



Symposium in commemoration of 140 years of the Berlin Conference 1884/85

Wednesday, 29 January and Thursday, 30 January 2025

KfW Headquarters Berlin, Charlottenstraße 33a, 10117 Berlin

From 15 November 1884 to 26 February 1885, the Berlin Conference, which is also known today as the Berlin 'Congo Conference' or 'West Africa Conference', took place in Berlin at the invitation of then-Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. The final document of the conference formed the basis for the subsequent division of Africa into colonies. Despite the far-reaching consequences of this conference, knowledge of its contents and its significance for African-European relations is rudimentary, not only among the German public but also in German politics.

Accordingly, with this symposium, which is jointly organised by Farafina Afrika-Haus e.V., the University of Dar es Salaam and the German Africa Foundation and takes place as a special edition of the Ansprenger Symposium 2024/2025, we would like to make a contribution to closing these knowledge gaps. It will bring together German, African and European political decision-makers as well as representatives from academia, business and civil society to discuss the historical significance of the 1884/85 conference, to engage with colonial history come to a joint learning and remembrance. Building on this, the African-European partnership will be deepened and sustainable perspectives for a common future will be discussed.



Programme

Wednesday, 29 January 2025

11:00 – 13:00hrs *City walk on Berlin colonial history before official opening*

City tour on Berlin's colonial history before the official opening (group 1 in German, group 2 in English, group 3 in French)

16:00 – 17:15hrs

Opening Ceremony (DE//EN//FR)

Welcoming address: **Dr Thomas Duve**, Head of Sub-Saharan Africa, KfW Development Bank

Opening speeches: **Former Federal President Prof. Dr Horst Köhler** (read out in absentia by **Sven Behnke**)

Former President of the Republic of Liberia Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

Speaker: **Prof. Dr Robert Dussey**, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Togo

17:30 – 19:00hrs

Panel discussion: The Berlin Conference of 1884/1885 and its significance today

What happened at the Berlin Conference 1884/85? Who was there, what was discussed and what was the outcome? What was the conference's significance for colonial history and for the following "Scramble for Africa"? To what extent is it significant for today's African-European relations? What role does it play in African and European/German memory politics? How can a common understanding be reached and how can this common understanding improve African-European relations?

Speech: **Dr Andreas Görden**, Head of Office at the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media

Discussion: **Dr Nikitta Dede Adjirakor**, Fellow at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, University of Cologne

Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi, Distinguished Professor, Wits School of Governance, University of Witwatersrand

Prof. Dr Brigitte Reinwald, Professor for African History, Leibniz University Hannover

Moderation: **Paula Essam**, Actress, presenter and author

**19:00 – 20:30hrs
reception**

Thursday, 30 January 2025

9:00 - 10:00hrs

Panel 3: The foreign policy reappraisal of Germany's colonial past (DE // EN // FR)

What's the German government's foreign policy approach when it comes to dealing with its colonial history? What measures are taken in this regard? What are successes and challenges? What is expected from Germany by its African partners? To what extent is Germany's approach synchronized with other European countries' efforts in this field? And what is the way forward?

Opening Remarks: **Katja Keul**, State Minister at the Federal Foreign Office

Discussion: **Jean Berchman Ndiokubwayo**, DAAD Fellow at Justus Liebig University Gießen

Katja Keul, State Minister at the Federal Foreign Office

Julie Laurissa Likondem Lekeufack, Doctoral scholarship holder, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (DAAD Fellow)

Prof. Sarah Stockwell, Professor of Imperial and Commonwealth History, King's College London

Moderation: **Joshua Kwesi Aikins**, Political scientist, Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI)

20 Minutes Break

2 parallel sessions

10:20 - 11:40hrs

Panel 4: Political measures to come to terms with the past - the question of restitution

Film screening *Dahomey* (DE // EN // FR)

Snippets of the movie will be shown and the issue of restitution as a political measure in addressing the colonial past will be discussed. What are the different perceptions of restitution in African and European societies? Where does restitution stand in different contexts and what are the challenges and lessons learnt? How do German and other European approaches to restitution compare?

Discussion: **Katja Keul**, State Minister at the Federal Foreign Office

Flower Manase, Curator of History, National Museum of Tanzania

Moderation: **Marie-Roger Biloa**, Journalist and filmmaker, RFI

10:20 - 11:40hrs

Panel 5: Today's visa and migration policies as part of colonial legacy? Perspectives on Colonization, Migration and the Labor Question in German and British East Africa 1890 - 1960 and its relevance today (DE // EN)

What were the effects of colonial migration and labour policies on the Tanzanian population? What was Germany's approach in German East Africa and how did these policies change (or not) in British East Africa? In what way does the legacy of these policies inform Europe's migration policy towards Africa and vice versa today? How are labour migration and mobility agreements to be regarded against this background?

