



Deutsche Afrika Stiftung e.V.  
Fondation Allemande pour l'Afrique  
German Africa Foundation

**"Ansprenger Symposium 2023: African Studies Meets Practice"  
under the patronage of former President of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Horst Köhler**

Monday, 18 September to Tuesday, 19 September 2023  
Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Haus, Ziegelstraße 30, 10117 Berlin

***"Africa's youth are to be reckoned with in the coming decades. Do we see the largest youth population in human history as a threat to our security or do we recognise in them the potential that is inherent to young people?"***

*Despite all the current crises and conflicts, I remain confident and believe that Africa can become a continent of growth, employment and life prospects. Europe would do well to stop looking at its neighbouring continent with a routine air of concern but to support Africa's development with enthusiasm and commitment and help make the dreams of its youth come true. German businesses can and should also contribute to this by opening up qualified training opportunities and good career prospects on the ground."*

**Former President of the Federal Republic of Germany Horst Köhler**



## Programme:

**Day 1: Monday, 18 September 2023, 18:00 – 19:45hrs** (followed by a reception)

### **Opening, "The Further Development of the Federal Government's Africa Policy Guidelines - Redefining Priorities and Interests"**

After the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) presented its new Africa Strategy at the end of January, the Federal Foreign Office also announced a revision of the Federal Government's Africa Policy Guidelines - the overarching framework of Germany's Africa policy. Against this backdrop, we would like to discuss the following questions together:

What constitutes good Africa policy guidelines? How do they need to change with respect to global challenges and the changing geopolitical situation? Which policy fields and approaches need more attention? How can the guidelines of the German Africa policy be successfully embedded in the Africa strategy of the EU? And what expectations do the African partners have of the German Africa policy guidelines?

### **Welcome Remarks**

#### **Introduction&**

**Conclusion:** **Christoph Retzlaff**, Regional Commissioner for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Federal Foreign Office

**Discussion:** **Jean-Bertrand Azapmo**, Principal Adviser to the AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals

**Susan Bergner**, PhD student within the Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS, FU Berlin

**Dr Edward K. Brown**, Senior Director, Research, Policy, and Programs, ACET

**Prof Dr em. Robert Kappel**, Professor emeritus at the Universities of Hamburg and Leipzig; Member of Board of Trustees, German Africa Foundation

**Lidet Tadesse Shiferaw**, Associate Director, Cluster Peaceful Societies and Accountable Governance, ECDPM

**Moderation:** **Dr Gerrit Kurtz**, Researcher in the Africa and Middle East Research Group, SWP



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## Speakers



### **Jean Bertrand Azapmo**

Principal Adviser to the AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Mineral

Jean Bertrand Azapmo is the Principal Adviser to the AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Mineral. He currently provides strategic advice on key continental strategies to achieve industrialisation and economic diversification with a view to supporting the AfCFTA and increasing Africa's share of international trade; transitioning towards the African Customs Union and the establishment of African Union financial institutions in support of Africa trade and economic integration agenda.



### **Susan Bergner**

PhD student within the Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS, Free University of Berlin

Susan Bergner is currently pursuing her PhD within the Cluster of Excellence "Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)" at the Free University of Berlin. Her PhD thesis focuses on African diasporic organisations in International Relations. Prior to joining SCRIPTS, she has worked as a research associate at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in the global health research project. She is part of the #teamDiversity community of the think tank lab by DGAP and MERICS. Susan studied political science and communication science in Berlin, Paris and Melbourne.



### **Dr Edward K. Brown**

Senior Director, Research, Policy, and Programs, African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)

Dr Edward Brown is currently Senior Director, Research, Policy, and Programs at the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), based in Accra, Ghana. He has more than 35 years' experience in international development and public policy, more than half of which were spent at the World Bank. Currently at ACET, he manages a pool of in-house senior policy advisors, researchers, and economist, drawing on a worldwide pool of experts to assist African policymakers respond to specific challenges and opportunities with the explicit goals of transferring knowledge, building local capabilities, and spurring economic growth and transformation.



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**Prof Dr em. Robert Kappel**

Professor emeritus at the universities of Hamburg and Leipzig

Robert Kappel has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the German Africa Foundation since 2019. From 2004 to 2011 he was President of the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and Professor at the University of Hamburg. From 1996 to 2004, he taught African Studies at the University of Leipzig and established the course "Small Business Development and Training". Before that, he was a research assistant for the postgraduate programme in Third World Studies at the University of Bremen.



