

The Berlin KOSMOS Invocation for Sustainability Transformation

We, the undersigned participants at the KOSMOS Conference, which was held at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in August 2019 to mark Alexander von Humboldt's 250th birthday under the title "from Alexander von Humboldt's KOSMOS to today's Global Challenges: Navigating the Sustainability Transformation in the 21st Century", call on politicians and social and economic actors around the world to finally and substantially move from **Knowledge to Action** on the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals proclaimed by the United Nations and against the backdrop of secured knowledge about the inevitability of global ecological boundaries.

We state that the restriction to the nevertheless urgent overcoming of the global climate crisis unjustifiably shortens the dimension of the necessary transformative change that is now on the horizon. In addition to man-made climate change, the loss of biodiversity, overfishing, overexploitation of freshwater resources, overfertilization and soil degradation, among others, are reaching threatening dimensions that call into question the achievement of these and all other Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals are interdependent and none can be met if many others are missed. We therefore call on society, business, the sphere of law and politics to keep the central promise of the 21st Century for sustainable development and to jointly strive for a socially fairer world, on the basis of long-term secured ecological resources, closed economic cycles and respect for cultural identity and personal liberties.

Among many other aspects we specifically recognize the importance of Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 ('Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls') for its importance in advancing the inevitable Sustainability Transformation.

It is high time that, instead of merely hoping, we now move forward courageously. Positive narratives are needed, and plausible solutions must be suitably up-scaled.

We are aware that we as scientists must contribute our part by generating concepts, methods and new knowledge together with the called actors, so that sustainability challenges can be understood holistically and addressed with integrative approaches.

Berlin, August, 30th, 2019