

## **Motion**

**tabled by the Members of Parliament Thilo Hoppe, Ute Koczy, Kerstin Müller (Köln), Dr. Uschi Eid, Jürgen Trittin, Marieluise Beck (Bremen), Volker Beck (Köln), Renate Künast, Fritz Kuhn, Winfried Nachtwei, Omid Nouripour, Claudia Roth (Augsburg), Rainer Steenblock, Margareta Wolf (Frankfurt) and the parliamentary group of Alliance 90/The Greens**

### **Supporting Africa on the road to democracy and sustainable development**

I. The German Bundestag notes:

New opportunities for cooperation are opening up in Africa. Africa is more than crises and catastrophes; it is not a “lost continent”. Democratic and economic progress is indeed being made, often unnoticed by the political community and media. The German Presidency of the EU and of the G8 creates an opportunity to further develop cooperation with Africa in all political fields.

After more than two decades of stagnation there have been real signs in recent years of an economic upturn on the African continent. In many countries economic growth is becoming established, trade conditions are improving and there are new investment possibilities. The majority of African states have introduced reforms which have the potential to enhance economic development. This is confirmed in the World Bank report “Doing Business 2006”. While six years ago, for example, private investment stood at around 10 billion US dollars, by 2005 this figure had already risen to 28 billion US dollars. On the international stage there have been successes in bringing debt relief to the poorest developing countries, enabling spending on health and education in the countries affected to be stepped up.

Yet despite this progress and average economic growth of 5.5 per cent in 2005, Africa is the only region in the world in which the total number of those living in poverty is still rising. 33 per cent of people in Sub-Saharan Africa are starving or suffering from malnutrition, double the average in developing countries. Child mortality in the region is still intolerably high. Life expectancy in Sub-Saharan Africa is 16 years lower than the average for developing countries.

These problems confront the continent with huge challenges. It is inconceivable that the political stakeholders in Africa will be able to overcome these challenges without active internal reform efforts. These must be matched by support from the industrialised countries.

The central organisations and frames of reference within which the Federal Government can support Africa on its road to democracy and development are traditionally the international organisations of the United Nations, the WTO and its trade round, the World Bank and the IMF. Hugely important and influential for Germany’s Africa policy, too, are the African Union’s 2001 reform initiative NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development), recognised by the UN, the G8 and the EU as a political frame of reference, and the EU’s Africa Strategy of 2005. Also of particular importance are the cooperation and support of the African regional organisations such as SADC and ECOWAS, which are central to the development and integration of the continent.

The Millennium Development Goals, first and foremost the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, which were adopted in 2000 by the heads of government of virtually all the countries of the world, constitute a type of Magna Carta in the age of globalisation (Kofi Annan). Realising these MDGs is a matter of elementary human rights, among which the “right to food” is of particular importance in Sub-Saharan Africa. From the viewpoint of the Federal Government, there needs to be greater focus on central areas such as good governance and political human rights.

When the Millennium Development Goals were adopted, it was stated that halving poverty in Africa would require an annual growth rate of at least eight per cent. If one looks at today's figures on poverty it is clear that all concerned must make considerably greater efforts. Necessary internal reforms, more investment from home and abroad, far greater efforts in climate and environmental protection, progress in international trade negotiations, more money for development cooperation – all this must be brought about on the basis of partnership and a fair balance of interests. High growth rates alone will not automatically ensure achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It is apparent in some African states that, despite rising growth rates, the number of those suffering extreme poverty and hunger is also rising because, in the absence of a policy of social equalisation, the economic upswing is serving only to make a few rich people richer. This phenomenon is particularly apparent in the oil-exporting countries.

Responsibility for a policy of social and sustainable development as well as for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals rests first and foremost with the African countries themselves. But the countries of the North too – including Germany – must make their contribution. In this process, however, cooperation should not simply begin with the political leaders and economic elites; in view of the huge importance of the informal economy, development cooperation must take up the challenge of encouraging “bottom up” solutions from the people themselves. Organisations of African farmers, women, craftsmen and other players in civil society must be supported in their efforts to gain a greater voice in economic and societal questions affecting the future.

