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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: GERMAN CLIMATE FOREIGN POLICY IN THE POLYCRISIS¹

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The world is mired in a “polycrisis”. Intertwined economic, energy, security and geopolitical shocks and the increasingly catastrophic effects of climate change strain national and economic resilience, especially in the Global South. Imbalances and political rifts between and within states threaten to intensify.

To safeguard its own core geopolitical, security and foreign policy interests, Germany must commit itself to a stable and equitable multilateral system with common global goals, as well as to strategic, mutually beneficial partnerships with countries from the Global South.

A strategic climate foreign policy that integrates security, energy, trade, finance and development cooperation, makes a significant contribution to this end. This is also expected of Germany as an economic power with high technological and innovative capacity, shaper of EU markets and standards, G7 member and advocate of multilateralism. We illustrate key action areas through which German climate foreign policy can make a real difference until the end of this legislative period.

Energy security and global energy transition

- > The Federal Government ensures energy security for itself and Germany’s partners in the new geopolitics of the global energy transition through the coherent design of climate and energy foreign policy.
- > The Federal Government leads the international community towards the phase-out of fossil fuels, the expansion of renewable energies and the increase of energy efficiency according to 1.5°C scenarios of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), especially in the multilateral fora G7, G20 and the United Nations.
- > In its “Carbon Management Strategy”, the Federal Government clearly and unanimously aligns itself with economic and scientific plausibility against CC(U)S as an option for greenhouse gas reductions in the energy sector. It

¹ Full briefing in German language with explanations of the measures can be found **here**: <https://www.e3g.org/publications/deutsche-klimaaussenpolitik-in-der-polykrise/>



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favours CC(U)S only in exceptional cases, for example for negative emissions within the framework of 1.5°C pathways.

International cooperation and partnerships

- > The Federal Government makes strategic use of its bilateral partnerships across the relevant ministries and specialist departments through coherent and systematic approaches, partner selection, and implementation.
- > The Federal Government, together with its partner governments, successfully implements the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) with South Africa, Indonesia, and Vietnam, thereby building confidence in a global transformation financed in solidarity.
- > The Federal Government sets, together with its partners in the Climate Club, ambitious standards in industrial decarbonisation to avoid conflicts and promote the ramp-up of climate-friendly technologies.

Germany in the EU

- > The Federal Government unites the EU behind a coherent trade and industry policy in the spirit of the Green Deal, including supply chains for critical raw materials and hydrogen.
- > The Federal Government supports the new European Commission in the development of an ambitious Green Deal Foreign Policy, aligned with German foreign climate policy.

Global security and solidarity

- > The Federal Government supports the reform of the international financial architecture for climate and development at the highest level and contributes to North–South cooperation to agree on concrete common objectives.
- > The Federal Government treats the threat of climate change as the highest priority for peace and places it at the centre of a preventive German security policy to mitigate the geopolitical impacts of climate change and the energy transition.
- > The Federal Government drives the international community forward to find fast and adequate solutions for coping with loss and damage.