



Policy Paper on Africa

Positionpaper of the
CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag

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Africa is a continent of opportunities and ideas, but also a continent of challenges. It is a vibrant continent, rich in people, biodiversity, mineral and other resources. At the same time, it is a continent of stark economic and political contrasts and climatic extremes. While many Sub-Saharan states are seeing high growth rates and advances in social development, parts of North Africa are becoming increasingly destabilised. Many of the hopes for more freedom, democracy, and good governance that had been tied to the "Arab Spring" have remained unfulfilled. In many places, political élites prioritise their vested interests, which more often than not clash with our ideas of freedom, democracy, and sustainable development. Armed conflict has spread deep into the Sahel region; radical Islamic groups are gaining influence. The region of the Great Lakes is not coming to rest, either. These are the contrasting developments that any German or European policy on Africa must take into consideration. Africa is diverse and thus requires a high degree of differentiation when we look at and report on it, just as it requires a variety of strategies of cooperation that need to be reviewed and adapted for effectiveness at regular intervals.

The principle of an eye-level dialogue with African countries is a cornerstone of Germany's commitment to Africa, and it is also the policy of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the Bundestag. We base this commitment on a set of values that names the respect for human rights, peace, the rule of law, free exercise of religion, as well as free and fair trade as basic prerequisites for a peaceful coexistence of the peoples.

Europe and Germany have a vital interest in a prospering Africa, where people can live in peace, security, freedom, enjoyment of their human rights, and prosperity. This is why we will continue to support our African partners as they implement their respective development strategies. However, the central responsibility lies with African countries themselves. What we are striving for is an Africa that is as free as possible from military and ethnic conflicts, that will be a stronger player in the world economy, and that can offer better prospects to its people, with more opportunities for employment, value creation, and income generation. It is an Africa that uses its resources responsibly and is a partner in combating climate change and other global challenges such as terrorism, drug and human trafficking, and poaching.

Africa has the youngest population in the world. 41 per cent of all people are under 15 years of age. The average age across Africa is 19, with many teenagers and young adults being unemployed, without income, and thus without prospects. According to recent forecasts, by 2050 Africa's population will have doubled to

two billion. The continent will then boast a larger workforce potential than China does today, which is both an opportunity and a challenge.

The people in African countries need prospects for the future. Those who do not see such prospects will leave. Even today, roughly 35 million Africans are not living in their home countries. About two-thirds of this migration takes place within Africa, one-third is intercontinental. Against this background, the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group supports the joint action plan to improve prospects in African countries that was agreed upon at the European Council's 2015 Valletta Summit on Migration.

Our focus must be on promoting a sustainable economic development that offers education, health care, food, sustainable and decent jobs, adequate income, and food security to as many people in Africa as possible. Such growth will increase incomes and standards of living in people's home countries. Sustainable growth requires both a well-trained workforce and domestic value creation by means of research, development, and exploitation of knowledge. This will increase incomes and standards of living and thereby also contribute to addressing root causes of migration.

The smartphone has propelled Africa right into the digital age. Demand for web access is great and has spurred rapid development in this area. One advantage this has is that the use of even simple communication channels can stabilise trust in democratic processes: publishing election results in real time, for example, can increase transparency and credibility. New technologies and digitisation are important factors that bring tangible improvements to people's lives. Further research into how to adapt technologies to African needs, as well as education in this domain, are of crucial importance.

Because Africa and Europe are immediate neighbours, their stability and prosperity are closely linked. Along with its European partners, Germany is increasingly willing to assume a stronger peace-keeping role in Africa, as well as to react to threats to peace and prosperity and address security-related, social, and climate-related causes of migration in cooperation with its African partners. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development agreed upon by the United Nations in 2015 will be of key importance, and Germany must lend consistent support to this process, including in Africa.

Political pluralism and economic and social development can only exist in stable, peaceful state systems with legitimate authorities. In order to help stabilise fragile states, we need coherent approaches and networked security. Such transformation processes require the various policy fields on all sides (such as foreign and security, development, and foreign trade policy) to smoothly work together. We need to defuse armed conflict, secure state monopolies on the use of force, improve governance, and thus create a basis for stable living conditions and economic activity.

This also includes setting up effective and functional customs, tax, and judicial authorities, labour market-oriented education, qualification, and training systems, investments into workforce training and knowledge-intensive activities, as well as considerations regarding a world trade order that efficiently integrates African states into global value creation processes on equal terms.

At present, the adult illiteracy rate on the African continent is the highest in the world: 29 per cent of all men and 46 per cent of all women in Sub-Saharan Africa cannot read or write. It is of key importance to stop perpetuating this disastrous trend in a rapidly-growing population, and to counteract it with broadly-scoped education and vocational training programmes. As an important measure in this respect, the effectiveness of existing vocational training schemes should be reviewed and, if and where necessary, adapted when new programmes are being developed. Education is the key to a better, self-reliant future. It helps fight conditions that hamper development, such as corruption and unfair distribution of prosperity. There must be general access to high-quality education in all areas.

