



Photo: Susanna Gmeiner / German Environment Agency

CV

Prof. Dr. Dirk Messner

President of the German Environment Agency

Prof. Dr Dirk Messner, born on 23 April 1962, has been President of the German Environment Agency since January 1, 2020. He is also an adjunct professor at the Free University of Berlin.

From 2018 to 2019, Prof. Messner was Director of the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn and Vice-Rector of the United Nations University (UNU). Prior to that, he headed the ‘German Institute for Development Policy’ from 2003 to 2018. Under his leadership, the institute gained an excellent reputation for its academic and policy-relevant research on global sustainable development.

Prof. Messner is an internationally recognised expert in the fields of globalisation/ global governance, sustainability and digital transformation, decarbonisation, as well as international cooperation and social change. Throughout his academic career, Prof. Messner has led various international research and advisory initiatives, including as co-coordinator of ‘The World in 2050’, a global research consortium dedicated to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and as co-director of the Centre for Global Cooperation Research.

Prof. Messner is co-coordinator of the global initiative „Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability“ (CODES), which supports the United Nations Secretary-General in implementing his roadmap for digital cooperation. As a member of the „China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development,“ he also addresses issues such as the interplay between artificial intelligence and sustainability.

He has also served on high-level policy advisory boards, including as:

- ▶ Co-chair, German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU)
- ▶ Co-chair, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany
- ▶ Co-chair, Science Platform Sustainability 2030
- ▶ Member, Global Knowledge Council of the World Bank
- ▶ Member, Scientific Advisory Council on Global Development and International Cooperation, European Commission
- ▶ Member, Executive Board, Stockholm Environment Institute
- ▶ Member, International Scientific Advisory Board, Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology
- ▶ Member, International Advisory Board, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

Prof. Messner holds a doctorate in political science (Dr. rer. pol.) and completed his habilitation at the Free University of Berlin. He is the author or co-author of more than 500 publications. In addition to his native German, Prof. Messner is fluent in English and Spanish.

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Date: August 2026