



The  
Federal Government



# *Shaping partnerships together in a changing world*

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Federal Government's Africa Policy Guidelines  
January 2025

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# Introduction

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*In a world undergoing profound change, Germany is acting as a member of the European Union in an international environment that is becoming more multipolar and unstable and is characterised to an increasing extent by geopolitical rivalries and by the existential threat posed by the climate crisis. We are acting self-confidently, strategically and in a spirit of partnership.*

Africa is increasingly becoming a centre of gravity in a multipolar world on account of its economic strength, its young, tech-savvy population, its growing middle class and its clout in multilateral forums with regard to overcoming global challenges.

With 54 countries, various regional organisations and 1.4 billion people today, Africa's **diversity** can only be reflected to a very limited degree in the Federal Government's Africa Policy Guidelines. Acknowledging and taking this diversity and plurality into account is a key element of Germany's policy with regard to Africa – also

thanks to the over 40 German missions abroad on the continent.

Highly dynamic growth markets, not least driven by innovative young entrepreneurs, and clusters of excellence in science and the digital transformation stand alongside fragile regions threatened by extreme poverty as well as by violence and extremism, which have a destabilising impact on their neighbours.

In all of the countries of Africa, a rapidly growing young population, which will assume leadership responsibility in the coming years, has

expectations with regard to security, prosperity, education and political participation. This young population will decide on the form that future relations with Germany and Europe are to take.

In a multipolar world, Germany and the European Union are in **competition** with others. In this competition, Germany has stood for a transparent and reliable partnership for decades, whether as a member of the European Union, an investment and trading partner, a location for technology, innovation and science, an active supporter of a just, inclusive multilateral order, an advocate of human rights and civil society or as a partner in overcoming local, regional and global challenges. We will be better able to hold our own in this competition if we are open to the interests of our partners.

In its National Security Strategy, the Federal Government set out **its key interests** in times of profound change and made it clear that it regards security as a comprehensive concept: as protection from war and violence, as the freedom to lead our lives within the framework of our free democratic order, and also as a means of safeguarding vital resources.

Germany's security, freedom and prosperity are closely bound up with the security, freedom and prosperity of other regions in the world. This applies in particular to our neighbouring continent Africa, which, in many countries, is having to contend with challenges stemming from terrorism and limited state power as well as inadequate state institutions.

Against this backdrop, Germany has a strong political and economic interest in a prosperous and secure Africa with resilient economies and secure vital resources. This is the basis for sustainable and inclusive growth, greater economic exchange, the diversification of markets and supply relationships and the safeguarding of a sustainable energy supply and the supply of critical raw materials, as well as cooperation with a view to reforming the global governance structure and working together to shape legal migration and taking steps to achieve the effective reduction of irregular migration.

Strengthening the democratic resilience of African partners, good governance, upholding human rights and the dignity of each and every individual, a free, competitive economic order based on solidarity that facilitates a growing

broad-based economy, the freedom of science, free media and innovation all offer protection against disinformation and hybrid threats and therefore bolster our freedom. The same applies to sustainable development and stability, security and freedom on our neighbouring continent.

We therefore have an interest in ensuring that the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda are being implemented in order to translate African as well as German and European interests into common action – not only in Africa, but around the world. For this purpose, we will also cooperate with countries that do not fully share our values.

**Mutual respect, reciprocity** – which is understood to mean a willingness on both sides to engage – as well as an **open dialogue** are the basis of our cooperation. We are also placing a strong focus in this regard on the ideas and concepts of African state and non-state stakeholders, especially those of young people.

The critical examination of Germany's colonial past is an important element of forward-looking relations with the countries of Africa. As the Federal Government and as society, we want to focus more intensively on this chapter of our history than has been the case in the past.

Cooperating in a pragmatic way in our mutual interest and to our mutual advantage, tackling global challenges and solving joint problems in a spirit of cooperation lies at the core of our relations with partners in Africa.

Both sides are able to rely in this endeavour on a wide-reaching network of contacts and cooperative partnerships that has been built up over many decades and which comprises state and non-state institutions from politics, civil society, business, culture, education, science, development cooperation and the military. Cooperation with African partners at the level of the Länder and the municipalities is making an important contribution to this.



