

Title of Speech	<i>Statement of BMUB State Secretary Mr. Jochen Flasbarth at PAGE Media Event</i>
Date and location	<i>5. Dezember 2017, UNEP Press Room, 17:30 - 18 Uhr</i>
Length	<i>5 Minuten</i>

Mr Solheim,  
Ms Molewa,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to attend this PAGE event today.

The German Federal Environment Ministry has been a **supporter of the PAGE Partnership** from the beginning. We had high expectations when the partnership was launched following Rio plus 20. But no one predicted the current **success**.

The success of PAGE reflects a **recent global trend**. Where, in the past, environmental protection and economic development were seen as contradictory goals, it is now increasingly being recognised that modern **economic policy, climate action and environmental protection** can and must go **hand in hand**. Important components of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the **Paris Agreement** are based on this idea. Implementation must build on it.

Climate action and environmental protection have the potential to function as a **comprehensive modernisation programme for our economies** – with positive impacts for competitiveness, the job market, social inclusion and political stability.

In Germany, even as early as 2013, companies in green technology accounted for 13 percent of the German GDP. According to estimates, the sector's share in the GDP will increase to at least 20 percent by 2025. In developing countries and emerging economies, green technology is opening up new strategies for relieving poverty without overtaxing the environment. This could make a **substantial contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the goal of this year's UNEA “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”**.

On the other side of the coin, the planned transition to more sustainable economic models confronts many economic sectors **with the prospect of major changes**. In both industrialised and developing countries, we must ensure **the success of structural transformation** without causing harsh structural breaks. We are not only going to get win-win scenarios with this. We have to cushion the social consequences of structural change.

In order to be successful, we need a **broad alliance of all affected stakeholders** that transcends the traditional divides between industry and environmentalists. PAGE has great potential to be of help in forming these urgently needed partnerships and alliances. For example, **the PAGE ministerial conferences** have become **valuable forums for dialogue**, where key actors in politics, industry, the scientific community and civil society let go of narrow ideologies and come together to discuss questions related to sustainability and inclusive growth.

It was a great pleasure to host the last **PAGE ministerial conference in the spring of 2017** in Berlin. It gives me equal pleasure to announce that, as part of the German contribution to UNEA 3, Germany will support the work of PAGE in future **with an additional 13 million euros** that has been transferred to the PAGE Trust Fund.

PAGE has major tasks ahead of it. We must speed up the green transformation significantly if we want to attain the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris targets in good time.

Thank you.