

## **Final declaration**

by the Regional Leaders of the Partner Regions  
**Bavaria, Upper Austria, Québec, Shandong and Western Cape**

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on the occasion of the first Conference of the Regional Leaders  
in Munich on January 30 and 31, 2002

Policy for Generations

With this Joint Declaration the Regional Leaders of the Partner Regions of Bavaria, Upper Austria, Québec, Shandong, and Western Cape intend to underscore their will to promote a more intensive dialogue and even closer cooperation. They are committed to a policy of sustainable development, which assumes responsibility for this as well as future generations.

The Leaders of the Partner Regions represent over 120 million people from four continents with different languages, highly varied cultures and ways of life and each with a history of their own. They work under different political and constitutional framework conditions and can have their own positions. The regions which are governed by them are partners of Bavaria and also enjoy or wish to have close relations with each other. With this partnership, which has been intensified by the Conference in Munich on January 30 and 31, 2002, the Regional Leaders wish to make a contribution towards encouraging trust and mutual understanding among people in various parts of the world. Precisely against the background of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, they consider it essential to further intensify direct contacts between the Regions and to bring the people closer to each other.

### **A. Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development has in the meantime become the defining term for modern policy, recognised on a worldwide scale. Sustainable policy is the equivalent of actively taking on responsibility towards our descendants. Sustainable development links economic development and social welfare with the permanent protection of the essential prerequisites for human life. Pursuing a policy of sustainable development also means facing up to one's responsibility towards future generations. Against this background, policy-making for today, which includes responsibility for tomorrow, is the task of the Partner Regions. This task is to safeguard the ecological, economic, social and cultural viability and continued prosperity of the Partner Regions, now and in the future:

1. It is in a very particular way that we are faced today with the challenges of globalisation, internationalisation and digitisation. More than ever before, economic, ecological and social developments have become interrelated and interdependent. Decisions are having an increasing impact beyond regional or national borders.

**Therefore, for the Partner Regions sustainable policy more than ever before means taking both interrelation and interaction into consideration.**

2. The speed of change is an essential feature of our information and communications society. This society is characterised by rapid technical and economic developments, by ever-shorter product and innovation cycles and by structural and social change. This is compelling us to react and decide more and more quickly. But as before, a large number of decisions and measures taken at short notice will have long-term effects even upon future generations.

**More than ever before, sustainable policy thus means for the Partner Regions: thinking in the long term, developing perspectives and bearing in mind our responsibility towards future generations.**

3. The unparalleled expansion of cross-border communications networks involves the risk of cultures being levelled off on a worldwide scale.

People will have to realise that their language is part of their culture and their identity. To the Partner Regions, it is an important task for a future-oriented education policy. In this way, a significant contribution is made towards social cohesion and personality development in children and young people.

**For the Partner Regions, sustainable policy also means that priority must be given to passing cultures and traditions on to future generations. Globalisation also necessitates determined action in order to safeguard cultural diversity in the international context. In this regard they also underline the need for the governments to continue to act in favour of the cultural development of their regions for culture cannot be simply assimilated with a commodity.**

4. In many ways the globalised information and communications society is focussed on consumption. Many natural resources are being exploited excessively. This affects not only the natural prerequisites for life, but also governmental budgets and social security systems.

**Sustainable policy therefore also means responsible and future-oriented development for all generations in the Partner Regions.**

5. A world without biological variety would not be viable in the future, and a country without the variety of its specific types of countryside would be fundamentally and irretrievably deprived of both identity and value for its people as a native land where life is worth living.

**To the Partner Regions, sustainable policy therefore means making nature conservation and new instruments of environmental protection into a core element of their environmental policy for generations. New instruments for protecting the environment are closely linked with the development, application and transfer of state-of-the-art environmental technologies. It is a matter of fully exploiting the opportunities presented by advanced technologies, with a view to using energy and natural resources as productively and at the same time as cost-effectively as possible.**

6. In the context of a global economy without frontiers, an expanding global information society and progressive regional processes of integration, there is a growing need among our populations for comprehensive and intersectoral concepts, a need to make responsibility visible and to clearly define the specific scope for decisions. In view of their proximity to the people, the Regions and their governments are therefore playing an increasingly important role.

**Sustainable policy therefore also means: “Think globally, act regionally and locally”. The Partner Regions will practise this motto as they implement the principle of sustainability. To this end, the Partner Regions will develop worldwide partnerships, in order to cooperate with each other in seeking viable solutions for future development in their respective regions within a globalised world. In this context they underline the meaning of the continuous negotiations on a global level about questions of sustainable development and economic growth.**

7. In order for regions to grow economically, it is essential that they must be competitive in the global economy. This represents a big challenge for emerging economies because of the relative strength of developed economies. If not addressed properly, this can lead to an ever-increasing poverty divide which characterises many of the developing countries.

