



“African Studies Meets Practice – Symposium in Memory of Franz Ansprenger 2022” under the patronage of former President of the Federal Republic of Germany Horst Köhler.

Wednesday, 7 September – Thursday, 8 September 2022, Berlin

Programme:

Day 1: Wednesday, 7 September 2022, 18:30 - 20:15hrs (followed by a reception)

Opening, presentation of the study and panel discussion: "The African Diaspora: the Untapped Potential for German Companies in Africa"

Last year's symposium revealed that while the macroeconomic effects of the Diaspora on Africa's economic development, particularly through so-called remittances, have been relatively well researched, it turned out that the involvement of the African Diaspora in the internationalisation of German companies has not yet received much attention, either in practice or in research. What role does and can the African Diaspora play here? How can it successfully support the activities of German companies in Africa? And what political support mechanisms are necessary for this?

Sonja Mattfeld of Jacobs University Bremen addresses these questions during the presentation of the study "The Role of the Diaspora in the Internationalization of German Companies in Africa", commissioned by the German Africa Foundation, after which they will be discussed together with the panel participants.

Welcome Remarks: **Dr Uschi Eid**, President, German Africa Foundation

Presentation of Study: **Sonja Mattfeld**, Research Associate at the Chair of Global Markets and Firms, co-author of the study "The Role of the African Diaspora in the Internationalization of German Companies in Africa", Jacobs University Bremen

Allie Alhaji Bangura, Founder, Afro German Academic Network (ADAN e.V.)

Bienvenue Angui, Head of Operations, GreenTec Capital Africa Foundation

Dr Ursina Krumpholz, Head of the Strategic Projects Abroad and Business Network Africa Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection

Houseine Diabaté, Director Africa, GOPA Consulting Group

Lucia De Carlo, Head of Division Cooperation with the Private sector, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (tbc)

Moderation: **Sabine Odhiambo**, Secretary General, German Africa Foundation

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Day 2: Thursday, 8 September 2022

10:30 - 12:00hrs: Discussion "Africa's Youth - Key to Successfully Strengthening Democracies"

Already the Covid 19 pandemic put democracies worldwide to the test, the current geopolitical changes put even more emphasis on the consolidation and promotion of sustainable, democratic institutions - also on the African continent. Here, increasingly autocratic tendencies have recently been observed in some states, manifested not only in military coups and restrictions on democratic institutions, but also in the decline of freedoms of expression and the press. At the same time, young people in many African countries are turning away from the ruling elites, demanding a change in policy and better socioeconomic conditions. Not least in view of the age structure of African societies, youth as a whole have a key role to play in democratisation processes on the continent.

How resilient are Africa's democracies to internal and external threats? What are African youth's ideas about democracy and its concrete form? How exactly can democracy be made sustainable and inclusive? How is the German (and European) approach to democracy promotion in Africa evaluated on the ground? What are the achievements and where are the biggest challenges of democracy promotion from outside?

Discussion: **Sarah Bernardy**, Head of Unit for Southern Africa, Great Lakes, Congo, Policy Issues Sub-Saharan Africa, German Federal Foreign Office

Dambisa Dube, German Chancellor Fellow from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Prof. Dr Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg, Professor of African Politics and Development Policy, University of Bayreuth

Deborah Düring MP, Spokesperson on Development Policy, Green Party

Bonolo Magowe, Program Coordinator, Democracy Works Foundation, Botswana

Moderation: **Elisabeth Massute**, Desk Officer in the Africa Department, Heinrich Böll Foundation

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12:15 – 13:15hrs: Lunch Break



13:30 - 15:00hrs: Discussion "China in Africa - Potential Partner or Fierce Competitor?"

Against the backdrop of the current drastic geopolitical developments, the political perspective on the Africa policy of international actors is also changing. In this context, alongside Russia, China's Africa policy in particular is receiving new attention. The Global Gateway Initiative announced by the European Union at the AU-EU Summit in February of this year was often seen as a response to China's New Silk Road and, in connection with it, to the huge infrastructure investments made by the People's Republic on the African continent. Often reduced to this aspect, China's Africa policy consists of more than infrastructure projects and associated presumed debt traps and confronts German Africa policy with the question of the extent to which the Middle Kingdom can be a partner or must be a system competitor. At the same time, global developments are not leaving Chinese Africa policy untouched.

How has China's Africa policy changed in light of the global crises of the past two years? What are China's strategic priorities in its cooperation with African states? To what extent are China's perceptions and bilateral relations with the People's Republic changing on the African continent? And what does all this mean for German or European Africa policy?

Discussion: **Dr Katja Leikert MP**, CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group and Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Prof. Dr Dr Nele Noessel, Professor (Chair) of Political Science and Politics of East Asia/China, University Duisburg-Essen (tbc)

Dr Thorsten Hutter, Head of Unit East Africa, Horn of Africa, Western Indian Ocean Island States, German Federal Foreign Office

James Shikwati, Director, Inter Region Economic Network (IREN) in Kenya; author of the study „The Clash of Systems – African Perception of the European Union and China Engagement“

Moderation: **Dr Karoline Eickhoff**, Associate of the Research Division "Megatrends Africa" and "Africa and Middle East", German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

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15:30 - 17:15hrs: Discussion "Energy Crisis in Europe, Opportunity for Africa?"

Europe is facing an energy crisis: As a result of the Russian war against Ukraine, the European Union (EU) is striving for independence from fossil fuels from Russia by 2030. Against this backdrop, African countries are increasingly coming to the fore as alternative energy partners. Hopes are not only pinned on the as yet unexploited potential of renewable energies; the focus is also shifting towards new energy partnerships in the promotion of fossil energy sources such as gas. This is welcomed by many African partners, who see fossil fuel production as a necessary condition for the development of their own economies. In view of the different interests and the climate policy challenges that exist at the same time, this raises not only the question of the opportunities and potentials of a reorientation of energy policy relations with Africa, but also the question of their possible points of contention and limits.

What are the implications of the Ukraine war for German-African relations in energy policy? How can European and African states cooperate for mutual benefit in both energy and climate policy? What technical, economic, social and political hurdles threaten a successful cooperation?

Discussion: **Jibril Jibril**, Counsellor Economic and Trade, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Berlin

Dr Melanie Müller, Senior Associate of the Research Division "Africa and Middle East", German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

Dr Grace Mbungu, Head of the Climate Change Programme, Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI)

Angelika Farhan-Reimpell, Head of Coordination Office, German Energy Solutions Initiative of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

Moderation: **Torsten Fritsche**, Programme Manager Bilateral Energy Partnerships, GIZ

Closing Remarks: **Prof. em. Robert Kappel**, African Studies and postgraduate programme "small enterprise promotion and training", University of Leipzig; Member of Board of Trustees, German Africa Foundation

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