

Lecture 9: Scientific Advice for Policymakers

Episode 2: How the WBGU works

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Secretary-General, German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU)

- Episode 1: Role of scientific policy advice
- **Episode 2: How the WBGU works**
- Episode 3: Interview



1. You will learn how a scientific advisory council like the WBGU works.
2. You will learn about the broad range of activities of the WBGU.
3. You will have a better understanding on the role of WBGU.
4. You will learn about the impacts of the recommendations of this scientific advisory council.



Tasks

Established 1992 (Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro) as a politically independent scientific advisory body to the German Federal Government

The WBGU has the task to

- analyse global environment and development problems
- submit policy proposals
- monitor and assess international policies on global change
- provide early warnings on new, emerging issues and topics
- review and evaluate national and international research
- identify gaps in research and initiate new research
- raise public awareness

All WBGU publications available in German and English.



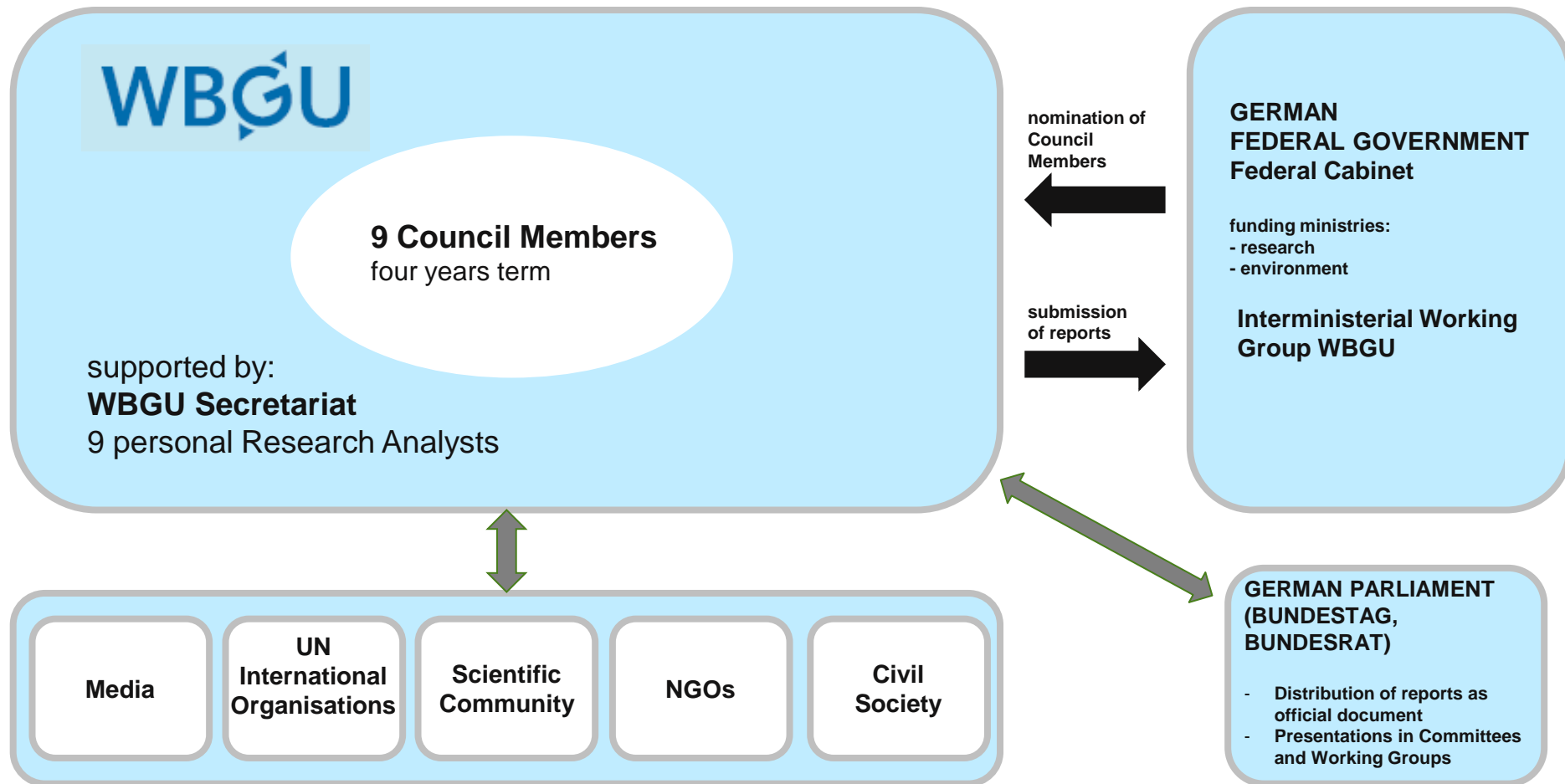


Source: WBGU

Nebojsa Nakicenovic (Economist), Hans Joachim Schellnhuber (Physicist) (Chair), Inge Paulini (Secretary-General), Claus Leggewie (Political Scientist), Sabine Schlacke (Lawyer), Stefan Rahmstorf (Physicist), Renate Schubert (Economist), Jürgen Schmid (Engineer), Reinhold Leinfelder (Geologist), Dirk Messner (Political Scientist).



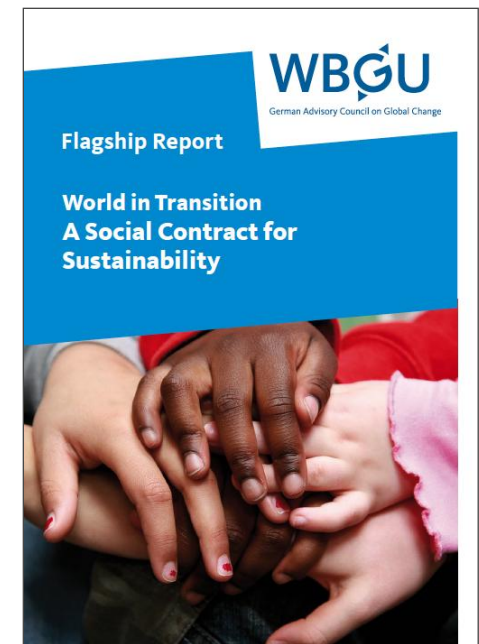
Scientific Advice for Policy-Makers: The German Advisory Council on Global Change



Source: WBGU 2012

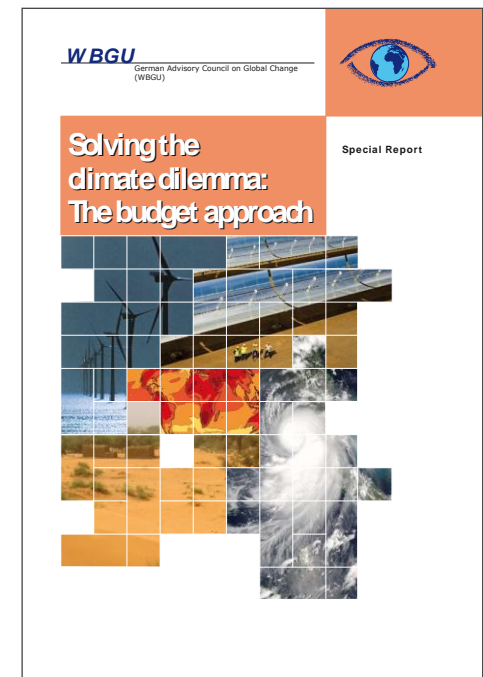
„World in Transition“ series – scientific status reports in a global change domain (approx. 300-400 pages)

- Sustainable Energy Systems (2003)
- Poverty and Environmental Policy (2004)
- Climate Change as Security Risk (2007)
- Future Bioenergy and Sustainable Land use (2008)
- A Social Contract for Sustainability (2011)
- Sustainable Oceans and Low-carbon Transformation (2012)



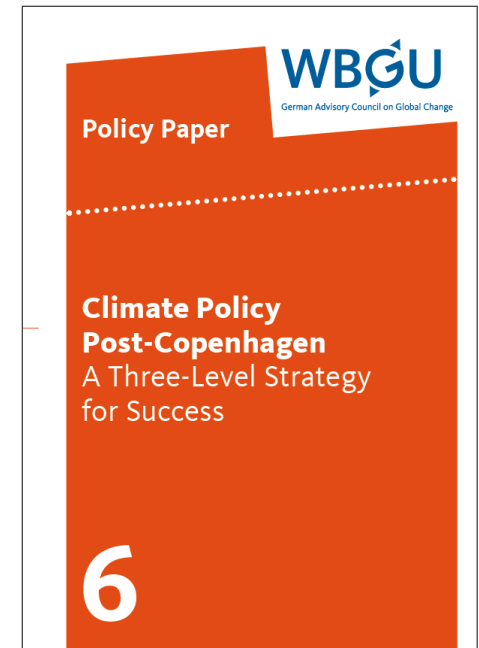
Scientific reports on a selected issue (approx. 100 pages)