### **Africa with new strategic options**

The structural adjustment programmes run by the IMF and World Bank in the 1980s failed in Africa. In political terms the failures of the IMF and World Bank also call into question the tying of financial aid to privatisation, budgetary reform with large cuts in social spending and trade liberalisation. The fact that for decades African, Asian and western companies in the commodities business have been earning big profits and some of these profits in the hands of African politicians, warlords or other profiteers are diverted along murky channels without improving the living conditions of the population is a scandal which is rightly generating increasing protests.

African states are striving to establish balanced relations and to diversify their economic partners. Increased South-South competition – above all the deeper cooperation with China, India and other emerging economies – is accelerating the integration of African countries in the global economy. While for decades trade flowed between the North and South, since 2000 there has been a massive increase in trade and investment between Asia and Africa. Today 27 per cent of all Asian imports come from Africa, up from 14 per cent in 2000. The EU's share of trade fell by a half between 2000 and 2005.

This trend is accompanied by an enhancement of the continent's political status, which was manifested most visibly at this year's China-Africa summit in Beijing. China's political and economic engagement in Africa gives at least the resource-rich countries of Africa greater political room for manoeuvre, although it brings with it the danger that authoritarian structures and a new form of structural dependency will become established. The increased strategic and economic importance of Africa is likely to have repercussions at various levels in global

politics; for example, cooperation between Asia and Africa in the United Nations is likely to increase, probably also in the international financial institutions. This also points to probable changes in the relations of African countries with Europe since it puts a question mark against traditional cooperation and demands that all sides reflect anew on a form of cooperation appropriate to the times, as well as a dialogue between Europe and China over Africa policy.

The African states and the African Union must be given greater prominence in German and European foreign policy, in the same measure as our neighbours in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Germany and the EU have a political and ethical obligation to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa through a more active development policy; it is also in their own interests to do so. Germany and the EU should not treat Africa as a supplicant; instead they must formulate their own interests with respect to Africa and pursue these in a partnership-based dialogue with African players. Germany and the EU are not seemingly selfless players but have their own foreign, security and economic policy interests in a peaceful, democratic and economically prosperous neighbouring continent.

These interests include migration between Africa and Europe, from which both sides benefit and which is not compatible with a fortress Europe, refugee dramas and a brain drain from African societies. Particularly after 11 September 2001 and the attacks in Madrid and London, Germany and the EU also have their own security policy interest in ensuring that radical Islamists do not become an established factor as, for example, they have become in Somalia and Northern Nigeria, and unstable states do not become areas of retreat or operational bases for international terrorists and organised crime. Germany and the EU have an economic and energy policy interest in intensive trade relations and good investment conditions from which the societies on both continents benefit. It is not in their interests for corrupt elites, together with certain international companies, to plunder Africa's resources or for Africa's economy to under-perform. Furthermore, there is an interest in terms of climate protection in protecting the rainforests in Africa in accord with the needs of the people in the respective countries and to halt desertification. Last but not least, there is a general foreign policy interest in an Africa which is able to take effective political action and which has effective democratic states and supranational structures in order to ensure that global questions affecting the future can be tackled collectively. The pursuit of these interests and achievement of the MDGs is also closely dependent on progress in resolving armed conflicts and stabilising post-conflict societies in Africa.

The EU Strategy for Africa adopted in December 2005 underlines Africa's foreign policy importance for the EU and must be further developed and implemented. It must also finally lead to better coordination of national Africa policies. It is a task for Germany's Presidency of the EU to move forward joint implementation of the strategy by the African Union and the EU which can then be adopted at an EU-Africa summit during the course of 2007. The goal must be to establish an effective strategic EU-AU partnership, rooted in strong relations with the regional organisations.

### **Enhanced involvement of African countries in international institutions**

The efficacy and legitimacy of international organisations such as the World Bank and the IMF are at stake. Few people believe that the structures of these institutions today reflect the economic changes of the past few decades. While consideration is being given to increasing the voting rights and improving the participation of a number of emerging economies, the extent to which the African continent could be better represented in the Bretton Woods organisations remains unclear.

With the failure of parts of the reform of the UN system, in particular the enlargement of the Security Council, the establishment of a permanent African seat on the Security Council remains a distant dream. In addition to support for regional cooperation, here too a fresh

attempt is needed to bring about Africa's representation in this central UN body. It is regrettable that the African states share responsibility for the failure of the UN reforms because they were not able in advance to agree on a more sustainable negotiating position. Once reform of the Security Council appears again on the international agenda, it is in their own interest for the African states to contribute to its success.