**Lidet Tadesse Shiferaw**

Associate Director, Cluster Peaceful Societies and Accountable Governance, European Centre for Development Policy Management, ECDPM

Lidet Tadesse Shiferaw is Associate Director, Peaceful Societies and Accountable Governance, at ECDPM, which is a think tank working on Europe-Africa relations. Her areas of interest and expertise are in geopolitics, peace and security in Africa, Europe-Africa relations, the African Union (AU) and its global partnerships, Africa in multilateralism and the geopolitics of the Horn of Africa. In recent years, she has written and spoken on the changing dynamics of EU-Africa relations, global geopolitics and its impact on Europe-Africa relations and what Europe and Africa need to forge a meaningful partnership beyond aid.



**Dr Gerrit Kurtz**

Researcher in the Africa and Middle East Research Group, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

Dr Gerrit Kurtz is a researcher in the Africa and Middle East Research Group at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. His research focuses on the Horn of Africa (Sudan and Ethiopia) as well as conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacebuilding. Prior to SWP, he worked for the German Council on Foreign Relations and the Global Public Policy Institute, among others. He holds a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies from the Department of War Studies, King's College London.



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## **Day 2: Tuesday, 19 September 2023**

### **10:30 - 12:00hrs: Discussion "The Conflict Potential of Lack of Opportunities - On the Nexus of Youth, Employment and Security in West Africa"**

The new BMZ Africa Strategy identifies the creation of prospects for the 'greatest youth generation ever' as the challenge for developing the potential of African youth. Conversely, a lack of jobs and opportunities for young people in Africa is seen as a major cause of political instability and violence, making job creation not only particularly important in conflict prevention, but also understood as a stabilising measure in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Accordingly, employment promotion programmes for youth play a prominent role in cooperation with the African continent.

But how does it work in practice to create jobs in critical security situations, such as in various countries in West Africa? What are the needs and challenges of young people in West Africa with regard to security, peace and employment, and to what extent are these incorporated into programmes on the ground? Who is behind the term 'West Africa's youth', for whom and with whom policy is being shaped? And how can perspectives for youth be successfully created against this background in order to really contribute to peacebuilding?

**Welcome:**        **Thomas Zhou**, Youth ambassador, GBK

**Discussion:**    **Nadine Günther**, Head of the Steering Unit in the Global Project "Employment in Rural Areas with a Focus on Youth", GIZ

**Peter Kwasi Kodjie**, Secretary-General, AASU

**Dr Samantha Ruppel**, Director of the African-German Leadership Academy, IDOS

**Bintu Zahara Sakor**, Doctoral Researcher, PRIO

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



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## Speakers



### **Nadine Günther**

Head of the Steering Unit in the Global Project "Employment in Rural Areas with a Focus on Youth", GIZ

Nadine Günther is the Head of the Steering Unit in the GIZ Global Project "Employment in Rural Areas with a Focus on Youth" for the implementation of project activities in the countries Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique. She has been working for the GIZ since 2010 in various positions in Germany and abroad, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, and was co-spokesperson of the GIZ sector network "Rural Development in Africa" for several years. Her thematic work includes, among others, private sector development and youth employment.



### **Peter Kwasi Kodjie**

Secretary-General, All-Africa Students Union (AASU)

Currently serving as the Secretary-General of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), Peter Kwasi Kodjie represents African students on education policy issues on intergovernmental bodies and programmes. His commitment to fighting for access, equity and quality education extends to his advisory roles in the Harmonization of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA3) Initiative and the Africa Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF2) spearheaded by the African Union and European Union to harmonize Africa's higher education systems.



### **Dr Samantha Ruppel**

Director of the African-German Leadership Academy, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Dr Samantha Ruppel is the director of the African-German Leadership Academy at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability and an associate researcher at the Hessian Foundation for Peace and Conflict Research. Her research interests include civil conflict resolution, partnership and power imbalance in peace and development work, youth participation, critical peace research and learning and teaching formats. The regional focus of her work is on West and East Africa.



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### **Bintu Zahara Sakor**

Doctoral Researcher, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

The African and Norwegian Bintu Zahara Sakor is a Doctoral Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and Visiting Scholar at Harvard University Center for African studies. Her key research areas include Political and Economic Development of Sub-Saharan Africa; Demography, Youth bulges, Gender and Conflict in West Africa (and Sahel). Zahara holds a BA in International Relations and MSc Conflict Resolution from University of Essex, United Kingdom.



