and agree on implementation steps before the end of the first half of 2022. We will create service, advisory and networking offerings to provide local support. Together with the Länder, we will launch a Digital Pact 2.0 for schools with a term until 2030, which will reflect 3014 an improved flow of funds and the jointly analysed needs. This digital pact will also include the 3015 sustainable acquisition of new hardware, the replacement of obsolete technology, and equipment 3016 maintenance and administration. We will continue to promote free digital learning materials for needy 3017 pupils. Together with the Länder, we will promote the establishment, operation and networking of 3018 centres of excellence for digital and digitally supported teaching in schools and further education and 3019 create a one-stop shop for learning and teaching in the digital world. Together with the Länder, we will 3020 support digital programme structures and platforms for Open Educational Resources (OER), the 3021 development of intelligent teaching and learning software, including licence-free software, and the 3022 creation of positive lists of digital teaching and learning materials that comply with data protection 3023 requirements.

3024

3025 In-service training for teachers

3026 The Federal Government and the Länder will set up a joint coordination office for the further training 3027 of teachers, which will network further and in-service training courses throughout Germany, support 3028 the qualification of school principals, facilitate exchange and organise and promote the creation of 3029 further training materials based on a division of labour. We will continue to develop the quality 3030 campaign for teacher training with new focuses on digital education, the third phase of teacher training 3031 and nationwide quality development of lateral and lateral entry, including for the vocational school 3032 teaching profession. We want to accelerate and simplify the recognition of foreign qualifications in 3033 teacher training, support foreign experience of teacher training students and teachers and take greater 3034 account of it in career development.

3035

3036 Training support

3037 We want to reform BAföG and make it more independent of parents. In the future, the guaranteed 3038 amount, which is independent of parents, is to be paid directly to adult beneficiaries in training and 3039 study.

3040

3041 We are realigning BAföG, with a particular focus on a significant increase in the tax-free allowances. In 3042 addition, we will, among other things, significantly raise age limits, make it easier to change fields of 3043 study, extend the maximum duration of support, increase the need rates also against the background 3044 of rising housing costs, add an emergency mechanism and examine part-time support. We will adjust 3045 allowances and need rates more regularly in future. We aim to reduce the loan component and open 3046 up the interest-free BAföG full loan to all students. We will support students from needy families with 3047 a new start-up aid. We will make the application and administration of BAföG leaner, faster and more 3048 digital, and we will promote BAföG in a more targeted manner.

3049

3050 Adult Education

We are investing in digital infrastructure with a support programme for adult education centres and other non-profit educational institutions. We want to maintain the exemption from value-added tax for educational services for the public good in accordance with European law. We will expand literacy programmes.

3055

We will simplify and accelerate the recognition of competences acquired informally, non-formally or abroad. We want to close possible funding gaps. We want to continue the National Continuing Education Strategy with a stronger focus on general continuing education.

3059

We want to strengthen political education and democracy building along the education chain, increase
 the project funds of the Federal Agency for Civic Education and respect the independence of its work.
 3062

3063 We want to anchor and significantly strengthen the National Action Plan for Education for Sustainable 3064 Development in all phases and areas of education nationwide. We also want to promote student 3065 companies as a component of Education for Sustainable Development.

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- 3067

3068 Children, Youth, Families and Seniors

3069

Children and young people should grow up with equal opportunities in life, regardless of their origin. They have their own rights. Their concerns and interests are important to us; we will involve young people in decisions that affect them. Family is multifaceted and wherever people take responsibility for each other. They need time and recognition. We want to de-bureaucratise, simplify and digitalise support services. We want to modernise the legal framework for families. The well-being of the child is central to us. We want to support independent living for older people and promote cohesion between the generations.

3077

3078 Children and youth

We want to explicitly anchor children's rights in the Basic Law, and in doing so we will be guided by the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. To this end, we will present a draft law and at the same time expand the monitoring of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

With a National Action Plan for Child and Youth Participation we will further develop the youth strategy of the Federal Government, make quality standards for effective participation better known, strengthen self-determined child and youth parliaments and participation networks. With a campaign we will inform children about their rights and possibilities to complain. We will provide the Children and Youth Plan with the resources it needs. Following the Corona catch-up package, we will quickly and effectively improve the situation for children and youths with a future package for exercise, culture and health. We want to continue the investment programme for family and youth education centres.

3091

We will strengthen European and international youth work, especially for trainees. We will continue the work of the youth organisations that are currently being established. We will expand the number of places in voluntary services in line with demand, increase pocket money and improve part-time opportunities. We will strengthen the International Voluntary Service and further develop the "FSJ digital".

3097

In a participatory process with the Länder, local authorities and associations, the necessary adjustments for the implementation of inclusive youth welfare in Book Eight of the Social Code (SGB VIII) are to be developed and legally regulated and continuously evaluated in this legislative period. To this end, we will initiate model programmes and deploy the procedure guides more quickly and for an unlimited period of time.

3103

Foster children and children in care should be able to keep all of their own income. We want to expand the range of career and study guidance in youth care facilities. We want to give special support to foster parents of children with disabilities. We will support the digitalisation of youth welfare services. We will support homeless young people with Housing First concepts, among other things. We will support the children of mentally, addicted or chronically ill parents.

3109

3110 *Child Protection*

We want to strengthen prevention and child protection and ensure child-sensitive justice. We will support the development of protection concepts with model projects. We will regulate the work of the "Independent Commissioner for Questions of Sexual Child Abuse" by law and introduce a regular duty to report to the German Bundestag. We will make the National Council against Sexual Violence permanent and continue the independent commission for dealing with sexual violence in its present form. We will improve cross-Länder cooperation in child protection cases and strive for uniform standards for professional procedures, e.g. reporting chains. We will make the funds of the

- 3118 "Foundation for Early Assistance" more dynamic. We will financially secure the federal government's3119 telephone and online counselling services.
- 3120

3121 Professionals

Together with the Länder and all relevant stakeholders, we are developing an overall strategy to secure the demand for skilled workers in the educational professions and are striving for a uniform national framework for training. It should be remunerated and generally free of school fees.

3125

With high quality standards in child day care, we ensure attractive working conditions. We want to expand practice-integrated training, promote horizontal and vertical career paths and high-quality further training measures, and facilitate lateral entry. We will also fully support retraining in the third year of training.

3130

3131 Basic child allowance

We want to create better opportunities for children and young people with the basic child allowance and focus on those who need the most support. We want to lift more children out of poverty and, in doing so, we are focusing in particular on digitalisation and reducing bureaucracy. We will continue to strengthen day-care centres, schools and other education and participation services, as well as mobility.

3137

In a new start of family support, we want to bundle previous financial support - such as child benefit, benefits from SGB II/XII for children, parts of the education and participation package, as well as the child supplement - in a simple, automatically calculated and paid support benefit. This benefit should reach the children directly without bureaucratic hurdles and secure their newly defined socio-cultural subsistence level.

3143

The basic child allowance is to consist of two components: A guaranteed amount independent of income, which is the same for all children and adolescents, and a graduated additional amount dependent on parental income. Entitled persons of full age receive the benefit directly.

3147

3148 With the guaranteed amount, we are laying the foundation in this legislative period for our perspective

3149 goal of meeting the constitutional requirements for exemption of the minimum subsistence level for

- children in the taxation of parental income in the future solely through the guaranteed amount.
- 3151

3152 When bundling benefits, we examine interactions with other benefits and ensure that gainful 3153 employment is worthwhile for parents. Under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Women, 3154 Senior Citizens, Family and Youth, an interministerial working group is to be set up for this purpose. 3155 We want to provide children with easy access to a new digital portal for children's opportunities, where 3156 benefits for education and participation can be found. Together with the Länder, we want to 3157 harmonise the concept of income in all laws by mid-2023. Until the actual introduction of the basic 3158 child allowance, we will provide children affected by poverty who are entitled to benefits according to 3159 SGB II, SGB XII or child supplement with an immediate supplement. We will relieve single parents, who 3160 are most affected by poverty today, with a tax credit.

3161

3162 *Time for family*

We will support families when they need time for raising and caring for children and want to share the work and care work in a spirit of partnership. We will simplify and digitalise parental allowance and strengthen joint parental responsibility. We will introduce a two-week paid leave of absence for the partner after the birth of a child. This option should also be available to single parents. In future, maternity protection and leave for the partner will be granted after the 20th week of pregnancy in the event of a miscarriage or stillbirth.

3169

We will extend the partner months in the basic parental allowance by one month, accordingly also for single parents. We will introduce a parental allowance entitlement for foster parents and modernise the entitlement for the self-employed. We will extend the entitlement to parental allowance for parents whose children are born before the 37th week of pregnancy. We will make the basic and maximum amounts of parental allowance more dynamic.

3175

We extend the protection against dismissal for parental leave by three months after returning to workin order to safeguard the return to work.

3178

3179 We will increase the child sick days per child per parent to 15 days and for single parents to 30 days.

3180

3181 Family law

We will modernise family law. To this end, we will expand "minor custody" for social parents and develop it into a separate legal institution which can be transferred to up to two other adults in agreement with the legal parents. We will introduce the institute of community of responsibility and thus enable two or more persons of full age to take legal responsibility for each other beyond love 3186 relationships or marriage. We want to make agreements on legal parenthood, parental care, rights of3187 access and maintenance possible even before conception.

3188

3189 If a child is born into the marriage of two women, both are automatically legal mothers of the child,
3190 unless otherwise agreed. Marriage should not be the decisive criterion for the adoption of minor
3191 children.

3192

The recognition of parenthood should also be possible outside marriage, irrespective of the gender of the person recognising the parent or of divorce proceedings. We will introduce a status-independent declaratory procedure in which a child can have its parentage clarified by the courts without having to contest its legal parenthood at the same time. We also want to open the sperm donor register to previous cases, private sperm donations and embryo donations.

3198

We will promote the care of children in partnership after separation by taking better account of the additional burdens caused by contact and care in social and tax law. We want to make it possible for all families to care for minor children in a partnership oriented towards the best interests of the child, even after the separation and divorce of the parents, and to create the necessary conditions for this. We want to take better account of the care portions before and after divorce in the maintenance law, without endangering the subsistence level of the child.

3205

Together with the Länder, we want to improve child-raising, separation and conflict counselling, focusing in particular on the alternating model. We will give children their own right to contact with grandparents and siblings. We will liberalise the law on names, e.g. by introducing genuine double names.

3210

We will strengthen child protection and the principle of oral hearings in family court proceedings. We will lower the hurdles for non-admission appeals and anchor in law a right to further training for family court judges. If domestic violence is established, this must be taken into account in contact proceedings.

3215

We make it possible for unmarried fathers to obtain joint custody by unilateral declaration in cases where the parents have a common residence. If the mother objects, the family court must decide on joint custody. Special consideration must be given to the best interests of the child. We will accompany the modernisation of child and maintenance law with studies.

3221	Seniors
3222	The experience and skills of older people are indispensable for our society. We want people to be able
3223	to live in a self-determined manner in their freely chosen environment in old age. We will promote
3224	senior-friendly approaches at all levels of government and in the digital space. This includes
3225	participation, commitment, social security, everyday assistance, housing, mobility, health care,
3226	educational and meeting opportunities and overcoming loneliness.
3227	
3228	We will protect older people from discrimination and from financial exploitation - especially through
3229	health care proxies. The non-profit welfare associations are an important pillar of the provision of
3230	public services, and we want to continue to be reliable partners for them.
3231	
3232	
3233	VI Freedom and security, equality and diversity in modern democracy
3234	
3235	Freedom, security and the rule of law are the foundations for peaceful coexistence in Germany. We
3236	resolutely oppose all anti-constitutional, violent endeavours and conspiracy ideologies. Life in freedom
3237	needs security. Our responsibility is the security of our citizens. For this, the security authorities, civil
3238	protection and the judiciary. We will subject security laws and their impact on civil rights to
3239	independent scientific evaluation in the light of technological developments.
3240	
3241	Peaceful coexistence and cohesion in a diverse society require respect for differences and constructive
3242	negotiation of divergent interests. We counter discrimination at all levels, organise participation and
3243	representation. Gender equality is the basis of an equal society.
3244	
3245	Promoting art and culture and their diversity and improving the social situation of artists is a
3246	contribution to securing our democracy in these times. We are therefore committed to a strong
3247	cultural scene and creative industries that can continue and flourish again.
3248	
3249	We want to ensure good living conditions in town and country and will work intensively to complete
3250	the inner unity socially and economically. We guarantee high consumer protection standards and
3251	promote sport.
3252	
3253	
3254	Internal security, citizens' rights, justice, consumer protection, sport
3255	

Germany is one of the safest countries in the world. We want to make it even safer. To this end, we are organising people's security to ensure that everyone can live in freedom, prosperity and diversity. We ensure a citizen-oriented, well-equipped and trained police force and support the work of the courts.

3260

The rule of law means that we defend the rules of our polity against attack. This includes protection against crime and the preservation of civil liberties. We stand up for freedom, security and the rule of law for all people in Germany. The members of the security authorities in our country who support us every day anew in defending the free democratic basic order deserve our respect and recognition.

3265

3266 Federal Police

Our security authorities in Germany perform professional work in the fight against crime and for the protection of our democracy. The appreciation for our police officers is also expressed through good staffing and equipment, the condition of the properties, the reduction of overtime and the reintroduction of the pensionability of the police bonus. We will ensure that this is financed. In addition, we will increase the attractiveness by promoting specialist careers and a diversity-oriented recruitment offensive.

3273

We will strengthen proximity to the citizen and a transparent culture of error by further developing basic and advanced training for the police and teaching the principles of the free democratic basic order, in particular fundamental and human rights, even more intensively. In this way we will also prevent the emergence and consolidation of prejudices, discrimination and radical attitudes. We are expanding the security screening of applicants, which has proven its worth in other areas, and thus strengthening the resilience of the security authorities against anti-democratic influences. In this context, we are also ensuring the expansion of supervision services.

3281

We introduce an independent police commissioner for the federal police forces as a contact point at the German Bundestag with rights to inspect files and access. We introduce the pseudonymous identification of police officers.

3285

Secure and efficient data processing, combined with mobile IT and clearly regulated competencies, are basic prerequisites for modern police work. We are further developing the Police 20/20 strategy. We are subjecting the extensive number of databases to a fundamental revision and are specifying their processing regulations more precisely. We are significantly strengthening legal protection and data supervision by the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (BfDI). Weare opening up the police more to independent research.

3292

3293 Civil Protection

The Federal Government must assume more responsibility for civil protection. For this reason, we are realigning the Federal Office for Civil Protection (BBK), developing it into a central agency while taking into account the federal division of competences and providing it with the necessary personnel and equipment. Available forces and resources of the Federal Government and the Länder will be presented in a continuous situation picture. We are improving the warning structures and expanding the "warning mix".

3300

We are strengthening the volunteers by means of a voluntary service concept and, in federal coordination, by means of uniform exemption and insurance cover rules for helpers throughout Germany. The Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) will continue to play a central role and will expand its competences in cyber assistance. We are bundling the physical protection of critical infrastructures in a CRITIS umbrella law.

3306

We are strategically realigning the concept of "civil defence". In addition to the national and European resilience strategy, foundations are needed for future stockpiling, emergency reserves or the deployment of volunteers. To this end, we are expanding the existing pilot project "Laboratory Support 5,000" into a national reserve, independently of the "Civil Defence" concept. In Europe, we are specifically bringing more capabilities into "rescEU".

3312

3313 Police and judicial cooperation

We are intensifying cross-border police and judicial cooperation in accordance with the rule of law, ensuring high data protection standards and improving cross-border legal protection. We aim to develop Europol into a European Criminal Police Office with its own operational capabilities. We want to expand the European Public Prosecutor's Office both financially and in terms of personnel.

3318

Together with the Länder, we want to take an overall look at the security architecture in Germany and make cooperation between the institutions more effective and efficient for the security of the people.

Together with the Länder, we want to sustainably improve the informative value of crime and criminaljustice statistics. We anchor the periodic security report in law.

Together with the Länder, we are consolidating the Pact for the Rule of Law and expanding it to includea digital pact for the judiciary.

3327

3328 Justice

In accordance with the requirements of the European Court of Justice (ECJ), we are adapting the external ministerial individual case referral right vis-à-vis public prosecutors' offices. A judicial decision is required for the execution of a European arrest warrant.

3332

We reform the election and promotion decisions for judges at the highest federal courts under the criteria of quality assurance, transparency and diversity. Court proceedings are to become faster and more efficient: Hearings are to be conducted online, evidence is to be documented audio-visually, and more specialized panels of judges are to be appointed. Small claims should be able to be more easily enforced in court in citizen-friendly digital procedures.

3338

We are expanding collective legal protection. We are modernising existing instruments, such as the Capital Investor Model Case Act (Kapitalanleger-Musterverfahrensgesetz), and examining the need for further ones. We are implementing the EU Directive on collective actions in a user-friendly manner and by further developing the model declaratory action, and we are also opening up this possibility for small companies. We are maintaining the tried and tested requirements for associations entitled to sue. We are enabling English-speaking special chambers for international commercial and economic disputes.

3346

Criminal law is only ever the last resort. Our criminal policy is based on evidence and the evaluation of previous legislation in exchange with science and practice. We systematically review criminal law for manageability, justification and value contradictions and focus on historically outdated criminal offences, the modernisation of criminal law and the rapid relief of the judiciary. We are revising the system of sanctions, including alternative custodial sentences, detention and probation, with the aim of prevention and resocialisation.

3353

We make criminal proceedings even more effective, faster, modern and practical, without curtailing the rights of the accused and their defence. Interrogations and main hearings must be recorded in sound and vision. Among other things, we regulate communication in criminal proceedings, including possible discussions on the structure of the proceedings and the fundamental prohibition of provocation of the offence. As a matter of principle, court decisions should be made available to the public in anonymous form in a database and be machine-readable. We ensure the defence of theaccused from the beginning of the first interrogation.

