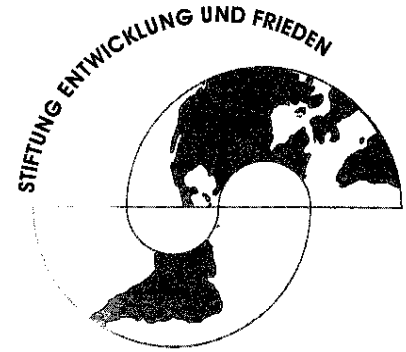




Capacity Building International  
Germany



# Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2009

## The Key to Success in Peace and Development? Regional Governance in Africa

27-28 March 2009

Hotel Voltaire, Potsdam

### Programme

Cooperation Partner



Conference Languages: German / English  
(simultaneous translation)



The Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2009 is organized by the  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

## Background

Africa has, in the last few years, made considerable progress in the development of a continental regional organisation, namely the African Union. Numerous, often overlapping sub-regional organisations, so called Regional Economic Communities (RECs), have been formed parallel to this development. Exemplary are the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Progress is illustrated in the increasing willingness of the AU to assume responsibility for peace and security on the continent, for instance in the case of Darfur. At a sub-regional level significant advancements are made with regards to international trade. However, despite considerable developments problems remain evident: the more ambitious goals of different African regional organisations seem to be un-implementable in the near future. In addition, rivalries and conflicts continue to exist among the organisations, being partly attributable to their overlapping memberships (for instance with regards to EAC, SADC and COMESA). Furthermore, the level of cooperation with the international level of the United Nations and the relation to external actors, such as the European Union, remains unclear.

Initial solutions were identified by the Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2008, which upheld a strong thematic focus upon peacekeeping and security. The Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2009 now aim to pursue previous lines of enquiry as well as broaden the focus. They seek to evaluate African regionalisation in different political fields, and simultaneously identify concrete challenges and prospects for regional governance at a continental level.

Three political fields should be considered significant in this respect; the initial panel following on directly from the prior annual conference, will focus on the institutionalisation of conflict prevention and early warning at a continental and sub-regional level. In a second step, African progress towards the development of a continental system for the protection of human rights, in reference to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, will be illustrated. Through a third panel, focus will be placed upon international trade, the establishment of regional and sub-regional economic areas as well as advancements made towards economic integration (for instance by ECOWAS and SADC).

Within the context of these political fields, the following questions arise; the extent to which regional governance has been established, the effectiveness of associated institutions and policies, the relation to the global level and the interaction with external actors. Upon this foundation, the conference aims to identify key findings in different political fields and provide a political outlook. Highlighted throughout the discussion should be means of advancing the interrelation of the global, regional and sub-regional level in an all-encompassing network. Ultimately, African regionalisation could thus provide a building block for global governance.

Friday, 27 March 2009

9:30 – 10:00 h **Registration**

**Welcome**

10.00 h **Dr Gerd Harms**  
State Secretary and Commissioner of Land Brandenburg  
to the Federal Government and for European Matters, Potsdam,  
Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of  
the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF)

**Introduction**

**Regional Governance in Africa**  
**Current Situation - Challenges - Future Prospects**

10.15 h Introduction and Retrospect on the Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2008

**Dr Michèle Roth**  
Executive Director  
Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), Bonn

10.30 h Keynote Speeches

**„Economic and Social Integration in Africa“**

**H.E. Erastus Jarnalese Onkundi Mwencha**  
Deputy Chairman of the African Union Commission (AU), Addis Ababa,  
Former Secretary-General of the  
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

**„Regional Integration and Global Governance: Africa's Role in the World“**

**H.E. Ambassador Professor Joy Ogwu**  
Former Foreign Minister,  
Chairperson of the UN General Assembly's Second Committee,  
Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, New York

Chair

**Dr Michèle Roth**

11.30 h Plenary Discussion

12.30 h Lunch

## Session I

# Regional Approaches to Conflict Prevention and Early Warning

### Key Issues:

- What instruments for conflict prevention and early warning have been institutionalised at a regional and sub-regional level in Africa?
- To what extent are these institutions operational? What challenges arise in the practical engagement of these institutions? What have been their key achievements?
- How are regional and sub-regional institutions for conflict prevention and early warning networked amongst each other? How do they operate in coordination with the global level (for instance with the United Nations) and with external actors such as the European Union?