In the WTO it is not the question of voting rights per se that is an issue, but rather the capacity to participate appropriately in negotiations. Particularly smaller African states are still not in a position to take part in all relevant negotiations, to make use of mediation and to build up the necessary expertise in their own countries.

### **Increasingly peaceful changes of power – greater stability**

As everywhere in the world, peace and stability are fundamental prerequisites of sustainable development in Africa. In the decade between 1990 and 2000 more than twice as many people in Sub-Saharan Africa died as a result of violent conflicts as in any other region of the world. Since then, however, there are signs of positive developments. Since 2002 the number of internal and interstate conflicts in Africa has dropped considerably. Some of the longest running civil wars have been ended, for example, the 21-year conflict between North and South Sudan, as well as the wars in Angola and Liberia. The elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo give hope that – backed up by international support – a period of stabilisation is beginning in the region of the Great Lakes as well. It is above all in the Horn of Africa, however, that violent conflicts (in Sudan and its neighbours, Somalia) and smouldering crises (Ethiopia-Eritrea) are currently leading in some cases to massive humanitarian suffering and loss of life. Here, as in many post-conflict societies, internal and interstate conflicts and a lack of security continue to be a central obstacle to sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A persistent problem in this regard is the almost limitless availability of small arms in large parts of the African continent. Here we need much stronger measures on the part of the international community for disarmament and against the small arms trade.

In Africa, too, the spread of Islamist ideology is a danger to peaceful development. This does not apply only to the attacks of Al Qaida and their call to holy war, for example against the planned UN peacekeeping force in Darfur. There is a danger that conflicts such as that in Northern Nigeria, where Islamist movements have forced the introduction of Sharia law and violent conflicts are as a result erupting repeatedly, will occur in other countries too. It is, however, counterproductive to focus one-sidedly on the fight against international terrorism and complex conflicts with Islamist players – as, for example, in Somalia. What is needed are sustainable political concepts to counter the spread of Islamism – and equally of Christian fundamentalism - in Africa.

The establishment of the African Union (AU) represents the first step by the states of Africa towards creating an African security architecture and hence to taking collective responsibility for peace and security in Africa. Among the achievements of the AU is that it has curtailed the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of member states, which stems from the time of the struggle against colonial rule, in cases where human rights issues are concerned and is committed, in accordance with the principle of the responsibility to protect in emergency situations, to collective peacekeeping and also peace enforcement operations. It is unfortunate, however, that the 13 African members of the UN Human Rights Council were among those to block the demand by the European members for condemnation of the Sudanese government for the creeping genocide in Darfur and through their voting behaviour acted contrary to the AU's own aspirations.

The first joint AU peace mission, AMIS, however is particularly significant even if it has not been able to guarantee the protection of the people in Darfur. There is an urgent need for the international community, and therefore also the EU and Germany, to work energetically

together with the AU in this regard to ensure the deployment of a robust UN peacekeeping mission which can effectively protect the civil population from further massacres.

Initiatives within the framework of the partnership between the G8 countries and NEPAD, such as the training of personnel in the Kofi Annan Peacebuilding Training Centre in Ghana, help to build capacities in Africa to enable it to undertake peacekeeping missions itself.

Based on their multilateral obligations with respect to the United Nations, the European Union and Germany are participating in conflict prevention and resolution in Africa. They have a foreign and security policy interest in the peaceful development of their neighbouring continent, Africa, which they pursue in partnership-based dialogue with the AU and its member states. This must also include a greater willingness to participate with European and, as the case may be, German forces in UN-mandated peacekeeping missions in Africa as provided for in the battle-group concept adopted by the EU, which has unfortunately so far failed to prove its suitability in practice. It should be said that such deployments in the full glare of the public should not be allowed to overshadow the central importance of civil crisis prevention and long-term support programmes to disarm, demobilise and reintegrate former fighters, security sector reforms and the establishment of autonomous African peacekeeping capacities.

For the EU and Germany the promotion and upholding of human rights must be a main pillar of their relations with Africa. Consideration must also be given to how best to react to China's Africa policy which channels massive economic aid and investments to African countries without reference to standards in relation to democracy and human rights and which is apparently also prepared on occasion to make use of its veto in the UN Security Council. The medium-term objective must be to persuade China to respect international standards.