**Sustainable policy for the Partner Regions also means that the developed world must be sensitive towards any measures that would cause uneven playing fields in the globalised world and to assist developing countries to be competitive in the globalised market place.**

For the Partner Regions, sustainable policy thus becomes concrete in terms of

- the way in which the natural prerequisites for human life are dealt with,
- the way state-of-the-art technologies are used,
- the way social policy is shaped, primarily in terms of a fair sharing of burdens and responsibilities between the generations,
- cultural and education policy, primarily in terms of the way in which the essentials of the cultural identity and traditions of every society are preserved and bequeathed to future generations and cultural diversity is preserved,
- financing tasks for the future, without shifting burdens onto future generations,
- exploiting the regions' opportunities for taking decisions and shaping their future and encouraging the people to act in a subsidiary manner,
- working together in a common effort for fair development opportunities of developing and industrialised countries in the globalised world economy.

The Partner Regions are orienting their policies towards these objectives. Active involvement of citizens in safeguarding the future of their Regions is indispensable. It will be the task of all parties to jointly meet their responsibility for future generations. And all are invited to contribute to this goal.

### **B. Resolution on “International Decade for Sustainable Development (2003 to 2012)”**

Based on these above principles, and with a view to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa in August/September 2002, the Regional Leaders of the Partner Regions appeal to the United Nations to proclaim the period from 2003 to 2012 as the International Decade for Sustainable Development and to proclaim 14 June (day of the signing of the final declaration of the Rio Conference in 1992) as the International Day of Sustainable Development. To this end, they have adopted the Resolution on the “International Decade for Sustainable Development (2003 to 2012)” submitted by

Upper Austria and enclosed as Appendix II, and have asked the Governor of Upper Austria to present this Resolution to the General Secretary of the United Nations. The Regions will ask their national governments to promote this request presented to the United Nations.

### **C. Joint Declaration on the Dialogue of Civilisations**

The Partner Regions will, among each other and individually, encourage, support and promote a Dialogue of Civilisations within the scope of economic alliances and regional partnerships. To this end, the Regional Leaders of the Partner Regions have adopted the "Joint Declaration on the Dialogue of Civilisations" contained in Appendix I. They are committed to the underlying principles of this declaration and intend to disseminate them within their sphere of responsibility and influence.

### **D. Intensification of Relations and Cooperation between the Partner Regions**

#### **I. Cooperation programmes**

The Regional Leaders are in agreement in their goal to intensify cooperation, with a view to bringing the people in the Partner Regions closer to each other, promoting education, health, professional training and protection of the environment and supporting economic and technological exchange. To this end, they intend to develop and implement cooperation and exchange programmes. These programmes cover the following fields:

1. Development of common aims and model projects in the field of environmental protection, for example in the field of protection of natural resources, natural cycles, diversity of species in nature, climate protection including use of renewable energy sources.
2. Intensification of partnerships and cooperation schemes among schools, for example by setting up Internet pages, on which any schools interested in partnerships can exchange information.
3. Intensification of contacts among schoolchildren and school exchange schemes, for example with workshops addressing a variety of topics

taken from the cultural artistic sector, in which schoolchildren from the Partner Regions can take part.

4. Improvement of cooperation in the field of vocational training, for example by more intensive exchanges among students, teachers and instructors as well as support of scientific and university exchange schemes within the scope of existing programmes.
5. Intensification of cooperation in the cultural sphere, for example by the participation of artists in events and by organising symposiums, seminars and conferences in the media and information and communications technology sector.
6. Development of cooperation in the tourism and eco-tourism industries, for example by means of specific projects, such as “Peace Parks” in Southern Africa.
7. Development and intensification of contacts among universities, research establishments and companies, for example by taking part in trade fairs, congresses and conferences and by networking the Partner Regions in the fields of ICT business and science with the aim of offering “paths” for establishing relations via personal contacts.
8. Improvement of cooperation among the Regions in the fields of health and consumer protection, for example through reciprocal information and cooperation among the authorities concerned.
9. Intensification of joint efforts towards a modern style of administration offering proximity to the people, for example by exchange of information and experience as well as by means of cooperation schemes between schools and public administration institutions, in particular in the field of e-government.
10. Improvement of the level of information of citizens on the Partnership of the Regions and the Partner Regions, for example by setting up links to the Partner Regions on the official home pages of the Regions.
11. Intensified efforts to further unpack and explore the subject “Globalisation, development and reduction of poverty”, for example by holding a conference where experts in various fields should address topical issues with a view to formulating joint projects that could make an impact on sustainable economic development.
12. On the initiative of Quebec, there will be informal discussions on the harmonisation of the position of the partner regions concerning the effects of the Rio +10-summit and a new round of multilateral trade talks in the WTO concerning future development.

## II. Cooperation structures

### 1. Regional Leaders Conference

#### Steering Committee

- a) The Regional Leaders intend to continue holding the Conference at certain intervals (approximately 2 years) in one of their respective Partner Regions. The next meeting is supposed to take place at the beginning of 2004 on the invitation of Western Cape.
- b) A Steering Committee will be set up to coordinate further cooperation. It will ensure that the agreed objectives are adhered to and the joint measures are implemented. It will expedite the agreed programmes and review the proposed projects.

To this end, it will meet yearly and report on the outcome to the Regional Leaders. (First meeting in January 2003 under the presidency of Western Cape.)