Promoting civil society, exchange with non-state actors and the involvement of women, young people and marginalised groups in decision-making processes are important priorities of Germany's policy on Africa. The present guidelines are therefore also geared to Germany and Africa's diverse civil society and to the African diaspora living in Germany.

Another focus is the promotion of activities in the private sector and of cooperation with a view to contributing to mutual sustainable growth and to the creation of jobs both in Germany and in African partner countries.

## **Cooperation within the Federal Government**

The Federal Government's Africa Policy Guidelines are a political frame of reference and the strategic framework for the Federal Government's coherent policy on Africa. They are in line with the European Union's policy with regard to Africa.

The guidelines are embedded in the overarching strategies and guidelines of the Federal Government, in particular the National Security Strategy and the Strategy on Climate Foreign Policy, as well as the Guidelines on Preventing Crises, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace.

The Interministerial Steering Group for Africa at state secretary level coordinates the Federal Government's Africa policy, the focus of which is adapted to developments on the continent in an ongoing and flexible manner. At the same time, we are aware of the limitations to what we can do and what we can finance.

*Our interest*

# *Overcoming global challenges together*

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As the continent with the highest level of population growth, Africa is not only particularly impacted by **global challenges**, but these challenges can only be overcome together with African countries.

This applies first and foremost to the threefold crisis of climate change, the loss of biodiversity and environmental pollution, which is often a driver of national conflicts. It applies to safeguarding global food and energy security and the right to adequate food for all, as well as the protection of the global water cycle, guarding against and tackling pandemics and the intelligent management of ongoing urbanisation. However, it also concerns the reform of the global governance structure, a responsible approach to artificial intelligence, shaping legal migration and taking steps to achieve the effective reduction of irregular

migration as well as tackling its causes. This includes preventing and resolving conflicts, as well as defending against and combating terrorism and organised crime.

It is therefore in our strategic interest to **tackle these challenges together** and to lend our support to African partners where this is required.

Alongside bilateral **cooperation**, this also pertains to cooperation with the African Union and the regional organisations (Regional Economic Communities), as well as to cooperation in trilateral formats and multilateral organisations and forums.

## We are therefore committed to ...

### ... tackling the climate crisis:

- At international climate negotiations, we will – together with our African partners – continue to work towards a rapid limitation of global greenhouse gas emissions and the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change in order to keep the **1.5 °C limit** in reach.
- CO<sub>2</sub> price mechanisms can make an important contribution in this regard. At the same time, we are actively involved in the implementation of **support mechanisms** to reduce greenhouse gases and adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis. This includes, in particular, getting further donors on board, leveraging additional funds, especially from the private sector, as well as supporting the development of resilient financial systems in the affected countries.
- We are continuing our cooperation on climate action and climate change adaptation in Africa, also with European partners, with **the business and research communities as well as civil society** in a targeted and cooperative manner.

### ... a green and just transformation:

- Together with African partners and in the framework of diverse bilateral and multilateral formats, we are working on a **socially compatible, gender-equitable and environmentally friendly transformation of economic and energy systems** that takes into account the African Union's goal of universal access to energy while facilitating industrialisation and economic development without high levels of greenhouse gas emissions.
- We are seeking **fair partnerships** to this end. A successful energy transition in Europe and Germany is inconceivable without imports of energy such as green and, on a temporary basis, low-carbon hydrogen and its derivatives, as well as raw materials from Africa. The energy transition has the potential to be a motor for the

future economic growth of African countries. With this in mind, together with the European Union and multilateral partners, we are supporting African-led and joint initiatives, **fair trade and investment relations** and the promotion of **local added value**, as well as the establishment and consideration of **stringent environmental and social standards** in the regions in which raw materials are extracted, as well as in the generation of energy. Cooperation with our African partners in the field of natural gas, which is still required on a temporary basis during the energy transition, is based on the Initiative for Growth of the Federal Government and the Sectoral Guidelines of the Federal Government.

