

Translation

**Video message
from Dr Angela Merkel,
Chancellor of the
Federal Republic of Germany,

at the SDG Moment 2021
as part of the
76th session of the United Nations
General Assembly

on Monday, 20 September 2021,
3.30 – 6.30 p.m. (CET),
to be sent as a video message in
advance**

Length: 3 minutes

Date of recording:

Wednesday, 1 September 2021

**Mr President,
Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Thank you for hosting this event.

The COVID-19 pandemic has set us back also with respect to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore all the important that we take resolute action now.

This global crisis is also an opportunity to make our lives and economies more sustainable. We want to use the recovery from the pandemic to achieve a transformation to genuine sustainability.

It is clearer than ever before that we must implement the 2030 Agenda more swiftly. We will not be able to make up

for our shortcomings now in a few years' down the line.

It is also for this reason that we have continued to develop our Sustainable Development Strategy in Germany this year. Moreover, the Federal Government presented its second voluntary national review in July.

Climate protection is, at the end of the day, a question of intergenerational equity. The Federal Constitutional Court emphasised this with a landmark decision in March.

Our Climate Change Act is therefore now even more ambitious: Germany intends to be climate-neutral by 2045.

In so doing, we are also sending an important signal for the climate conference in Glasgow.

We will also advocate ambitious targets at the Biodiversity Conference in October.

Sustainability touches all areas of life and work. It is a task for society as a whole. It is for this reason that the involvement of interest groups and affected parties in the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is so important.

We must safeguard the future of the planet and the future of younger generations. This task should be the highest priority for us all. We have a clear agenda for this after all.

We – the international community and the United Nations – must now do our utmost to work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Let us continue together to speed up the
implementation of the 2030 Agenda!**

Thank you very much!