



Vision 2030 – A Partnership for the Future

Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in
the German Bundestag

Resolution on 14 May 2019

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I. Germany, the EU and Latin America: A Partnership for the Future

Germany, the EU and many Latin American and Caribbean countries¹ are united by a common interest in maintaining and strengthening the international, rule-based order, which for decades has brought us relative stability, growth and prosperity. Only together will we be able to guarantee the maintenance of this order. Intensified cooperation between Germany, the EU and the countries of Latin America must serve this common goal.

Because there is no doubt: the rule-based international order is under greater pressure than ever before. Consolidated structures, organisations and regulatory systems are increasingly put to the test. Power shifts and the new multipolarity bring about fundamental changes not only for German foreign policy but also for the foreign policy of the various Latin American countries. With the continuous economic, political and increasingly military rise of China, Russia's renewed aggressive-revisionist behaviour, and the transformed self-image of the United States of America, which is accompanied by their gradual retreat as the global regulatory power, the Federal Republic of Germany faces geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges in an unprecedented manner. This also applies to Latin America in a similar way: while Russia's activities are increasing selectively, China's presence is almost universal. In many Latin American states, China has replaced the U.S. or the EU as the main trading partner. China is also catching up rapidly with regard to investments.

Against this backdrop, the partnership between the Latin American countries, Germany and Europe also plays a key role in the increasing competition between models for social principles and order around the world: democracy versus autocracy, free trade versus protectionisms, and multilateralism versus unilateralism.

Maintaining the international, rule-based order and promoting the free and democratic value system in a multipolar world will only be possible in cooperation with the democratic partners in Latin America. After Europe and North America and besides value partners in Asia, Latin America is still the most democratic region in the world. Only together will we be able to promote the system of free and democratic societies and states that we prefer, and defend it against the increasing number of competing authoritarian and sometimes state capitalist models. This has again been illustrated by the most recent crisis in Venezuela.

Already today, Europe and most countries in Latin America are aware of this responsibility and defend their joint belief that democratic forms of government and open markets are the fundamental prerequisites for achieving the goals that have been agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in multilateral fora such as the United Nations (UN) and the G20. This cooperation also provides an opportunity to strengthen the transatlantic partnership as a whole. It is important

¹ In the following, the term "Latin America" includes the countries of the Caribbean.

to consider the European area together with the Western Hemisphere – i.e. North, Central and South America – as a whole.

Also the advancing globalisation, which has long since led to the era of digital global integration, presents all countries with challenges that can only be mastered by decisive, multilateral action. It is up to those states that want to maintain and strengthen the international rule-based regulatory system to join forces and assume responsibility. If we can do that, we can make a substantial contribution to confronting global challenges such as climate change, migration or the introduction of digital technologies in all areas of life.

Since Germany benefits to a large extent from the prerequisites of the liberal world order it cannot guarantee on its own, it will become increasingly important to forge alliances with partners in future. This is also a central concern of Germany's membership in the United Nations (UN) Security Council in 2019 and 2020 and of our UN policy agenda.

It is important to further expand our joint efforts and coordinate them more intensively. Because together the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños, CELAC) have sufficient political weight to defend common values and interests at global level. Taken together, more than one billion people generating 40 percent of the gross world product live in both regions. With 61 countries, the EU and CELAC together account for approximately one third of all members of the United Nations and thus have substantial voting power.

In their efforts to promote peace, freedom, security and social coherence around the world, the countries of Europe and Latin America have always been natural partners. Our common values and historically evolved bonds, which set our partnership apart from others, provide the foundation for this partnership. 20 years have passed since the Strategic Partnership between our regions was established at the summit of heads of state and government in Rio de Janeiro. It is time to revitalise this partnership and adapt it to the requirements of the 21st century. This corresponds to our value-based foreign policy and serves our interests. With this strategy, the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag aims to pave the way.

II. Strengthening the Community, Consolidating the International Order, Shaping Global Change

In order to be able to act, partnerships require constant care and investment. Too little has been invested in the partnership between Europe and Latin America in the past years. This is what we want to change as the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag. In the coming years, we aim to intensify bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation between Germany, the EU and Latin America in all areas. We also want to use this cooperation to consolidate the transatlantic partnership as a whole. Particular emphasis will be placed on foreign policy cooperation

for the maintenance of the liberal, rule-based order, on trade relations, collaboration for future technologies, and interaction in the areas of science, research, education and culture.

In our partnership with Latin America, we are guided by the following beliefs:

- Despite existing social and economic problems, most countries in Latin America form a relatively stable and peaceful region in a world that has become more volatile. We must consolidate this situation by working in partnership.
- The historical and cultural links between Latin America and Europe – based on the Christian-Jewish image of man and our common values – remain a central reference point for cooperation. On this basis, we must work together constructively and decisively to meet global challenges. Beyond this foundation, strong personal ties that have been consolidated over decades, in which churches and political foundations as well as numerous cultural and educational institutions have played a central role, link our societies.
- Growing prosperity in the region is transforming the continent with a population of more than 500 million people into an increasingly important partner for Germany and Europe in economic terms. In addition to that, the economic potential of the emerging countries of Latin America, their significance for our food, raw material and energy supply and their growing innovation potential is of strategic interest to Germany.

Specific cooperation projects with Latin America also align with Germany's overriding foreign policy interests, which are stipulated in the Federal Government's 2016 White Paper and can also be derived from the EU Global Strategy of 2016:

- protecting our citizens as well as the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country;
- protecting the territorial integrity, the sovereignty and the citizens of our allies;
- ensuring prosperity for our citizens through a strong German economy as well as free and unimpeded world trade;
- promoting the responsible use of limited goods and scarce resources throughout the world
- deepening European integration and consolidating the transatlantic partnership.