#### ... reforming the global governance structure:

- Germany supports calls for representative structures of global governance. This includes the involvement and **representation of African countries in multilateral structures**. Germany has lent its support to the African Union's admission to the G20 and is committed in the G7 to a close dialogue with Africa. We want to shape the further development of global governance together with the African Union and African countries.
- Africa must also be represented in the UN Security Council. Germany is committed to ensuring that Africa has two **permanent seats on the UN Security Council**.
- Germany supports Africa's calls for the **reform of the international financial institutions**. These reforms must be brought into alignment with the established principles of burden-sharing and responsibility. We are committed to effective and tenable support by multilateral development banks. Development, economic and climate policy interests should be brought into alignment, taking economic viability into account.

- We want to shape global frameworks together with our partners in such a way that they support and facilitate **private financing** in African countries and live up to global challenges. This includes questions concerning the approach to capital costs and local currency.

#### ... food security and social security:

- The agricultural and food sector, including fisheries, is key to realising the right to adequate food for all, for poverty reduction and for rural development and participation. Germany is therefore sharing its agricultural policy expertise at the request of African countries and is lending its support to the **transformation of agricultural and food systems** with a view to heightening resilience, food sovereignty and economic, environmental and social sustainability.
- It is important in the short term to tackle acute **hunger and malnutrition** in affected African countries, which children and women are particularly impacted by, with humanitarian diplomacy, humanitarian food aid, anticipatory humanitarian assistance and transitional development assistance.
- With our agricultural and development policy, bilateral and multilateral agricultural cooperation and cooperation in a spirit of partnership in research and science, we want to contribute to **eliminating the structural causes of hunger** and to **building up social security systems** in the medium and long term.

#### ... global health:

- We are committed to **international solidarity** in the fight against global health crises. The COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that global cooperation and coordination are essential in this regard.

- Together with European partners as Team Europe, we are working to establish **regional vaccine and pharmaceuticals production facilities** in Africa and to improve framework conditions (regulations and skilled workers) as important steps towards fair access to vaccines and other pharmaceutical products.
- Germany supports efforts to strengthen Africa's healthcare systems as well as generally accessible and comprehensive **healthcare provision** in Africa, in addition to **basic and further training for skilled workers**. We are assisting efforts to research and tackle diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, in addition to neglected tropical diseases on the continent.

#### ... **biodiversity and access to water:**


- Only when the population benefits – with fair distribution – from the protection and sustainable use of the continent's natural resources, such as biodiversity, the woodland and water resources, can their preservation be ensured. Germany is therefore committed, together with African partners, to the rapid, inclusive and effective **implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** and to development-oriented **environmental and resource protection** that combines the preservation of biological diversity and ecosystems with the balancing of interests in society.
- Germany is working with a wide range of African, often local, partners to ensure safe, inclusive, gender-equitable and climate-just **access to water, sanitation and hygiene services** not only to prevent diseases and improve educational opportunities, but also to preserve biodiversity, protect fresh water resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### ... a responsible approach to the digital transformation, artificial intelligence and disruptive technologies:

- Shaping the digital transformation sustainably and fairly is essential in order to overcome global challenges successfully. We are strengthening the **dialogue with African partners** concerning the opportunities and risks of the digital transformation, in particular regarding the potential and risks of artificial intelligence. We are working to promote the digital sovereignty of our African partners as well as cooperation in the area of setting standards.
- We want, where appropriate, to drive forward the regulation of disruptive technologies together and to create **binding rules** for market participants and state bodies. We are committed in this regard to the responsible, human-centric development and use of these technologies and are stepping up our cooperation with African partners that are committed to multi-stakeholder governance and democratic values in the digital domain.
- Increasing value added in the digital sphere in Africa and Europe and trade between our two continents are our declared aim. We are advancing the **digital transformation** and the **valorisation of disruptive technologies** with the business and research communities as well as civil society. Basic and further training play a major role in this context.

### ... reducing the causes of displacement, regulating migration and mobility:

- Effectively reducing the **causes of displacement and irregular migration** together with African and other partners and assisting African host countries' efforts to accomplish their tasks remains a German and European core interest. Tackling hunger and implementing the human right to adequate food as well as food and agricultural policy, effective steps to combat terrorism and organised crime and the restoration of the state's monopoly on the use of force play a key role here as part of an integrated approach.

