

PRESS RELEASE

3rd Bonn Conference on International Development Policy

Bonn/Germany, February 1, 2012 – On

January 31, the two-day 3rd Bonn Conference on International Development Policy came to an end at the plenary hall of the World Conference Center. More than 800 representatives of national and international NGOs, governments and associations discussed about the topics of sustainable lifestyles, food patterns and sustainable development.

The Indian Alternative Nobel laureate of 1993, Ms. Vandana Shiva, said that economic growth alone will not work. “The focus needs to be put on nature and society”, the laureate said. According to her, “people have to fight to reconquer democracy”, or else poverty and hunger could not be overcome.

Manfred Konukiewitz of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Klaus Rudischhauser of the European Commission contradicted this view in the forum “Political Responsibility: Concepts for Sustainable Development Policy” with the words: “It won’t work without growth.” They believe that growth is the prerequisite for prosperity.

Jürgen Baisch of the Institute Water for Africa explained that all sustainable development sets its focus on human beings. He referred to the Millennium development objective no. 7 that foresees an improved access to water and sanitation by 2015. Giving the example that Africa disposes only of 888 gauging stations, while Germany, being 85 times smaller, disposes of 1150 gauging stations, he showed which efforts are required to achieve a functional water management. He pointed out that the cur-

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rent situation in Africa can be significantly changed with a budget of only a tenth of one percent of the yearly budget of the German Development Ministry.

The conference was closed by Dirk Messner, Director of the German Development Institute. He explained that growth should not continue as it used to do. CO₂ savings that have been achieved thanks to new technologies would be abolished due to economic growth. He recommends a social contract that accepts the limits of the planet.