3361

3362 Fight against organised crime

3363 We are making the fight against organised crime (OC, including so-called clan crime) a priority of our 3364 security authorities: through more and better structural investigations, the use of criminal law options, 3365 inter alia, in asset recovery, the optimisation of anti-money laundering structures and their resources, 3366 a stronger anchoring of the topic in training in the security authorities, more prevention and an 3367 improved analytical capability. We are developing the existing OC coordination unit at the BKA into 3368 part of the Joint Centres on a statutory basis. In the OC situation picture, relevant groupings, e.g. those 3369 of the Mafia or so-called clan crime, are to be analysed more meaningfully. The definition of clan crime 3370 will be clarified. We are intensifying the fight against human trafficking.

3371

3372 Fight against extremism

3373 Right-wing extremism is currently the greatest threat to our democracy. We resolutely oppose all anti-3374 constitutional, violent endeavours - whether right-wing extremism, Islamism, conspiracy ideologies, 3375 left-wing extremism or any other form of extremism. This requires an overall strategy at national and 3376 European level consisting of prevention, deradicalisation and effective danger prevention. We will 3377 adapt and further develop the measures of the National Action Plan against Racism and the Cabinet 3378 Committee on Combating Right-Wing Extremism and Racism. We want to make EU databases 3379 compatible, standardize definitions of dangerous persons, promote their early detection and ensure 3380 coordinated monitoring. We will improve the recording of politically motivated crime, e.g. with regard 3381 to hate crime against women and queers. We put proven prevention and deradicalisation 3382 programmes, especially in prisons, on a reliable financial footing. We are improving the possibility of 3383 blocking information in the civil register for those under threat. Within the Federal Government, we 3384 are also vigorously pressing ahead with the further processing of the NSU complex and are launching 3385 an archive on right-wing terrorism in cooperation with the federal states concerned. 11 March will 3386 become a national day of remembrance for the victims of terrorist violence. We want to make the 3387 treatment of victims and survivors of terrorist attacks and catastrophes of national significance more empathetic and dignified. The Coordination Office for Aftercare, Victim and Relative Assistance (NOAH) 3388 3389 will be set up to act as an ombudsman's office in Germany as well. We are closing gaps in victim compensation law and in victim assistance. The files of the Central Office for the Investigation of 3390 3391 National Socialist Crimes are to be made available to the public and researchers in the long term.

3392

3393 Fight against child abuse

3394 In the fight against child abuse, we strengthen the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in terms of 3395 personnel and relieve the employees in the evaluation of the seized data carriers by means of technical 3396 solutions - while ensuring the protection of personal data of the victims - and realise the daily 3397 comparison with the databases. The transfer of information between the offices and the actors 3398 involved in the child's support network must be improved and regulated in a more binding manner -3399 while safeguarding data protection and respecting the position of trust of the youth welfare offices. 3400 We support prevention programmes such as "Do not become a perpetrator". We want a child-friendly 3401 justice system and administration that listens to children.

3402

We will accompany and actively promote the processing of structural sexualised violence against children and adolescents in social groups such as sports clubs, churches and youth work and, if necessary, create legal foundations.

3406

3407 Weapons law, security services

The vast majority of gun owners are law-abiding. Terrorists and extremists must be consistently disarmed. We are evaluating the changes to the weapons law of recent years and are working with the shooting and hunting associations and the Länder to make existing control options more effective. In addition, we are improving the recording of criminal statistics on offences involving firearms and the flow of information between the authorities. In future, items requiring a small arms licence will also have to be presented at the time of purchase.

3414

3415 We will regulate private security services with binding standards in a separate law.

3416

3417 Freedom and security

3418 We ensure a forward-looking, evidence-based and fundamental rights-oriented security and crime 3419 policy. We will accompany this with an independent interdisciplinary Federal Academy. The state's 3420 encroachments on civil liberties must always be well justified and considered in their overall impact. 3421 We want to evaluate the security laws in terms of their actual and legal effects as well as their 3422 effectiveness. That is why we are drawing up an overall surveillance account and, by the end of 2023 3423 at the latest, an independent scientific evaluation of the security laws and their impact on freedom 3424 and democracy in the light of technical developments. Any future legislation must comply with these principles. To this end, we are creating an independent body of experts (Freedom Commission) to 3425 3426 advise on future security legislation and evaluate restrictions on freedom.

Video surveillance cannot replace the presence of a police force close to the citizens, but it can complement it at crime hotspots. We reject comprehensive video surveillance and the use of biometric recording for surveillance purposes. The right to anonymity both in public spaces and on the Internet must be guaranteed.

3432

In view of the current legal uncertainty, the forthcoming ruling by the European Court of Justice and
the resulting security policy challenges, we will develop the regulations on data retention in such a way
that data can be stored in a legally secure manner on an ad hoc basis and by judicial order.

3436

With the login trap, we want to create instruments that protect fundamental rights and are freedom-oriented in order to achieve the identification of the perpetrators.

3439

The exploitation of vulnerabilities in IT systems is highly problematic in relation to IT security and civil rights. The state will therefore not buy or keep open any security gaps, but will always strive to close them as quickly as possible in a vulnerability management under the leadership of a more independent Federal Office for Information Security.

3444

3445 For the use of surveillance software, including commercial software, we set the thresholds for 3446 intervention high and adapt the applicable law so that its use is only permissible in accordance with 3447 the requirements of the Federal Constitutional Court for online searches. The authority of the Federal 3448 Office for the Protection of the Constitution to use surveillance software will be reviewed in the context 3449 of the surveillance bill. We are amending the Federal Police Act without the authority for source TCÜ 3450 and online searches. As long as the protection of the core area of private life is not ensured, their use 3451 must be refrained from. We will ensure transparency and effective control by supervisory authorities 3452 and parliament.

3453

We are creating a legal basis for the Central Office for Information Technology in the Security Sector (ZiTis) and, in close coordination with the Länder, for the joint centres (GTAZ, etc.), defining responsibilities more clearly and guaranteeing complete control by parliaments and data protection supervisory authorities.

3458

3459 To protect the freedom of information and expression, we reject mandatory upload filters.

3460

Intelligence services are an important part of a defensible democracy. We respect the constitutionalrequirement of separation between the police and intelligence services. We are strengthening and

expanding the control, especially the parliamentary control, of all intelligence activities of the Federation. We are comprehensively reforming federal security law, including the regulations on the transmission of information. We are strengthening the auxiliary bodies of parliamentary control. We will improve the exercise of the rights of those affected. We are closing gaps in control. The work of the services will be strengthened and differentiated through sound scientific analysis. We are creating an independent supervisory body to deal with disputes over the classification of classified information and are shortening the period of protection under archiving law to a maximum of 30 years.

3470

We regulate by law the conditions for the use of informers, informant informants and other informants of all security agencies and make them subject to parliamentary scrutiny while preserving the necessary anonymity. We will examine whether the intelligence services have sufficient possibilities for tracking terrorist financing transactions.

3475

3476 *Responsibility for Holocaust survivors*

Germany faces up to its historical responsibility for the survivors of the Holocaust. We will consistently
ensure ongoing compensation payments as well as financial support for the care of today's very elderly
Holocaust survivors in order to enable them to live in dignity.

3480

At the same time, the future tasks of redressing National Socialist injustice are to be given special visibility. This includes, in particular, the establishment of a central digital platform on the reparation of National Socialist injustice and the strengthening and permanent promotion of Holocaust education.

3484

3485 SED victims

In agreement with the Länder, we are making it easier to apply for and receive assistance and benefits for victims of the SED dictatorship, in particular for consequential health damage, adapting the definition of victim groups to research and making the SED victims' pension more dynamic. In addition, we are setting up a nationwide hardship fund for victims and further developing the Foundation for Former Political Prisoners for this purpose.

3491

3492 Churches and religious communities

Churches and religious communities are an important part of our community and make a valuable contribution to coexistence and the transmission of values in society. We value and respect their work. 3495

3496 We are creating a fair framework for the replacement of state benefits in a fundamental law in dialogue 3497 with the Länder and the churches. We are further developing the constitutional law on religions in the sense of the cooperative separation model, thus improving the participation and representation of religious communities, especially Muslim communities. To this end, we are examining whether amendments to the legal status of religious communities are necessary for this purpose and are discussing this in close consultation with the churches and religious communities concerned. We are involving newer, progressive Islamic communities based in Germany in this process. We are expanding the training programmes for imams at German universities in cooperation with the Länder.

3504

3505 Company law

We protect honest companies from unlawful competitors. We are revising the rules on corporate sanctions, including the level of sanctions, in order to improve the legal certainty of companies with regard to compliance obligations and to create a precise legal framework for internal investigations.

We are implementing the EU Whistleblower Directive in a legally secure and practicable manner. Whistleblowers must be protected from legal disadvantages not only when reporting breaches of EU law, but also significant breaches of regulations or other significant misconduct, the disclosure of which is in the particular public interest. We want to improve the enforceability of claims for reprisals against the wrongdoer and are examining advisory and financial support offers for this purpose.

3515

We facilitate the formation of companies by advancing the digitalisation of company law and allowing notarisation via video communication also for formations with contributions in kind and other resolutions. We make online general meetings possible on a permanent basis, while fully preserving shareholders' rights.

3520

We are investigating further precautions against the abuse of cost reimbursements for warning letters under the Unfair Competition Act (UWG). We are expanding the legal framework for legal tech companies, establishing clear quality and transparency requirements for them, and strengthening the legal profession by modifying the ban on contingency fees and reviewing the ban on third-party ownership.

3526

3527 Consumer protection

3528 We ensure high consumer protection standards. This includes comprehensive consumer education,

3529 multilingual education and access to information appropriate to the situation.

We are adjusting the funding of Stiftung Warentest and the Federation of German Consumer Organisations in line with the increased need for collective redress, market monitoring and consumer education.

3534

In financial consumer protection, we are focusing more on the individual circumstances of consumers, especially when it comes to granting consumer loans. At EU level, we are working to ensure that protection against over-indebtedness caused by non-market interest rates and usury is strengthened for all forms of loans and that misleading advertising is banned. We want to expand debtor and insolvency advice. We limit the costs of early repayment fees to what is reasonable, ensure fair access to a basic account and create transparency. We will bundle the official supervision of debt collection companies.

3542

We want to make sustainability by design the standard for products. We make the durability and repairability of a product a recognisable feature of the product property (right to repair). We ensure access to spare parts and repair instructions. Manufacturers must provide updates during the normal period of use. We examine solutions to facilitate the usability of such devices beyond the period of use. For durable goods, we introduce a flexible warranty period based on the respective service life determined by the manufacturer.

3549

We are campaigning at EU level for electronic cancellation buttons to become mandatory. We are introducing information on the average monthly costs for continuing obligations for the delivery of goods or the regular provision of services and goods. Subscription contracts must also always be offered with a minimum term of no more than one year. We are introducing a general confirmation solution for contracts concluded by telephone. We are improving protection against dubious doorstep selling.

3556

We advocate that air travel be included in the Package Travel Directive with regard to insolvency insurance. Compensation payments should be automated for all modes of transport. We prohibit "noshow" clauses in the law on general terms and conditions. In the revision of the Air Passenger Rights Regulation, we advocate maintaining the existing level of protection. We are expanding the supervisory powers of the Federal Motor Transport Authority, the Federal Aviation Authority, the Federal Railway Authority and the Federal Network Agency with regard to collective consumer interests without creating additional bureaucracy.

3564

3565 *Decision euthanasia*

3566 We welcome timely cross-party motions to bring the issue of euthanasia to a decision.

3567

3568 Sports

Sport thrives on voluntary work, strengthens social cohesion and is a mediator for democratic values. We are drawing up a "Sports Development Plan" with broad participation and are expanding the offensive for investment in sports facilities by municipalities and clubs, taking into account sustainability, accessibility and inclusion, and giving greater consideration to swimming pools in particular. In the promotion of sports, we take into account the special needs of sports for the disabled. We will continue to promote the relaunch of mass sports after Corona.

3575

We link the federal government's sports funding to compliance with funding guidelines with targets, transparency requirements, good governance and the qualification of competitive sports personnel. In top-level sports funding, we are setting up an independent body for the allocation of funds and a transparency portal. We are evaluating the Potential Analysis System (PotAS) and developing it further with the aim of increasing effectiveness and reducing bureaucracy. We are creating better framework conditions for top-level sport. We are strengthening the participation rights of athletes by permanently funding the German Athletes' Association (Vereinigung Athleten Deutschland e.V.).

3583

In order to improve the fight against physical, psychological and especially sexualised violence in sport,
we support the establishment of an independent Centre for Safe Sport. We are setting up a federal
programme against right-wing extremism and misanthropy in sport.

3587

3588 We are promoting doping prevention more strongly, improving international cooperation and working 3589 on Germany's doping past with research projects.

3590

The National Concept Sport and Security will be further developed. The "Violent Offenders in Sport" file will be reformed with regard to the rule of law, deletion deadlines, transparency and data protection.

- 3594
- 3595 The fan project coordination office will be strengthened to support fan culture.
- 3596

The awarding and hosting of major international sporting events should be strictly linked to compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and Sustainability. We will support the

3599 Special Olympics 2023 in Berlin and the European Men's Football Championship 2024, as well as future

- bids for major sporting events from Germany such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games that arebased on these principles and involve the population in good time.
- 3602
- 3603

3604 <u>Equality</u>

3605

Equality between women and men must be achieved in this decade. We will further develop the federal government's interdepartmental gender equality strategy, including a gender equality check of future laws and measures. We will close the gender data gap, e.g. in the medical sector.

3609

3610 We advocate an intersectional equality policy in the EU and internationally. For example, we comply 3611 with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

- 3612 This also includes an equality-oriented policy for boys and men.
- 3613

3614 Protection from violence

3615 We will develop a cross-departmental political strategy against violence that focuses on the prevention 3616 of violence and the rights of those affected. We will also implement the Istanbul Convention 3617 unconditionally and effectively in the digital space and with a state coordination office. We will secure 3618 the right to protection from violence for every woman and her children and ensure a uniform federal 3619 legal framework for reliable funding of women's shelters. We will expand the support system to meet 3620 the needs of women. The federal government will contribute to the regular financing. This also applies 3621 to needs-based support and shelters for male victims of intimate partner violence. We take into 3622 account the needs of vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities, refugee women and queer 3623 people. We are expanding preventive work with perpetrators. We want a strong alliance against 3624 sexism. We are implementing the confidential preservation of evidence, which can be used in court, 3625 across the board and close to where people live.

3626

We are combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation with a National Action Plan and an independent monitoring body to implement the Council of Europe Convention. We ratify ILO Convention No. 190 on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the Workplace.

3630

3631 Economic equality

In order to make successes and needs for action more visible, we are expanding the basis for reporting
 the annual information provided by the Federal Government on the development of the proportion of

women and men at management levels and on committees in the private and public sectors and,where necessary, are tightening up the law.

3636

We want to close the pay gap between women and men. Therefore, we will further develop the Pay Transparency Act and strengthen its enforcement by enabling employees to assert their individual rights through associations by way of litigation.

3640

We want to strengthen the compatibility of family and career. To ensure that more employees can take advantage of bridging part-time work in future, we will revise the so-called "excessive demands clause" accordingly and at the same time make it clearer for companies.

3644

We want to further develop family taxation in such a way that partnership responsibility and economic independence are strengthened with a view to all family forms. In the course of improved digital interaction between taxpayers and the tax administration, we will transfer the combination of tax classes III and V to the factor procedure of tax class IV, which will then be simple and unbureaucratic to apply and create more fairness.

3650

3651 Reproductive self-determination

We strengthen women's right to self-determination. We establish security of supply. Abortions should be part of basic and advanced medical training. The possibility of free abortions is part of reliable health care. We counteract the so-called sidewalk harassment of abortion opponents with effective legal measures. We ensure the nationwide provision of counselling facilities. Pregnancy conflict counselling will continue to be available online. Doctors should be able to provide public information on abortions without fear of prosecution. We are therefore deleting Section 219a of the German Penal Code.

3658

We want to enable health insurers to reimburse contraceptives as a statutory benefit. For low-income earners, the costs will be covered. We want to increase research funding for contraceptives for all genders.

3662

We want to provide better support for unintentionally childless people. Artificial insemination will also be eligible without discrimination in the case of heterologous insemination, irrespective of medical indication, marital status and sexual identity. We will review the restrictions on age and treatment cycles. The federal government will cover 25 percent of the costs regardless of state participation. Next, we plan to return to full coverage of costs. The costs of pre-implantation genetic diagnosis will 3668 be covered. We clarify that embryo donation in the pronuclear stage is legal and allow "elective single 3669 embryo transfer". 3670 3671 We are establishing a commission on reproductive self-determination and reproductive medicine that 3672 will examine regulations for abortion outside the criminal code and ways to legalize egg donation and 3673 altruistic surrogacy. 3674 3675 3676 **Variety** 3677 3678 Everyone has the same rights, should have the same opportunities and should be protected from 3679 discrimination. We promote a diverse, tolerant and democratic civil society. 3680 3681 Civil society and democracy 3682 Civic engagement has become increasingly important for social cohesion and democratic policy in 3683 recent years. We want to support people who are involved in civic engagement, inspire young people 3684 in particular to take up voluntary work and therefore relieve voluntary work of bureaucracy and 3685 possible liability risks. The successful sponsorship program "People Strengthen People" will be 3686 continued. 3687 3688 We are working with civil society to develop a new national engagement strategy. 3689 3690 We are modernising the law on non-profit organisations in order to counteract the uncertainty that 3691 has arisen following the Federal Fiscal Court's ruling on non-profit organisations and, where necessary, 3692 we are also concretising and supplementing the individual non-profit purposes. We combine this with 3693 transparency obligations for larger organisations. 3694 3695 We will strengthen the German Foundation for Commitment and Volunteering in its funding mandate 3696 and increase its resources so that it can provide greater support for civic commitment, especially in 3697 structurally weak areas. 3698 3699 For the binding and long-term strengthening of civil society, we will introduce a Democracy Promotion 3700 Act by 2023 after broad participation. This will strengthen civil society's counselling, prevention and 3701 exit work as well as the empowerment of affected groups and protect them from attacks. 3702

In the federal programme "Live Democracy!", we want to strengthen and further develop existing structures, allow for more multi-year grants and simplify the funding modalities. We will secure the funding on a permanent basis. For us, it is a matter of course that all supported measures carry out work that is conducive to the goals of the Basic Law and that the organisations funded for this purpose must stand on the ground of the free democratic basic order. We support the establishment of a memorial and a documentation centre for the victims of the NSU.