- We want to address **irregular migration**, to cooperate with African countries in tackling people smuggling and human trafficking, to lend our support to strengthening border management and to promote return, readmission and sustainable reintegration.
  - We are supporting regular labour migration in Africa and want to facilitate **safe, orderly and regular migration** to the EU and to Germany while taking into account the challenges bound up with the emigration of highly qualified African employees.
  - For the benefit of the countries of origin and destination as well as migrants, we want to continue to develop approaches in a spirit of partnership regarding the development-oriented **migration of trainees and skilled workers**. Moreover, we are focusing on technical and vocational basic and further training and support for women and girls concerning participation, education and employment opportunities and are lending our support to companies in the region as key stakeholders in this respect. Visa facilitations, qualification measures for the German labour market, including teaching German as a foreign language, job portals and cooperation with the African diaspora play a major role in addition to the expansion of trade, investment and technology transfers.
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*Our interest*

## *Sustainable growth, greater economic exchange and cooperation between companies, local added value and diversification of supply chains*

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Industrialisation and the creation of economic prospects for a rapidly growing population are key tasks for many African countries. Sustainable economic growth that benefits the entire population in addition to macroeconomic stability, above all in the form of a viable financial and monetary policy, are essential to this end. A liberal, market-based regulatory framework with a high level of legal certainty and good governance helps to strengthen the confidence of private investors. **A prosperous neighbouring continent that overcomes inequality and offers its young people future prospects** is in Germany's interests. As a strongly interconnected global

economic player, Germany benefits from growing markets and diversified supply chains. Inclusive growth and economic resilience help to reduce the economic causes of security policy crises and irregular migration.

Good governance, efficient and functioning institutions, reliable rules, a skilled workforce, functioning infrastructure and access to affordable and **sustainable energy are vital to sustainable economic growth and economic development**. With its wealth of resources, its demographic development and available technologies, Africa is well placed to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda of the United

Nations. The fact that many African countries are striving to achieve decarbonised growth and the establishment of local added value helps to combine environmental and economic sustainability with social justice and the creation of jobs.

**African raw materials and energy** are key factors for a successful energy transition in Africa, Europe and Germany. This particularly applies to electricity from renewable energies, as well as to green and, on a temporary basis, low-carbon hydrogen and its derivatives, as well as, on a temporary basis and under certain

conditions, to natural gas. At the same time, a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy supply based on Africa's abundant renewable energy sources is a prerequisite for economically, environmentally and socially sustainable growth for Africa's rapidly growing economies.

Increasing **local added value** is making a major contribution to inclusive sustainable growth in Africa. At the same time, **diversifying supply** in Africa increases the resilience of global supply chains and reduces risks for Germany stemming from one-sided dependencies.



## We are therefore committed to ...

### ... strengthening trade:

- The integration of markets within Africa and with the EU creates prospects for growth and development. Germany will therefore remain an important supporter together with its EU partners as Team Europe with a view to the **implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area**.
- Germany is committed to expanding **EU economic partnership agreements** with individual African countries into regional agreements and to harmonising the rules of the EU's trade agreements with African countries with regard to the use of intermediate goods. A comprehensive AU-EU trade agreement remains the objective here.
- We are committed to upholding and strengthening the **rules-based multilateral trading system** with the World Trade Organization at its core – the strength of the law as opposed to the law of the strong in international economic relations is elementary both for Africa and for Europe. During the reform process, we want to take into account the legitimate interests of African countries.
- As a fair partner, we want to **strengthen trade relations with Africa**. This includes, in particular, granting **customs preferences**, expanding bilateral economic partnership and other agreements and **support for German companies** via, among other things, the broad network of chambers of commerce abroad and measures offered by Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI).
- We are supporting the activities of **small and medium-sized enterprises** in African countries. The Federal Government's export credit guarantees are, as a matter of principle, available to all German exporters to protect their deliveries to and services provided in the target countries against economic and political risks. The Federal Government's export initiatives help to gain a foothold in African markets and to enter into partnerships.