1. A Partnership of Equals: Promoting Sovereignty

Due to global power shifts and the competition between different social systems, cooperation with Latin America is gaining in strategic importance for Germany and the EU. We aim to ensure that the group of our partners and friends becomes stronger. It has been shown that particularly those social models in Latin America are successful, which have relied on openness of the markets, pluralism and a democratic foundation.

Our aim is to further establish attractive partnerships of equals. Many Latin American countries have gained in political and economic importance in recent years and have the best prerequisites to become an even bigger player at international level by working together. We would like to accompany the regional integration of cooperation in Latin America and support the expansion of our friends' and partners' institutional strength and capacity to act. Top priority of our partnership is the mutual recognition of sovereignty and of equally valid interests of the Latin American and European countries.

We see our partners in Latin America as self-confident actors that express their own interests both to us and other stakeholders. We have the greatest chance of success if we strengthen the political partners that share our economic and social model.

From the German point of view, a dual strategy is necessary: we want to expand our circle of friends and partners and, together with them, strengthen democracy, the rule of law and constitutional institutions, while at the same time decisively countering the influence of actors that support authoritarian, undemocratic and unjust regulatory models.

We therefore observe the growing Chinese and Russian influence on the continent regarding democracy and human rights with concern, since human rights violations are accepted and undemocratic systems supported to China's and Russia's own advantage. The escalation of the crisis in Venezuela in spring 2019 is the latest proof of such developments. The granting of politically motivated credits and geo-economic investment and infrastructure projects such as the so-called Belt and Road Initiative threaten to create new economic and political dependencies. This threat must be thwarted in cooperation with the Latin American countries. We want to constructively counter Chinese involvement in the region with our own policy measures.

Our commitment and partnership with Latin America must not be lip service. We want the Latin American countries to remember us again as their longstanding partner. We aim to promote a revival and expansion of our relations throughout Europe. The CDU/CSU parliamentary group is also committed to developing new German and EU instruments for financial assistance that will facilitate bigger investments in infrastructure in Latin America.

At the same time, Germany, the EU and the Latin American states must, where possible, also work with China and in the process enforce the standards for occupational safety, environmental protection and the protection of intellectual property rights etc. that Germany and the EU advocate.

In a globalised world, the countries in the Latin American region are now more important and sought-after political and also economic partners than before. Latin America's increasingly self-confident attitude towards international partners and bodies should be an incentive for us to devote more attention to the region as well. It will become increasingly important to accompany the countries of Latin America in the process of shifting from an excessive focus on the export of unprocessed raw

materials to a local industry and economy based on higher added value. It is precisely here that we Europeans can make an important contribution to the process.

However, Germany and the EU also need to focus on their own competitiveness as cooperation partners and must promote it. Cooperation with Germany and the EU must deliver tangible added value for Latin America and beyond and be sustainable. Added value lies particularly in the opportunities offered by technology and knowledge transfers, compliance with and implementation of environmental and social standards, and a high degree of credibility, political stability and reliability.

2. Strengthening Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights

The historically close cultural ties between Europe and Latin America are also reflected in the structure of the forms of government: Latin America is the most democratic region in the world after Europe and North America. If we want to establish our interest of strengthening a rule-based international order, the democratic countries of Latin America are indispensable partners for an alliance based on common values.

Europe and the Latin American countries are faced with numerous challenges regarding democracy, the rule of law and human rights:

Many Latin American countries have – despite all progress – not been successful in establishing stable party systems rooted deeply in the population. The Latin American states are pronounced presidential systems with rather weak parliaments. The widespread weakness of parties and parliaments not only made coherent reforms often more difficult, but also favoured populist governments with authoritarian traits. With the work of our political foundations and the cooperation between parliaments, e.g. with the friendship groups in the German Bundestag, we aim to support and strengthen parliamentary efforts. In doing so, the parliaments and political parties will gain in significance and improve their reputation.

The population lacks confidence in politics. Many parties in different Latin American states have lost credibility among voters through corruption and nepotism. The disappointment or bitterness about the low social responsibility of a large part of the national elites has also found expression in a radically changed voting behaviour.

People in Latin America demand more political and social participation and have a greater willingness to commit themselves in political processes. The party landscape in Latin America is also undergoing change. We need to maintain historically grown partnerships and, at the same time, remain open to cooperation with new actors.

It is therefore all the more important that we cooperate with the partners of the democratic centre and the Christian Democracy, which share our values and convictions. Our close ties to PRO in Argentina or PAN in Mexico are good examples of that. We have also been working well and closely with PDC in Chile for decades.

Parties continue to be central actors in shaping politics and social development. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Hanns Seidel Foundation have excellent party political networks and access, particularly in Latin America, which we want to cultivate, use and expand.

We are well placed to work together with our partners in the spirit of good governance to promote democratic governance and the rule of law and to strengthen indigenous and human rights.

Good governance also includes financial management, fiscal and budgetary policy, anti-corruption policy, and the improvement of constitutional supervisory bodies. Germany and the EU are prepared, according to our partners' requests, to provide expertise and share experiences, as we have already done in the previous years.

A functioning legal state and strong institutions are also the basis for permanent and sustainable economic growth. However, widespread corruption, insufficient law enforcement and impunity in Latin America continue to pose a great barrier to investment and a security risk for German and European enterprises. We are committed to ensuring that Germany and the EU, on the basis of common interests with Latin America, become even more involved in cooperation on rule of law issues in the future. This will require the provision of additional funds. It is not only an investment in the transatlantic partnership, but also in the future competitiveness of German and European companies.