3709

3710 Migration, participation and citizenship law

3711 Migration has always been part of our country's history. Immigrants, their children and grandchildren
3712 have helped build and shape our country. The 60th anniversary of the recruitment agreement with
3713 Turkey is symbolic of this.

3714

The national minorities - the Danish minority, the Frisian ethnic group, the German Sinti and Roma as well as the Sorbian people - are a natural part of our diverse society. The same applies to the cultural heritage of the expellees, repatriates and late repatriates.

3718

For more representation and participation, we will present a participation law with the guiding principle of "unity in diversity" and strengthen the participation of the immigrant society (for example, by introducing a participation council). In the federal administration and in companies with federal participation, we will introduce a holistic diversity strategy with concrete support measures, targets and measures for a cultural change. The migrant self-organisations, which stand on the ground of our free democratic basic order, are important partners in this process.

3725

In order to tap new potential for Germany as a location for business and science, we want to make iteasier for people from other countries to study or train in our country.

3728

We will create a modern citizenship law. To this end, we will make multiple citizenship possible and simplify the path to acquiring German citizenship. As a rule, naturalisation should be possible after five years, and after three years in the case of special integration achievements. It should be possible to acquire a settlement permit after three years. Children born in Germany to foreign parents will become German citizens at birth if one parent has had a legal habitual residence in Germany for five years. For future generations, we are examining how foreign citizenship is not passed down through generations.

In recognition of their lifetime achievements, we want to make naturalisation easier for members ofthe so-called guest worker generation, whose integration was not supported for a long time, by

3738 lowering the language level to be proven for this group. In addition, we are creating a general hardship 3739 clause for the required proof of language proficiency. We will replace the naturalisation requirement 3740 of "integration into German living conditions" with clear criteria. We will advertise the possibilities of 3741 acquiring German citizenship with a campaign and expressly welcome the holding of naturalisation 3742 ceremonies.

3743

3744 Muslim life

We want to take account of the diversity of Muslim life and support youth associations, among other things. We counter the increasing threat to Muslims and their institutions through comprehensive protection, prevention and better support for those affected. We promote cooperation between religious communities and places of encounter.

3749

3750 Jewish life

3751 Jewish life has existed in Germany for 1700 years. We strengthen initiatives that promote Jewish life 3752 in its diversity and combat all forms of anti-Semitism, as decided by the Bundestag with reference to 3753 the definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Together with the Länder, 3754 we will ensure the protection of Jews and their institutions. It is a shameful and painful state of affairs 3755 that they have to be permanently guarded in Germany. We are committed to prevention, awareness-3756 raising education and training, and more determined prosecution and documentation of anti-Semitic 3757 incidents. We will structurally strengthen the anti-Semitism commissioner. The Day of Remembrance 3758 of the Victims of National Socialism is to be upgraded.

3759

3760 Queer Life

3761 In order to counteract homophobia, we are developing an interministerial National Action Plan for the 3762 Acceptance and Protection of Sexual and Gender Diversity and implementing it with financial support. 3763 Among other things, we are supporting the Länder in educating schools and in youth work, promoting 3764 services for older LGBTI people and advancing diversity management in the world of work, particularly 3765 in small and medium-sized enterprises and in the public sector. We will secure the Federal Magnus 3766 Hirschfeld Foundation in the federal budget on a permanent basis. We will anchor rainbow families 3767 more firmly in family policy. We will explicitly include gender-specific and homophobic motives in the 3768 catalogue of punishments in Section 46 (2) of the Criminal Code. The police forces of the federal and 3769 state governments should separately record hate crimes based on gender and against queer people. 3770

We will abolish the transsexual law and replace it with a self-determination law. This includes a procedure at the registry office which makes changes of the gender entry in the civil status possible by

3773 self-disclosure, an extended and sanctioned prohibition of disclosure and a strengthening of 3774 educational and counselling services. The costs of gender reassignment treatments must be fully 3775 covered by the statutory health insurance. We will eliminate possibilities of circumvention in the law 3776 for the protection of children with variants of gender development. We will set up a compensation 3777 fund for trans and inter persons who have suffered bodily harm or forced divorce due to previous 3778 legislation. We will repeal the punitive exemptions in Section 5(2) of the Protection Against Conversion 3779 Treatments Act and consider a complete ban on conversion treatments on adults as well. We will 3780 abolish the ban on blood donation for men who have sex with men and for trans persons, if necessary 3781 also by law.

3782

We advocate that rainbow families and same-sex marriages/partnerships contracted in the EU be recognised in all member states with all legal consequences. Legal acts of the EU that apply against discrimination based on racism must in future also include homophobia and other discrimination. We will review asylum procedures for queer persecutees (e.g. interpreters, assessment of the likelihood of persecution upon return), make accommodation safer and establish special legal counselling.

3788

3789 *fight racism*

We will continue our work to combat right-wing extremism and racism, further develop its content and secure its long-term funding. We are developing a strategy for social cohesion, the promotion of democracy and the prevention of extremism. We will strengthen the work against hate on the internet and conspiracy ideologies.

3794

3795 In the fight against group-based misanthropy, important focal points include work against anti-3796 Semitism, antiziganism, racism, especially against black people, Muslimophobia, misogyny and 3797 queerophobia, as well as attacks against refugees and committed people.

3798

We are advancing the UN Decade for People of African Descent (e.g. by promoting talented people and supporting a nationwide community centre), expanding research, e.g. permanently strengthening the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) and making its racism monitor permanent. We appoint an anti-racism commissioner. A National Coordination Unit will be established to implement the EU Roma Strategy. In addition, we establish an independent monitoring and counselling centre for antiziganist incidents. We take up the recommendations of the Commission of Experts on Antiziganism and appoint an Antiziganism Commissioner.

- We want to supplement the equal treatment article of the Basic Law (Article 3(3) GG) with a ban ondiscrimination on grounds of sexual identity and replace the term "race" in the Basic Law.
- 3809

3810 Anti-discrimination

We ensure the independence of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, provide it with adequate staff and budget and strengthen its competences. Its leadership will be elected by the Bundestag. Together with the Länder, we will expand the network of civil society counselling centres against discrimination nationwide and finance them on a sustainable basis. We will evaluate the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG), close protection gaps, improve legal protection and expand its scope of application.

3816

The institutions of the state have a special responsibility to act firmly and without doubt at every point on the basis of our free democratic basic order and to resolutely oppose any form of group-related discrimination. To this end, self-regulation in the sense of supervision and internal management is just as important as independent scientific findings on the internal constitution of institutions and their employees. We want to promote appropriate studies.

3822

3823 We proactively support the Minority SafePack initiative and implement it in Germany. We are 3824 expanding projects for the preservation and development of minorities, their languages and culture.

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3827 Cultural and media policy

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We want to make culture possible with everyone by ensuring its diversity and freedom, regardless of the form of organization or expression, from classical music to comics, from Low German to record stores. We are convinced that cultural and artistic impulses can promote the awakening of our society, they inspire and create spaces for public debate.

3833

We are committed to a strong cultural scene and creative industries. We stand for a non-discriminatorycultural and media policy.

- 3836 We want to anchor culture in its diversity as a state goal and advocate accessibility, diversity, gender 3837 equality and sustainability.
- 3838

3839 Social situation in art and culture

We make the gender-pay gap transparent, want to close it, strive for equally and diversely staffedjuries and committees as well as term limits.

3842

We want statistical reporting on the social situation of artists. To improve the social security of freelance artists and creative professionals, we will include minimum fees in federal funding guidelines. We will improve the social security of solo self-employed and hybrid employed creative workers and reduce bureaucracy, stabilise the KSK financially and maintain the increased additional income limit from self-employed non-artistic work.

3848

3849 *Cultural promotion*

We are initially continuing the New Start programmes in order to secure the transition after the pandemic. From now on, we will expand the Federal Cultural Foundation and the Federal Cultural Fund as drivers of innovation and strengthen structures of the independent scene and the alliance of international production houses.

3854

3855 We are evaluating the contribution of federal cultural funding to cultural education with a study. We 3856 are establishing a one-stop shop "Green Culture" that offers skills, knowledge, data collection, advice 3857 and resources for ecological transformation. We create a competence centre for digital culture that 3858 advises, networks and qualifies cultural actors. We promote the development of a data space for 3859 culture that enables access to culture across disciplines and countries. In a "Plenum of Culture", we 3860 will work with municipalities, Länder, cultural producers, associations and civil society to improve 3861 cooperation and discuss the potential of standards. Municipalities must be able to provide long-term 3862 financial support for art and culture from their own resources. Taking the Trafo programme as a 3863 starting point, we are developing exemplary strategies for culture in rural areas and in structurally 3864 weak regions and want to reduce co-financing by financially weak municipalities to ten percent. We 3865 reaffirm the federal government's cultural commitment to the capital.

3866

We are reducing bureaucracy in the law on subsidies, in cooperation with the Länder and are exploitingthe potential of digital standardisation.

3869

3870 We want to strengthen public libraries as third places and make Sunday openings possible.

3871

3872 Clubs and live music venues are cultural venues. We secure cultural uses in high-density spaces and support investments in sound insulation and sustainability. We want to further develop the promotion 3873 3874 of music venues and support independent cultural venues such as galleries. We will complete the 3875 evaluation of the Cultural Property Protection Act and revise the regulations 3876 according to the results.

3877

We will establish a contact person for the cultural and creative industries at the Federal Government, simplify and improve funding for creative, non-technical innovations as well. We want to strengthen the games industry and make funding more permanent. We will create legal certainty for non-profit journalism and make e-sports non-profit. Together with the federal states, we are examining funding for independent publishers in order to secure cultural diversity on the book market.

3883

With the film funding amendment, we want to reorganize the federal government's film funding instruments and the framework conditions of the film market, simplify them and make them more transparent, in close coordination with the film industry and the federal states. We are examining the introduction of investment obligations and tax incentive models and are creating a legal framework to make the tax treatment of film co-productions legally secure. We reliably support cinemas and festivals and preserve our national film heritage.

3890

3891 Legal framework

With regard to copyright, we advocate a fair balance of interests and want to improve the remuneration situation for creative and journalistic content, including in digital markets. We want to ensure freedom of information and freedom of opinion, even with automated decision-making mechanisms. We will evaluate the reform that has just come into force, among other things, with regard to its practicability. We want fair framework conditions for e-lending in libraries. Analogue games should be able to be named in the German National Library's collection catalogue.

3898

3899 *Cultural heritage*

We want to sustainably safeguard the architectural cultural heritage, make it accessible and further develop the special programme for the protection of monuments under ecological aspects. We are creating a "Federal Industrial World Heritage Foundation" and examining European mechanisms to promote monument protection.

3904

3905 We are continuing the reform process of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation together with the 3906 federal states. An increase in the Federal Government's financial contribution is conditional upon a 3907 fundamental improvement in governance. We are developing the Humboldt Forum as a place of 3908 democratic, cosmopolitan debate.

3909

3910 *MediaFree*

and independent media are indispensable in a democracy. This includes private and public media. They

ensure plurality and diversity and must be barrier-free. Together with the Länder, we are promoting a
broad social debate on the value of free media for democracy. In legislation, we want to optimise the
coherence between European, federal and state law and revise the laws with media law and political
references in a federal-state working group. We want to secure the UHF band permanently for culture
and broadcasting.

3917

At European level, we are committed to ensuring that the Digital Service Act (DSA) and Digital Markets Act (DMA) as well as the Media Freedom Act also reflect pluralism and diversity and guarantee stateindependent media supervision and regulation. We will examine the feasibility of a technology-open, barrier-free and Europe-wide media platform.

3922

We want to ensure the nationwide supply of periodical press products and examine which funding options are suitable for this purpose. We want to accompany the challenges of the digital transformation of the media landscape through fair regulation of platforms and intermediaries in order to ensure communicative equality of opportunity.

3927

We create a legal basis for the press' right to information from federal authorities. We will combat hate speech and disinformation. We will support Europe-wide measures against restrictions on civil liberties, such as abusive lawsuits (Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation, SLAPP). We are committed to the safety of journalists. We will continue the successful expansion of Deutsche Welle and the Deutsche Welle Academy.

3933

3934 Culture of Remembrance

3935 We understand remembrance culture as a commitment to democracy and a path to a common future. 3936 We protect our memorial sites. We will update the federal government's memorial concept with the 3937 involvement of the German Bundestag, the SED Victims' Commissioner and the Foundation Memorial 3938 to the Murdered Jews of Europe, as well as in cooperation with those active in these areas, and provide 3939 adequate funding for memorial work. We want to promote local initiatives and make reports by 3940 contemporary witnesses digitally accessible. We will promote the communication of history in and to the immigration society. The funding programme "Jugend erinnert" (Youth Remembers) will be 3941 3942 continued and modernised. We support research in memorial sites.

3943

We feel a special responsibility towards our European neighbours in particular; but the current debates in Greece and Ukraine, for example, also show that the process of coming to terms with the past together is not yet complete. We support the resolutions of the Bundestag for a documentation centre on the Second World War and German occupation in Europe and for a place of remembrance and
encounter in commemoration of the victims of the Polish occupation and the eventful German-Polish
history. We want to officially recognize the victims of the "euthanasia murders" and forced sterilization
as victims of National Socialism.

3951

We will continue to take on the task of returning cultural assets seized as a result of Nazi persecution to their owners - in accordance with the Washington Agreement. We will improve the restitution of Nazi looted art by standardising a right to information, excluding the statute of limitations for claims for restitution, striving for a central place of jurisdiction and strengthening the "Advisory Commission".

We will strengthen the Federal Foundation for Reappraisal. We will qualitatively develop the established locations of the field offices of the Stasi Archives. The accompanying research and educational work will be supported. We support the establishment of the SED Dictatorship Archive Centre and the further development of the former Stasi headquarters in Berlin into a Campus for Democracy.

3962

3963 We want to give the history of democracy in Germany and its sites more visibility. The promotion of 3964 the sites of the Peaceful Revolution is a particular concern of ours.

3965

3966 Colonial heritage

In order to advance the reappraisal of Germany's colonial history, we also support the digitisation and provenance research of colonially contaminated collections and make them accessible on platforms.
In dialogue with the societies of origin, we strive for restitution and deeper interdepartmental international cooperation. In particular, we support the return of objects from a colonial context. We are also developing a concept for a place of learning and remembrance of colonialism.

3972

3973 Our cultural policy contributes to a common future between Europe and Africa. We are creating a 3974 special programme "Global South". We want to overcome colonial continuities, meet as equals in 3975 partnership and initiate independent scientific studies to come to terms with colonialism.

3976

3977 Foreign cultural and educational policy

3978 International cultural policy is the third pillar of our foreign policy, it connects societies, cultures and 3979 people and is our offer for a community of values and responsibility in Europe and worldwide. We will 3980 continue to strengthen it, make it more flexible, coordinate it across departmental boundaries and 3981 coordinate it closely at European level. We will adopt comprehensive sustainability, climate, diversity and digital strategies. We will strengthen science diplomacy through international cooperation and
exchange, strive to expand access and see it as an integral part of the EU's external climate policy and
Green New Deal.

3985

We are strengthening relations between cities and expanding urban diplomacy, strengthening programmes in European border regions as well as international sports policy and the area of religion and foreign policy. We support threatened scientists, lawyers, artists and students and set up a programme for journalists and defenders of freedom of expression.

3990

We will strengthen intermediaries, in particular the Goethe Institute, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Archaeological Institute and the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations, and enable new presence formats in cultural education in Germany as well - as well as the establishment of joint cultural institutes between European partners in third countries and the development of a digital European cultural platform.

3996

3997 We support Chemnitz in its preparations to become the European Capital of Culture 2025.

3998

3999 Within the framework of the Museum Agency we support the cooperation of museums.

4000

Reconciliation with Namibia remains an indispensable task for us, which arises from our historical and
moral responsibility. The reconciliation agreement with Namibia can be the prelude to a joint process
of coming to terms with the past.

4004

We will strengthen cooperation in multilateral forums such as UNESCO, the G7 and G20 and expandour own measures such as KulturGutRetter, also against the background of the climate crisis.

4007

We want to further develop our network of schools abroad and the PASCH network through a master
plan, launch a school development fund, strengthen early childhood education, inclusion and school
leadership.

4011

We want to modernize strategic communication in the European network, especially in the area of
analysis and social media monitoring, and, in cooperation with Deutsche Welle, orient it towards new
target groups and set regional priorities.

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4018

4017 Good living conditions in town and country

We want to ensure good living conditions in town and country. We will work intensively to complete the inner unity socially and economically. In particular, we want to use the experience of the eastern Germans for the upcoming transformation processes throughout Germany. Digitisation, the energy transition and new forms of mobility open up the opportunity for even more regional value creation and a new dynamic.

4024

We want a new cooperative relationship with the municipalities. Our goal is to have efficient municipalities with a high degree of local decision-making freedom, reliable public services, a strong economy and a committed civil society. Equal living conditions are the basis for trust in our democracy and hold our country together.