### ... strengthening investments, infrastructure and private-sector cooperation:

- A **good investment climate** and **suitable framework conditions**, in particular the ability of the state to serve its citizens, legal certainty and good governance, are key preconditions for investments in Africa. In this context, we are committed to strengthening good governance, to fighting corruption and illegal financial flows, to promoting adequate public financial management and to increasing state revenue.
- We want, in our mutual interest, to **strengthen German and European investments in Africa** and to tackle unfair investment and supplier competition in an effective manner. As a rule, the Federal Government's investment guarantees offer German companies protection against political risks for their foreign investments in Africa.
- Key stakeholders for sustainable development in Africa include **dynamic entrepreneurs** in the region. The Federal Government will therefore continue to work to ensure that cooperation with German companies is strengthened and that synergies between **development cooperation and the private sector are identified and harnessed**.
- We want to further develop the **G20 Compact with Africa** with its focus on private investments together with G20 partners and strengthen it as the key multilateral initiative for improving the investment climate in Africa and as the major Africa initiative of the G20.
- Together with its member states, the European Union wants to mobilise public and private funds for **sustainable infrastructure** with the Global Gateway initiative. For projects in Africa, 150 billion euro have been earmarked to this end as part of the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package. Germany will continue to advocate for the Global Gateway initiative to be implemented swiftly in Africa with the needs of African partner countries in mind, including with the close involvement of the private sector and civil society, and, in particular, with a view to supporting local added value.

- With the **Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)**, we will continue to coordinate our measures with our G7 partners to mobilise investments in sustainable infrastructure in African states and other partner countries.

#### ... energy supply and energy sovereignty:

- A secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply continues to be a priority and a challenge for many countries in Africa. Germany will continue to expand measures for improved access to **energy, energy security and energy sovereignty for Africa** in line with the Paris climate goals through the coordinated use of existing instruments. Our focus in this regard is on achieving the COP28 objectives with a considerable expansion of renewable energies and energy efficiency as well as the transition away from fossil fuels.
- The Federal Government has developed climate strategies for the guarantee instruments of foreign trade and investment promotion as well as sectoral guidelines for key sectors of the instruments. It has envisaged exceptions in this regard for natural gas projects if these, in keeping with the 1.5 °C limit and avoiding **lock-in effects**, are necessary for national security or the geostrategic security of supply interests.
- The **establishment of hydrogen markets** also poses opportunities for the development of local value chains and the creation of skilled jobs. The production of green hydrogen opens the door to economic diversification for partner countries currently exporting fossil fuels.


#### ... diversification and local added value:

- We are supporting the objective of African countries to **increase local added value** and to create new jobs in the process, including by lending our environmentally sustainable support to efforts to adapt to product and production standards that facilitate better access to the EU market for African producers.

- The **diversification of global supply chains** increases the resilience of the global trade system. Africa has an important role to play in the global trade system as a continent rich in resources. Germany is supporting efforts to **increase added value** in Africa in line with international rules, the further diversification of African economies and the expansion of a sustainable and fair circular economy between Africa and Europe.
- With its **potential in the area of raw materials**, Africa can make an important contribution to the diversification of raw material imports by German industry, particularly in the case of critical and strategic raw materials **for the technologies of the future**. Germany will lend its assistance to Africa's extractive sector in ensuring the sustainably safe, efficient, environmentally friendly and socially compatible extraction and processing of raw materials.
- We want to promote **innovative and modern business models** in future growth sectors such as digitalisation to our mutual benefit and support partnerships between African and German stakeholders, especially in the area of start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises.

**... containing debt and strengthening the international financial architecture:**

- **Country-specific approaches** are needed in order to contain debt, with a focus on robust macroeconomic framework conditions to promote sustainable growth as well as robust state finances. This also includes measures to mobilise private investments and to strengthen state domestic revenue in African economies. These measures can be flanked in a targeted manner by strengthening local expertise and, if debt sustainability is a given, by further low-interest funding.

