

New Delhi, 18 May 2000

## **Agenda for the Indo-German Partnership in the 21st Century**

The Governments of India and Germany, keeping in view the excellent relationship between their respective countries, have agreed to expand and intensify their relationship and to introduce therein a new strategic dimension.

Towards this end the Foreign Ministers of Germany and India have adopted the following "Agenda for the Indo-German Partnership in the 21st Century" on 18 May 2000 which would anchor and guide the relationship in a rapidly changing international environment.

India and Germany are natural partners: basic common interests and shared democratic values as well as the trust developed through good relations over a long period of time constitute a sound basis for a joint approach to the challenges of the future.

Both countries are determined to exploit the vast potential of an intensified bilateral partnership, especially in the economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields. But they also want to work together more closely to meet new global challenges, sharing the common goal to promote peace, stability and security as well as economic prosperity in their respective regions and beyond.

Both sides are convinced that the further strengthening of Indo-German friendship would bear fruit and benefit people of both our countries. They therefore call upon all concerned agencies and organisations, to undertake an active role in the implementation of this Agenda.

**(1) Bilateral political relations**

The Governments of India and Germany accord the highest priority to the exchange of high-level visits for the intensification of bilateral dialogue.

The two Governments will aim for regular and frequent exchange of visits at Head of State and Government level. The Foreign Ministers would endeavour to meet annually. The two partners have also agreed to benefit from the opportunity for high-level talks and consultations during or on the occasion of international conferences or meetings.

The existing framework of regular consultations at senior official level is to be developed further. This particularly applies to the annual consultations of the State Secretaries of Foreign Affairs and the Strategic Dialogue.

India and Germany also propose to promote consultations and exchange of views between the diplomatic missions of the two countries in third countries and multilateral organizations.

Both sides appreciate the special significance of contacts between Parliamentarians of the two countries in shaping the relations between the two countries and recommend a further intensification of their contacts.

The two sides recognise the Indo-German dialogue could usefully be extended to the non-governmental level as well. Both Governments will take steps to better involve associations, federations and social groups in the dialogue and encourage them to develop their own initiatives.

Both Governments welcome the work of the Indo-German Consultative Group whose recommendations have provided valuable momentum to bilateral relations in all areas. They expect further impetus and initiative from this independent body.

**(2) Security policy/disarmament issues**

Both Governments are committed to the aim of global disarmament and non-proliferation, despite differing opinions on how the goal is to be achieved.

They recall that as early as in 1993 the two Governments had agreed to hold regular consultations on issues of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation which are to be used intensively to narrow differences on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Both Governments will continue the exchange of views on disarmament policy in the UN and extend this to include topics dealt with at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament (CD). They agree furthermore to discuss security policy issues within the Strategic Dialogue.

The two Governments acknowledge that the research institutes active in the field of security and strategic studies should be more involved in the security policy dialogue, for example by holding seminars with security policy and military experts from both sides.

Both Governments advocate stronger confidence-building and conflict prevention measures. They welcome in particular the progress attained within the ASEAN Regional Forum in which India and the European Union participate as ASEAN dialogue partners.

**(3) Economic relations**

India and Germany share a long and successful tradition of cooperation in the fields of trade, industry and technological advancement. The two Governments acknowledge that economic reforms and accelerated economic growth in India, as well as improved growth in Germany, have vastly increased the scope for further development in bilateral economic relations.

Both sides will endeavour to tie on to the dynamism of the boom in economic relations initiated by the Indian reform process at the beginning of the nineties. Both Governments will therefore do their utmost to improve the framework conditions, and pursue their efforts to open up markets, simplify procedures as well as remove identified obstacles in the legal and administrative spheres with the objective of increasing bilateral trade and direct investment in both countries.

The German Government will employ its foreign trade instruments to actively promote bilateral economic relations.

The participation of businesses in trade fairs in both countries is considered to be an important approach to extend trade as well as to foster cooperation between companies.

Both sides reiterate the benefits of bilateral visits by economic delegations from the Federal Länder (states) or the Indian Union States. They strive to intensify such exchanges of visits.

The two Governments will encourage the economic federations and institutions in their countries to continue the dialogue. With the India Economic Committee on the German side and the German Committee on the Indian side the federations have suitable fora for such dialogue.

The two sides reiterate their will to work out further proposals for expansion of the economic relations within the Indo-German Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation and its working groups on infrastructure, coal and tourism. Both sides consider the prospects for cooperation in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, telecommunications, environmental technology (including those related to infrastructure such as sewage treatment), mechanical engineering, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, food processing and modern technical services to be particularly promising. They encourage the working group on infrastructure to work on further proposals for improved cooperation in the energy sector and to discuss options for cooperation in other fields, for example in the

modernisation/privatisation of airports and ports and in the telecommunications sector.

India and Germany realize that cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises in the two countries is particularly important for economic relations and emphasize that these companies rely particularly on a favourable economic environment as well as reliable and clear framework conditions and structures.

India and Germany believe that there is a favourable investment climate in both countries to be exploited by investors. The German Government points out that the promotion instruments designed to foster investment in the new Federal Länder (states) are also available to Indian companies.

Both sides endeavour to expand bilateral tourism and welcome in this context the activities of the working group on tourism.