At the same time, Sub-Saharan Africa is lacking universities and research centres. Thus, there is the danger that scientists will move to other countries. It must be our goal to support countries in their transition towards a knowledge-based society. Supporting the expansion of capacities within African countries is an important element in this. Centres of scientific and academic excellence usually attract networks that supply qualitative input. Investing into these hubs also means strengthening potentials and building bridges for sustainable cooperation.

We are committed to the principle of African ownership. We must continue to try and empower individual African partner states and, where necessary, equip them in such a way that they can ensure their own security and enforce the state's monopoly on the use of force. At the same time, we must act against the uncontrolled illegal dissemination of small arms and ammunition, which only facilitates organised crime and civil wars. To achieve those goals, we need to cooperate closely

with the African Union, the regional economic communities, and the security forces of the individual partner countries, in order to prevent abuse by state authorities and transnational arms trade and promote democratic civilian control.

In its development policy towards Africa, Germany rightly lays a political focus on food security. An efficient agricultural sector, including reliance on small and medium-sized farms, is the only way to address the increasing demand for food in rural areas and in the growing cities. Germany must support African countries in their endeavours to develop rural areas, improve their ability to help themselves, increase their knowledge in optimising crop yield while protecting natural resources. Another sector in which Germany can be a strong partner is sustainable fishing. Fishery creates many jobs, both in actual fishing and further processing, and thus not only ensures access to food but also generates incomes for whole families. It goes without saying that the sustainable use of maritime resources is in the interest of us all.

So far, many rural areas in Africa have not been able to fully tap their economic potentials. Problems include lack of investments, secure access to land, sustainable cropping and fishing methods, as well as adequate legal frameworks and institutions. Investments into smaller workshops and service providers are just as necessary as specific loans and guarantees. Microloans and promotion of property acquisition are further possibilities to increase the self-reliance of individuals and groups at the local level. Specific education and training facilities can support positive developments in this area. This in turn will give individuals in Africa better possibilities to shape their own environments.

Climate change and environmental degradation are threatening much of what Africa has achieved in terms of development and increasingly trigger violent conflict – be it due to increasing water shortages or the loss of fertile soils, forests, or biodiversity. Contributing factors include uncontrolled exploitation of resources and high population growth. All too often, not even the groundwork for sustainable development has been laid. German development and climate policies must therefore lend particular support to Africa in its endeavours to master this critical task for the future, which includes protection of the seas. This is not only important for the development of Africa and its people, but also for global climate.

An essential obstacle to the development of many African countries is the high degree of corruption at all levels. Corruption affects economic activities of all

kinds, stifles local economic development, and scares off foreign investors seeking to invest in Africa. Convincing efforts to combat corruption are badly needed if Africa's economic and social development are to be promoted.

The CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group calls for:

- **A further reinforcement of Germany's commitment to Africa** on the basis of our values, interests, and possibilities to take action in an eye-level cooperation among partners that aims at mutual benefits.
- Effective and needs-oriented German contributions to **humanitarian aid** in order to provide immediate relief of human suffering in crisis environments.
- Effective contributions in the area of **development policy** and scientific-technological cooperation in order to create prospects for people in their home countries and **address root causes of migration**.
- **Protection of human rights, democratic participation, and freedom of religion** world-wide in accordance with Article 1 of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- **Intensified cooperation with key African stakeholders, the civil society, and members of the business community, as well as promoting regional integration** in close concertation with European, American, and Asian partners, as well as in coherence with UN activities.
- Further **promoting cooperation in domestic and security policy and increasing African capacities to ensure peace and security and address root causes of migration**. This is in our own security interest.
- **Stronger support to the African Union, African regional organisations such as ECOWAS, EAC, ECCAS, or SADC, and the major African states, so that these can act in full autonomy (including in the area of security) when managing crises and conflicts**. The priorities of the partners, namely to take into account African solutions and support African capacities, are to be taken into account. Step by step, partners must be enabled to prevent crisis and counteract the collapse of states so that development opportunities will not be lost and spillover effects on neighbouring regions such as Europe will be prevented.
- More **support in the framework of the Federal Government's "Enabling Initiative"**. We will have to examine to what extent existing volumes can be increased. By lending fast and flexible support in terms of training and material to selected partner countries (to the extent that it is possible),

Germany is already making an indispensable contribution to stability and security in Africa. We need more concertation and transparency at the European level when it comes to selecting partners and deciding what capacities are to be strengthened.