We also welcome and support the contributions of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe for rule of law cooperation with Latin America.

Right-wing and left-wing populism have risen sharply again in recent years. Europe and Latin America are similarly affected by this phenomenon. Accordingly, we understand populist tendencies as a common challenge within the framework of our partnership and take resolute action against them. In extreme forms, populist movements may result in autocracies and dictatorships. Their containment is a Latin American-European common task.

In the era of digital communication, this also includes the joint fight against the so-called "fake news" and disinformation campaigns on the internet, in social and digital media. Interesting initiatives have been launched in this regard in Latin America. An exchange of experience is worthwhile.

According to UN reports from 2017, outside of war zones Latin America is the most dangerous region for women worldwide. More than half of the countries with the highest rates of feminicides are located in Latin America. "Machismo" remains a defining characteristic of large parts of the region, and there is a high level of physical and sexual violence against women. The increasing focus on these issues and the growing resistance against these problems are positive developments that must be supported. We want to strengthen the fight against violence against women by non-governmental organisations and establish it in the state order. Gender equality also needs to be advanced and enshrined in law. Latin America is also a key region for Europe for strengthening the role of women and their political participation. In

the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, there are numerous starting points that can strengthen the involvement of women in crisis prevention measures and promote their role in political life.

There are already some examples of successful women in politics, society and business, as well as a high number of civil-society organisations that are organised by women – from “Damas de Blanco” to “Madres de la Plaza de Mayo”. It is important to further develop these initiatives and alliances in order to improve the security of women in the region.

Development cooperation with the socially and economically often particularly marginalised indigenous groups remains an important task. The regional programme “Indigenous Population” of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation has a unique selling point in this regard. The CDU/CSU parliamentary group will continue to advocate strengthening development policy activities in this area.

3. Promoting Common Prosperity: Intensifying Business and Trade

Historically speaking, economy and trade have always been at the centre of bi-regional cooperation. The relations between Germany, the EU and Latin America are therefore close: with one third of all investments, the EU is the largest foreign investor in the region. The EU is Latin America’s second-most important trading partner after the U.S., although China is catching up rapidly. Europe sources major parts of its raw materials and food from Latin America. Agricultural commodities account for more than 30 percent of German imports from Brazil and Argentina. Both countries are the only economies worldwide that achieve their highest surpluses in foreign trade with foodstuffs.

Particularly in light of the economic state of many Latin American countries and partly high disparities in income, the social market economy offers an interesting model for many states in Latin America. This can be an important starting point for bilateral economic cooperation. At the same time, economic diversification in some countries in Latin America continues to be a necessary requirement for sustainable development.

But the region is also an important location for German companies. They have key positions in selected industrial sectors in some Latin American countries. In the two largest Latin American economies – Mexico and Brazil – German subsidiaries generate around 5 percent of the national gross domestic product. German companies account for about 15 percent of the value added in the Brazilian industrial sector.

Access to free markets worldwide is a pillar of the model of success of the German economy. The signing of new fair and development-friendly free trade agreements and the expansion of existing contracts is therefore of fundamental interest to our country. The EU has already signed trade agreements with 26 of 33 countries in

Latin America. Among them are Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as since 2008 the member states of the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM).

Given successful market-based integration, particularly MERCOSUR and the Pacific Alliance could offer their members an opportunity to expand the value chains in their member states in a sustainable manner and to strengthen their industries as a whole. In the future, this could reduce the countries' continued strong dependence on raw material and agricultural exports.

The member states of MERCOSUR, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and – hopefully, with an associated change in the political leadership, after the end to the suspension of – Venezuela generate almost 40 percent of the total Latin American gross domestic product. We would like to bring the EU agreement currently being negotiated with the MERCOSUR states to a successful conclusion as soon as possible. This will also require more flexibility on the part of the EU. The German and European industries have a particularly strong position in MERCOSUR. With a share of almost 22 percent (2016) of the trade volume, the EU is MERCOSUR's biggest trading partner. The free trade agreement with MERCOSUR will be the largest ever to be concluded by the EU. We expect a successful conclusion to also send out a positive signal for free trade as a whole.

Especially the countries of the Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Ecuador as the potential next member) could become a trade hub between the Atlantic and Pacific, thereby benefiting from the economic dynamic in Asia. Together, they already form the eighth largest economy in the world. Against the backdrop of protectionist tendencies in parts of the world, the EU is also an attractive partner for the Pacific Alliance. The EU has already signed bilateral trade agreements with all states of the Alliance. The CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag is strongly in favour of an associated membership of the EU in the Pacific Alliance.

Latin America is an import production site for Germany and a continuously growing market. The German trading volume with the Latin American countries alone amounts to more than 50 billion euros and is therefore about three times as big as Germany's trading volume with India, which is also an important growth market. As economic power grows, so does the need to modernise and expand the region's infrastructure. This will also open up prospects for German businesses. A newly launched and expanded foreign trade promotion programme can help German companies to reinvest more in Latin American markets. We therefore advocate the creation of a network of "German Desks". These cooperation projects of the Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (German Investment and Development Corporation, DEG) together with the Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammertag (Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, DIHK) combine experience and regional expertise, thereby supporting in particular small and medium-sized German enterprises as contact partners on entry into Latin American markets.

Moreover, it is in Germany's interest to conclude conventions for the avoidance of double taxation with other Latin American countries.