- The **reform of the international financial architecture** plays a decisive role in this regard. The effective and efficient implementation of the **G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments** as well as support for the proposals regarding the structural further development of the framework and for improving debt transparency are a priority for the Federal Government.
  - This includes, in particular, **equitable burden-sharing** between the traditional state creditors of the Paris Club and new bilateral creditors, especially China, on the one hand and private creditors on the other.
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*Our interest*

## *Strengthening democratic resilience as well as education, science and innovation*

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**Protecting our democracy** against both internal and external enemies is key to preserving our security and freedom. The goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063 – good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law – are commensurate with our values and interests. The more our values are in alignment, the stronger our bilateral partnerships are. We are countering autocratic tendencies with open, critical dialogue and adapting our cooperation with the countries concerned, prioritising the needs of the population and our interests.

The **promotion and protection of civil society**, strengthening local self-government, decentralisation, support for democratic processes and free media, the commitment to the rule of law and human rights and the fight against corruption, disinformation

and propaganda are key pillars of our foreign and developmental policy and therefore also of our African policy engagement. **Intersocietal exchange**, for example through travel, study or employment visits, contributes to better mutual understanding, helps to strengthen a shared foundation of values and requires the reduction of bureaucratic hurdles on both sides.

The Federal Government advocates the values of the freedom of science and research security as part of science diplomacy. After all, Germany's resilience and competitiveness depend on its high level of innovative capacity and on technological and digital sovereignty. In view of global challenges that must be overcome by working together, exchange in the **area of innovation, technology and science** with African partners is in our interests and must



be stepped up. Moreover, the targeted promotion of research on Africa studies in Germany is helping to strengthen evidence-based consultancy for political decisions relating to Africa that are taken by the Federal Government.

Strengthening democratic resilience together requires an open and self-critical exchange, including a critical dialogue on Germany's **colonial past**. We want to pursue this dialogue with respect and sensitivity.

## We are therefore committed to ...

### ... addressing Germany's colonial past:

- We are committed to continuing **our critical examination of Germany's colonial past** in Africa together with African state and non-state stakeholders. This includes the promotion of independent academic research, acknowledging past injustices and support for the return of cultural property and the repatriation of human remains from colonial contexts, in addition to **critically questioning** whether and how our foreign and development policies might still be informed by post-colonial patterns of thought today.
- **Reconciliation with Namibia** following the genocide committed against the Nama and Herero at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is a priority.

### ... strengthening human rights and democratic resilience:

- We want to support the **resilience of democratic partner countries in Africa** by strengthening state and civil-society institutions. In order to counteract the shrinking scope for action on the part of civil society, the Federal Government will also explore new approaches to promoting civil society stakeholders and involve civil society in international processes.

- We are continuing to work to promote and **protect human rights** with circumspection by cooperating with NGOs and in dialogue with governments. We are seeking to strengthen sustainable supply chains to this end also in our bilateral relations with Africa. We are further expanding cooperation with African member states in the United Nations Human Rights Council. At the same time, we are focusing in the United Nations and in other global forums on critical human rights situations, including those in Africa.
- We are lending our support to **decentralisation** and the improvement of good governance at the subnational and local levels. Active involvement on the part of the population in political opinion-forming and decision-making processes is essential in this regard. Municipal partnerships can play a part in this.
- The African Union and the regional African economic communities are built on a democratic and participatory foundation of values. In the medium term, these organisations can contribute not only to economic growth, but can also help to strengthen the democratic resilience of their member states. The Federal Government will continue its support for **Africa's regional integration** also with this in mind.

#### ... strengthening gender equality and diverse societies:

- We want to work with African state and non-state stakeholders to promote gender equality and diverse societies. We are seeking an **exchange of best practices** with a view to increasing the share of women in leadership positions in business, administration and politics.
- Moreover, we are intensifying **cooperation**, including on economic participation, with all social groups to strengthen the rights and freedom of vulnerable groups.

### ... strengthening the media:

- The importance of freedom of the media is a key element of free and critical societies. We are contributing to plurality and an open discourse by **promoting free and independent media and quality journalism**. Journalists and media outlets play an important role in combating disinformation and propaganda. We are supporting Africa's civil society in taking action against hate speech and incitement to hatred, including in social media.