In Africa, too, small arms are responsible for the majority of all victims of armed conflict, including frequently women and children. In Bundestag Motion 16/ 1967, the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group called for the comprehensive limitation and control of the trade in small arms and ammunition. This would have great relevance for the African continent in particular where a large number of children are drawn into armed conflict.

There are an estimated 250,000 child soldiers worldwide. In many African countries rebel groups in particular militarise and sexually abuse minors as a means of destroying entire communities.

There has been progress in some countries in reintegrating child soldiers into the affected families, local communities and societies. These efforts must, however, be stepped up. The recruitment of children is a war crime and is prosecuted as such by the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Child soldiers are perpetrators and victims at the same time. A number commit suicide because they receive no or too little help to overcome and process their experiences. The Paris Principles against the abuse of minors as child soldiers, signed in Paris on 13 February 2007 by 58 states including Liberia, Congo and Sierra Leone, represent an important step towards protecting children in war and must – including with Germany's support – be vigorously implemented.

Former child soldiers still have a poor chance in Germany's asylum system by virtue of the fact that in Germany no child-specific grounds for asylum, such as recruitment as a child soldier or murder of the parents, are recognised as relevant to the process. This is irreconcilable with a policy oriented to the rights of the child.

### **Good governance is a prerequisite of development**

The development of democratically legitimated forms of government in Africa represents progress. Economic and socially equitable progress requires constitutional, democratic

institutions as well as responsible and effective governance and a democratic political culture.

The continuing widespread deficits in the area of good governance on the African continent must, in the interest of upholding democratic, constitutional and human rights standards, but equally in the interest of economic and humane development, be actively tackled first and foremost by the African countries themselves.

The NEPAD initiative (New Partnership for Africa's Development) 2001 marks the start of a positive process of political reform aimed at strengthening democracy and the rule of law, humane development, economic growth and freedom and security for the continent.

NEPAD's centrepiece set up for the purpose of realising these reforms is the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). This is a process of voluntary reciprocal appraisal of the Africa states in the areas of democracy and governance, as well as socioeconomic development. It remains to be seen how the results of the peer reviews will be acted on. It will be incumbent on the German Bundestag, too, in the future to call for implementation of the recommendations of the APRM reports vis-à-vis a number of presidents of state who themselves only came to power in dubious circumstances and who have been defending this power for over 20 years through corruption and the use of force.

In Africa's own interest, the future success of the APRM will depend on its ability not only to identify gross breaches but also to tackle them resolutely. Both African parliaments and local civil societies must be included in the process of consultation and monitoring. Only in this way can the NEPAD process ensure broader societal participation beyond the partner governments and hence become a yardstick for the further financial support which the G8 Africa Action Plan has explicitly made contingent on reforms.

The African Union is taking active steps to implement NEPAD. In the area of good governance, for example, one can point to the adoption in July 2003 of the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and the establishment by the African Union of the Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, which convened for the first time in July 2006.

### **The social and ecological challenges remain huge – if the trend stays the same as it is now, the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved in Africa**

The positive developments cannot disguise the fact that there is still a long way to go to achieve the United Nation's development goals. The number of people living in extreme poverty has almost doubled in Sub-Saharan Africa over the past 25 years from 160 million to around 300 million. The number of people starving has increased in many countries. A further example of the failure to achieve the MDGs is the lack of access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation, a key function of development. In both these areas progress in African countries has been modest. If the African continent is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the UN estimates that the economies of African countries will have to grow by eight per cent per year. According to figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), only five to 10 per cent of workers in Africa are covered by social security. In view of demographic trends on the continent – approaching half of all Africans are under 14 – pressure mounts to offer the large numbers of young Africans prospects for the future. At present there are insufficient new jobs to offer enough young people work. To many, leaving appears the only option. Not enough account is taken in development strategies of the particular strategic importance of women in the informal sector in general and in agriculture in particular. Giving women greater consideration in terms of access to land and credit is crucial in the fight against hunger and poverty.

One focus of the G8 Africa Action Plan is on providing support for agriculture in Africa by, among other things, strengthening agricultural research. For too long, however, international and national research has concentrated only on preferred agricultural areas and on the agricultural export industry. This must change: to combat hunger efficiently there is an urgent

need to focus systematically on rural development and sustainable farming, taking account above all of the role of small farmers in food security.