Over the last 20 years, many Latin American countries have experienced continuous economic growth. This has considerably improved the living situation in many states in the region. Nevertheless, the continent is still characterised by enormous inequalities: while emerging economies such as Argentina, Brazil or Mexico are not only aspiring to global forces as members of the G20, developing countries such as Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua are still struggling with poverty and weakly developed statehood. Access to central public goods such as education and health services is not guaranteed for major parts of the population. Social services are mainly targeted toward public servants and persons employed in the formal sector. The poorest twenty percent of the region receive just ten percent of all social transfers.

We want to address these differences with development cooperation that is based on partnership and adapted to the respective needs of our partners. We are guided here by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which we intend to implement together with our partners. Good governance will continue to be a key factor for sustainable economic development.

The German Federal Government's development cooperation policy, which is tailored to advanced partner countries, should continue to make significant and mutually beneficial contributions. Cooperation focuses on the protection of global public goods, such as the environment and climate, and the promotion of good governance and the rule of law.

Many Latin American countries have proven to be very reliable partners with a sound public institutional landscape. This makes it possible to implement even demanding projects with a high degree of ownership on the part of partner states. Cooperation with regional development banks may play an even more important role in this partnership. For this purpose, Germany should strengthen its role in the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Investment Corporation, both through financial contributions and the reinforcement of German staff.

Also in development cooperation with the countries of Latin America, the mobilisation of private capital should be increasingly promoted as development progresses, as should the continued motivation of German and European partners to contribute capital to Latin American projects.

4. Sustainable Management, Protecting the Climate, Preserving the Creation

The implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals applies to all nations worldwide. It is the fundamental prerequisite for broad involvement in prosperity and devel-

opment also in Latin America. In order for societies to develop peacefully, inclusively and freely, reduce extreme poverty and be able to protect resources, a central challenge – in addition to ecological sustainability – will be to strengthen the cohesion of societies.

We want to pursue two interests in our partnership with the countries of Latin America: the German and European industries need access to resources and raw materials. At the same time, we advocate their sustainable use in order to enable future generations as well to have access to important resources and to preserve the creation.

Particularly with a view to the introduction of digital technologies but also the fast-paced development of e-mobility, cooperation with Latin America in the sustainable extraction of raw materials is of outstanding importance. Approximately 60 percent of the global lithium production comes from Latin America. Here, strategic partnerships must be developed while at the same time advocating socially and environmentally compatible exploitation.

In addition, we must work with our local partners to create a framework for sustainable growth and the sustainable organisation of value chains in the field of agricultural and mineral resources, while respecting international agreements on social and environmental standards, and to promote decent work. Social cohesion is a fundamental value for us. In cooperation with Latin America we have agreed to join forces in the fight against social injustice, the marginalisation of population groups, and poverty, in order to prevent negative impacts on economic growth as well. Not all stakeholders involved in Latin America see this as a priority.

The model of sustainable raw material partnerships and cooperation in building a domestic industrial and service society should be intensively promoted on the part of Europe, because European support in the sustainable further development of the Latin American raw material economies promotes both Europe's competitive position and its political credibility in Latin America.

The Latin American countries are essential partners with regard to the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The agreement is and will remain the central reference point of our international cooperation on environmental and climate issues.

With its large forest reserves such as the Amazon rainforest, the region contributes significantly to carbon sequestration. Programmes such as REDD+ ("Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the Role of Conservation") of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change combine forest conservation and climate protection. The protection of forest resources also plays an important role in the question of how to run a climate-friendly food industry.

Latin America can already look back on numerous successful examples of technical and financial cooperation in the areas of environmental technology, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Due to the partly ambitious objectives (Nationally Determined Contributions) of our partners in the region, there will also be a need

for expansion in the future, both in energy generation and in the area of transmission grids. With its know-how and through technology transfer, Germany can make an important contribution to sustainable energy security and at the same time gain important insights that can also be applied to our challenges in implementing the energy transition. The municipal climate partnerships between Latin American communities and Germany promoted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development also make an important contribution. We aim to further increase their number and expand these partnerships.

The Caribbean is already often affected by severe natural disasters. There is reason to fear that these will continue to increase in quantity and scale. Germany should therefore continue to become more involved in the field of climate protection and climate change adaptation in the future, for instance within the scope of climate risk insurances, such as the “InsuResilience” initiative.

Food security is another important overarching issue for Germany, the EU and Latin America. Agriculture is a successful and fundamental economic sector in Latin America. The region has a considerable amount of expertise and experience, and can therefore make an important contribution to the global food supply as the world’s population continues to grow. Accordingly, we aim to promote the thematic exchange on sustainable food security, agroecology and future technologies such as “Smart Agriculture” at different levels. In order to make targeted use of this expertise, we intend in future to support more potential South-South cooperation and trilateral exchange formats between the EU, Latin America and the African continent.

5. Promoting Multilateral Cooperation – in the Region and the World

In its international activities, Germany is firmly integrated into multilateral structures. Cooperation with partners gives our actions legitimacy, effectiveness and efficiency. Only together can the challenges of the 21st century be mastered. This is why we want to promote German and European cooperation in Latin America in international organisations, step up the German presence in Latin American regional organisations and organisations of the Western Hemisphere, and provide constructive support for integration processes in Latin America.

We want to use the German membership in the UN Security Council 2019/20 in particular to reform the United Nations, make it more effective and thus strengthen the international, rule-based order. For this we need committed partners. We find many of them among the countries of Latin America. Therefore, close coordination with the representatives of the so-called “GRULAC” (Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries) in the UN Security Council is of particular importance. In addition, we strive to establish close cooperation in the UN General Assembly with all states of Latin America that share our common values and interests. At the same time, we intend to use our membership in the UN Security Council to bring the interests and issues that are particularly close to the hearts of our Latin American partners more to the fore in the UN. To this end, we are in close consultation with

the members of the Security Council from the region. In the reform debate on the UN Security Council we endorse a greater focus on Latin America. For a democratic alliance of values, cooperation in the UN Human Rights Council is of particular importance. In this body, we need to effectively counter the well-trained interaction of authoritarian states. And it is a matter of decisively containing unilateral attempts to isolate Israel.

