

Workshop on Germany's West Africa policy

May 24th-25th 2018, Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Haus, 10117 Berlin-Mitte, Ziegelstraße 30

Organized by the

Institute for Theology and Peace (ithf) and Helmut-Schmidt-University (HSU), Hamburg

Purpose

The aim of the workshop is to critically reflect on Germany's policy towards the West African region based on a comprehensive approach (development, economy, politics, security, migration). At the same time, Germany's position on cooperation within ECOWAS (also subject to discussion) plays an important role.

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Program

Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018 (*Constitution Day*)

Arrival of the participants

Boat trip with African guests

Dinner

Thursday, May 24th, 2018

10.00 *Opening remarks*

Prof. Dr. Heinz Gerhard Justenhoven (ithf) and Prof. Dr. Michael Staack (HSU)

10.30 **Panel 1: *Peacebuilding in Mali – on the right track?***

Chair: Dr. Hans-Georg Ehrhart, *Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy* (IFSH)

Key question: How are the political and economic development in Mali as well as the German commitment in this country to be evaluated?

Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré, *Director General of the West Africa Institute* (WAI), Praia/Cabo Verde

11.15 *Coffee break*

11.30 *Commentary: Sonja Nietz* (HSU)

12.30 *Lunch*

13.30 Ronald Meyer, *Head of Division 201 (West Africa I), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development* (BMZ)

15.00 *Coffee break*

15.30 **Panel 2: *Western model of democracy vs. African social structures?***

Chair: Prof. Dr. Heinz Gerhard Justenhoven (ithf)

Key question: Is there a conflict contradiction in the socio-cultural requirements of the (Western) democratic system and African social structures?

Prof. Dr. Omorou Touré, *University of Juridical and Political Sciences of Bamako* (USJPB), Bamako/Mali

Commentary: Rev. Michael Cobb, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI), *University of Freiburg*

17.00 **Panel 3: *Security cooperation within ECOWAS and Sahel G 5***

Chair: Prof. Dr. Stefan Brüne, *German Council on Foreign Relations* (DGAP)

Key questions: Does the successful intervention in Gambia represent a model for a more active and independent security role by ECOWAS? How is Sahel G 5 cooperation to be assessed in terms of security policy? What are the objectives pursued by participating states and external actors?

Dr. Jan Grebe, *Federal Academy for Security Policy* (BAKS)

Commentary: Dr. Hans-Georg Ehrhart (IFSH)

19.00 *Concluding remarks Day 1*

19.30 *Dinner*

Friday, May 25th, 2018

10.00 **Panel 4: *German politics in the West African region***

Chair: Prof. Dr. Michael Staack (HSU)

Key questions: Is there a coherent German West Africa policy for peace and development? Which new practices have emerged in recent years; which deficits can be diagnosed? How can and should German policy become more effective, coherent and visible in West Africa? Should German policy focus on strengthening the role of the EU in the region instead? What role does German-French cooperation play in this region, especially considering the different objectives and policy approaches? What role does the EU play therein?

VLR I Frank Hartmann, *Director, Crisis Response Centre, Federal Foreign Office* (AA);
2015-17 *Head of Section Asia, Africa, Latin America, Federal Chancellery*

Manuel Müller, *Deputy Head of Division 321 (Sahel, West Africa, Central Africa, ECOWAS, CEMAC, CEEAC), Federal Foreign Office* (AA)

Coffee break

(continuation of the topic) Dr. François Gaulme, *French Institute of International Relations* (Ifri)

Commentary: Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré (WAI)

13.00 *Lunch*

14.30 **Panel 5: *What are the most pressing challenges in West Africa?***

Topics: development challenges in rural communities in Ghana; immigration as a security matter; migration policy in Niger

Darius Mwingyine, *Center for Development Research* (ZEF)

Prof. Dr. Omorou Touré (USJPB)

15.30 *Coffee break*

15.45 (continuation of the topic) Dr. Melanie Müller, *German Institute for International and Security Affairs* (SWP)

17.00 *Conclusion* – summary of results

Prof. Dr. Heinz Gerhard Justenhoven (ithf), Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré (WAI),
Prof. Dr. Michael Staack (HSU)

19.00 *Dinner*

List of Participants (as of May 22nd, 2018)

Elisabeth Braune (FES Berlin)
Prof. Dr. Stefan Brüne (DGAP)
Rev. Michael Cobb (ABI, University of Freiburg)
Max Eger, 2017 as Lt. Bundeswehr in Niamey
Dr. Hans-Georg Ehrhart (IFSH)
Dr. François Gaulme (Ifri)
Dr. Jan Grebe (BAKS)
VLR I Frank Hartmann (AA)
Prof. Dr. Heinz Gerhard Justenhoven (ithf)
Elizabeth Kaneza, University of Potsdam
Ronald Meyer (BMZ)
Dr. Melanie Müller (SWP)
Manuel Müller (AA)
Darius Mwingyine (ZEF)
Sonja Nietz (HSU)
Ulla Petereit, University of Hamburg
Daniel Peters (ithf)
Prof. Dr. Michael Staack (HSU)
Prof. Dr. Omorou Touré (USJPB)
Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré (WAI)