African countries are heavily reliant on agriculture to secure their own food requirements and to increase income. Agricultural productivity lags far behind other developing countries. Greater concentration on rural development with substantially greater financial support from international donors and a reduction in negative influences on rural development in Africa is needed. As far as the latter is concerned, efforts must focus on abolishing all subsidies in the industrialised countries which jeopardise or even destroy African markets. In terms of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the voluntary guidelines on the right to food adopted by the FAO Council in November 2004 should play an important role. The NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), too, should make a contribution to fighting hunger in the framework of a collective approach by the G8 and the countries of Africa.

Agriculture in many African countries is already suffering from the effects of climate change. Reduced rainfall in the whole Sahel zone, more frequent droughts, more changeable weather and torrential rainstorms are among the current symptoms. Of all the sectors of the economy, agriculture – and thus rural areas - will bear the main burden of the consequences of increasing climate change. This is particularly problematic in most African countries, where the agricultural sector accounts for between a quarter and a third of gross national income and a large proportion of the population relies for a living on farming.

Poverty in the fast growing urban settlements of Africa attracts too little attention despite the fact that, according to figures from UN Habitat, the proportion of the urban poor is growing faster than urban populations. Hence increasingly poverty is taking on an urban character. One of the subsidiary goals of Millennium Development Goal 7 is rightly devoted to improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers.

Forecasts agree that Africa will be particularly badly effected by the consequences of climate change. The UNDP Human Development Report 2006 notes that a shortage of water will become an acute problem in the coming decades, particularly in African countries. The report states that drought-prone countries of southern Africa are facing problems with the security of food supply which are among the most serious in the world, coupled with extreme poverty and widespread malnutrition. According to a forecast by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), cereal production in large parts of Africa will have fallen by 25 per cent or more by 2080, and the IPCC predicts a similar reduction in yields for other basic foodstuffs such as coffee and tea. The UNDP report states that the effects of climate change are already apparent in Africa. Development cooperation must in general, therefore, be far more proactive than it has been so far in tackling the challenge of the greenhouse effect. Far higher priority must be given in Africa in particular to providing support within development cooperation to measures to adjust to climate change. The sooner we act, the lower will be the costs – and the more we will be able to achieve.

While there has rightly been heavy investment in social areas in recent years, investment in infrastructure, agriculture and the productive sectors has fallen. The increase in funds announced by the international community should create greater scope to provide more support to these areas too. In addition private investment needs to be expanded.

Three of the Millennium Development Goals relate specifically to health: reducing the maternal mortality rate, reducing the mortality rate of children under five and halting the spread of HIV, malaria and tuberculosis. Lack of progress is causing intolerable suffering but is also severely hampering economic development since it is frequently people of working age who are affected. It is African women who bear the main brunt of the consequences of

epidemics through impoverishment, increased workload and limitation of their future prospects.

Strengthening health systems, combating malaria and HIV/Aids as well as improving drinking water supply and sanitation are crucial to the development of many countries. Around 80 per cent of diseases in developing countries are attributable to contaminated water, one of the main causes of child mortality. Around 60 per cent of those infected with HIV live in Africa. South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe are particularly badly affected. While the public debate focuses increasingly on HIV/Aids, one million people each year die of malaria. Once again Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly badly hit: according to the WHO, at least 86% of the deaths from malaria worldwide come from the region. Malaria is often called the “silent epidemic” because the industrialised countries are not affected and because, unlike in the case of HIV/Aids, it is primarily small children under five and pregnant women who fall victim, rather than the productive sector of the population.

A readiness to talk openly about infectious diseases at all levels already exists in some countries and is a prerequisite for progress in fighting these diseases. Although the cost of antiretroviral drugs as the first-line treatment for HIV/Aids has been cut and more people have access to treatment, there are still considerable deficits. For women and children in particular HIV/Aids generally proves fatal.

There are two further phenomena which receive little consideration in this context. Up to now the pharmaceutical industry has devoted too little attention to research into drugs to treat HIV/Aids, malaria and tuberculosis. One reason for this neglect is low sales expectations because of the lack of financial power in developing countries. Secondly, the crisis in the health sector in Africa is exacerbated by the deliberate poaching of medical personnel by some industrialised countries. There are currently more Malawian doctors working in London, for example, than in the whole of Malawi itself.