The international financial institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, play a special role in cooperating with the Latin American countries. We advocate strengthening the position of Latin America in both organisations in order to increase their acceptance and impact in the region and to balance out the role of alternative creditors, which apply noticeably lower human rights and environmental protection standards.

From the CDU/CSU parliamentary group's point of view, the G20 is also an important forum for solving global issues of the future, particularly regarding international economic and financial policy. The close cooperation between Germany and Argentina in setting the agenda and handing over the G20 Presidency in 2017 and 2018 was a good example on which we can build in the future. Here, it will be important to establish an even closer coordination with the Latin American G20 states Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, supplemented by coordination with the representatives of the Western Hemisphere as a whole – i.e. including the USA and Canada –, since the countries of the Western Hemisphere and Europe together account for half of the G20 states.

The OECD as a forum of market-economy oriented democracies is of global importance. The organisation's member countries Mexico, Chile and Colombia represent Latin America. Costa Rica is currently in accession negotiations; Brazil, Argentina and Peru have initiated reform processes within the framework of a cooperation programme in order to move closer to the community. In future, the OECD will play an even more important role in setting standards, especially for education, but also, for instance, for fair tax legislation. To this end, we will continue in future to support the accession efforts of Latin American states and the associated internal reform processes on the part of Germany and Europe. At the same time, it is important to continue to accompany the reform processes in the member states even after their accession to the OECD.

We also welcome the contributions of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) in the area of economic research and promotion of sustainable development in Latin America.

To promote further development of the strategic partnership between the EU and Latin America that was initiated in 1999, we will continue to support the EU-LAC Foundation, which has been based in Hamburg since 2010, and the other cooperation organisations that are located in Germany. The geographical proximity must be used to establish an even more intensive exchange between the organisations and the German Bundestag, with the objective of intensifying cooperation between the EU, Germany and Latin America.

In the area of bilateral strategic partnerships, it is also important to look at other countries in the region. Germany's existing strategic partnership with Brazil needs to be given new impetus and shaped by increased political commitment. Brazil is a very special partner not only because of this strategic partnership, which was established in 2008, but also because of the large number of business and economic contacts and the close ties within the framework of the "G4", which advocate a reform of the UN Security Council. We want to use the existing potential to work even closer together and to significantly revive the bilateral economic relations again. The mutual government consultations should take place again on a regular basis. A strategic partnership also allows for an exchange on contentious issues between partners. In the future, it could also be considered to enter into such a strategic partnership with Mexico as an important actor.

Despite all our common interests, we are also aware of the challenges, particularly in view of the regional integration in Latin America: the Latin American economies are not sufficiently connected with each other. This is exemplified by the large number of different (sub)regional initiatives with differing degrees of integration: the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Andean Community (CAN), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which was founded in 2010.

However, regional cooperation is of significant importance on the Latin American continent, for instance in order to systematically enshrine economic and social standards, ensure nationwide training, and guarantee the effective protection of the climate, forests and biodiversity. Regional integration and multilateral cooperation also promote trust among states and contribute to strengthening regional responsibility.

Due to its development in recent decades, Europe is predestined to support such a regional integration based on its experiences and to assist countries with different economic prerequisites and cultural backgrounds to increasingly act together in their mutual interest.

Of particular strategic interest and at the same time equipped with a special legitimacy is the Organisation of American States (OAS). With 35 members from Canada to Chile it is not only the oldest regional organisation that still exists in the world, but also the most comprehensive organisation of states of the Americas. It has made a considerable positive contribution to anchoring democratic structures and the rule of law and to consolidating human rights standards. Especially today, the important, widely recognised election observation missions, the highly respected Inter-American Human Rights System with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the platforms for the exchange of social and economic aspects make a significant contribution to regional integration. With these mechanisms, the OAS specifically promotes cooperation and cohesion between states in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. We are committed to ensuring that Germany intensifies its support efforts for the OAS and underlines its commitment and presence by accrediting an independent ambassador to the organisation, as other European countries have already done. In the process, cooperation within the OAS

framework can be another important element of transatlantic cooperation with the USA and Canada.

The signal that many Latin American countries are sending out with the new “Pro-sur” initiative can make an important contribution to strengthening democracies and open markets. Germany should support this young project and seek close coordination.

6. Shaping Digital Transformation Together

Digital transformation – including the debates on internet law enforcement issues, data protection and privacy, cyber security, hybrid threats to debates as well as the development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) – is also a prominent subject for cooperation between Germany, the EU and Latin America.

Together, the EU and Latin America are a big development and customer market for software and hardware. We need to use this weight jointly to shape the process of digitisation according to common standards and to enforce our claim to data protection but also to the resilience of systems.

The internet is no legal vacuum for us. We are working to ensure that human and international law are also applied on the internet. For this reason, in recent years Germany has committed itself substantially in the *UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security* (UN GGE).

The rivalry between democratic and authoritarian systems is increasingly being transferred to the regulatory systems of the internet. We are alarmed by reports on the introduction of “social credit” systems, for instance in China. Our goal must therefore be to ensure a free and open internet also in the future, which is only regulated by clear, democratically specified rules. Because ensuring the right to privacy on the internet also has a direct impact on other human rights such as the freedom of expression or assembly. Cooperation between Germany and some Latin American countries on this issue has already been close in the past. For instance, Germany and Brazil submitted a joint UN initiative on privacy in the digital space in the year 2013. We should also build on this for the future.