Discussion: **Regine Heß**, Head of Division Eastern Africa, Federal Foreign Office
Dr Christoph Hoffmann MP, Member of the FDP parliamentary group and Acting Chairman of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development
Dr Salvatory Nyanto, Senior Lecturer of History, University of Dar es Salaam
Dr Franzisca Zanker, Head of Research Cluster Patterns of (Forced) Migration, Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute

Moderation: **Dr Rose Jaji**, Senior Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

15 Minutes Break

2 parallel sessions

11:55 - 13:15hrs

Panel 6: Perspectives for the reconciliation between Germany and Namibia (DE // EN // FR)

Since 2015, Germany and Namibia have been negotiating a joint declaration on reconciliation. But what does reconciliation actually mean in such a context? How can a common understanding be reached and what are possible measures, not only at a political but also at a social level? And what are the consequences of the reconciliation process for coming to terms with the colonial era in Germany, and perhaps also in other European countries?

Discussion: **Prof. Dr Dr Joseph Diescho**, Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies, University of Bonn
Dr Matthias Henkel, Director, Museum Neukölln
Isabel Katjavivi, Curator and artist (statement read out in absentia)
Ruprecht Polenz, Special envoy of the Federal Government during the negotiations on the reconciliation agreement with Namibia 2015-2021
Jamila Schäfer MP, Member of the Bündnis90/Die Grünen parliamentary group

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

11:55 - 13:15hrs

Panel 7: Pan-Africanist Aspirations Under Threat? Nations, borders, and religious identities as obstacle or opportunity for peace and security in Africa (DE // EN)

Where does the pan-Africanist dream of the founding fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) stand today? Which pan-Africanist projects with view to peace and security have been successful, which are in the pipeline and which have failed? To what extent do religious affiliation and national identity foster peace and security as well as social cohesion and where and why do they lead to conflict? What is the status of the African Union's African Peace and Security Structure (APSA) in this context? How can the understanding of colonial legacy in this regard lead to bridging divisions and to pan-Africanist successes?

Discussion: **Karen-Andréa Bedoume**, Associate, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, and Member, African Union Youth Reference Committee
Prof. Dr Ulf Engel, Professor for 'Politics in Africa', University of Leipzig
Prof. Happy Kayuni, Professor of Political Science, University of Malawi
Prof. Dr Mohamed Turki, Philosopher and Author

Moderation: **Susan Bergner**, Doctoral Researcher, Free University Berlin

Networking Lunch from 13:15 - 14:15 hrs

14:15 - 15:40hrs

Panel 8: Present and future of development cooperation with Africa – Towards the realisation of the Agenda 2063 (DE // EN // FR)

Why is development cooperation still needed today and to what extent does it need to change? How can development cooperation be made sustainable and successful? And how will it truly contribute to the Agenda 2063 instead of just paying lip service to it?

Keynote: **Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf**, Former President of the Republic of Liberia

Speeches: **Dr Bärbel Kofler**, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Discussion: **Dr Olumide Abimbola**, CEO, Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI)
Dr Andrea Hauser, Head of Non-Financial Risks, Equity Investments and North Africa / Middle East, Member of the Executive Board of KfW Development Bank
Dr Bärbel Kofler, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Prof. Severine Rugumamu, Professor of Development Studies, University of Dar es Salaam
H.E. Winnie Natala Chibesakunda, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to Germany

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

2 parallel sessions

16:00 – 17:20hrs

Panel 9: Africa-Europe Relations in a Changing Global Order (DE // EN // FR)

For a successful African-European partnership in the context of the reorganization of the international system, greater attention must be paid to some of the basic conditions for building equal relations based on mutual respect and trust. What are these prerequisites? Where do African and European interests align and where do they differ? How can Africa and Europe work together successfully and stand up together for a just world order?

Discussion: **Dr Karamba Diaby MP**, Member of the SPD parliamentary group
Chido Mpemba, African Union Special Envoy on Youth
Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi, Distinguished Professor, Wits School of Governance, University of Witwatersrand
Christoph Retzlaff, Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Federal Foreign Office

Moderation: **Sigurd Rothe**, Lecturer of Political Science, Sciences Po Paris / University Freiburg / University Bayreuth

16:00 – 17:20hrs

Panel 10: Africa as a strong partner for German foreign trade and investment? (only in English)

What are the reasons for stagnating numbers of German trade and investment with Africa? What obstacles do German companies face when entering the market? How can the economic relevance of the continent be strengthened and the potential for more investment and trade be tapped and promoted? But also: What contribution can trade and investment make to the continent's economic development? And what about economic flows in the other direction?

Discussion: **Bienvenue Angui**, Managing Director, MOBIANG Consulting
Mugarura Charles, Founder and Director, Broadfield Enterprise Uganda
Dr Thomas Duve, Head of Sub-Saharan Africa, KfW Development Bank
Christine Zander, Senior Manager, Africa Business Network

Moderation: **Dr Thando Sililo**, Head of Division Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Initiative (SAFRI) and German-African Business Summit (GABS), German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (DIHK)

10 Minutes Break

**AFRIKA - HAUS
BERLIN** seit 1993



Deutsche Afrika Stiftung e.V.
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German Africa Foundation

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17:30 – 18:00hrs Closing session (DE // EN // FR)

Discussion: **Prof. William-Andey Anangisye**, Vice Chancellor, University of Dar es Salaam
Oumar Diallo, Director, Farafina Afrika-Haus Berlin
Dr Uschi Eid, President, German Africa Foundation



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We look forward to your participation and an interesting exchange!

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