### ... tackling disinformation:

- Disinformation seeks to divide societies and to destroy trust in democratic institutions. It has the potential to destabilise and to exacerbate conflicts. We are strengthening **African state and civil society stakeholders** who bolster democratic societies through education and awareness-raising, and we are lending our support to initiatives investigating and tackling disinformation campaigns.

### ... strengthening cultural and intersocietal exchange:

- **People-to-people exchange** remains a precondition for a reliable partnership also in a digital world. We will continue to invest in this exchange, primarily among young people – via German schools abroad, the schools of the PASCH initiative, scholarships, the branches of the Goethe-Institut, cultural, literary and film festivals and other programmes, as well as within the framework of volunteer programmes and exchange projects. With a view to promoting exchange in the academic sphere, we want to establish Academic Evaluation Centres in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service in order to accelerate the issuing of visas.

- We are fostering a **modern image of Germany in African countries** with active communication on the part of the Federal Government as well as with the presence and work of our intermediary and implementing organisations. Moreover, we are supporting a **differentiated image of Africa in Germany**. We will therefore continue to promote organisations such as the German Africa Foundation as well as projects run by think tanks and research institutes to strengthen knowledge of Africa's policy, economy, history, cultures, literatures and languages in Germany.
- We welcome **cooperation at municipal and Land level** with African cities, regions and countries and are lending this work our support.

#### ... promoting education:

- Germany is promoting **access to inclusive and high-quality basic education** as well as to vocational and tertiary education in African countries – particularly for girls, women and other people in vulnerable situations – as a precondition for leading a self-determined life and with a common interest in qualified skilled workers.
- Democratic values are taught and instilled in the networks of German **schools abroad** and the schools of the PASCH initiative, as well as with initiatives offered by **intermediary organisations** such as the Goethe-Institut.

#### ... strengthening excellence research and scientific cooperation:

- African scientists must be more strongly involved in the **global production of knowledge** and their expertise more widely perceived. We want to intensify scientific cooperation at a high international level. Germany's research and science policy is focused on **promoting excellence** also in Africa.
- We want to more strongly promote exceptional **scientific talent** in Africa than has been the case to date and strengthen African hubs of science and research as partners of German institutions.

*Our interest*

## *Security, freedom and sustainable stability*

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Security, freedom and sustainable stability on our neighbouring continent are our key interest. Important preconditions include **economic development** and **resilient societies** as well as **functioning states**. The challenges facing security in Africa will grow in a multipolar world affected by the climate crisis and the increasing scarcity of water. Fragility, sometimes even the collapse of state authority, crises, conflicts, hunger and food insecurity, displacement and forced migration are on the increase in a number of regions.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is having a direct impact on Africa, too, for example as regards food security, growing disinformation and an increasing military or paramilitary presence in a number of African countries.

Germany continues to be an important **partner of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)**. It is in our interest to better enable African organisations and countries to prevent and resolve conflicts on the continent themselves. This involves not only continued constructive support for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 concerning decisions on a case-by-case basis by the UN Security Council on the financing of African peace missions, but also military and arms cooperation with partner countries.

Germany is working in cooperation with African partners both to **prevent and resolve conflicts** and to contain global terrorism as well as to tackle transnational organised crime, prevent irregular migration and safeguard free maritime trade routes.

Legitimate stable and functioning governments that act in the interests of their populations and provide basic state services, guarantee sustainable food security, work to preserve natural resources, facilitate inclusive local economic development, create jobs and

promote cooperation with all parts of civil society are essential in order to strengthen **resilience, sustainable stability, security and peace.**



## We are therefore committed to ...

### ... cooperating on global peace and security policy:

- We are working with African partners to **reduce regional and global security risks** and to resolve acute conflicts, primarily by empowering regional players. We are doing this with, among others, the **humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus** in mind.
- We are cooperating with African countries within the framework of the **United Nations** in order to uphold the global order and international law and to resolve conflicts in accordance with international law and with UN support. This includes joint approaches with a view to more effective UN peacekeeping and new approaches with regard to stabilisation.