We aim to extend this close cooperation also to other future technologies. For instance, we want to take a joint position at international level concerning the use of artificial intelligence (AI). To this end, we want to hold multilateral discussions on guidelines on the use of AI and on how to deal with ethical challenges, especially with regard to the functioning of algorithms, and develop positions together with our partners from Latin America.

At the same time, with a view to Latin America, we advocate networking at civil society and economic level, e.g. between bloggers and start-up companies in the IT sector. This also serves to develop a joint understanding of how to take advantage of the opportunities offered by digitisation.

The introduction of digital technologies, for example through applications in education and agriculture, offers an opportunity for poorer regions to make a leap forward in development for the benefit of the population. However, the advantages offered by digitisation must benefit all levels of society in order to avoid a digital divide and reduce social inequality as well as social conflict.

7. Culture and Education: Building on a Common Foundation of Values

Latin America has always seen itself as part of the Western world and the community of democracies. Common values based on the Christian-Jewish image of man, historically grown, close cultural and also linguistic bonds create a unique foundation for cooperation. The widespread and firmly rooted network of German schools abroad has been the backbone of this close cooperation for years.

Education, science and research form the basis for a gradual and sustainable structural change toward modern knowledge societies. The promotion of independent research and teaching and the training of future elites in scientific dialogue also contribute to peacekeeping and democratic transformation. International scientific cooperation enables the consolidation of political relations in pre-political space.

Germany is a reliable and attractive partner of Latin America in research and educational cooperation and positions itself in countries that are important in terms of research policy and geostrategy with targeted measures that have a high visibility, such as the Humboldt Year 2019. The guidelines for this are laid down in the Federal Government's strategy for the internationalisation of education, science and research. The internationalisation strategy was developed under the auspices of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, published in 2008 and renewed in 2017. The activities aim at establishing a network between the German scientific community and partner countries in Latin America and at promoting cooperation in areas of common interest, such as the preservation of biodiversity, environment, climate change, health research, bioeconomy, or the humanities. In addition, through intensified cooperation with emerging scientific nations in Latin America, access to global knowledge sources and integration in international innovation processes is to be achieved and the common research area Europe-Latin America-Caribbean strengthened.

Current focus countries of scientific-technological cooperation with Latin America are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. Cooperation with Costa Rica and Cuba is recent. Cooperation with the other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean is also possible via a bi-regional interest group for joint promotional initiatives founded and coordinated by Germany and Argentina.

We therefore want to reinforce the existing bi-national and bi-regional cooperation approaches between the EU and the Latin American countries for the creation and expansion of educational, scientific and research systems and the exchange of students and scientists between Germany and Latin America to better promote Latin

America's potential and to build and strengthen long-term ties. Important mediator organisations such as the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD, the Goethe Institute, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the German schools abroad constitute extremely experienced, first-class instruments with a long presence on the ground. From an economic and social policy perspective, it is our goal to work with our Latin American partners to implement the bases of a dual system of vocational training in accordance with the conditions prevailing there, in order to increase the educational and employment opportunities of large parts of the population. We advocate the launching of demand-oriented training and education initiatives.

In order to develop a deeper mutual cultural and linguistic understanding, we are also committed to including German increasingly as a foreign language in curricula in Latin American countries. To this end, we continue to support the PASCH initiative ("Schools: Partners for the Future"), which connects schools worldwide that put special emphasis on the school subject German. It is a very pleasant development that the number of people studying German in Latin America has increased significantly in recent years. Conversely, the number of students who choose to learn Spanish is also growing in Germany. We are also committed to supporting the increased interest of German students in Latin America and to promoting reciprocal exchange programs more intensively.

To improve mutual understanding and interest in the region, it is also necessary to increase knowledge on Latin America in Germany. The political foundations and research institutes provide a good basis that needs to be strengthened further.

Conceptually, in future we plan to put more emphasis on the development and consolidation of a jointly established guiding principle of the Western Hemisphere. To this end, we not only want to strengthen the trilateral dialogue – i.e. Germany/EU, Latin America and USA/Canada – at parliamentary level, but are also committed to supporting trilateral programmes for young leaders from the EU, Latin America, and the United States and Canada. The OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank also provide an important platform for this exchange. The recently launched cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank in the field of vocational training must also be consistently implemented.

In addition to civil society, the church plays an important social role as a link between the Americas and Europe. Its function as an anchor for stability needs to be maintained. Ecclesiastical cooperation for development through organisations such as MISEREOR, Caritas, Bread for the World, Adveniat and many others continues to play a major role. At the same time, we must give greater attention to the rapid rise of Evangelical and Pentecostal churches in Latin America and understand their significance for social as well as political change. Of particular importance for the relations between Germany and Latin America is civil society engagement through town twinning, voluntary service schemes, partnership projects of non-governmental organisations and church communities. We want to significantly increase the number of town twinning schemes between Latin America and Germany.

A growing number of young people are committed in voluntary service programmes in Latin America. We also want to further expand “reverse programmes”, which offer young people from Latin America internship positions in Germany. The German Bundestag should offer an international parliamentary scholarship also for postgraduates from Latin America. Also in the future we want to support the exchange and networking of churches and people involved in them.

In earlier centuries there were large waves of emigration from Germany to Latin America. Several descendants of these emigrants cultivated German culture and contacts with Germany. They can be important bridge builders for even closer relations between Germany and Latin America. That is why we want to cultivate these relations and establish new contacts together with our embassies and the Goethe Institutes.