**(4) Relations in science, research and technology**

Cooperation in Science, Research and Technology has been one of the main pillars of Indo-German friendship and for imparting their bilateral relationship with a dynamic and an forward looking outlook. The two Governments intend to expand this cooperation for the mutual benefit of both countries considering greater involvement of industry in particular to be desirable. Both sides regard the prospects for the further extension of this cooperation to be good: outstanding scientific resources on both sides and a broad foundation of legal arrangements between both Governments, as well as between intermediary organizations and research institutes, which should be involved more intensively in the future.

The two governments consider the bilateral Committee on Science & Technology (CST) and the CST Coordinators to be suitable instruments to better coordinate and concentrate the many activities which at the same time can provide crucial impetus for the deepening of scientific and technological cooperation. Both sides endeavour to rapidly implement the recommendations made by the bilateral CST Committee in

January 2000. They believe that intensified cooperation between small and medium-sized firms and research institutes requires particular attention.

Since early 1999 a Technology Area Manager has been employed in the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi to act as a port of call for German and Indian small and medium-sized enterprises and to initiate and prepare research and development cooperation measures.

The two Governments welcome the positive developments in the exchange of scientists and students, in particular the new exchange programme between the five Indian Institutes of Technology and six Technical Universities in Germany, which includes a training placement in a German company, as well as the introduction of numerous English-language study courses at German institutions of higher education. They emphasize that academic exchange should be a key component of future cooperation and should be intensified. They will support the extension of current programmes in this sphere and the launching of new initiatives where necessary.

The Arrangement concerning scientific cooperation concluded in February 1999 between the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and the Conference of Rectors and Presidents of Universities and other Higher Education Institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany (HRK) sets the stage for enhanced cooperation between Indian and German universities. The perspectives for an increase in the level of exchanges for students and scientists ought to be used to the full, in particular by setting up partnerships between universities. Extending academic exchange cannot be left to governmental agencies alone. Both sides therefore advocate a private Indo-German scholarship fund to be set up by industry with the task of mobilizing funds from German and Indian private sponsors and companies.

**(5) Cultural Relations**

The German and the Indian Governments appreciate the high level of cooperation in the cultural sector. They underline that cultural cooperation makes a valuable

contribution to increasing knowledge about each other and to mutual understanding and therefore occupies a key position in bilateral relations.

They agree that the Indian and German institutions and non-governmental organisations active in the respective host country should be more intensively involved in cultural cooperation. Both sides recommend closer interaction between the institutions working in the cultural sphere and decision-makers in industry so as to attract the interest of the latter for joint projects.

The Indo-German Friendship Societies in both countries are important institutions for promoting cultural exchange and understanding. The two governments recognise the excellent work done by these societies. In acknowledging the excellent work undertaken by these institutions, the two sides recognise the need for greater involvement of younger citizens of both countries and key figures in politics, economics and society, within the scope of their activities.

The German Festival in India opening in September 2000 will be an opportunity for both Governments to further extend cultural links.

Cultural and scientific cooperation between Germany and India must also be geared to the future. It should contribute to provide people in both countries with technological capabilities enabling them to meet the complex challenges of ongoing globalization in many areas of life. Scientific and cultural players can make a crucial contribution to ensuring that the people in both countries perceive themselves as subjects rather than objects of the globalization process and thus play an active role in its evolution.

Indo-German cooperation will therefore make increased use of the potential of culture and science to establish peoples' networks and promote dialogue beyond national borders. Productive use must be made of advances in communication and media technology.

There is broad agreement that existing cooperation instruments need to be examined and possibly adapted to the changed framework conditions.

**(6) Air traffic**

In order to ensure that air traffic between the two countries is in future able to meet the increased demands arising from growing bilateral interaction, enhanced people to people contacts and tourism, the German and the Indian Governments will seek a corresponding increase of air traffic capacity between India and Germany. This will be part of a step-by-step plan which establishes changes to the so-called hard rights needed to increase the number of flights.

**(7) Environmental policy**

Aware that environmental problems arising from rapid industrialization and urbanization have not just local but also increasingly regional and global repercussions, both Governments resolve to increase cooperation in the field of environmental protection, bilaterally and within the framework of multilateral agreements. They refer in this context to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by their Ministries of Environment in September 1998. They will pay special attention to questions of climate change and biodiversity.

**(8) Media policy**

The two sides acknowledge the important role played by the free media in both India and Germany in shaping the public image of the other country. They believe that media reporting in both countries needs to be placed on a broader and more differentiated information basis. They therefore advocate a broad and free flow of information between the media of both sides. They suggest that the media



organizations themselves take the initiative to strengthen the exchange of information and journalists.

**(9) Cooperation in the United Nations**

India and Germany will cooperate in ongoing efforts to reform the United Nations. They agree that the structure, working methods, and the financing of the United Nations have to be adapted to the realities of today so that the UN can successfully rise to the challenges of the 21st century.

Both sides reaffirm the need for reform and balanced enlargement of the Security Council of the United Nations to make it more representative and improve its ability to act and function properly. Both Governments will do their utmost to ensure the reform debate to be intensified and carried out in a targeted fashion. Germany and India stress their readiness to assume responsibility as permanent members of the Security Council as part of such reform.

**(10) Cooperation in the fight against terrorism and drug abuse**

Both Governments are resolved to strengthen Indo-German cooperation on fighting terrorism and organized crime in all forms. They attach particular importance to the signing, ratification and implementation of the UN conventions in the field of drugs control and terrorism. They underline the need for international cooperation in fighting drugs trafficking and terrorism. Similarly they strive for close coordination in the negotiations on UN conventions to combat terrorism.