14.00 h

### Chair

**Mag. Martin Janata**

Department European and International Politics  
Renner Institute, Vienna

### Presentation

**H.E. Ambassador Abdelrahim Ahmad Khalil**

Former Director  
Conflict Early Warning & Response Mechanism (CEWARN)  
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Addis Ababa

14.20 h

### Panel Discussion

**Timmitt Abraha**

Regional Coordinator  
InterAfrica Group (IAG), Addis Ababa

**Dr João Gomes Porto**

Africa Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies  
Department of Peace Studies  
University of Bradford

15.00 h

### Plenary Discussion

16.15 h

### Coffee Break

## Session II

# Regional Approaches for the Protection of Human Rights

### Key Issues:

- What instruments, for the protection of human rights, have been institutionalised at a regional or sub-regional level in Africa? What are the future prospects of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights?
- To what extent are these institutions operational? What challenges arise in the practical engagement of these institutions? What have been their key achievements?
- How are the different regional and sub regional institutions for the protection of human rights networked amongst each other? To what extent do they operate in coordination with the global level (e.g. with the United Nations or the International Criminal Court) and with external actors such as the European Union?

16.45 h

### Chair

#### **Florian Pfeil**

Research and Programme Coordinator  
Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), Bonn

### Presentation

#### **Professor George W. Kanyeihamba**

Former Minister,  
Former Judge  
African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights,  
Justice of the Supreme Court of Uganda, Kampala

17.05 h

### Panel Discussion

#### **Tawanda Hondora**

Deputy Director of the Africa Programme  
International Secretariat  
Amnesty International, London

#### **Lloyd Kuveya**

Project Lawyer  
Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC), Johannesburg,  
Member of the Executive Committee  
Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (CEAC)

#### **Professor Thilo Marauhn**

Professor for Public Law, International Law and European Law  
University of Giessen,  
Member of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF)

17.45 – 19.00 h Plenary Discussion

20.00 h Reception hosted by the Minister-President of Land Brandenburg

Saturday, 28 March 2009

### Session III

## Regional Approaches to Trade and Development

#### Key Issues:

- What regional and sub-regional instruments have been institutionalised for the advancement and improvement of intraregional trade and economic development in Africa?
- What role do Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union (AU) play in this context? To what extent are these institutions operational? What challenges arise in the practical engagement of these institutions? What have been their key achievements?
- How are the different regional and sub regional institutions, for the advancement of trade and economic development, networked amongst each other? To what extent do they operate in coordination with the global level and with external actors such as the European Union?
- What are the repercussions of the current financial and economic crisis on regional cooperation in Africa?

9.00 h

#### Chair

##### **Dr Günther Taube**

Director of Department

International Regulatory Framework/Good Governance/Economic Policy

InWent – Capacity Building International, Bonn

#### Presentation

##### **H.E. Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas**

President of the Commission of the

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Abuja

9.20 h

#### Panel Discussion

##### **Professor Helmut Asche**

Professor for Economics and Politics in Africa

University of Leipzig

##### **Brian Chigawa**

Director for Legal and Institutional Affairs

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Lusaka

##### **JB Cronje**

Researcher

Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (tralac), Cape Town

10.00 h

#### Plenary Discussion

11.15 h

#### Coffee Break

## Political Outlook

# African Regionalisation: Building Block for Global Governance?

### Key Issues:

- What conflicts and rivalries exist within regional governance, for instance between different RECs?
- In what relation does African regionalisation stand towards global governance? Do regional institutions represent a building block for the development of global governance or do they represent regional political particularism?
- How can a multi layered system, which integrates the sub regional, regional and global level, be effectively developed on the basis of African regionalisation?
- How can Germany and Europe support this process?

11.45 h Chair

**Dr Henning Melber**

Executive Director

Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala,

Member of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF)

Presentation

**Professor Timothy Shaw**

Director

Institute for International Relations

University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (Trinidad)

12.05 h Panel Discussion

**H.E. Ambassador Professor Maria Nzomo**

Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya  
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva,

Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies

University of Nairobi

**Udo Volz**

Deputy Head of Division for West and Central Africa

Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

12.45 h Plenary Discussion

14.00 h Closing Remarks by the Organisers, followed by light refreshments

**Dr Michèle Roth**

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), Bonn