It is undisputable that in the context of global conflicts over values and systems, culture and education as important elements of “soft power” are increasingly characterised by a competition of interests. Other extra-regional players also expand their educational, cultural and media policy presence systematically and create new cultural ties. A central platform for discrediting liberal democracies is the Spanish-language programme of the television channel “Russia Today”. We want to consciously confront such initiatives with our open model of society. We support the Deutsche Welle in its mandate to promote understanding of Germany as an independent nation with its roots in European culture and as a liberal, democratic, constitutional state based on the rule of law. Here, the offer should focus even more on teenagers and young adults, for example through increased involvement in social media. Their interest in Germany and Europe must be awakened even more strongly in the future and maintained in the long term.

8. Living in Peace and Security

In a world that has become more volatile, Latin America and the Caribbean is – despite some social and economic problems – a relatively stable and peaceful region. We want to strengthen this situation through cooperative partnership in the field of peace and security.

In the past, Germany has already made a determined commitment to the peace process in Colombia. We continue this commitment today within the scope of the German-Colombian Peace Institute (CAPAZ).

At the same time, the high level of violent crime in Latin America remains a matter of serious concern. More than 35 percent of all homicides worldwide are still committed in Latin America, with a share of only 8 percent of the world’s population. 43 of the 50 most unsafe cities in the world are in Latin America. This is not acceptable and not in the interest of Germany, but especially not in the interest of the Latin American people. With decisive, joint action, significant progress can be achieved that considerably improves people’s quality of life.

Close cooperation promotes regional stability. So far, however, Latin American has developed rather low cooperation structures with regard to security cooperation. Accordingly, it is our primary objective to support regional cooperation and integration in Latin America. Enhancing cooperation and establishing joint coordination processes are intended to help build confidence between the countries on the continent. The creation and decisive action of the Lima Group within the context of the long crisis in Venezuela has demonstrated the significance of crisis management based on shared common values.

It must also be an objective to increase the participation of Latin American armed forces in regional and international peacekeeping missions. Until now, Latin American military forces have been involved with a substantial commitment only in Haiti. The share of UN peacekeepers from Latin America is below 5 percent worldwide. Increased regional and global commitments to peacekeeping operations also contribute to a broader security policy discourse and a different assessment of one's own formative power.

Similar to Germany, the perception of security in Latin America is characterised by an expanded concept of security. However, in Latin America this is linked to a wider range of functions performed by the military, which, in addition to civil protection interventions, is also entrusted with public security services. Nevertheless, the expanded concept of security in Latin America is directed primarily toward internal threats. This has often resulted in a rather narrow perspective, ignoring regional and transnational "classical" security risks. We hope to counteract this by discussing classical external security issues in partnerships and dialogue fora and by developing a joint strategic culture. At the same time, the exchange on the whole spectrum of security challenges also offers great knowledge and learning potential for German and European security policy stakeholders.

NATO remains the cornerstone of our Euro-Atlantic security. With the "Global Partnerships", NATO has created an instrument that closely binds value partners outside the Alliance's territory to NATO norms, standards and procedures. The partnerships also aim at developing common solution approaches to global security challenges such as cyber security, maritime security, terrorism and organised crime. Human security, the protection of civilians, the strengthening of the role of women in peace processes, but also the development of military capabilities are to be promoted as well. This also improves the interoperability of the armed forces, which can result in a substantial increase in efficiency during joint missions. In May 2017, Colombia became the first Latin American "Global Partner" of NATO. The CDU/CSU parliamentary group advocates a reinforcement of NATO partnerships in Latin American, because in this region a particularly high number of countries share NATO's values and interests.

The German principle of "Innere Führung" (leadership development and civic education) is a concept of democratic leadership of the armed forces, whose attractiveness for Latin American countries should also be emphatically emphasised. In future, we want to expand these platforms for exchange, e.g. by Germany providing more training positions for Latin American officers in courses and programmes at

the Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr (German Federal Armed Forces Command and Staff College).

We want to support the further development of the capabilities of Latin American security forces through specific project planning and with financial resources from the German Federal Government's initiative "Capacity Building in Support of Security and Development". This can also contribute to minimising the considerable differences in the training status and operational readiness of the various armed forces in Latin America.

The German Federal Police and the police forces at federal state level are also a vital link in the area of security cooperation and can make an important contribution in the area of security sector reform and governance. The principles of police work that already exist in Europe can provide guidance for this cooperation.

9. Combating Organised Crime and Drug Trafficking

Widespread organised crime and drug trafficking remain decisive endogenous obstacles to development in Latin America. We in Germany and Europe are also affected by these challenges: due to the continuing internationalisation of organised crime and an almost saturated supply on the North American market, illegal drugs from Latin America are also increasingly entering the EU market. This gives rise to a significant German and European security interest. It is therefore imperative to stand by the Latin American countries in their fight against criminal structures in the long run and with decisive action.

In particular in the area of crime control a functioning and assertive state under the rule of law is the essential foundation: rules must exist and be implemented, violations must be punished. In addition, a high degree of public trust in police and security forces is required. In the fight against corruption and impunity, we advocate an even more substantial German commitment to rule of law cooperation.

Besides bilateral measures, especially in the area of rule of law cooperation – for instance, measures for the strengthening of the judiciary and police forces – or the fight against corruption, supporting multilateral regional initiatives such as the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the OAS needs to be a priority. Only through a high degree of ownership and determination on the part of the states concerned can it be possible to combat organised crime and drug trafficking. To this end, we also aim to increase our financial contribution to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). We intend to intensify our efforts to drain sources and cash flows of actors of organised crime to the best of our ability.