### **Thomas Zhou**

Youth Ambassador, Global Campaign for Education (GBK)

Thomas Zhou has been working as a youth ambassador for the Global Campaign for Education since 2022 to promote globally fair education policies and the participation of young people. There he works on the implementation of the international dialogue series with youth organisations from Africa and coordinates the execution and mediation of specific projects. He now also addresses these issues at the European level in his position as Germany's EU Youth Representative for the European Union Youth Participation Process, where he is entrusted with representing the interests of the German youth. The Youth Task Force is structured within the Global Campaign for Education Germany (GBK), acting as an independent youth council. As such, it forms the youth participation structure of the GBK and advocates for youth participation, global access to education, human rights and humanitarian aid both nationally and internationally with a focus on Africa.



### **Sabine Odhiambo**

Secretary General, German Africa Foundation (DAS)

Sabine Odhiambo lived in Nairobi for eight years and developed into an expert for the East African region. In addition to various Kenyan NGOs, she also worked for the Goethe Institute as well as the German Embassy. Having already led the Foundation on an interim basis and served as Deputy Secretary General, she has been Secretary General of the German Africa Foundation since 2022.

12:15 – 13:15hrs: Lunch Break



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**13:15 – 14:45hrs: Discussion "Reforming the International Financial Architecture, Making Development Finance Sustainable - German-African Perspectives"**

In order to adapt development finance to current and future challenges and make it more efficient, a reform of the international financial architecture is essential. This is especially true in view of climate change and the increasing indebtedness of countries in the Global South. Almost 80 years after the founding of the Bretton Woods system, the UN Secretary-General has made a number of reform proposals in the run-up to the Future Summit planned for 2024, including the modernization of existing institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Against this backdrop, we would like to discuss where we currently stand in this process, what African partners in particular expect with regard to reform, and what the recommendations from academic research look like in this regard?

**Discussion:**     **Hafez Ghanem**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

**Prof Dr Lukas Menkhoff**, Head of the Department of International Economics, DIW

**Philipp Sewing**, Advisor to the German Executive Director of the World Bank Group

**Armand Zorn MP**, SPD parliamentary Group, Member of the Finance Committee

**Moderation:**   **Tevin Tafese**, Research Fellow and PhD candidate, GIGA





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## Speakers



### **Hafez Ghanem**

Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Hafez Ghanem is a development expert with a large number of academic publications; and more than forty-year experience in policy analysis, project formulation and supervision, and management of multinational institutions. He is a distinguished fellow at the Development Finance Lab of the Paris School of Economics, a Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South in Rabat, a Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum in Cairo, and a non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington DC. Between 2015 and 2022 he was Vice President of the World Bank, initially responsible for the Middle East and North Africa, then for Sub-Saharan Africa and then East and Southern Africa.



### **Philipp Sewing**

Advisor to the German Executive Director of the World Bank Group

Philipp Sewing has been an advisor to the German Executive Director of the World Bank Group since 2020. In his role, he is closely involved in the negotiations on the World Bank reform and is also responsible for the health sector, where he particularly promoted the World Bank's cooperation with the WHO and COVAX during the Covid19 pandemic. With regional responsibility for Sub-Saharan Africa, he supports the World Bank's strategy and investment decisions there. Since 2016, he has been responsible for the African Development Bank (AfDB) at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and negotiated the capital increase and replenishment of the development fund on behalf of Germany.



### **Prof Dr Lukas Menkhoff**

Head of the Department of International Economics, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)

Prof Dr Lukas Menkhoff is the Head of the Department of International Economics at DIW Berlin, Professor of Economics at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and member of the finance group at HU Berlin. His research focus is on International Finance and Financial Development. Previously, Lukas Menkhoff served as a professor at the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel (joint appointment with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy), the Leibniz University of Hannover, and the RWTH Aachen University. At the Kiel Institute for the World Economy he is active in the supervision of younger researchers.



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### **Armand Zorn MP**

SPD parliamentary group, Member of the Finance Committee

Armand Zorn was born in Cameroon in 1988 and moved to Halle (Saale) in 2000. Zorn has been a member of the German Bundestag since September 2021. Before joining the Bundestag, he worked as a management consultant and as a project manager in development cooperation. Since 2015, Frankfurt am Main has been his professional, private and political centre of life. In the German Bundestag, he is a member of the Finance Committee, the Digital Affairs Committee and the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development.