4029

4030 We will continue to develop the all-German funding system and the funding programmes bundled 4031 under this umbrella - oriented towards strengthening the structurally weak regions. We will combine 4032 funding programmes, simplify them, make them more flexible, harmonise them and prioritise the flow 4033 of funds to those areas where there is the greatest need to catch up. With federal funding, we will 4034 make the greatest possible contribution to climate protection, infrastructure upgrading and local 4035 accessibility. Municipalities are to be given better advice on how to take advantage of funding 4036 programmes. We will remove hurdles to the call for funds, e.g. for financially weak municipalities by 4037 reducing or replacing their own contributions. We will continue to make unused funding available for 4038 specific purposes (over the course of the year) to support municipalities.

4039

The Federal Government and the Länder are equally responsible for ensuring equal living conditions in all regions. To this end, we will dynamically increase GRW and GAK funds every year. We want to expand the possibilities for infrastructure funding in the GRW and GAK, make their applicability more flexible and ensure the multi-year transferability of funds. The special framework plan for rural development will be increased and expanded. We are examining a new funding criterion for 'services of general interest in the region' within the GRW.

4046

To strengthen cohesion, investment and renovation programmes in the field of sport and culture (e.g.
sports facilities, swimming pools, libraries) will be simplified and increased. We want to gear funding
to structural weaknesses.

- We will support citizen participation in the responsibility of local self-government, e.g. in regionaldevelopment concepts, regional management and regional budgets.
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All federal funding programmes are regularly evaluated and reviewed for their spatial impact using uniform data standards. The results are published in a periodic equivalence report and the progress made with regard to equivalent living conditions is made transparent. The monitoring is a binding basis for the further development of all funding programmes.

4058

We want to extend the participation of local and neighbouring municipalities in the value creation for ground-mounted photovoltaic and onshore wind power plants to existing plants and will make this mandatory for new plants. We are examining financial instruments to increase acceptance in communities affected by the expansion of the transmission grid.

4063

In the case of new tasks that the Federation intends to transfer to the other levels, greater attention
will be paid to the balance of funding. This includes continued federal participation in the costs of
refugee accommodation, care and integration, as well as permanent federal participation in the costs
of all-day care for primary school children.

4068

4069 We are expanding the direct dialogue with local politicians and their associations.

4070

Within the framework of federal-state financial relations, we want to help the municipalities to solvethe problem of old debts.

4073

Everyone in Germany must be able to rely on modern standards. This includes networked, affordable
and climate-friendly mobility that is suitable for everyday use, fast mobile phone and broadband
connections, healthcare, education, culture and sports facilities.

4077

In 2022, we want to define the development and quality standards for a mobility offer that is suitable for everyday use as a fully-fledged alternative to motorised private transport between the federal government, the federal states and local authorities. The railway must become the backbone of mobility throughout Germany - including in rural areas. One of our priorities is to expand the rail infrastructure and rail operations. We want to link individual and public mobility and supplement them with new, flexible services, including those offered by private providers. To this end, we are harnessing the potential of digitalisation and supporting local authorities in meeting these new challenges.

We want to better tap the opportunities of digitalisation for cities and rural areas. The Federal Government is creating the conditions for the successful and practicable implementation of the OZG in the municipalities. The federal programme Smart Cities will be continued and expanded to Smart Regions, and it will be made more agile and linked to urban development issues.

4090

We support initiatives to create places in rural areas that bundle services such as local supply, culture, education and health services (service centres, community centres, village offices). We are examining whether and to what extent the Federal Government can support municipalities with above-average costs for climate-friendly conversion. We want to strategically link metropolitan regions and rural regions for mutual benefit.

4096

Health and nursing care must be future-proof, needs-based and close to home. To this end, we will
further strengthen cross-sectoral care, also by providing more scope for regional model projects and
binding opportunities for co-design.

4100

We will continue to support the regions affected by the coal phase-out in a spirit of solidarity. We will
take measures to maintain local industrial value creation in particular and to enable innovation. To this
end, we also want to use the concept of real laboratories.

4104

We are adapting the Structural Strengthening Act and the STARK federal programme to the accelerated coal phase-out. We will implement the transport infrastructure projects agreed in the Structural Strengthening Act as planned, particularly in the area of rail infrastructure. We want to use all the possibilities offered by the Structural Strengthening Act to promote the establishment of new companies and the growth of existing ones.

4110

We are improving the representation of East Germans in leadership positions and decision-making bodies in all areas. For the federal level, we will present a concept for implementation by the end of 2022. The experiences of East Germans in transition and the conditions for successful transformation are to be researched and better communicated for future challenges in the new "Future Centre for German Unity and European Transformation". The tender for the site is to be launched swiftly at the beginning of 2022.

4117

4118 We will give preference to locating new federal and research facilities and those to be expanded in the 4119 eastern German Länder and structurally weak regions until a level commensurate with the proportion

- of the population has been achieved. The Federal Government will present a concept with objectivecriteria for implementation by mid-2022 at the latest.
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- 4123

4124 VII Germany's Responsibility for Europe and the World

4125

The upheavals facing Germany cannot be overcome at the national level alone. We are acting in the European self-image, embedded in the historic peace and freedom project of the European Union (EU). A democratically consolidated, strategically sovereign EU capable of taking action is the basis for our peace and prosperity. We are committed to an EU that protects its values and the rule of law both internally and externally and stands up for them with determination. We will form a government that defines German interests in the light of European interests. As the largest member state, we will assume our special responsibility in a serving understanding for the EU as a whole.

4133

In recent years, we have seen a move away from multilateralism in many countries. International cooperation must therefore be driven forward anew. We are aware of the global responsibility that Germany, as the world's fourth-largest economy, bears in this regard. We accept this responsibility and will deepen and establish new partnerships in our foreign, security and development policy and defend our values of freedom, democracy and human rights. To this end, we seek close cooperation with our democratic partners.

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4141

4142 <u>Europe</u>

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A democratically stronger, more capable and strategically sovereign European Union is the basis for our peace, prosperity and freedom. It is within this framework that we tackle the great challenges of our time, such as climate change, digitalisation and the preservation of democracy. Such an EU remains committed to a multilateral and rules-based world order and is guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4149

We are committed to an EU that protects its values and the rule of law internally and externally and stands up for them with determination. As the largest Member State, we will assume our special responsibility in a serving understanding for the EU as a whole.

- 4153
- 4154 Future of the European Union

4155 We are using the conference on the future of Europe for reforms. We support the necessary treaty 4156 changes. The conference should lead to a constitutional convention and to the further development 4157 of a federal European state, which is decentralised and organised according to the principles of 4158 subsidiarity and proportionality and based on the Charter of Fundamental Rights. We want to 4159 strengthen the European Parliament (EP), e.g. in its right of initiative; preferably in the Treaties, 4160 otherwise interinstitutionally. We will give priority to the Community method again, but where 4161 necessary we will go ahead with individual Member States. We support a uniform European electoral 4162 law with partly transnational lists and a binding system of leading candidates. If no new direct election 4163 act is available by the summer of 2022, Germany will agree to the direct election act from 2018 on the 4164 basis of a government draft.

4165

The Council's work must become more transparent. We will take an initiative to ensure that Commission proposals are debated publicly in the Council within a set time limit. We will use and extend qualified majority voting in the Council. We will establish a procedure to improve the information and participation opportunities of the Bundestag in accordance with Article 23 of the Basic Law.

4171

We want to increase Europe's strategic sovereignty. This means first and foremost establishing its own capacity to act in the global context and being less dependent and vulnerable in important strategic areas such as energy supply, health, raw material imports and digital technology, without sealing Europe off. We will better protect critical technology and infrastructure, align standards and procurement and initiate a European open source 5/6G consortium. We will better protect European companies against extraterritorial sanctions.

4178

We want to make Europe a continent of sustainable progress and lead the way internationally. Through
European standards, we set benchmarks for global regulatory frameworks.

4181

4182 Rule

of

law

We want to effectively protect the values on which the EU is founded in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). We call on the European Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, to use and enforce the existing rule of law instruments more consistently and promptly, including the rulings of the European Court of Justice (ECJ), via Articles 260 and 279 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. At the same time, we in the Council will more consistently enforce and further develop the application of existing rule of law instruments (rule of law dialogue, rule of law check, conditionality mechanism, infringement procedures, recommendations and findings under Article 7 4190 procedures). We will agree to the European Commission's proposals on the reconstruction fund plans 4191 if conditions such as an independent judiciary are secured.

4192

4193 We support the EU Commission in the further development of the Rule of Law Report through country-4194 specific recommendations and want, among other things, to further strengthen the process with 4195 independent expertise. We advocate and support that in future the EU Commission also pushes ahead 4196 with proceedings against systemic violations of the Treaty by bundling individual proceedings against 4197 a Member State in the event of violations of the rule of law. We want rights under the EU Charter of 4198 Fundamental Rights to be enforceable before the ECJ in future even if a Member State acts within the 4199 scope of its national law. In order to strengthen the ECJ, the term of office for judges should be 4200 extended to twelve years on a one-off basis. We will enable Europe's liberal democracies to better 4201 fend off disinformation, fake news, campaigns, propaganda and manipulation from within and outside 4202 the EU. We want to promote civil society engagement by strengthening non-profit activity across 4203 borders. We want EU legal forms for associations and foundations that simplify equivalence checks for 4204 non-profit status from other Member States and thus facilitate cross-border donations and 4205 cooperation in compliance with the ECJ.

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- 4207

Economic and monetary union, fiscal policy

4208 We want to strengthen and deepen economic and monetary union. The Stability and Growth Pact 4209 (SGP) has proven its flexibility. On its basis, we want to ensure growth, maintain debt sustainability 4210 and ensure sustainable and climate-friendly investment. The further development of fiscal policy rules 4211 should be guided by these objectives in order to strengthen their effectiveness in the face of the 4212 challenges of the times. The SGP should become simpler and more transparent, also to strengthen its 4213 enforcement.

4214

4215 Next Generation EU (NGEU) is an instrument limited in time and scope, and we want the reconstruction 4216 programme to bring about a rapid and forward-looking recovery throughout Europe after the crisis. 4217 This is also in Germany's fundamental interest. The qualitative targets and reform measures agreed in 4218 the NGEU framework must be met. We will ensure that NGEU repayments do not lead to cuts in EU programmes and funds. We stand by the statements of the EU institutions of 11 November 2020 and 4219 4220 the Council declarations and regulation of 14 December 2020 and the principles and agreements of 4221 the Interinstitutional Agreement roadmap of 22 December 2020 and will consider proposals 4222 accordingly. We want to make funds for payments from the annual budget more flexible within the 4223 framework of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and thus strengthen programmes for 4224 transnational infrastructure, research and Erasmus in particular.

4225

- 4226 We will strengthen the established instruments of budgetary control (OLAF, EPPO, European Court of 4227 Auditors).
- 4228

Price stability is fundamental to Europe's prosperity. We take people's concerns about rising inflation
very seriously. The ECB can best exercise its mandate, which is primarily committed to the objective of

- 4231 price stability, if budgetary policy in the EU and in the Member States fulfils its responsibilities.
- 4232

4233 Investments

A European digital infrastructure, a common railway network, an energy infrastructure for renewable electricity and hydrogen, and world-class research and development are prerequisites for Europe's ability to act and compete in the 21st century. To this end, we will take the initiative and, together with our European partners, launch an investment offensive that focuses on transnational projects with added value for the EU as a whole and attaches particular importance to closing gaps in networks. Both public and private capital will play a role in this.

4240

4241 Social Europe

4242 We want to support people in shaping the immense challenges of the upcoming transformation and 4243 change in a self-determined way. We want to promote upward social convergence throughout the EU, 4244 complete the internal market, implement the Pillar of Social Rights and combat social inequalities. To 4245 this end, we will also make use of European coordination processes such as the European Semester. 4246 We want to strengthen collective bargaining autonomy, collective bargaining partners and collective 4247 bargaining coverage as well as social security systems in the EU and the member states in accordance 4248 with the treaties. We want to promote and effectively develop democratic co-determination at 4249 European level and European works councils. National participation rights must also be respected and 4250 safeguarded in the case of cross-border transformations, mergers and divisions of companies. The 4251 European Social Fund is an important instrument for promoting social inclusion. Where necessary, 4252 bureaucratic hurdles must be removed. We want to combat child poverty and place a focus on the 4253 opportunities and participation of children and young people.

4254

Our aim is to reduce wage inequality between women and men across Europe. We support the EU directive on wage transparency as one measure. An ambitious design must cover the situation of as many women as possible, be implemented with little bureaucracy and in line with the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises, and provide for a reporting system staggered according to company size and performance. We advocate a design that does not force Germany to introduce a right of action

- for associations, but instead allows us to enable employees to assert their individual employee rightsthrough associations by way of litigation.
- 4262

4263 Crisis-proof Europe

We advocate strong EU civil protection, joint procurement, coordination of the production of critical goods and the reduction of critical imported products. In order to make the EU health authorities crisisproof, we are equipping them with the necessary competences and resources. The potential of the European Health Data Area is to be tapped while safeguarding data protection and patient sovereignty, and the fight against antibiotic resistance is to be stepped up.

4269

4270 European policy coordination

We want to pursue an active European policy and have a constructive claim to shape it, which also includes taking a clear and early position on the European Commission's plans through more stringent coordination. In the national legislative process, we will continue to examine conformity with European law, as well as the question of whether planned national measures can be implemented more effectively at European level. We examine the subsidiarity of European projects.

4276

4277 We will implement European law with a minimum of bureaucracy and in a way that is close to the 4278 citizen. We are also working hard at European level to promote solutions that are friendly to small and 4279 medium-sized enterprises (SME test).

4280

4281 *European foreign and security policy*

4282 The EU's foreign policy engagement is committed to peace, international human rights and conflict 4283 prevention. Our goal is a sovereign EU as a strong actor in a world marked by uncertainty and systemic 4284 competition. We advocate a genuine common foreign, security and defence policy in Europe. The EU 4285 must be more effective and more united on the international stage. We therefore want to replace the 4286 unanimity rule in the EU Council of Ministers in the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) with 4287 qualified majority voting and develop a mechanism for this with our partners so that the smaller 4288 Member States can also participate appropriately in this way. The European External Action Service 4289 must be reformed and strengthened, including the role of the High Representative as a genuine 'EU 4290 Foreign Minister'.

4291

4292 We stand for a comprehensive concept of security. We will strengthen crisis prevention and civilian 4293 crisis management in a special way, including by deploying more civilian personnel. We will join the 4294 European Institute of Peace and transfer the Centre of Excellence for Civilian CSDP Missions to 4295 institutional funding.

4296

4297 We will play a constructive role in shaping the work on the "Strategic Compass" in order to ambitiously 4298 shape the EU's goals and means in the field of security and defence as part of the Integrated Approach. 4299 We advocate greater cooperation between national armies of EU members willing to integrate, above 4300 all in training, capabilities, operations and equipment, as already planned by Germany and France, for 4301 example. To this end, we want to create joint command structures and a joint civil-military 4302 headquarters. In all these steps, interoperability and complementarity with NATO command structures 4303 and capabilities must be ensured. We always embed EU civilian and military missions in an overall 4304 political concept that takes account of the causes of conflict, provides for an exit strategy and is subject 4305 to parliamentary control. In the interim evaluation of the Defence Fund Regulation, the EP should be 4306 given a say and control rights.

4307

4308 European partners

We are guided by a strong Franco-German partnership that breathes life into the Treaty of Aachen and the Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly, for example through a new strategic dialogue. We are also pushing ahead with expanded formats such as the Weimar Triangle with concrete projects. Germany and Poland are linked by a deep friendship. Here we are strengthening the work of civil society actors (e.g. the German-Polish Youth Office). We are improving cooperation in border regions, e.g. through border scouts, regional councils and experimentation clauses.

4315

4316 We support the EU accession process of the six states of the Western Balkans region and the necessary 4317 reforms to meet all the Copenhagen criteria. Within this framework, we are strengthening civil society 4318 and supporting further pre-accession steps. The next steps are to open the first EU accession chapters 4319 with Albania and Northern Macedonia, to decide on visa liberalisation with Kosovo and to continue 4320 negotiations with Montenegro and Serbia. We support the EU-led normalisation dialogue between 4321 Kosovo and Serbia and the efforts to achieve lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, building on 4322 respect for territorial integrity and overcoming ethnic divisions. In parallel with the accession 4323 negotiations, the EU needs to improve its absorption capacity.

4324

We are committed to a common European policy towards the United Kingdom and, within this framework, we seek close bilateral cooperation. We insist on full compliance with the agreed agreements, in particular with regard to the Northern Ireland Protocol and the Good Friday Agreement. In the event of non-compliance with the agreed standards and procedures, we are 4329 committed to the consistent application of all agreed measures and countermeasures. We want to
4330 direct our efforts in youth, cultural and education policy within a common European framework, if
4331 necessary also including the regional levels.

4332

4333 European freedom of movement

4334 Freedom of movement is one of the EU's key achievements. Defending it and making it fair is important 4335 to us. We want to restore the integrity of the Schengen area and use exceptions more restrictively and 4336 not without consulting our European partners. In future enlargements of the Schengen area, we want 4337 to pay particular attention to compliance with the rule of law and humanitarian standards, in addition 4338 to the existing security criteria. We want to strengthen the free movement of education in the EU. We 4339 need a digitalisation push to reduce bureaucracy, simplify the handling of freedom of movement, 4340 speed up the assertion of existing claims and facilitate the fight against fraud and abuse. We therefore 4341 support a new attempt to introduce a European Social Security Number, also to facilitate the assertion 4342 of existing portability claims.