At the same time, the challenge of drug cultivation and trade remains a problem that goes far beyond the region and requires an integrated, comprehensive response.

10. Managing and Controlling Flight and Migration

Flight and migration are among the biggest global challenges of our time. At approximately 70 million, the number of people worldwide currently fleeing their home countries has reached a dimension we have not experienced since the end of the Second World War. With to the political and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and the crises in the European neighbourhood, Latin America and the EU are experiencing the impact of major migration and flight movements in a similar way.

It is to be expected that the challenges for flight and migration control will continue to exist also in the future. This is why we want to learn from each other in dealing with the crises and join forces with the Latin American countries for standards for the management and control of flight and migration at international level. In these efforts, we are guided by humanity, which is anchored in the Christian-Jewish image of mankind, as well as by international refugee law, according to which there is no right to flee to any country of destination.

However, the crisis in Venezuela that has been worsening for years has also highlighted the importance of regional coordination in crisis management. This can be seen, for example, in the Lima Group or the measures taken by the OAS to support the host countries and accompany political processes. Germany and the EU need to make a determined effort to promote such cooperation efforts also in the future and – where possible – support institutionalisation processes. This also contributes to strengthening regional ownership.

By supporting host communities for refugees in the border regions of Colombia and Ecuador, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has responded flexibly and quickly to increased local needs. This commitment needs to be expanded further.

III. Vision 2030: Partnership of the Future

Europe, Latin America and North America – besides value partners in the Asia-Pacific region – are the regions that are best suited in the medium and long term to strengthen and further develop the free and liberal rule-based regulatory system that has brought us freedom, peace, prosperity and stability in recent decades. In a multipolar and heterogeneous world we will not be able to maintain this system alone. We will need partners. Many of them are located in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, this partnership is not to be taken for granted: it still needs to be filled with life and content again and again.

If Germany, together with its partners in the EU, approaches its partners in Latin America with determination and its own offers in line with this strategy, a new form of cooperation is possible, which, in the long term, can set free a great deal of dynamism and creative power. If we succeed in embarking upon this path together, by 2030 the following scenario may occur:

Once again, the countries of Latin America have achieved higher and more sustainable economic growth. In part, they owe this to the opportunities offered by the conclusion of new free trade agreements. After long negotiations and the final conclusion of the agreement between the EU and MERCOSUR, the EU took advantage of this spirit of optimism and concluded further trade agreements with other Latin American countries. In the meantime, modern agreements have been signed with almost all countries in the region. The EU has also become an associated partner of the Pacific Alliance and an active co-operation partner of Prosur.

In the course of consolidated and increased fair trade relations, the Latin American and EU countries have been able to develop a privileged partnership. It is based on the mutual recognition of sovereignty and equally valid interests of both regions. In the spirit of an alliance of values, they show a clear joint commitment to a free and democratic economic and social order in their respective countries, but also take a stand for the common defence of this order at international level. Together, they discuss domestic challenges such as populism or the fight against foreign disinformation campaigns.

The close cooperation between the continents has resulted in greater investment from Europe, but investments from Latin American states in Europe have also increased significantly. At the same time, an intensification of regional cooperation in Latin America has resulted in a situation where the continent and its countries balance their interests in partnerships as sovereign actors. This includes – besides the EU and North America – also partners from the Asia-Pacific region. China has maintained its role as an important trading partner and investor – however, it is now one partner among many. Latin America is open to all countries and able to compete economically. This has significantly reduced the dependence on individual actors and increased the scope for political action.

The successful market-based integration on the continent itself has above all enabled the states of MERCOSUR and the Pacific Alliance to extend the sustainable value chains in their member countries in compliance with social and environmental standards and strengthen their industries as a whole. As a result, the countries' strong dependence on raw material and agricultural exports could be reduced considerably. The agricultural trade volume with the African continent has increased substantially.

The resulting economic growth and smart education and diversification policies have made it possible for Latin America to catch up with the digital world. Since Germany's non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council in 2019/20, coordination has been close within the United Nations bodies. For this reason, the process of regulating the internet at international level has successfully resulted in anchoring privacy and data protection more firmly in international law. The close coordination of the two continents was also continued with regard to the implementation global agreements, which led to new impulses in the implementation of, for instance, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement and subsequent agreements.

In general, Latin America is in the process of developing a stronger global political awareness and is contributing more to the UN reform debate both conceptually and in terms of personnel. This also applies to the Latin American countries' participation in

UN peacekeeping missions. The crisis response mechanisms of Latin American institutions have been strengthened, enabling the regional community of states to deal with crises quickly and decisively.

For a long time, the issues of violence, organised crime and the production and trade of illegal drugs on the continent have discouraged many partners from investing and engaging in entrepreneurial activities. In recent years, the governments of Latin America have combated these issues even more resolutely and with transnational cooperation. At individual state level, they have effectively strengthened their rule of law and fought against impunity and corruption. In doing so, they were not only able to regain control over almost all regions but also to enforce the rule of law effectively again. At the same time, they combated the production and trafficking of illegal drugs in joint initiatives. Germany and the EU have provided significant support in this regard in order to complement the efforts of the Latin American states. The levels of violence and crime have thus been significantly reduced.

Such a positive scenario for the relations between Germany, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean must be our goal and aspiration. The successful achievement of this scenario requires not only decisive commitment of the governments in the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean but also far-sighted, ambitious and attentive parliamentary support, combined with a strategic vision. As the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag, we want to guarantee this vision in the coming decade.

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