



Berlin at a Crossroads: Towards the New Urban Agenda

Joint-Statement of Scientists
addressed to the Governing Mayor of Berlin
as a preface to the opening of the German Habitat Forum

“Our struggle for Global Sustainability Will Be Won or Lost in Cities”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

It is clear that the Secretary General of the United Nations is not the only one to recognize that cities are the basis of effective movement towards sustainability and the achievement of the 1.5°C goal. The German Habitat Forum is an invitation from Berlin's Mayor Michael Müller to the global public to discuss mobility, environmental protection, and participation.

Mr. Müller says he is happy to be the host of the event, because in Berlin you can directly observe participatory sustainable development. In reality, Berlin is building automobile highways that would be deemed unacceptable from an environmental perspective. Berlin's environmental protection program does not measure up to the goals agreed upon in Paris. Recently, legal barriers have been raised against citizen participation and referendums.

As governing mayor, you, Mr. Müller have influence that goes beyond your own city of Berlin. Your role as the Co-President of Metropolis, the world-wide network of metropolitan centers with more than one million inhabitants, gives you leverage and makes you a role-model. Use this capacity and the German Habitat Forum to do more than deliver speeches and statements of intention. The New Urban Agenda offers solutions which you can immediately apply to and implement in Berlin.

We make the following appeal to you, Mayor Müller:
follow your words with appropriate action.

In your city, the *Volksentscheid Fahrrad* (Berlin Bicycle Referendum) represents a fundamental shift in mobility practice. Germany's first Bicycle Bill offers a ready-to-apply program toward achievement of the crucial UN goals. The carbon footprint from transport can be reduced by 0.3 tons per year for each Berliner; the bill offers a substantial contribution to an emissions reduction of 40% by 2025. The *Volksentscheid Fahrrad* Team is already helping to build majority support for future-oriented mobility policy in Berlin, policy that promotes cycling and that brings about the mobility transition seen as urgently necessary by scientific experts and associations.

Honorable Mayor Müller, put an end to the debate. Use your parliamentary majority to pass and implement the bill proposed by the *Volksentscheid Fahrrad* now, in 2016. Show the world that you are serious about sustainability and participation.

Reinvigorate the spirit of Paris in Berlin!

Get the ball rolling – world-wide.

Berlin, 30th of May, 2016

Prof. Dr. Stephan Rammler, Braunschweig, together with more than 60 co-signatories:

Prof. Dr. Oliver Schwedes, Berlin; Prof. Dr. Andreas Knie, Berlin; Prof. Dr. Hermann Knoflacher, Wien; Prof. Dr. Miranda Schreurs, Berlin; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Udo Becker, Dresden; Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Jonas, Braunschweig; Prof. Dr. Nikolai Roskamm, Erfurt; Prof. Dr. Beate Klutmann, Berlin; Prof. Dr. Gebhard Hafer, Berlin; Prof. Dr. Katrin Großmann, Erfurt; Prof. Dr. Jörg Knieling, Hamburg; Prof. Dr. Ines Carstensen, Berlin; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Markus Hecht, Berlin; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Häbler, Wuppertal; Prof. Michael Mönninger, Braunschweig; Prof. Martin Lanzendorf, Frankfurt am Main; Prof. Heiner Monheim, Bonn; Prof. Philipp Oswald, Kassel/ Berlin; Prof. Antje Stokman, Stuttgart; Prof. Rainer Bergmann, Berlin; Dr. Konrad Goetz, Frankfurt/M.; Dr. Hermann Ott, Berlin; Dr. Benjamin Stephan, Berlin; Dr. habil. Weert Canzler, Berlin; Dr. Ing. Tim Lehmann, Berlin; Dr.-Ing. Thomas Sauter-Servaes, Zürich; Dr. Marita Radeisen, Berlin; Dr. Ute Scheub, Berlin; Dr. Saskia Hebert, Braunschweig; Dr. Christian Schuster, Berlin; Dr. Dörte Ohlhorst, Berlin; Dr. Sassa Franke, Berlin; Dr. Dirk Hagen, Berlin; Dr. Chris Kollas, Potsdam; Dr. Delf Rothe, Hamburg; Sophia von Berg, Köln; Dipl.-Ing. Toni Karge, Berlin; Dipl.-Ing. Benno Benjamin Bock, Berlin; Dipl.-Ing. Sven Lißner, Dresden; Dipl.-Umweltwiss. Sebastian Heilmann, Lüneburg; Dipl. Ing. Michael Glotz-Richter, Bremen; Dipl. Ing. Marius Gantert, Stuttgart; M. Sc. Tom Assmann, Magdeburg; M.A. René Bienert, Weimar; M.A., PhD Student Kerstin Stark, Berlin; M.Sc. Daniel Jobstfinke, Berlin; M.Sc. Mareike Blum, Freiburg; M.Sc. Ilil Beyer Bartana, Berlin; M.Sc. Jenny Böhm, Berlin; MSc Simon Mader, Tübingen; MSc., Dipl.-Psych. Rachel Michels, Berlin; Malte Schmidhals, Berlin; Jan Lutz, Stuttgart; Eric Puttrowait, Stuttgart; Kain Glensor, Berlin; Oliver Lah, Berlin; Jürgen Schultheis, Offenbach/M.; Kristina Fromm, Braunschweig; Susanne Thomaier, Berlin; Bernhard Fehr, Braunschweig; Susann Ullrich, Berlin; Stefanie Schwerdtfeger, Frankfurt am Main; Marie Kleeschulte, Berlin; Walter Kahlenborn, Berlin; Alexander Carius, Berlin; Felix Hartenstein, Berlin; Julia Senft, Braunschweig