4343

4344 In the Member States, different systems of service provision, self-administration and self-regulation 4345 have developed, particularly in the liberal professions. These differences must be taken into account 4346 in EU legislation. We want an information platform in all EU languages on pension systems, social 4347 security entitlements, taxation and portability, as well as information on labour law in the Member 4348 States. We want Europe-wide implementation of the Posting of Workers Directive in line with the 4349 directive, as well as simple handling and enforcement to protect posted workers and effective and 4350 efficient controls to be able to take action against abuse and fraud. To this end, we want a low-4351 bureaucracy implementation of the German Posted Workers Act, well-equipped control authorities 4352 and broad advisory services for posted and mobile workers. We want to exempt certain business trips 4353 from the notification requirement for the A1 certificate if no services are provided or goods sold on 4354 site. We want to use the European Labour Authority to enforce applicable law and better coordinate 4355 controls. This requires a clear mandate that encourages Member States to cooperate and provide 4356 mutual cross-border information and inspections.

4357

4358

4359 Integration, migration, flight

4360

We want to make a new start in migration and integration policy that does justice to a modern immigration country. To achieve this, we need a paradigm shift: with an active and regulatory policy, we want to shape migration in a forward-looking and realistic way. We will reduce irregular migration and facilitate regular migration. We stand by our humanitarian responsibility and the obligations
arising from the Basic Law, the Geneva Refugee Convention (GRC), the European Convention on
Human Rights (ECHR) and European law to protect refugees and combat the causes of flight.

4367

4368 **Right of residence and right to stay**

We want to speed up the issuing of visas and increase digitalisation. In order to facilitate transnational labour migration, we also want to ensure that residence permits do not expire during temporary stays abroad. We are striving for a coherent, consistent immigration law that is user-friendly and systematised, ideally summarised in an immigration and residence code.

4373

We will put the complicated system of toleration in order and create new opportunities for people who have already become part of our society: After three years of residence in Germany and until the age of 27, well-integrated young people should be given the opportunity to obtain the right to stay (section 25a of the Residence Act, AufenthG). We recognise the special integration achievements of tolerated persons by granting families the right to stay after six or four years (Section 25b Residence Act).

4380

We are countering the current practice of chain toleration with a right of residence with opportunities: People who have been living in Germany for five years on 1 January 2022, have not committed any criminal offences and are committed to the free democratic basic order should be able to obtain a oneyear probationary residence permit in order to fulfil the other requirements for a right to stay during this time (in particular, securing a livelihood and proof of identity in accordance with sections 25 a and b of the Residence Act).

4387

We want to give tolerated persons in training and their companies more legal security by means of a residence permit (§ 60 c AufenthG). We want to remove the time limit on the employment toleration and make the requirements more realistic and practical. We will abolish the "Duldung light". If tolerated persons fail to clarify their identity, the period of toleration will not count towards a right to stay. We will extend the clarification of a foreigner's identity to include the possibility of making an affirmation in lieu of an oath and will create a legal provision in the law on foreigners for this purpose.

4395 We abolish work bans for people already living in Germany. An ongoing asylum procedure does not 4396 stand in the way of an entitlement to a residence permit, provided that the requirements for the 4397 residence permit were already met at the time of entry.

We want a more precise regulation for victims of domestic or partner violence who only have a derived
right of residence. Victims of human trafficking should also receive a right of residence regardless of
their willingness to testify.

4402

4403 Integration

To ensure the fastest possible integration, we want to offer integration courses for all people who come to Germany right from the start. The courses must be tailor-made and accessible. We want to improve the conditions for course providers, teachers and participants. Children and young people should have rapid access to education. That is why we want to provide school-based courses shortly after their arrival in Germany.

4409

We want to see a continuation of the federal government's participation in the refugee-related costs of the Länder and municipalities and also to continue the federal government's support in the form of funds used for integration. In particular, we want to (financially) strengthen and further develop crossjurisdictional, networked cooperation in municipal integration work. We will create a federal programme to strengthen the social participation and integration of people from (South)Eastern Europe.

4416

We will provide adequate funding for the federal government's migration counselling services (youth migration services, migration counselling for adult immigrants) and the migrants' self-help organisations. To ensure rapid and sustainable labour market integration, we will provide greater support for the vocational language courses that build on the integration courses and make the funding permanent.

4422

We want to revise the registration requirements for undocumented migrants so that sick people are not prevented from seeking treatment. We consider it necessary to stabilise psychosocial assistance for refugees.

4426

4427 Asylum procedure

Asylum procedures must be fair, swift and legally secure. In order to speed up procedures, we want to reduce the workload of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). For this reason, the review of revocations will in future again be carried out on an ad hoc basis. We will also ensure that administrative courts are relieved of the burden by high-quality decisions of the BAMF. We want faster decisions in asylum cases as well as a standardisation of jurisdiction and will quickly present a draft law to this end. Furthermore, we will introduce a nationwide asylum counselling service which is

- independent of the authorities in order to speed up the procedure by informing applicants. We want
- to identify vulnerable groups from the outset and provide them with special support.
- 4436

4437 The concept of AnkER centres will not be pursued further by the Federal Government.

4438

Family reunification must be designed in terms of integration and society's capacity to absorb refugees. We will put family reunification with subsidiary protection beneficiaries on an equal footing with CSF refugees. We will not leave underage siblings behind when unaccompanied minors are reunited with their parents. Persons joining their spouse will also be able to provide the required proof of language proficiency only immediately after their arrival.

4444

We will further develop the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act in the light of the case law of the Federal
Constitutional Court. We want to make access to health care for asylum seekers less bureaucratic.
Minor children are to be exempted from benefit restrictions or reductions.

4448

4449 Not every person who comes to us can stay. We are launching a repatriation offensive to implement 4450 departures more consistently, in particular the deportation of criminals and dangerous persons. In 4451 future, the Federal Government will provide greater support to the Länder in deportations. We will 4452 live up to our special humanitarian responsibility and, as a matter of principle, not place children and 4453 young people in detention pending deportation. Voluntary departure always has priority. We want to 4454 improve the funding of state return assistance for people without the right to stay. In order to promote 4455 voluntary departures, we want to systematise and strengthen state and independent return 4456 counselling. We aim to enable the competent supreme federal authority to issue a temporary national 4457 ban on deportation for individual countries of origin.

4458

4459 Asylum applications from countries with low recognition rates are prioritised in order to speed up 4460 procedures.

4461

4462 European and international refugee policy

We want to conclude new practical and partnership-based agreements with key countries of origin in compliance with human rights standards. These agreements should include an overall concept such as the expansion of economic cooperation, technology transfer, visa facilitation, qualification measures for the German labour market, job exchanges and cooperation on the return of rejected asylum seekers. The conclusion of possible agreements is not made dependent on financial support within the framework of development cooperation. The Federal Government will appoint a special representativeto shape such migration agreements.

4470

We advocate a fundamental reform of the European asylum system. Our goal is a fair distribution of responsibility and competence for reception between the EU states. We want better standards for those seeking protection in asylum procedures and in integration in the EU states. We want to effectively reduce irregular migration and combat the causes of life-threatening flight. We want to end illegal refoulement and the suffering at the external borders.

4476

The asylum application of people who arrive in the EU or are already here must be examined in terms of content. The EU and Germany must not be open to blackmail. We want to prevent people from being instrumentalised for geopolitical or financial interests. That is why we are committed to migration agreements with third countries based on the rule of law and within the framework of European and international law. To this end, we will examine whether it is possible to establish protection status in third countries in exceptional cases while respecting the Refugee Convention and the ECHR.

4484

4485 On the path to a common, functioning EU asylum system, we want to lead the way with a coalition of 4486 receptive Member States and actively contribute to other EU states taking on more responsibility and 4487 complying with EU law. We want to support and promote the willingness to accept refugees in 4488 Germany and the EU.

4489

We want Frontex to be developed into a genuine EU border management agency on the basis of human rights and the mandate it has been given. The aim must be effective external border protection based on the rule of law, which is transparent and subject to parliamentary control. Frontex should be actively involved in sea rescue within the framework of the mandate.

4494

We want to reduce secondary movements in the EU. To this end, we want to prevent the abuse of visa-free travel and help improve conditions for refugees in their countries through an orderly relocation programme.

4498

It is a civilisational and legal obligation not to let people drown. Civilian rescue at sea must not be hindered. We are striving for a state-coordinated and European-supported sea rescue in the Mediterranean and want to further develop measures such as the Malta Mechanism with more countries. We strive for a fair division of responsibility between the countries bordering the

4503	Mediterranean in sea rescue and want to ensure that people are brought to safe places after being
4504	rescued.
4505	
4506	We want to address the causes of flight so that people can live in safety and dignity. We will also fight
4507	the exploitative conditions on the escape routes and smuggling of migrants.
4508	
4509	We want to provide long-term support to host and transit countries with particular responsibility for
4510	refugees in order to create sustainable prospects for the people and host communities. We will make
4511	our contribution to reliable funding for humanitarian organisations.
4512	
4513	We will strengthen the orderly resettlement procedures based on the needs reported by the UNHCR.
4514	We will consolidate a federal humanitarian admission programme along the lines of the programmes
4515	previously implemented in the course of the war in Syria and now use them for Afghanistan.
4516	
4517	We will not leave our allies behind. We want to give special protection to those who have stood by the
4518	Federal Republic of Germany as partners abroad and who have stood up for democracy and social
4519	development. That is why we will reform the local forces procedure in such a way that endangered
4520	local forces and their closest family members can find safety through unbureaucratic procedures.
4521	
4522	We will enable humanitarian visas for vulnerable persons by introducing digital allocation procedures.
4523	
4524	
4525	Foreign affairs, security, defence, development, human rights
4526	
4527	Our foreign, security and development policy will be value-based and more European. German foreign
4528	policy should act as a unified whole and develop joint strategies across all ministries in order to
4529	increase the coherence of our international action. Together with our partners, including those from
4530	civil society, we will work to preserve our liberal way of life in Europe and to protect peace and human
4531	rights worldwide. In doing so, we will be guided by our values and interests.
4532	
4533	We want to increase Europe's strategic sovereignty. The goal is multilateral cooperation in the world,
4534	especially in close connection with those states that share our democratic values. This also involves
4535	system competition with authoritarian states and strategic solidarity with our democratic partners.
4536	

- Human rights, as the most important shield of individual dignity, are our compass. The transatlantic
 alliance is a central pillar and NATO an indispensable part of our security. Our soldiers make an
 indispensable contribution to the protection of our country, to peace and international security.
- 4540

We advocate a revival of international disarmament and arms control. Our security and the protection of our livelihoods require global cooperation, a strengthening of the United Nations and a rules-based international order. In particular, we advocate a common, consistent foreign climate policy and climate justice in the spirit of the European Green Deal, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement.

4545

4546 For us, commitment to peace, freedom, human rights, democracy, the rule of law and sustainability is 4547 an indispensable part of a successful and credible foreign policy for Germany and Europe.

4548

4549 *Multilateralism*

4550 We are committed to strengthening the United Nations (UN) as the most important institution of the 4551 international order politically, financially and in terms of personnel. Reform of the UN Security Council 4552 remains our goal, as does fairer representation of all regions of the world. We support and strengthen 4553 initiatives such as the Alliance of Democracies, and we are continuing to develop the Alliance for 4554 Multilateralism. We are also committed to strengthening multilateralism through our G7 Presidency. 4555 The commitment to free and fair trade is part of our international policy. We will work to protect the 4556 independence and autonomous capacity to act of the human rights institutions of the Organization for 4557 Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). We want to strengthen the institutions and the working 4558 capacity of the Council of Europe and defend them against all attempts by authoritarian Council of 4559 Europe members to weaken them. We will strengthen the German seat of the United Nations in Bonn. 4560

4561 We actively seek dialogue with citizens on the challenges of international politics. We regularly inform 4562 the German Bundestag before and after important international summits. We will present a 4563 comprehensive National Security Strategy in the first year of the new Federal Government.

4564

We want Germany to invest three per cent of its gross domestic product in international action in the long term in the spirit of a networked and inclusive approach, thus strengthening its diplomacy and its development policy and fulfilling the commitments it made in NATO. We want to achieve the goals of the Foreign Service Act.

4569

Together with our partners, we want to strengthen the rights, resources and representation of women and girls worldwide and promote social diversity in the spirit of a *feminist foreign policy*. We want to

- 4572 appoint more women to international leadership positions and ambitiously implement and further4573 develop the National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Resolution 1325.
- 4574

4575 Germany is pursuing an active digital foreign policy for a global, open internet and a consistent EU 4576 digital policy across departmental boundaries. We are strengthening our involvement in international 4577 bodies, standards and standardisation processes and multi-stakeholder forums (e.g. IGF). We support 4578 the efforts of global civil society to promote digital civil rights. We want an international law of the 4579 web. In development cooperation, we are working with our partners to build their independent digital 4580 infrastructure to strengthen their digital sovereignty, including at EU level. We pursue a policy of 4581 disarmament in the digital space. This includes stopping the transfer of surveillance technologies to 4582 repressive regimes and protecting civilian infrastructure from cyber attacks.

4583

4584 NATO remains the indispensable foundation of our security. We are committed to strengthening the 4585 transatlantic alliance and sharing the burden fairly. We are actively engaged in the process of 4586 developing a new Strategic Concept to address NATO's new challenges. We want to meet NATO's 4587 capability goals in close coordination with our partners and invest accordingly. We are committed to 4588 strengthening NATO's political dimension, also to address existing tensions within the Alliance. As long 4589 as nuclear weapons play a role in NATO's Strategic Concept, Germany has an interest in participating 4590 in the strategic discussions and planning processes. Against the background of the continuing threat 4591 to the security of Germany and Europe, we take the concerns of our Central and Eastern European 4592 partners in particular seriously, are committed to maintaining a credible deterrent potential and want 4593 to continue the Alliance's dialogue efforts. We support the Alliance's efforts towards conventional and 4594 nuclear disarmament as well as arms control. We will strengthen the European pillar in NATO and 4595 advocate more intensive cooperation between NATO and the EU.

4596

4597 Disa

Disarmament, arms control, arms exports

4598 We need a disarmament policy offensive and want to take a leading role in strengthening international 4599 disarmament initiatives and non-proliferation regimes, including the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear 4600 Disarmament. We will work to ensure that the 2022 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference 4601 provides real impetus for nuclear disarmament. Our goal remains a world free of nuclear weapons 4602 (Global Zero) and thus a Germany free of nuclear weapons. We strongly advocate a successor 4603 agreement to NewSTART which, in addition to new strategic nuclear weapon systems, also includes 4604 those of short and medium range. We advocate negotiations between the USA and Russia on complete 4605 disarmament in the sub-strategic area. We want to involve nuclear weapon states such as China more 4606 closely in nuclear disarmament and arms control.

4607

In the light of the outcome of the NPT Review Conference and in close consultation with our Allies, we
will constructively support the intent of the Treaty as observers (not members) at the Conference of
the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

4611

We want to strengthen our commitment to biological and chemical security within the framework of the Conventions on the Prohibition of Biological and Chemical Weapons (BWC and CWC). We want to increasingly include armed drones in international control regimes. We reject lethal autonomous weapon systems that are completely beyond the control of humans. We actively promote their international outlawing.

4617

We want the peaceful use of space and cyberspace. For weapons technology developments in biotech, hypersonics, space, cyber and AI, we will take arms control initiatives at an early stage. We will help strengthen norms for responsible state behavior in cyberspace. We support a political declaration against explosive weapons in populated areas.

4622

4623 We need more binding rules for a restrictive arms export policy and therefore want to coordinate a 4624 corresponding EU arms export regulation with our European partners. We are committed to a national 4625 arms export control law. Our aim is to enshrine in such a law the EU's Common Position with its eight 4626 criteria as well as the Federal Government's Political Principles on the Export of War Weapons and 4627 Other Military Equipment, the Small Arms Principles and the extension of post-shipment controls. 4628 Exceptions can only be made in justified individual cases, which must be documented in a publicly 4629 comprehensible manner. We will make the arms export control report transparent. We will not issue 4630 any export licences for military equipment to countries that are demonstrably directly involved in the 4631 war in Yemen.

4632

4633 Human Rights

4634 Human rights policy encompasses all aspects of state action at both international and domestic level. 4635 In a global environment in which the universal validity of human rights is also regularly called into 4636 question by central actors, we want to defend and promote them together with our partners. We will 4637 upgrade the office of the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and 4638 Humanitarian Aid and provide it with more staff. We will provide national human rights institutions, 4639 such as the German Institute for Human Rights and the National Agency for the Prevention of Torture, 4640 with better financial and personnel resources. We will coordinate the fight against human trafficking 4641 across ministries, improve support systems for trafficked persons and strengthen their rights. We will

4642 continue to provide unbureaucratic assistance to Germans imprisoned abroad for political reasons and4643 set up a fund for this purpose.

4644

Civil societies - especially journalists, activists, academics and other human rights defenders - are indispensable for building and sustaining functioning communities. We are committed to strengthening and protecting these people and their work in a special way, including in cases of crossborder persecution. In this context, we want to simplify the admission of people at high risk and ensure a safe application process. In addition, we will expand support and protection programmes, including the Elisabeth Selbert Initiative, and make them more long-term. We will create additional posts for human rights work at suitable missions abroad.

4652

We support the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. We will strengthen the European Court of Human Rights and insist on the implementation of its judgments in all member states. The EU sanctions mechanism must be used consistently and better coordinated with our international partners. We will step up our efforts to encourage the members of the Council of Europe to ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention.

4658

4659 We will play an active role in shaping the work of the UN Human Rights Council and strengthen the 4660 Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. We want to strengthen the work of the UN 4661 treaty bodies and special rapporteurs- and strive for the ratification of further human rights 4662 conventions. We will ratify the Additional Protocol to the UN Social Covenant. We want to strengthen 4663 the rights of minorities at international level and in particular within the EU. In line with the Yogyakarta 4664 Principles, we will work for a convention on LGBTI rights in the UN. We want to strengthen the 4665 protection of human rights in the digital age and to this end make internet freedom and digital human 4666 rights a priority in foreign policy. We support the initiative on the right to privacy. At the UN level, we 4667 advocate the implementation and enforcement of the right to a clean environment.