The Steering Committee will be composed of administrative officials (on Director General level), who will be appointed by the Regional Leader of each Region. The Partner Regions will each chair the Steering Committee by rotation.

The Steering Committee can, where necessary, set up working groups to address specific matters.

### 2. Working Group of Ministers in charge of sustainable development

The Regional Leaders of the Partner Regions agree to set up a Working Group of the Partner Regions' Ministers in charge of

sustainable development to develop common aims and to define model projects. (See above D I.1.). The regional leaders request the ministers to discuss the proposal made by Upper Austria to set up a think tank for renewable energies.

The Ministers are supposed to meet for the first time in the next six months on the invitation of Bavaria and to decide on the further course of action.

The present declaration is drawn up in Chinese, English, French and German and is signed by each Partner Region. All versions are equally valid.

Munich, January 31, 2002

Signatures of the Regional Leaders

Appendix I to the final declaration

**Resolution “International decade of sustainable development (2003 – 2012)”**

In remembrance of Agenda 21—the Comprehensive Plan for Sustainable Development—of the World Summit held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro; and

Under consideration of the conference of the heads of government on the topic of "Policy for Generations" to be held on 30 and 31 January 2002 in Munich; and

In recognition that sustainable policies reflect active responsibility for future generations; and

In recognition of the fact that sustainable development, economic development and social welfare are inseparably connected with lasting protection of the fundamentals of our lives; and

In recognition of the fact that today’s policies will be tomorrow’s tasks, for which the responsibility will be borne by us all, and that we have the obligation to ensure the ecological, economical, social and cultural capabilities and integrity of the future; and

In light of the World Summit for Sustainable Development to be held in August/ September 2002 in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa; and

In appreciation of the fact that an international decade of sustainable development would markedly contribute to the efforts made by the international community at the beginning of the new century in order to promote sustainable development throughout the world;

The heads of government of Bavaria (Federal Republic of Germany), Upper Austria (Republic of Austria), Quebec (Canada), Shandong (People's Republic of China) and West Cape (Republic of South Africa) request the General Meeting of the United Nations to undertake the following:

1. Declare the period from 2003 to 2012 as the International Decade of Sustainable Development.
2. Designate the years within the International Decade of Sustainable Development as the following with special emphasis on sustainability:
  - 2003 as the Year of Education
  - 2004 as the Year of Year of the Family
  - 2005 as the Year of Health
  - 2006 as the Year of Water
  - 2007 as the Year of Renewable Energy
  - 2008 as the Year of Rural Space
  - 2009 as the Agriculture and Forestry
  - 2010 as the Year of Culture
  - 2011 as the Year of Science and Research
  - 2012 as the Year of Nature
3. Introduce 14 June as the International Day of Sustainable Development.

Appendix II to the final declaration

**Joint declaration on the “Dialogue of Cultures”**

In the conviction that exchange and dialogue between cultures, states and regions and above all between the people of these regions will secure peace, increase prosperity in general and enhance the further economic, social and cultural development of mankind,

from the experience that not only dialogue on national level, but direct contact between individual regions will bring people closer to each other notwithstanding all their differences in culture, language, belief and history, especially in the context of a world growing smaller and smaller in this age of globalisation,

against the background of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the resulting need to strengthen the mutual understanding of people even more than before and to underscore the rejection of terrorism and violence,

the Partner Regions hereby declare:

1. The partnership between Bavaria, Upper Austria, Quebec, Shandong and Western Cape is living expression of the will of these Regions and their citizens to encourage trust and mutual understanding and to establish personal, economic, cultural and social contacts among people in various parts of the Earth with different cultures, traditions and religions, with different languages and different political systems. The Partner Regions see this partnership as the basis for a lasting and productive dialogue between the cultures they represent. This dialogue

has been further deepened and intensified by the Regional Leaders Conference on January 30/31, 2002.

2. The Partner Regions also intend to continue making their contribution towards,
  - preserving fundamental standards of co-existence such as respect for human dignity, freedom of the individual and the rule of law over anarchy and violence,
  - enhancing (mutual) respect for the culture of others and promoting understanding among the people of different cultures,
  - understanding cultural differences as an enrichment for the global world,
  - increasing tolerance of cultural differences and respect for their different cultural and historical heritages,
  - seeing the experiences, know-how and cultural treasures of the individual regions as an enrichment for all Partner Regions, making them accessible to the people and letting the people benefit from them.
  
3. The Partner Regions see mutual respect and the willingness to approach each other as the underlying basis of their dialogue. Their common goal is the categorical rejection of all forces relying on extremism, religious or political fanaticism and violence. They undertake to fight these forces and to stand up for peace, non-violence and tolerance within the scope of their respective national competences.
  
4. Based on these principles, the Partner Regions will continue and further intensify their dialogue. They will examine how contact among citizens and in particular among the younger generation of their Regions can be

boosted, for example by programmes of visits. The Partner Regions are thus acting in pursuance of the aims and intentions of the “Year of Dialogue among Civilisations” proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/Res/53/22), as recorded in the “Global Agenda for a Dialogue among Civilisations” (A/Res/56/6).