- Continuing a **strong and possibly extended German commitment in EU missions and UN peacekeeping operations** in Africa. The significant reinforcement of the Bundeswehr's participation in MINUSMA in Mali demonstrates that Germany is facing its responsibilities in the framework of the United Nations as well.
- **Full implementation of the UN Small Arms Treaty** as well as its transposition into adequate national control mechanisms, in order to contain the uncontrolled illegal dissemination of small arms and ammunition.
- **Intensifying our dialogue with African states, with a view to fighting international terrorism more effectively.** The faster and more directly we communicate across borders and pass on information, the more successful we will be in our fight against international terrorism.
- **Effective cooperation with African states when it comes to repatriating citizens** whose application for asylum in Germany was rejected or who were not given the right to stay. We should also discuss incentives in policy fields such as economy, trade, culture, development, etc. that might increase readiness to accept repatriated persons.
- Promoting **good governance**, including public finance, statistics, fair taxation, decentralisation, and the fight against corruption as the key obstacle to development, investment, and economic development. In this area, we must demand much more robust improvements as well as strict adherence to democratic constitutional principles.
- Further expanding **cooperation in matters of the rule of law**, in order to strengthen African police, judicial, and border control capacities when it comes to conflict prevention and management, as well as the establishment and stabilisation of the rule of the law.
- Strengthening **local self-government and democracy** and supporting **decentralisation**.
- **Strengthening political foundations in their important function as mediators between foreign policy and development cooperation goals.** By offering political education, foundations can make a significant contribution to peace, freedom, and stronger democratic structures.

- **Strengthening civil society structures in order to increase participation in political decision-making.**
- **Strengthening interministerial cooperation and networking in Germany's Africa-related activities.**
- A German and European **development policy that effectively contributes to reducing development deficits, based on the UN sustainability goals ("Agenda 2030")**. Our policy should aim at giving people prospects in their own home countries, preventing root causes of migration, eliminating hunger and poverty, and contributing to peace and security. This means addressing education, health care (especially health care systems and the prevention and management of epidemics and tropical diseases, including the grave dangers of snake bites), urban and rural development, food security, infrastructure (water and sanitation, clean and affordable energy, transport) as a sector that should be given more priority again, and the establishment of civilian structures of crisis prevention and management.
- Developing a **model of privileged cooperation** with states that are willing to ensure holistic coordination of their national policies and reform efforts in the spirit of sustainable development, in harmony with our values.
- Significantly reinforcing efforts in matters of education, especially labour market-oriented **vocational training and the creation of sustainable jobs**, as effective means to address root causes of migration. German know-how can make important contributions for example in **training skilled workers and developing strong and diverse SMEs**. Starting points should be vocational training for young people, framework conditions for sustainable economic development, and regional economic integration.
- Expanding and strengthening **exchange programmes for young people, trainees, and scientists** from African countries and Germany, as well as expanding and reinforcing academic cooperation between African and German universities.
- **Reinforcing German-African research cooperation** so that together we can manage global challenges such as climate change, food security, and global health. We want to create sustainable, high-quality research structures, link up those structures regionally, and increase the quality of regional, science-based policy advice.

- A particular focus on **gender equality**, strengthening women's rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights, and supporting women in their capacity as key players in social development.
- **Substantial support for our African partners on the road towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development** by funding mitigation measures, measures to adapt to climate change, and measures to protect forests and biodiversity.
- An **information policy** that also shows Africa as a continent of opportunities and richness, without glossing over existing risks and challenges. Africa's public image in Germany is still predominantly one of disaster, conflict, war, and disease. Risks on African markets are overestimated, opportunities underestimated. What is missing in our discourse is a differentiated look at the many facets of the African continent.
- **Concluding the WTO Doha Development Round as soon as possible and strengthening a trade-based development policy.** Foreign trade is a key factor in economic growth. However, trade liberalisation and free access to regional and international markets can only contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction if both the needs of the partner countries are taken into account and accompanying reform measures are implemented locally. We should reinforce our endeavours to set up capacities under the "Aid for Trade" initiative.
- **More political support for German companies that want to invest in Africa.** We especially call upon the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) to redouble its efforts in this field. We must do more to convince German companies to invest in African countries and markets. The German development cooperation community (for which Africa already is a priority) and German foreign trade promotion institutions should play a particular role in this endeavour. **Funding instruments should be adapted to the realities of the target markets and the current needs of German businesses.** There should also be more and better information on how to mitigate and manage political and economic risks, and **possibilities of managing risks by means of export credit guarantee schemes for African investments should be improved.** In this context, we ask the Federal Government to call upon the OECD to update country-specific risk ratings more regularly, especially because those also serve as calculation bases for export credit guarantee schemes.

- **Improved Coordination and institutionalised cooperation of institutions and organisations active in foreign trade promotion and development cooperation.** The regional international offices of the chambers of commerce can offer in-depth knowledge of markets and are thus important contacts for German businesses. Their network should be further expanded.
- Containing the practice of exploiting natural and human resources in disregard of internationally agreed environmental and social standards (United Nations, ILO, OECD). This means that **improved certification systems for conflict-free and sustainable mining of resources on the spot must be developed and implemented.** Earnings from the exploitation of and trade in resources should be used to promote sustainable economic development in the countries of origin and must especially not go into financing armed conflict. Stronger compliance with the principles of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the introduction of commodities funds can be helpful in this respect. The G7-Connex Initiative supports countries as they negotiate contracts with the extractive industry.
- **More investments into digital infrastructure** as a cornerstone for robust economic and social growth.
- More investments into **research and development** in special sectors such as food processing and warehousing, food security, adaptations to climate change, health care, and local utilisation of research results. This also includes easier access to **remote sensing data** for peaceful purposes and **building up capacities for data analysis.**
- A stronger involvement of African **diaspora networks** in Germany into development, research, and foreign trade policies.