4668

Impunity for human rights violations must be ended worldwide. We are therefore committed to the work of the International Criminal Court and the UN ad hoc tribunals and will work for the further development of international humanitarian law. We support the establishment of further UN-led factfinding missions and the work of UN investigation and monitoring mechanisms to enable future criminal trials. In Germany, we want to expand capacities in proceedings under the International Criminal Code.

Based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we are committed to a European
Business and Human Rights Action Plan. We will revise the national Business and Human Rights Action
Plan in line with the Supply Chain Act.

4679

4680 Humanitarian aid

Germany will continue and increase funding for humanitarian aid in line with needs, also with a view to the so-called "forgotten crises". We are committed to the goals of the *Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus* and the *Grand Bargain and* will play an active and active role in their implementation and ongoing development. We will disburse one in three euros as flexible funds there and continue to expand localization. We are committed to improving access for humanitarian aid in conflict regions and to improving protection for aid workers.

4687

4688 Civilian crisis prevention and peacebuilding

The Guidelines for Crisis Prevention, Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding are a good basis for Germany's commitment to crisis prevention and peacebuilding. We want to further expand Germany's role in defusing international crises by improving cooperation across departmental boundaries. We want to define planning targets in order to be able to provide personnel and financial resources for civilian crisis prevention reliably and quickly.

4694

4695 Defence and Federal Armed Forces

4696 The Bundeswehr makes an essential contribution to the protection and defence of our country and of 4697 our partners and allies. As a parliamentary army, it is subject to parliamentary control. In addition to 4698 foreign missions within the framework of international crisis and conflict management, which are 4699 based on international law, in particular the decisions of the UN, national and alliance defence has 4700 gained in importance. Both tasks are to be performed equally by the Bundeswehr. The Bundeswehr's 4701 mission and tasks must be geared to the strategic challenges and security threats of our time. The 4702 Bundeswehr's capability profile must be derived from this. The Bundeswehr must be reliably equipped 4703 with the best possible personnel, material and financial resources in accordance with its mission and 4704 tasks.

4705

The structures of the Bundeswehr must be made more effective and efficient with the aim of increasing
operational readiness. To this end, we are taking a critical stock of personnel, equipment and finances.
The modernisation and digitisation process of the Bundeswehr will receive appropriate parliamentary
support.

Our soldiers make an indispensable contribution to international security. We are improving their equipment as well as that of the Bundeswehr. We are accelerating the modernisation of the infrastructure. We are strategically aligning the priorities in Bundeswehr procurement and modernizing the procurement system and its structures. This also applies to material responsibility and utilization. Particular importance is attached to digitalisation, command and control capability and interoperability in procurement.

4717

We are strengthening defence technology cooperation in Europe, in particular with high-quality cooperation projects, taking account of key national technologies and enabling small and mediumsized enterprises to also participate in competition. Replacement procurements and systems available on the market are to be prioritised in procurement in order to avoid capability gaps.

4722

4723 At the beginning of the 20th legislative period, we will procure a successor system for the Tornado 4724 combat aircraft. We will monitor the procurement and certification process objectively and 4725 conscientiously with a view to Germany's nuclear participation.

4726

4727 Armed drones can help to protect soldiers deployed abroad. Subject to binding and transparent 4728 conditions and taking ethical and security policy aspects into account, we will therefore allow the 4729 Bundeswehr to arm drones during this legislative period. When they are deployed, the rules of 4730 international law apply; we reject extralegal killings - also by drones.

4731

We want to counter the new threats in cyberspace with an ambitious cyber security policy. The
Bundeswehr must also be put in a position to successfully exist as an actor in the cyber and information
space in alliance with other federal agencies. Parliamentary control over the deployment of
Bundeswehr cyber capabilities must be guaranteed.

4736

The Bundeswehr must be demographically stable and balanced in the long term, also with a view to the age structure. We will therefore introduce further measures to increase the attractiveness of service in the Bundeswehr and, in doing so, also facilitate the transition of temporary soldiers to the military administration and improve the transition to the private sector. We will strengthen Innere Führung. We will develop and expand political education measures in keeping with the times. The comprehensive care and welfare of soldiers and their families will be further expanded. Training and service in the armed forces will be reserved for soldiers of full age. We support a strong reserve.

4744

All members of the Bundeswehr must unequivocally stand on the ground of the free democratic basic
order. We will adapt service and labour law in order to be able to dismiss extremists from service
immediately.

4748

4749 We are committed to Germany's role and responsibility for peace, freedom and prosperity in the 4750 world. As a reliable partner in collective security systems, we will maintain our commitment to foreign 4751 and security policy. Nevertheless, any deployment of the Bundeswehr must be preceded by a critical 4752 analysis of the content and a review of the preconditions, as well as the elaboration of possible exit 4753 strategies. For us, the use of military force is a means of last resort and must always be integrated into 4754 a realistic political approach to conflicts and their causes. Armed missions of the Bundeswehr abroad 4755 must be embedded in a system of mutual collective security based on the Basic Law and international 4756 law. We will ensure regular evaluation of ongoing foreign deployments.

4757

We want to investigate the evacuation mission in Afghanistan in a parliamentary committee of inquiry.
In addition, we want to evaluate the entire mission in a commission of inquiry with scientific expertise.
The insights gained must be processed in a practical and forward-looking manner so that they can be
incorporated into the design of future German missions abroad.

4762

4763 Development cooperation

4764 We align our actions with the UN's 2030 Agenda with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a 4765 value-based development policy. We are committed worldwide to sustainable development, the fight 4766 against hunger and poverty, climate justice, biodiversity and a socio-ecological transformation. We are 4767 significantly strengthening our multilateral engagement. We want to ensure that Germany fulfils its 4768 international commitments in the field of development cooperation and international climate finance. 4769 We will maintain an ODA quota of at least 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI). Within this 4770 framework, we will allocate 0.2 per cent of GNI to the poorest countries of the Global South (LDCs). In 4771 addition, the funds for international climate financing are to be increased further. As in the past, 4772 spending on crisis prevention, humanitarian aid, ACBP and development cooperation is to increase on 4773 a one-to-one scale like spending on defence, based on the 2021 budget. We will coordinate ODA funds 4774 more closely at federal level among the relevant ministries so that they can be used more effectively. 4775

We promote food security and access to clean drinking water through sustainable agro-ecological
approaches and knowledge and technology transfer, especially in the field of smallholder agriculture.
German and European agricultural exports should not destroy markets in partner countries, and we
want to actively counter wanton distortion of the food market through financial market speculation.

We will make use of the legal possibilities to prohibit the export of certain pesticides that are notpermitted in the EU for reasons of human health protection.

4782

Together with trade unions, companies and civil society, we work for fair and formal working conditions and living wages worldwide. We want to actively support our partner countries in the fight against poverty by developing social security systems. To this end, we also want to support an international financing instrument (*Global Fund for Social Protection*) for those countries that do not have sufficient resources at their disposal.

4788

Through climate and development partnerships, we promote two-way knowledge and technology transfer, the expansion of renewable energies with independent value creation and local use options, sustainable infrastructure and other climate protection and adaptation measures in our partner countries. This also includes measures to preserve biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience, overcome energy poverty and climate risk insurance based on the polluter-pays principle.

4794

4795 To achieve the climate targets, we will invest more in the protection of existing forests and peatlands 4796 and in sustainable afforestation. To this end, we will in particular strengthen our approaches to 4797 promoting private-sector and smallholder sustainable forestry. We will support partner countries in 4798 their rapidly increasing urbanisation to design and administer this process in a resource-conserving 4799 and climate-sensitive manner. We are strengthening the global health architecture within the 4800 framework of the One Health approach. The World Health Organization (WHO) will be reformed and 4801 strengthened. We will expand water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), adequately equip the Global 4802 Vaccine Alliance and intensify the fight against poverty-associated and neglected tropical diseases.

4803

We support the global COVID-19 vaccination campaign COVAX, strengthening it financially and through rapid delivery of vaccines. We support voluntary production partnerships and the transfer of knowhow to expand production capacities for medicines and vaccines worldwide. In this spirit, we are constructively engaging in the international debates on equitable vaccine supply.

4808

We are strengthening our commitment in particular to basic education, dual training and further education and training opportunities, as well as the development education work of civil society in Germany. We want to use digital technologies to enable equal and free access to information and participation, and to use them in particular in the areas of education, health, and climate and resource protection. With the aim of mutual learning, we promote exchange and cooperation between innovative actors such as start-ups in industrialised and developing countries. 4815

We strengthen the rights, representation and resources of women, girls and marginalised groups such as LGBTI. Equal political, economic and social participation, the strengthening of sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, and full access to equal education and health care are central to us. We will develop a comprehensive gender action plan with the participation of civil society and back it financially.

4821

We are strengthening our promotion of civil society and the important role of trade unions, political and private foundations and churches, especially in fragile contexts. The important work of political foundations with BMZ funding is to be secured and strengthened in the future, especially in the existing project countries. We orient financial support for pro-government actors towards democracy, the rule of law, human rights, the expansion of space for civil society actors and the press, and the fight against corruption. We will increase our support for the European Democracy Fund.

4828

Our goal is a new international debt management consensus. We support an initiative for a codified international sovereign insolvency procedure that includes all creditors and implements debt relief for particularly vulnerable groups of countries. To increase partner countries' own revenues and combat tax evasion, we will call for and promote legitimate, effective and transparent tax systems that also include the financial capacity of elites.

4834

We aim to simplify the award and funding guidelines of the BMZ and the AA. We will strengthen the German Development Cooperation Evaluation Institute (DEval) and the German Development Institute (DIE) as independent bodies. We will strengthen the interministerial evaluation of the use of ODA funds. We will review the budget structure for the special initiatives, BMZ 2030 and the country list.

4839

4840 Bilateral and regional relations

The **transatlantic partnership** and friendship with the United States are a central pillar of our international action. We advocate a renewal and dynamisation of transatlantic relations with the United States and Canada, which we want to shape in a European way. Together we want to stabilize the rules-based international order, counter authoritarian developments and intensify cooperation in the EU's eastern and southern neighborhood.

4846

We seek an ambitious climate and energy partnership and close cooperation on human rights, global
health policy, trade, connectivity, international standards, disarmament, and geopolitical and security
issues. We seek intensive transatlantic dialogue on data sovereignty, net freedom, and artificial

- intelligence. We seek to foster relationships with Congress, states, cities, civil society, business, and
 academia, as well as youth exchanges, and bring them to the full breadth of the country and society.
- 4852

The United Kingdom is one of Germany's closest partners outside the EU. A continued close
partnership between the UK and the EU will also make it possible to implement an ambitious agenda.
We also want cooperation in foreign and security policy.

4856

We are working together with the EU and its member states on the further development of the Eastern
Partnership. States such as Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, which are seeking EU accession, should be
able to move closer through consistent rule-of-law and market-economy reforms. We will react
decisively and reliably to democratic upheavals and be a partner to the democracy movements. We
want to facilitate civil society exchange through targeted visa facilitation.

4862

We will continue to support Ukraine in restoring full territorial integrity and sovereignty. We aim to
deepen the energy partnership with Ukraine, with strong ambitions in the areas of renewable energy,
green hydrogen production, energy efficiency and CO 2 reduction.

4866

We stand with the people of **Belarus** and support their desire for new elections, democracy, freedom and the rule of law and call for the unconditional release of all political prisoners. Russian interference in favour of Lukashenko is unacceptable. We will support the democratic opposition in Belarus by making further offers. If Lukashenko does not decide to change course, we will seek to extend the existing EU sanctions in order to make it more difficult for the regime to gain access to funding.

4872

German-Russian relations are deep and diverse. **Russia** is also an important international player. We know the importance of substantial and stable relations and continue to strive for them. We are prepared to engage in constructive dialogue. We address the interests of both sides on the basis of the principles of international law, human rights and the European peace order, to which Russia has also committed itself. We respect the interests of our European neighbours, especially our partners in Central and Eastern Europe. We will take account of different threat perceptions and focus on a common and coherent EU policy towards Russia.

4880

We call for an immediate end to the attempts to destabilise Ukraine, the violence in eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea, which is contrary to international law. The path to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the lifting of the related sanctions depends on the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. We advocate the resolution of frozen conflicts in the region.

We want to cooperate more with Russia on issues of the future (e.g. hydrogen, health) and in tacklingglobal challenges (e.g. climate, environment).

4888

We strongly criticise the comprehensive restriction of civil and democratic freedoms and expect the Russian Government to give civil society there the opportunity for unhindered contact with German partners, and are stepping up our commitment to support them. We want to create the possibility of visa-free travel from Russia to Germany for particularly important target groups, for example young people under 25.

4894

Despite worrying domestic political developments and foreign policy tensions, **Turkey** remains an important neighbour of the EU and a partner in NATO for us. The large number of people with biographical roots in Turkey creates a special closeness between our countries and is naturally part of German society.

4899

Democracy, the rule of law and human, women's and minority rights in Turkey have been massively
eroded. We will therefore not close any chapters or open any new ones in the accession negotiations.
We will breathe life into the EU-Turkey dialogue agenda and expand exchanges with civil society and
youth exchange programmes.

4904

Israel's security is a reason of state for us. We will continue to work for a negotiated two-state solution
based on the 1967 borders. We condemn the continuing threat to the State of Israel and the terror
against its people. We welcome the normalisation of relations between other Arab states and Israel
that has begun. We strongly oppose attempts at anti-Semitically motivated condemnations of Israel,
including in the UN.

4910

Unilateral steps make peace efforts more difficult and must be avoided. We expect the Palestinian side
to make progress on democracy, the rule of law and human rights. This also applies to the renunciation
of any form of violence against Israel. We demand a halt to the construction of settlements, which is
contrary to international law.

4915

We want to initiate the establishment of a German-Israeli Youth Office. We will continue to provide
financial support for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and support an
independent monitoring process to counteract undesirable developments.

4920 Peace and stability in the **Middle East** are part of our central interests. We want to exploit the potential 4921 for cooperation between Germany and the EU with the region and between the states in the region 4922 themselves. We support efforts in the region to enable greater political and economic participation by 4923 the population, especially women and young people. We continue to promote democratic 4924 transformation processes in Europe's southern neighbourhood. In addition, technological innovations 4925 in the region are to be promoted through climate partnerships with selected partners.

4926

4927 We are committed to a swift conclusion of the nuclear negotiations with Iran (JCPoA) and expect all 4928 signatory states to implement the agreement. Iran must return to full and lasting compliance with its 4929 obligations to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We expect the Iranian government to 4930 significantly improve the precarious human rights situation and to release all political prisoners. The 4931 threat to the State of Israel, the missile programme, the aggressive regional policy and armament as 4932 well as the support for terrorist activities pose a massive threat to peace and security. Together with 4933 our partners in the Gulf region, we want to promote confidence-building measures and support the 4934 rapprochement processes that have begun.

4935

We are working to contain the humanitarian disasters in Syria and Yemen and are continuing our high
level of humanitarian assistance. We are actively supporting the UN-led peace processes in these
conflicts. This also includes documenting, processing and prosecuting war crimes.

4939

We are committed to the stabilisation of Libya within the framework of the ongoing UN efforts andthe Berlin Process. We want to make our contribution to the stabilisation of Iraq.

4942

Germany will continue its commitment to the people of **Afghanistan.** We link the recognition of the Government to its inclusiveness and to the preservation of human rights. In particular, we will work for women's and girls' rights and for the protection and reception of those who are at risk as a result of past cooperation with us. We will provide financial and human resources support to UN implementing agencies to prevent a humanitarian disaster.

4948

African countries and Europe are historically closely linked. For the future, we are seeking a close partnership with **Africa** at all levels, bilaterally and within the framework of a coherent EU-Africa strategy. We are expanding our cooperation with the African Union and African regional organisations. Peace, security, prosperity, sustainable development, health, tackling the consequences of the climate crisis and strengthening multilateralism are priorities of our cooperation. We are cooperating to promote EU-Africa connectivity, particularly in the areas of digitalisation, energy and infrastructure, 4955 and are expanding scientific cooperation. We want to work to ensure that the African Free Trade Area 4956 helps build sustainable value chains. We support Africa's strengthening in regional and global 4957 economic exchange. We provide support in particular where a reform agenda for democracy, human 4958 rights and the rule of law is being pursued. To this end, we will continue to engage in the G20 Compact 4959 with Africa. We will continue to engage in the Sahel region to prevent the spread of instability. We will 4960 continue to provide support in the area of civilian stabilization measures within the framework of the 4961 Partnership for Security and Stability as part of the Coalition for the Sahel and adapt it in line with new 4962 needs and the political constitution of the individual states. We expect the Malian transitional 4963 government to adhere to the agreed transition roadmap.

4964

We want to and must shape our relations with China in the dimensions of partnership, competition
and system rivalry. On the basis of human rights and applicable international law, we seek cooperation
with China wherever possible. We want fair rules of the game in the increasing competition with China.
In order to be able to realize our values and interests in the systemic rivalry with China, we need a
comprehensive China strategy in Germany within the framework of the common EU-China policy. We
want to continue the intergovernmental consultations and make them more European.

4971

4972 We seek close transatlantic coordination on China policy and cooperation with like-minded countries 4973 to reduce strategic dependencies. Our expectation of China's foreign policy is that it plays a responsible 4974 role for peace and stability in its neighbourhood. We are committed to resolving territorial disputes in 4975 the South and East China Seas based on the international law of the sea. Any change in the status quo 4976 in the Taiwan Strait must be peaceful and mutually agreed upon. Within the framework of the EU's 4977 One China policy, we support the relevant participation of democratic Taiwan in international 4978 organisations. We clearly address China's human rights violations, especially in Xinjiang. The 'one 4979 country, two systems' principle in Hong Kong must be reasserted.