### **Tevin Tafese**

Research Fellow and PhD candidate, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)

Tevin Tafese is a research fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and PhD candidate at the University of Göttingen. His research interest is the impact of globalization and digitalization on development in the Global South, particularly in Africa. Since 2022, he has been the research project coordinator of the projects "Research Network Sustainable Global Supply Chains" and "Platforms and Online Workers in India and Africa: Challenges and Opportunities for Decent Work."



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### **15:15 - 16:45hrs: Discussion "Partnership in Progress – Turkey-Africa Relations"**

From 12-13 October the IV. Turkey-Africa Business and Economic Forum will take place in Istanbul, providing a platform for high level policy dialogue between African countries and Turkey as well as a means for interaction between their business spheres. Turkey's foreign policy towards Africa has evolved significantly since the first Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit in 2008. Concentrating on political, economic, humanitarian and cultural collaborations on a bilateral, regional, continental and international scale, Turkey aims at differentiating itself as a partner without imperial baggage. The trading partnership with African nations based upon an "equal partnership and win-win strategy". Turkish companies have undertaken more than 1,150 projects with a total value above USD 70 billion across the continent. Total trade with the region increased from USD 5.4 billion in 2003 up to USD 25.6 billion by 2021.

Against this backdrop, in cooperation with the Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI) we are organizing this discussion where we would like to focus on the multidimensional relationship between African countries and Turkey by exploring its different facets, including trade diplomacy, foreign policy expertise and educational endeavours driving mutual growth. What factors are responsible for Turkey's increased engagement with African countries and where do common interests lie? How do African countries view their cooperation with Turkey and what do they expect from it?

**Discussion:**     **H.E. Tom Amolo**, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya in Germany

**Dr Samiratou Dipama**, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science,  
Thomas Sankara University in Burkina Faso

**Dr Marcus Knupp**, Deputy Area Manager for Africa/Middle East, GTAI

**Elif Ülgen**, Head of the Directorate General for East and Southern Africa, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

**Moderation:**     **Dr Hürcan Aslı Aksoy**, Head of the Centre for Applied Turkish Studies (CATS), SWP

**Closing Remarks**



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## Speakers



### **H.E. Thomas Amolo**

Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya in Germany

H.E. Thomas Amolo is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kenya to Germany since 2021. Previously, he was the Political and Diplomatic Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nairobi and Kenya's Special Envoy to the United Nations Security Council. He was also the High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Nigeria, South Africa and the Kingdoms of Eswatini and Lesotho.



### **Dr Samiratou Dipama**

Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science, Thomas Sankara University in Burkina Faso

Dr Samiratou Dipama is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at Thomas Sankara University, Burkina Faso. She holds a PhD student in EU-Politics and International Relations at Marmara University's European Union Institute. She published, among others, a policy paper on Turkey's engagement with Africa in Africa Policy Research Private Institute (APRI). Her outstanding academic achievement were recognized with the prestigious *2023 Zounon Victorine Award* by the Global South Caucus of International Studies (GSCIS).



### **Dr Marcus Knupp**

Deputy Area Manager for Africa/Middle East, Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI)

Dr Marcus Knupp studied geography and economics with a social science orientation and then devoted several years to research and teaching in geography at the University of Cologne. Since 2003 he has been working for the federally owned foreign trade and investment agency Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI) or its predecessor bfai. After starting as a correspondent for the Middle East, he headed the GTAI office in Istanbul from 2007 to 2012. In the same function, the next position was in Paris from 2012 to 2017. Since 2018, he has been responsible for Southern Africa at the Berlin headquarters and, from 2022, for the entire Africa/Middle East region as Deputy Head of Division.



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### **Elif Ülgen**

Head of the Directorate General for East and Southern Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Ambassador Elif Çomoğlu Ülgen currently is the Director-General for East and South Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. Until 2017, she was Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to South Africa and accredited to the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Kingdom of Lesotho. Since graduating from the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Ankara, she has worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She received her Master's Degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Bosphorus, Istanbul.



### **Dr Hürcan Aslı Aksoy**

Head of the Centre for Applied Turkish Studies (CATS), German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

Dr Hürcan Aslı Aksoy is the head of the Centre for Applied Turkey Studies (CATS) at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Berlin. Before joining CATS, she was a research associate at the Chair of Middle East Politics and Society at University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. At CATS, Asli is working on Turkey's domestic politics, foreign and security policy in the Middle East and North Africa as well as Turkey-EU relations. Her academic focus is on democratization and authoritarianism, civil society, issues of Turkish politics, gender and politics in the Middle East and North Africa.



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## Notes:



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We look forward to your active participation and an interesting exchange!

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