- Charging the Use of Global Commons (2002)
- Climate Protection Strategies for the 21st Century. Kyoto and Beyond (2003)
- The Future Oceans – Warming Up, Rising High, Turning Sour (2006)
- Solving the climate dilemma: The budget approach (2009)



Policy oriented statements (approx. 30 pages)

- Development needs Environmental Protection: Recommendations for the Millennium + 5 Summit (2005)
- New impetus for climate policy: making the most of Germany's dual presidency (2007)
- Climate Policy Post-Copenhagen: A Three-Level Strategy for Success (2010)
- Funding the Global Energy Systems Transformation (2012)



Factsheets at a glance (4 pages)

- Research and Education: Drivers of Transformation (2012)
- The Transformation towards Sustainability (2011)
- Global Megatrends (2011)
- Transforming Energy Systems (2011)
- A Social Contract (2011)
- The WBGU Budget Approach (2009)
- Climate change: Why 2° C? (2009)
- Bioenergy (2009)



Examples for further activities

- Presentations, public lectures and panel discussions, on national and international level
 - at side events of UN conferences
 - in committees of the Deutsche Bundestag
 - before academia
 - in public debates through press articles and other media channels
- Providing platforms for debates (organisation of symposia, panel discussions etc.)
- Assessment of the outcomes of international negotiations in the field of environment and development (mostly as press release)
- Flagship report “Transformation” as e-learning package for universities



Difficult to measure but there are success stories like

- The 2° C guardrail: elaborated by the WBGU as a concept for climate policy in 1995, meanwhile a guiding principle of EU and German climate policy and adopted as a target by the UNFCCC in 2010
- Scientific panel for biodiversity: it was first recommended by WBGU in 2000 and finally became reality in 2011
- Bioenergy: Among others, the WBGU emphasised early and raised awareness on the critical importance of the issue of indirect land use changes
- Debate on the Global Transformation to Sustainability: The WBGU was among the first to launch this debate in Germany and to link it to the “Energiewende”
- Impact on school curricula: Parts of WBGU reports have been widely used over time in schoolbooks in Germany



Quote:

“The new WBGU-Study „A Social Contract for Sustainability” appears at a time in which people around the world are increasingly committed to creating a future that is both sustainable and climate-safe. The study shows that such a future will only be possible if governments, business and civil society collectively set the right course, making the most of regional, national and global cooperation. An important call to cross-cutting integrated action, **the book deserves wide recognition.**”

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



Quote:

"The geopolitical world is changing beyond recognition. The challenge of ensuring that in the future people can live better than today, while doing so within the Planetary Boundaries has yet to be met. Markets and the environment are increasingly globalized. Social protection and the search for equity are not, though there are interesting signs of change. There are many international institutions, but few are global. We have known for some time the necessary individual solutions required for the transition. Now, **the WBGU report 'World in Transition – A Social Contract for Sustainability' offers us extremely interesting ideas on how we can bring all this together collectively through a new social contract that is global, equitable and green**, and requires a new kind of global citizenship: the first steps toward a global political project for global sustainability."

Janos Pasztor

Executive Secretary of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, New York

- WBGU (2011): World in Transition – A Social Contract for Sustainability. Flagship Report 2011, Berlin.
- WBGU (2010): Climate Policy Post-Copenhagen: A Three-Level Strategy for Success. Policy Paper 6 Berlin.
- WBGU (2009): World in Transition: Future Bioenergy and Sustainable Land Use. London: Earthscan.
- WBGU (2009): Solving the climate dilemma: The budget approach, Special Report 2009, Berlin.
- WBGU (2008): World in Transition: Climate Change as a Security Risk. London: Earthscan.
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- WBGU (2005): World in Transition: Fighting Poverty through Environmental Policy. London: Earthscan.
- WBGU (2005): Development needs Environmental Protection: Recommendations for the Millennium + 5 Summit. Policy Paper 4, Berlin.
- WBGU (2004): Renewable energies for sustainable development: Impulses for renewables 2004. Policy Paper 3. Berlin.
- WBGU (2004): World in Transition: Towards Sustainable Energy Systems. London: Earthscan.
- WBGU (2003): Climate Protection Strategies for the 21st Century: Kyoto and beyond. Special Report 2003. Berlin.
- WBGU (2002): Charging the Use of Global Commons. Special Report 2002. Berlin.

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