4980

4981 Building on Germany's and the EU's Indo-Pacific strategies, we are committed to a free and open Indo-4982 Pacific region based on global norms and international law. We want to achieve progress in 4983 cooperation, particularly in the areas of strengthening multilateralism, the rule of law and democracy, 4984 climate protection, trade and digitalisation. We want to jointly promote an intensive dialogue on peace 4985 and security in the Indo-Pacific region. We want to drive forward the EU-ASEAN partnership. We want 4986 to give the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business a political boost. We want to press ahead with 4987 the expansion of our relations, including at parliamentary level, with important value partners such as 4988 Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. With Japan we want to start regular government 4989 consultations. We have an outstanding interest in deepening our strategic partnership with India

4990 through the implementation of the Indo-German Partnership Agenda and the EU-India Connectivity 4991 Partnership. In particular, those who are and will be affected by rising sea levels deserve our increased 4992 support. We want to actively advocate infrastructure development in line with high quality 4993 international standards. The EU's *Global Gateways Initiative* is an important instrument in this regard. 4994

We want to strengthen our community of values with the democracies of the Latin America and Caribbean region. Building on the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative, Germany will expand its engagement to strengthen the region's societies in their fight against populism, authoritarian movements and dictatorships. Reconciliation and peace processes within the continent's states deserve our support. We see the states of the region as key partners for multilateral cooperation, including in preserving biodiversity, combating the climate crisis and sustainable economic relations.

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5003 VIII. Investments in the future and sustainable finances

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5005 We want to make the 2020s a decade of investment in the future, particularly in climate protection, 5006 digitisation, education and research, and infrastructure. To this end, we are pursuing a policy that 5007 significantly increases investment - both private and public.

5008

However, the federal government's budgetary starting position for the 20th legislative period is extremely challenging. The Corona pandemic continues to reverberate in its aftermath and has required borrowing on a historic scale since 2020, not least in order not to jeopardise social cohesion in our country.

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In 2022, we will still have to deal with the continuing effects of the pandemic, which will continue to constitute an exceptional emergency situation within the meaning of the debt rule. We will use the additional possibilities in particular for overcoming the Corona crisis and measures for a rapid economic recovery. From 2023 onwards, we will then limit debt to the constitutionally stipulated leeway provided by the debt brake and comply with the debt brake requirements.

5019

5020 At the same time, unprecedented additional resources will have to be deployed to finance the 5021 measures needed to achieve the 1.5 degree climate target and transform the economy, and to secure 5022 the economic recovery as the Corona pandemic subsides.

This can only succeed in the long term if necessary investments that cannot be postponed are made at the same time to transform the German economy. Delaying the start of the necessary measures would in particular jeopardise the achievement of the climate targets and further increase the necessary adaptation costs. We will provide planning certainty by making long-term high investment commitments and setting these out in a long-term investment plan.

5029

Tackling the restructuring with determination now is a crucial prerequisite for sustainable public finances in the long term. At the same time, the federal government must pool all resources and deploy them in a targeted manner in order to be able to return to the constitutionally required "normal path" under the debt rule from 2023 onwards.

5034

As an anchor of stability, Germany must continue to live up to its pioneering role in Europe. Financial solidity and the economical use of taxpayers' money are principles of our budgetary and financial policy.

5038

5039 Within the framework of the constitutional debt brake, we will ensure the necessary investments in 5040 the future, in particular in climate protection, digitisation, education and research as well as 5041 infrastructure, also in order to make the German economy future-proof and sustainable and to secure 5042 jobs.

5043

5044 Investments in the future

5045 We want to activate more private capital for transformation projects. To this end, we are also 5046 examining what contributions public promotional banks can make to risk hedging close to the capital 5047 market. KfW should act more strongly as an innovation and investment agency. The Future Fund for 5048 start-ups and financing models for public infrastructure investments are good examples of this. In 5049 order to achieve an increase in the volume of financing, particularly for the climate and digitalisation 5050 transformation of the economy and of private households, we will scale up and expand the tried and 5051 tested range of promotional instruments in line with demand and in accordance with target accuracy 5052 and promotional efficiency. To this end, we are examining how KfW's capital base can be used and, if necessary, strengthened. In addition to KfW, we will also cooperate with public promotional banks 5053 5054 such as the European Investment Bank.

5055

5056 We will strengthen existing state-owned companies such as Deutsche Bahn AG (infrastructure sector) 5057 or BImA and improve their financing options. To this end, instruments such as credit authorisations 5058 and equity strengthening can be used on a case-by-case basis.

5060 We will give the BImA more freedom so that it can build more quickly itself within the scope of its 5061 tasks. To this end, we want to concentrate responsibility for the planning, construction and operation 5062 of federal buildings and federal properties with the BImA.

5063

5064 We strengthen parliamentary, public and executive control of state-owned companies.

5065 For major transformative tasks of this coalition agreement we also use financial transactions.

5066

5067 Budgetary policy

5068 In order to be able to tackle the necessary investments in the future directly within the framework of 5069 the debt rule laid down in the Basic Law, we will take the following measures:

The repayment schedules drawn up as a result of exceeding the regular ceiling for net borrowing
 (NKA) in the years 2020 to 2022 will be combined in an overall repayment schedule to be adopted
 by the German Bundestag in order to ensure coherent and sustainable debt repayment. We will
 align the repayment schedule with the repayment deadlines for EU corona aid from the Next
 Generation EU programme.

In future, the special funds will be taken into account in the debt rule on a 1:1 basis to the extent
 required by the constitution. The federal government's allocations will then be recorded as
 expenditure under the debt rule, and the cash outflows from the special funds will no longer be
 recorded twice. Accordingly, the filling of a special fund as an outflow from the core budget will
 reduce the debt leeway.

5080 We will further develop the Energy and Climate Fund (EKF) into a Climate and Transformation 5081 Fund. In the 2021 budget, we will make funds from already budgeted and unused credit 5082 appropriations available to the Climate and Transformation Fund (KTF) via a supplementary budget 5083 earmarked for additional climate protection measures and measures to transform the German 5084 economy. This is intended to combat the consequences of the Corona pandemic and the 5085 concurrent risks to economic recovery and public finances posed by the global climate crisis, and 5086 to enable investments in climate protection that were not made due to the pandemic to be made 5087 good. Even more so than in the past, the KTF will bundle measures for national and international 5088 climate protection and for the transformation of the economy. This also applies to measures to 5089 promote climate-friendly mobility. With the 2022 federal budget, we will examine how we can 5090 further strengthen the Climate and Transformation Fund within the scope of constitutional 5091 possibilities.

• We are continuing the sustainability reporting for the social security funds.

- In line with the legal mandate of the debt brake, we will evaluate the cyclical adjustment procedure
 based on the lessons learned over the past 10 years, for example through systemic crises, and
 adjust the resulting requirements accordingly without changing the debt brake in the Basic Law.
- 5096

5097 Furthermore, it is necessary that all expenditures for the entire legislative period are put to the test 5098 and a strict reprioritisation is carried out according to the objectives in this coalition agreement. The 5099 resulting redeployment potential and unexpected financial leeway must be used as a priority for the 5100 projects in the coalition agreement.

5101

5102 In order to create financial potential for future investments, we will also make spending cuts and 5103 reduce expenditure residues as part of the budget formulation and parliamentary process.

5104

5105 With our political measures we want to achieve our political goals effectively and demonstrably. To 5106 this end, we will gradually convert the federal budget (excluding personnel and administrative 5107 expenditure) to target- and impact-oriented budget management, in the context of which the political 5108 and substantive objectives of all funding and expenditure programmes will be translated into clearly 5109 defined, measurable indicators (e.g. SMART targets) geared to the intended impact at the time of 5110 political decision-making and provided with fixed evaluation deadlines. Through a regular and 5111 comprehensive impact assessment in the form of uniform controlling, we want to evaluate the 5112 effectiveness and efficiency of measures and develop additional budgetary leeway in order to be able 5113 to achieve our political goals more effectively.

5114

5115 In order to obtain a better overview of public assets and thus also to be able to draw up better 5116 investment and maintenance planning, we want to introduce an asset register for the federal 5117 government. This will provide a clear overview of the consumption and accumulation of public assets 5118 - a contribution to greater transparency in the federal budget and to intergenerational justice. At the 5119 same time, this will help the Federal Government and Parliament to make better investment decisions. 5120

5120

5121 The German government will gradually withdraw its public financial investments that contradict the 5122 goal of climate neutrality by 2045. We will use government funding and hedging of projects by German 5123 companies abroad via KfW to support partner states in achieving their climate targets.

- 5124
- 5125 To finance green spending, we will expand the successful Green Bonds.
- 5126

5127 In the case of core tasks of the state, state implementation and financing remain the rule. Selected 5128 individual projects and procurements can be implemented within the framework of public-private 5129 partnerships (PPP). In this case, it must be shown by means of an economic feasibility study - taking 5130 into account the risks - that the implementation of a specific PPP project is more economical according 5131 to uniform criteria. Controlling and executive, parliamentary and public control must be ensured. The 5132 respective results, including the economic feasibility studies and contracts awarded, must be published 5133 transparently on the Internet. The methodology for the economic feasibility study of PPP projects will 5134 be further developed taking into account existing recommendations of the Federal Court of Audit and 5135 adapted to the state of the art.

5136

5137 We will further develop the gender budgeting already practised at federal level in the sense of an 5138 intensified analysis of the impact of fiscal policy measures on gender equality and apply it to 5139 appropriate individual plans.

5140

5141 Subsidies

5142 We want to gain additional budgetary leeway by reducing superfluous, ineffective and environmentally 5143 and climate damaging subsidies and expenditures in the budget.

5144

5145 With the implementation of the EU Energy Tax Directive, which among other things provides for the 5146 fiscal harmonisation of diesel fuel and petrol, we will review the fiscal treatment of diesel vehicles in 5147 motor vehicle tax.

5148

5149 In particular, due to existing delivery difficulties on the part of manufacturers for plug-in hybrid vehicles 5150 that have already been ordered, we will continue the innovation premium to support the purchase of 5151 electric passenger cars unchanged under the current regulation until 31 December 2022. We want to 5152 reform the subsidy for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids on a degressive basis and in principle in 5153 such a way that, from 1 January 2023, it will only be issued for cars that can be shown to have a positive 5154 climate protection effect, defined only by an electric driving share and a minimum electric range. The 5155 minimum electric range of the vehicles must already be 80 kilometres from 1 August 2023. Beyond the end of 2025, the innovation premium will no longer be required. 5156

5157

The existing preferential treatment of plug-in hybrid vehicles in the so-called company car taxation will be more strongly geared to the purely electric driving performance for newly registered vehicles. In future, hybrid vehicles will only be privileged (extraction value 0.5 percent) if the vehicle is predominantly (more than 50 percent) also operated in purely electric driving mode. If the vehicle is 5162 not predominantly used in electric driving mode or if the purely electric driving share is not proven, 5163 the advantage will not apply and the use of the company car will be subject to regular taxation (1 5164 percent rule). This regulation provides an incentive to use these vehicles as emission-free as possible 5165 with electric drive and to exploit their ecological advantages. These vehicles must also demonstrably 5166 have a positive climate protection effect, which is defined only by an electric driving share and a 5167 minimum electric range. The minimum electric range of the vehicles will already be 80 kilometres from 5168 1 August 2023. After 2025, the flat tax for zero-emission vehicles (electric) will then be 0.5 percent. For 5169 CO 2-neutral vehicles, we will proceed in the same way as for fully electric vehicles.

5170

5171 The plastic levy, which already exists within the EU, will be passed on to manufacturers and 5172 distributors, as in other European countries.

5173

5174 Federal-State Municipal Finance

5175 We need efficient municipalities that are capable of acting. There are many municipalities with high 5176 levels of old debt that are no longer able to extricate themselves from this situation under their own 5177 steam. They lack the financial strength to make urgently needed investments. We therefore want to 5178 relieve these municipalities of old debts. This will require a joint, one-off effort by the Federal 5179 Government and the Länder whose local authorities are affected by the problem of old debts. The 5180 previous debt relief efforts of these Länder should be taken into account. This can only be achieved in 5181 an overarching consensus, which requires the agreement of the Länder and an amendment to the 5182 Basic Law, for which the corresponding majority in the German Bundestag and Bundesrat is needed. 5183 The Federal Government will hold the relevant talks with the Länder and the other parliamentary 5184 groups of the democratic parties in the German Bundestag promptly in 2022. The aim is to ensure that 5185 the Länder make their own contributions to debt relief, that such over-indebtedness is prevented in 5186 future with legal certainty, that investment strength is strengthened and that close monitoring is 5187 established. In addition, we want to ensure that the situation of the eastern German municipalities, 5188 which are also challenged by unindebted legacy burdens, is taken into account. We also want to 5189 address issues such as the situation of the old municipal housing companies and the Anspruchs- und 5190 Anwartschaftsüberführungsgesetz (AAÜG).

5191

The Federal Government is committed to supporting municipal investment activities, including in the areas of climate protection and transformation. In order to provide targeted support, we are removing obstacles to investment in the funding programmes and are specifically adjusting the conditions for taking advantage of them, especially for municipalities with low taxes or excessive debt.

- 5197 We want to improve the municipal funding programmes by making them less bureaucratic, bundling 5198 them where possible and setting practical deadlines. This requires close coordination between the 5199 federal government, the municipalities and the Länder.
- 5200

5201 Attention must be paid to a balanced distribution of burdens between the levels of the public budgets.

- 5202 Particularly in the case of new tasks that the federal government wants to transfer to the other levels,
- 5203 greater attention will be paid to the balance of financing.
- 5204
- 5205 *Taxes*

5206 Fair taxes are the basis for the state's ability to act. We want to make the tax system simpler for people 5207 and companies. To this end, we want to drive forward the digitalisation and de-bureaucratisation of 5208 tax administration. We will fight tax evasion and tax avoidance more intensively.

5209

5210 We want to create an investment premium for climate protection and digital assets that will enable 5211 taxpayers in 2022 and 2023 to deduct from their taxable profits a proportion of the acquisition and 5212 production costs of fixed assets acquired or produced in the respective year that serve these purposes 5213 in a special way ("super depreciation").

5214

5215 We want to extend the extended loss offset until the end of 2023 and extend the loss carryforward to 5216 the two immediately preceding assessment periods.

5217

5218 A good equity base for companies is elementary for the success of the German economy and 5219 strengthens its resistance to crises. We will therefore evaluate the option model and the taxation of 5220 retained earnings and examine the extent to which practical adjustments are necessary.

5221

5222 We will extend and evaluate the employee home office tax provision until Dec. 31, 2022.

5223

5224 We will increase the education allowance from 924 to 1,200 euros for the first time since 2001.

5225

We will implement the ruling of the Federal Fiscal Court on the Retirement Income Act. We will continue to avoid double pension taxation in the future. Therefore, the full deduction of pension insurance contributions as special expenses - instead of from 2025 according to the phased plan - is to be brought forward and already take place from 2023. In addition, we will increase the taxable pension portion by only half a percentage point from 2023. Full taxation of pensions will thus not be achieved until 2060.

- 5232
- 5233 We will increase the saver's allowance to €1,000 on 1 January 2023, or €2,000 in the case of joint tax 5234 assessment.
- 5235

5236 We want to give the federal states more flexibility in structuring the real estate transfer tax in order to 5237 facilitate the acquisition of owner-occupied residential property. To counteract this, we are using the 5238 closing of tax loopholes in the acquisition of real estate by corporations (share deals).

5239

5240 In order to achieve a level playing field in European competition, we will work with the countries to 5241 further develop the import sales tax.

5242

5243 We want to clarify by law that a non-profit organization can engage in political activities within its tax-5244 privileged purposes as well as occasionally take a position on daily political issues without jeopardizing 5245 its non-profit status. We create manageable, standardized transparency obligations and rules for the 5246 disclosure of the donation structure and financing.

5247

5248 We will remove existing tax obstacles to donations in kind to charitable organisations by means of a 5249 legally secure, low-bureaucracy and simple regulation in order to prevent the destruction of these 5250 goods.

5251

5252 Enforcement, simplification and digitisation

5253 We will strengthen the strategic approach against tax evasion, financial market crime and money 5254 laundering in the Federal Ministry of Finance in terms of organisation and staffing, and in doing so we 5255 will also strengthen customs, the Federal Central Tax Office (BZSt), the Federal Financial Supervisory 5256 Authority (BaFin) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

5257

5258 Digital processes should make it easier for citizens to fulfil their tax obligations, for example through 5259 pre-filled tax returns (Easy Tax). We will therefore consistently drive forward the digitalisation of the 5260 taxation process and ensure that tax regulations can, in principle, also be implemented digitally. Our 5261 goal is for the entire interaction between taxpayers and the tax authorities to be possible digitally.

5262

5263 In the area of corporate taxation, we are committed to modernising and accelerating tax audits. To 5264 this end, we are particularly committed to improved interfaces, standardisation and the sensible use 5265 of new technologies. A central organisational unit will be set up at federal level to ensure that the tax 5266 administration is able to adapt to the digital transformation and to noticeably reduce tax bureaucracy.

5268 We want to noticeably reduce tax bureaucracy, for example through higher thresholds and fully 5269 digitalised procedures.

5270

5271 We want to use the planned Tax Research Institute to provide an up-to-date and better data basis, for 5272 example for the evaluation of tax regulations - also with regard to their burdening effect - or the lost 5273 tax revenues due to tax evasion and tax structuring, and thus improve the basis for evidence-based 5274 legislation.

5275

5276 **Combating tax evasion and tax avoidance**

5277 It is a question of justice and fairness to pursue and prevent tax evasion and aggressive tax structuring 5278 with the greatest possible consistency. Germany will play a pioneering role in the fight against tax 5279 evasion and aggressive tax avoidance.

5280

5281 We will extend the already introduced notification obligation for cross-border tax arrangements to 5282 national tax arrangements of companies with a turnover of more than 10 million euros.

