

## Bonn Memorandum

"End development aid for Africa - Africa must (want to) develop itself "

as a result of a round of talks in mid-September 2018 in Bonn

"In the light of the experience of recent decades and out of respect for the capacity of African societies, it is necessary to work towards an end of development aid and to replace it with economic cooperation based on mutual interests".

Africa can do without the aid syndrome of the donor countries. Rather, Africa needs a paradigm shift (as many African authors have been calling for for years) with a focus on its own strengths, but also on its own responsibility for development. With their interference and their aid capacities, the donor countries disregard the dignity and willingness of the people in Africa to assume their own responsibility. We must put an end to our paternalistic behaviour towards Africa; we do not always have the right solutions to offer. Africa's development must come from within. And the Africans decide on their own path, even if it does not fit in with our image of democracy (example Rwanda).

The development aid for African states that has been provided so far makes no sense because

- the ruling groups of these countries obviously only have the goal of enriching themselves personally ("billionaire presidents"). Development transfer payments have also played a role.
- The flight of capital from these countries is greater than the sum of development aid money and foreign investment. This loss is not compensated for by remittances from African migrants, who primarily promote family social investments and not a sustainable and broadly effective development of their home countries.
- the awareness of African societies is systematically suppressed that the strong population increase is causally relevant for the success or failure of development efforts, and that the impoverishment of many African countries by demographic development is therefore programmed.
- Farming agriculture is not comprehensively supported and fertile land is allocated to other countries, e.g. the Gulf States. The main beneficiaries of the rental income are the respective governments and not the farmers, who are now poorly paid as workers.
- the existing trade opportunities, especially between African countries, and the opportunities to protect oneself against cheap imports through tariffs and quotas are not really used.
- Development aid is instrumentalised by European countries as a means of combating flight and migration. The intended link with security policy aspects (e.g. support for armies and police forces in Sub-Saharan Africa) is highly problematic for any understanding of development.

Economic cooperation between us and African countries on the basis of mutual interests makes sense if

- we clearly define our political and economic interests, including the observance of internationally agreed values, norms and standards as well as human rights.
- we develop our own differentiated strategy towards Africa aimed at overcoming post-colonial dependencies (i.e. end of "raw materials versus industrial goods").
- Africa is prepared to process its valuable reserves of raw materials such as gold, platinum, diamonds, phosphates, coltan, cobalt, natural gas and crude oil in its own countries, such as in Botswana, where rough diamonds from all over the world are now sorted, traded and processed in the country's own workshops (job and income-generating added value).

- African governments promote existing approaches to entrepreneurship in crafts, trade and industry and not further hinder them, and our companies offer themselves as fair partners for an increasingly self-confident African economy.

Participants at the conference included not only development policy academics but also

Prof. Dr. Hans-Ferdinand Illy  
Prof. Dr. Peter Molt  
Prof. Dr. Franz Nuscheler  
Prof. Dr. Rainer Tetzlaff

among others also

Dr. Karl Addicks, former spokesman of the FDP parliamentary group for development policy in the Bundestag  
Marc Chantelauze, former project manager at KfW Entwicklungsbank  
Wim Dohrenbusch, former Africa Correspondent for Newspapers and ARD  
Volker Franzen, former GTZ spokesman  
Dr. Wilfried Hoffer, many years in Africa, thereof 9 years as Head of DED and GTZ in Mali  
Dr. Leo Kreuz, 30 years BMZ  
Dieter Mönnich, 14 years of DED and GTZ  
Dr. Wolfgang Runge, former Ambassador to Niger  
Volker Seitz, 17 years diplomat in Africa, author "Africa will be governed by poverty".  
Klaus Thüsing, former MdB, 15 years for DED in Africa  
Dr. Eduard Westreicher, 32 years BMZ  
Elke Zarth, entrepreneur in Mali for 25 years

The declaration is also supported by:

Dr. Hans Christoph Buch, writer, reporter from crisis areas of the 3rd world  
Dr. Guido Herz, Former Ambassador to Tanzania  
Prof. Dr. Robert Kappel, development policy scientist and Africa expert