



Sandra Breka,  
Member of the Board of Management

### Realigning our work to meet new global challenges

The Robert Bosch Stiftung has over 55 years' experience in promoting international understanding. During this time we have adapted our funding in an evolutionary way. The massive changes in the global context require new answers – hence our decision in 2018 to fundamentally review our activities, focus our strategy and ultimately increase our impact.

The foundation's Board of Trustees decided that, from January 2020, we would concentrate on four topics in the newly named 'International Understanding and Cooperation' area: Conflict, Climate Change, Migration and Inequality.

These new topics are the result of a comprehensive strategic review involving foundation employees and numerous international experts. The realignment builds on the legacy of our founder. Today, peaceful coexistence depends on finding solutions to global challenges that can only be addressed together. International cooperation is necessary to identify and promote effective solutions within and between societies.

Climate Change is a global challenge that requires immediate multilateral action. At the same time, migration, conflict, climate change and inequality are closely interrelated. Among others, climate change reinforces structural inequalities that already exist. Wherever climate change encounters scarcity of resources, economic weakness and weak political structures, it can become a risk multiplier and driver of conflicts; the same is true with climate change and migration.

Climate change poses challenges for prosperous, democratic societies, as it is linked to issues of redistribution and difficult political decisions. Our objective is to pay special attention to the nexus between our topics. Examples include dealing with climate-induced migration or with the question of how new and old inequalities can be reduced through a more just transformation of land use in pursuit of climate goals.

There are also interrelations between climate change and topics in the other areas the foundation supports, such as Active Citizenship, Science and Research, Health, and Education. Especially in the area of Science and Research, climate change played a role even before our strategic realignment.

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Furthermore, we want to become more sustainable in the way we work. At the 2019 annual conference of German foundations (Deutscher Stiftungstag), we joined the initiative for more sustainability and climate protection and supported the Association of German Foundations' decision to include sustainability and climate protection in its principles of good foundation practice.

Our international work has been completely restructured as we started to implement our new strategy. Since January 2020, all colleagues have been working in new topic areas and team structures. We have to develop expertise and networks in the field of climate change. It requires time and patience; it is enriching, incentivising and challenging at the same time.

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## Recommendations for funders

- Exchange with and learn from funders that already have experience with climate funding.
- Seek advice and support from specialist climate philanthropy organisations.
- Involve as many external experts as possible.
- See your strategy as an emergent strategy to be adjusted over the years.
- Review your own working methods according to sustainability criteria.
- Apply a holistic approach to issues and take the many perspectives of the climate crisis into account – science, education, health, culture, democracy and many other 'classic' funding areas.