5283

We will continue to fight sales tax fraud. This path is to be intensified in cooperation with the federal states. As quickly as possible, we will introduce an electronic reporting system uniformly throughout Germany that will be used for the creation, verification and forwarding of invoices. In this way, we will significantly reduce the susceptibility of our VAT system to fraud and at the same time modernise and reduce bureaucracy in the interface between the administration and businesses. We will campaign at EU level for a definitive VAT system (e.g. reverse charge).

5290

5291 Building on the measures taken during the last legislative period, we will do everything in our power 5292 to prevent abusive dividend arbitrage transactions. In order to ensure that this is fraud-proof, we want 5293 to make even greater use of new technical possibilities, e.g. blockchain. We will ensure that tax losses 5294 suffered are consistently reclaimed and collected. In future, the exchange of data and information 5295 between financial supervisory authorities and tax authorities should also be possible in cases of 5296 suspected abusive dividend arbitrage and market abuse.

5297

5298 We will continue to actively campaign for the introduction of global minimum taxation.

5299

Income flowing out of Germany should be taxed appropriately. Both non-taxation and double taxation
must be avoided. To this end, we will expand withholding taxation, in particular by adapting double

taxation agreements, and supplement the interest barrier with an interest level barrier in order toavoid undesirable tax planning.

5304

5305 We will work to ensure that the EU's list of tax havens is constantly updated to comprehensively cover

- tax havens. We will implement the OECD rules against circumvention in international financial account
- 5307 information exchange (CRS and FATCA). We will also work to expand the exchange of information.
- 5308
- 5309 We advocate more global tax justice, especially with regard to the Global South.
- 5310

5311 European economic and financial policy

The Stability and Growth Pact has proven its flexibility. On its basis, we want to ensure growth, maintain debt sustainability and ensure sustainable and climate-friendly investment. The further development of fiscal policy rules should be guided by these objectives in order to strengthen their effectiveness in the face of the challenges of the times. The SGP should become simpler and more transparent, also to strengthen its enforcement.

5317

5318 We want to strengthen and deepen economic and monetary union. We want the reconstruction 5319 programme to bring about a rapid and forward-looking recovery throughout Europe after the crisis. 5320 This is also in Germany's fundamental interest.

5321

5322 We want to strengthen established instruments of budgetary control (OLAF, EPO, European Court of5323 Auditors).

5324

5325 Banking union and financial market regulation

5326 We aim to complete the banking union in order to strengthen the European economy and the global 5327 competitiveness of German and European institutions. We want to preserve the three-pillar model 5328 and the German banking landscape with its many small and medium-sized locally anchored 5329 institutions, but also larger internationally positioned banks.

5330

As part of a comprehensive overall package for the single financial market, we are therefore prepared to create a European reinsurance scheme for national deposit guarantee schemes that strictly differentiates contributions according to risk. The prerequisite for this is a further reduction of risks in bank balance sheets, the further strengthening of the resolution regime and the preservation of the institutional protection of the savings banks and Volksbanks - with the clear aim of avoiding additional economic burdens on the small and medium-sized banks belonging to them. In addition, steps must be agreed to limit the sovereign-bank nexus and to effectively prevent an excessive concentration of
government bonds in bank balance sheets. Full communitarisation of deposit guarantee schemes in
Europe is not the objective. We also want to enable capital and liquidity to be deployed more flexibly
within EU banking groups.

5341

We are committed to a strong European banking and capital market characterised by competition and diversity of business models. We want to deepen the Capital Markets Union. To this end, we will remove the barriers to cross-border capital market transactions in the EU and facilitate SMEs' access to the capital market. We will work at EU level to reduce differences in insolvency, tax, consumer protection, supervisory and company law. We will strengthen market transparency in the revision of the MiFID/MiFIR financial market rules in order to counteract the fragmentation of European securities trading.

5349

5350 Venture capital financing, financial market Germany

5351 Germany is to become the leading start-up location in Europe. The Future Fund will also open up the 5352 venture capital market to institutional investors and supplement the German financing landscape in a 5353 targeted manner via a flexible modular structure. We will facilitate IPOs and capital increases as well 5354 as shares with different voting rights (dual class shares) in Germany, especially for growth companies 5355 and SMEs.

5356

5357 We will implement Basel III/IV with all its central elements. The EU Commission's approach is a good 5358 basis for this. During implementation, we will ensure that the framework conditions are investment-5359 friendly (access to ratings and preservation of the SME factor). The capital relief introduced in the 5360 course of the COVID 19 pandemic should be systematically evaluated in order to assess whether and 5361 to what extent the relief can be maintained.

5362 Banking supervision and regulation must comply with the principle of proportionality. We want to 5363 reduce competitive disadvantages for smaller banks. To this end, we are relying on tailored regulation 5364 and substantial simplifications (SREP process, reporting system) for very well-capitalised small and 5365 medium-sized banks with low-risk business models. We will evaluate the effectiveness of financial 5366 regulation in terms of proportionality, financial stability, consumer protection and bureaucracy.

5367

5368 We will task the Financial Stability Committee with examining the macroprudential toolkit for gaps that 5369 we want to close. We are introducing the income-based instruments already recommended.

- 5371 "Shadow banks" must be adequately regulated and supervised; to this end, we support the work of
- the Financial Stability Board and will call on the Commission to submit regulatory proposals in a timelymanner.
- 5374
- 5375 We want to limit distortions caused by high-frequency trading by means of appropriate market rules.
- 5376 We want to limit speculation in food by lowering position limits at European level.
- 5377

5378 Consumer financial protection and pensions

We want to continue the reform of the German financial supervisory authority BaFin. Cooperation and the exchange of information between the various supervisory areas of BaFin and with other German and international authorities must be intensified. BaFin must become more attractive as an employer. It must be possible to establish, take over, restructure or strengthen the capital of banks and financial services providers more quickly than before. We will advocate greater standardisation for the preparation of prospectuses. We will further strengthen BaFin's capabilities in the examination of investment prospectuses. We will further strengthen BaFin's Consumer Advisory Council.

5386

5387 We will immediately examine how transparency in credit scoring can be increased for the benefit of 5388 those affected. We will implement any recommendations for action promptly. We will set up a 5389 comparison website for account fees at BaFin.

5390

5391 We will instruct BaFin to identify regulatory gaps in the grey capital market.

5392

In the case of residual debt insurance, we will decouple the conclusion of the insurance contract andthe conclusion of the credit contract by at least one week.

5395

5396 sustainable finance

We want to make Germany the leading location for sustainable financing and orient ourselves towards the guiding principle of financial stability. We support appropriate framework conditions for sustainable financial products. We reject capital adequacy rules that are not fair to risk. Climate and sustainability risks are financial risks. We advocate European minimum requirements in the market for ESG ratings and the mandatory inclusion of sustainability risks in credit ratings of the major rating agencies.

5403

5404 We are committed to setting a uniform transparency standard for sustainability information for 5405 companies at European level. We want to integrate ecological and, where appropriate, social values into existing accounting standards in dialogue with the business community, starting with greenhouse
gas emissions. We therefore support the European Commission's plan to develop a Corporate
Sustainability Reporting Directive.

5409

5410 The German government will implement a credible sustainable finance strategy with international 5411 reach based on the recommendations of the Sustainable Finance Advisory Council. The Advisory 5412 Council is to be continued as an independent and effective body.

5413

5414 Money Laundering

5415 In order to effectively combat money laundering, a strategy needs to be coordinated between the 5416 federal government, the states and the EU. Responsibilities must also be reviewed in this context. 5417 Where necessary, we will swiftly transpose possible recommendations from the FATF audit of 5418 Germany into German law. In the case of obliged entities that are particularly close to the financial 5419 market, money laundering supervision will be transferred to BaFin. The necessary information and 5420 knowledge base will be established for the ongoing evaluation and improvement of the effectiveness 5421 of the fight against money laundering in Germany. We want to facilitate money laundering reporting 5422 from the non-financial sector, such as the real estate sector, and significantly increase its enforcement. 5423 We want to combat the illegal financing of real estate through appropriate measures. This includes 5424 proof of taxation for commercial real estate buyers from abroad and a ban on purchasing real estate 5425 with cash.

5426

We will work at EU level to transfer the central money laundering regulations into a regulation. The aim is to make the fight against money laundering more effective throughout Europe and to close any gaps that still exist. We are in favour of an effective and independent EU money laundering authority as proposed by the European Commission and advocate that it be based in Frankfurt am Main. The EU supervisory authority should not only take care of the traditional financial sector, but also prevent the misuse of crypto assets for money laundering and terrorist financing.

5433

The FIU must be given the necessary powers under the rule of law and access to all necessary information. We will deploy liaison officers from the state criminal investigation offices in the FIU. We want to further improve the risk-based approach. We also want to improve the quality of the reports by providing more feedback to the obligated parties.

5438

5439 We want to make customs more modern and more digital so that they can pursue undeclared work 5440 and financial crime more efficiently. To this end, the necessary training and further training capacities 5441 are to be created and IT procedures are needed to facilitate the work of customs officers in dealing 5442 with the enormous volumes of data. In addition, procedures with less bureaucracy are to be 5443 implemented.

5444

5445 We will improve the quality of the data in the transparency register so that the beneficial owners are 5446 actually identified in all prescribed cases. We want digital linkage with other registers existing in 5447 Germany. We will link the database land register with the transparency register in order to end the 5448 concealment of the true owners of real estate. We will design the link and its use in line with data 5449 protection requirements.

5450

5451 Digital financial services and currencies

For FinTechs, InsurTechs, platforms, NeoBrokers and all other idea generators, Germany should become one of the leading locations within Europe. It is important to exploit the opportunities associated with new technologies, such as blockchain, to identify risks and to create an appropriate regulatory framework. We will therefore ensure effective and speedy approval procedures for FinTechs. Digital financial services should function without media disruption; to this end, we will create the legal framework and extend the possibility of issuing electronic securities to equities as well.

5458

5459 We want to provide constructive support for the process of introducing a digital euro as a supplement 5460 to cash that is accessible to all and can be used universally as a legal means of payment in Europe. 5461 Europe also needs an independent payment traffic infrastructure and open interfaces for barrier-free 5462 access to digital financial services for all consumers and traders.

5463

We need a new dynamic towards the opportunities and risks arising from new financial innovations, cryptoassets and business models. We advocate a level playing field with a level playing field within the EU, between traditional and innovative business models and vis-à-vis large digital companies. We are making European financial market supervision law fit for digitalisation and for complex group structures in order to ensure holistic and risk-adequate supervision of new business models. We need joint European supervision for the crypto sector. We oblige cryptoasset service providers to consistently identify the beneficial owners.

5471

5472 Insurances

5473 In the review of Solvency II, we will ensure that the European insurance market is strengthened and 5474 that the stability of insurance is even better guaranteed, among other things by taking climate risks 5475 adequately into account. We want strictly evidence-based and risk-oriented capital requirements.

5476	Within this framework, the conditions for long-term investments by capital accumulation institutions
5477	must also be improved. We also want to ensure more proportional regulation for small insurance
5478	companies and pension funds.
5479	
5480	Auditing
5481	Auditing is of great public interest. We want to further strengthen the independence of auditors and
5482	counter the high level of concentration in the audit market with appropriate measures, for example in
5483	public procurement.
5484	
5485	
5486	IX. Functioning of the government and political groups
5487	
5488	As an alliance of three partners with different traditions and perspectives, we have agreed to embark
5489	on an innovative alliance that will bring renewal, progress and opportunity to solve the major
5490	challenges facing our country.
5491	
5492	To this end, we are forming a stable and reliable government that will shape the future in an energetic,
5493	innovative and results-oriented manner.
5494	
5495	As a coalition, we want to work together in this spirit within the Federal Government, with the German
5496	Bundestag and the Bundesrat, and with the Länder.
5497	
5498	Cooperation between the coalition partners
5499	This coalition agreement is valid for the duration of the 20th legislative period. The coalition partners
5500	undertake to implement the agreements reached in government action. They bear joint responsibility
5501	for the coalition's entire policy. They will continuously and comprehensively coordinate their work in
5502	parliament and government with each other and establish consensus on procedural, substantive and
5503	personnel issues.
5504	
5505	The coalition partners meet monthly for coalition talks in the coalition committee to discuss
5506	fundamental and current political issues with each other and to coordinate further work planning. In
5507	addition, they meet on all matters of fundamental importance that are agreed between the coalition
5508	partners and on matters that one of the coalition partners wishes to discuss. The Coalition Committee
5509	prepares the guidelines for the work of the Coalition. The Coalition Committee consists of permanent
5510	representatives of the three coalition partners, including the party chairmen, the Federal Chancellor

and the heads of the Government, the head of the Federal Chancellery and the chairmen of the coalition parliamentary groups in the German Bundestag. Meetings of the Coalition Committee are prepared jointly.

5514

5515 Cooperation between the political groups

5516 In the German Bundestag and in all the bodies it appoints, the coalition factions vote uniformly. This

also applies to issues that are not the subject of agreed policy. Changing majorities are ruled out.

5518

Agreement shall be reached between the coalition groups on the procedure and work in Parliament. Motions, legislative initiatives and questions at group level shall be tabled jointly or, in exceptional cases, by mutual agreement. The coalition factions will reach an agreement on this. The agendas of the cabinet meetings shall be communicated to the coalition factions in advance.

5523

5524 We will strengthen Parliament as a place of debate and legislation.

5525

5526 We welcome the fact that the coalition parliamentary groups intend to reach a cooperation agreement 5527 in order to meet this requirement: The Rules of Procedure of the German Bundestag are to be 5528 reformed, Question Time and questioning of the Federal Government are to be made more dynamic 5529 and interactive, Parliament is to be strengthened in international affairs, in particular through 5530 government statements, and public meetings broadcast in real time are to become the rule for certain 5531 committees. Committee printed papers and minutes that are not classified with a degree of secrecy 5532 are to be made public, and the rights of parliamentary inquiry committees are to be reviewed, 5533 especially with regard to parliamentary remedies.

5534

5535 Work in the Federal Government

5536 In the cabinet, decisions are made by consensus, no coalition partner is outvoted.

5537

The coalition factions are represented in all bodies, advisory councils and committees appointed by the Cabinet according to their balance of power. Appointments are made by mutual agreement. In principle, all coalition partners are represented, insofar as the number of federal representatives permits.

5542

5543 Cabinet committees may be formed for the interdepartmental coordination of specific objectives of 5544 the coalition agreement; their tasks and members shall be determined by mutual agreement between 5545 the coalition partners.

- 5547 The principles of departmentalism and collegiality remain fundamental to government action.
- 5548

5549 Within the Federal Government, the coalition partners will draw up and continuously update a joint 5550 work and implementation plan for the projects of this agreement. The Federal Government will 5551 document the implementation of the agreement on an ongoing basis.

5552

The coalition partners agree to modernise the Rules of Procedure of the Federal Government and to adapt them to the changed national and international practices with a view to the efficiency of government action.

5556

The coalition partners make personnel decisions in the Federal Government by mutual agreement. This also applies to personnel proposals made by the Federal Government to international organisations and EU institutions. In the case of higher-level personnel issues, the coalition partners strive for an overall balanced solution that does justice to all three partners and reflects a fair distribution. For personnel matters in the supreme federal authorities themselves and subordinate authorities as well as indirect and direct federal holdings, the departmental principle applies unless otherwise agreed.

5564

5565 Pandemic response

5566 We will reorganise the Federal Government's crisis management to combat the Corona pandemic. To 5567 this end, we will immediately establish a joint crisis team of the Federal Government to better 5568 coordinate the nationwide fight against the Corona pandemic.

5569

5570 An interdisciplinary scientific pandemic council will be established at the Federal Ministry of Health to 5571 provide scientific advice.

5572

5573 European policy coordination

In order to achieve the best possible representation of German interests at the European level, the Federal Government will ensure a united stance vis-à-vis its European partners and institutions. To this end, the coalition partners within the Federal Government will coordinate closely and meet regularly to coordinate European policy. Responsibility for coordination will be exercised by the Federal Ministers within the framework of their specialist and coordination responsibilities and in close cooperation with the Federal Chancellor.

5581	The coalition partners will compete fairly against each other in the European elections according to
5582	their affiliation to their respective European party families, as well as in the upcoming local and state
5583	elections.
5584	
5585	Portfolio allocation
5586	The distribution of portfolios in the federal government consisting of the SPD, Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen
5587	and the Free Democrats is determined as follows:
5588	
5589	The SPD provides the Federal Chancellor.
5590	
5591	Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen shall provide the deputy to the Federal Chancellor in accordance with Article
5592	69 of the Basic Law.
5593	
5594	The SPD provides the leadership of the following ministries:
5595	Interior and home
5596	Work and social affairs
5597	• Defense
5598	• Health
5599	Building
5600	Economic cooperation and development
5601	
5602	The head of the Federal Chancellery in the rank of a Federal Minister is provided by the SPD.
5603	
5604	Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen provide the leadership of the following ministries:
5605	Federal Foreign Office
5606	Economy and climate protection
5607	Family, Seniors, Women and Youth
5608	Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
5609	Food and agriculture
5610	
5611	The right to nominate the European Commissioner lies with Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen, provided that
5612	the Commission President does not come from Germany.
5613	
5614	The FDP provides the leadership of the following ministries:

• Finances (at the same time § 22 GO BReg)

5616	Justice
5617	Transport and Digital
5618	Education and research
5619	
5620	Ministers of State in the Chancellery: The Minister of State in the Chancellor's Office, the Minister of
5621	State for Migration, Refugees and Integration and the Minister of State for the New Federal States is
5622	provided by the SPD. The Minister of State for Culture and Media is provided by Bündnis 90 / Die
5623	Grünen.
5624	
5625	The Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office is provided by Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen.
5626	
5627	The right of nomination for the respective offices lies with the respective coalition partners.
5628	
5629	The right to nominate parliamentary and civil servant state secretaries lies with the respective federal
5630	ministers.