### ... strengthening African approaches:

- We want to expand the political **dialogue** as well as practical **cooperation with the African Union** and African **regional organisations** in order to promote multilateral approaches as well as African ownership and solutions in a targeted manner.
- We want to support **African approaches to holistic conflict management** along the HDP nexus. This comprises matters of crisis prevention, strengthening national and regional security forces, mediation and addressing the causes of conflicts. Key focuses of our support include the African Union, further African multilateral organisations and Africa's regional organisations.
- We are committed to fair, effective and reliably funded **global support for African peace missions**. Irrespective of this, Germany continues to stand ready to do its part within the framework of multilateral peacekeeping.

### ... strengthening civil society:

- **Strong civil societies** are the foundation of resilience and stability of societies in general – this applies to both Africa and Germany. Germany will continue to support and foster efforts from the heart of society to promote participation, human rights, gender equality, justice and the critical examination of the past as well as security.
- It is important in this regard to strengthen the ownership of local stakeholders and therefore the principle of **locally led development**.

### ... the participation of women and marginalised groups:

- Germany is committed to the equitable participation of women and marginalised groups in all phases of **peace and reconstruction processes**, the critical examination of the past, analysing conflicts and reintegration.
- Germany is promoting efforts to prevent and overcome **sexual and gender-based violence** in Africa. We are working to ensure that victims of sexual and gender-based violence receive comprehensive, long-term support, including effective access to justice.
- Germany will continue to promote the protection of local **women's rights and LGBTI+ activists, human rights defenders and peace activists** in Africa.

### ... dovetailing climate, peace and security:

- Germany will actively support African approaches in the area of **climate, peace and security** as well as stronger dovetailing of humanitarian, economic, development, peace, security, environment and climate policy solutions in Africa. Preventive, inclusive and nature-based approaches that are driven by local and indigenous knowledge and expertise are key to this end.



### ... countering terrorism and violent extremism:

- Germany is working to **counter terrorism with an integrated approach** that is focused on strengthening rule-of-law structures, training local security forces and upholding human rights. The **prevention** of violent extremism is a further priority for Germany.
- In various regions of Africa, Germany is working, including through its cross-border civilian **engagement** in the field of development policy and **stabilisation**, to facilitate the peaceful resolution of conflicts and to reduce the basis of recruitment and the freedom of movement of extremist groups. With the enforcement of weapons embargoes, in particular on the basis of UN regimes, Germany is helping to limit further destabilisation in conflict regions. In addition to measures of the United Nations, Germany is taking steps to restrict conflict financing with targeted financial sanctions.

### ... ownership and equipment aid:

- Germany is lending its political support and is contributing personnel to the efforts of the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy in Africa within the framework of civilian and military **training, ownership and advisory missions** to strengthen the civilian and military security forces of selected African countries.
- The capabilities of African security forces must be further strengthened to enable them to protect their populations effectively in the light of increasing challenges. Germany is therefore working within the framework of the European Union to ensure that Africa is taken appropriately into account in the context of the **European Peace Facility (EPF)**.
- Within **NATO**, Germany supports the implementation of NATO's action plan for the southern neighbourhood as well as NATO partnerships.

- In line with the needs and security interests of both partners and depending on the resources available, the Federal Government will promote efforts to achieve sustainable stabilisation with **bilateral programmes** to promote the ownership of Africa's security forces through the provision of training and equipment aid, including the secondment of police advisors, Bundeswehr advisory groups and mobile training teams, as well as military and police training assistance. Conflict-sensitive and anticipatory action are a guiding principle in this regard. Ideally, capacity-building through training as well as equipment support and financing should go hand in hand with enhanced governance and the strengthening of democratic mechanisms for security sector oversight.

#### ... responsible arms export policy:

- As regards the control of arms exports, the Federal Government will continue to adhere to its **restrictive baseline policy**. When deciding on arms exports, it will take into account in particular human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the importing country. At the same time, the Federal Government takes into account alliance and security interests, the geostrategic situation and the needs of enhanced European arms cooperation.

#### ... taking into account African positions regarding EU sanctions policy:

- While Germany acknowledges diverging positions on sanctions, it is appealing to African partners for support in upholding and enforcing EU sanctions. It is important for the Federal Government in this regard to take into account particular concerns and potential consequences when designing EU sanctions.





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