Strengthening the position of women in African society is key to progress in Africa. Many women, for example, have no say in decisions on matters of family health, which increases the risks for children. Women generally tend to defer their own needs and other investments and prioritise feeding their family – including when food is scarce. It is important to ensure that education policy reaches and includes girls and women since they form the backbone of the family and are the providers. The fight to halt violence against girls and women must be stepped up and misogynistic practices such as genital mutilation outlawed.

### **Putting development funding on a sound footing**

Both the G8 states and the EU are committed to doubling aid to Africa by 2010. Nobody expects that the extra funds alone will be able to clear development blockades. Outside assistance combined with greater internal efforts, including the establishment of efficient tax systems, can substantially increase the scope for life-saving investments. Where implementing development cooperation is concerned, there is a need for better coordination and for donors to focus on their own strengths in order to reduce duplication of efforts by bilateral and multilateral players and promote a coordinated approach. New methods, the use of budgetary aid and the expansion of joint sector programmes will become increasingly important in the task of increasing the efficiency of development cooperation.

For German development cooperation, this means concentrating its work in Africa and coordinating it to a greater extent with EU development policy and the policy of other multilateral donors. This concentration is particularly urgent considering the fact that German cooperation operates in 25 partner countries in a multitude of sectors but the volume of aid is below the average of other donors. Improving the system will depend on being able to demonstrate the benefits of Germany's involvement, a corresponding demand on the part of

partners and harmonisation with international processes (EU, World Bank, development banks).

This necessary process of concentration and coordination between donors, however, must not be allowed to perpetuate the neglect of the rural development sector which is already apparent. In African countries in which a large section of the population are chronically undernourished, one of the priorities of development cooperation must be to promote sustainable and adapted agriculture in order to establish food sovereignty.

It is crucial for the credibility of donors that they honour their commitments. For the World Bank this means underpinning its Africa Action Plan with the necessary financing. For German cooperation it means, in addition to increasing budget funds, also encouraging the introduction of innovative financing instruments such as a tax on airfares and new debt relief initiatives for highly indebted developing countries in Africa. The Federal Government should submit an implementation plan to demonstrate how it intends to meet Germany's obligations under the EU's timetable.

A willingness to step up financing does not relieve African countries of their obligation to improve their revenue systems and, above all, to launch initiatives to stem the considerable flight of capital out of African countries. In order to reduce the latter, the industrialised countries need to help democratically elected governments which deal transparently with their countries' public revenues to recover stolen money, as has been successfully done in some cases in Nigeria. The serious allegations that German companies were involved in illegal payments to Nigeria's military dictator, Sani Abacha, confirm the urgent need for all sides to engage in credible efforts to tackle corruption.

It is essential in this context to anchor anti-corruption measures in international law. The EU member states must ratify the UN Convention against Corruption. So far it has been ratified by 18 African states, as against only six EU member states. This process must be accompanied by a dialogue to persuade investors from China, India and Pakistan to accept the regulations laid down in the Convention.

### **In support of a “development round” in the WTO**

There are references in numerous declarations to the importance of world trade and improving Africa's integration in world trade. Under the EU Initiative “Everything But Arms”, the poorest countries were given privileged access to the European market. It has become apparent, however, that it has only been possible to make limited use of the initiative. Rigid rules on origin or a lack of infrastructure frequently prevent exports to the EU and other industrialised countries. In order to make it easier to take full advantage of trading opportunities, international trade barriers must be dismantled and at the same time and importantly local export production must be established and expanded. German development cooperation therefore should support the competitive and sustainable production of goods for export in the various sectors. Export production should not compromise food security and should help the fight against poverty.

The European Union (EU) is currently negotiating Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the states in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP). In accordance with the Cotonou Agreement, the declared aim of these agreements is to fight poverty and promote sustainable development. It is therefore crucial to frame the EPAs as development partnerships contributing efficiently to fighting poverty and hunger.

The share of African countries in world trade has in general fallen further. The dumping of highly subsidised products threatens to destroy the livelihoods of African farmers and their families. We are far away from turning the currently deadlocked world trade round into a real development round. The agreement of African countries to a conclusion of the trade round will depend on new offers which take into account the performance of African states, grant

better access to the market, promote rural development and improve the scope for sustainable development.

### **In support of the sustainable use of resources and the strengthening of ecological standards**

The revenue situation in resource-rich countries has improved considerably in recent years. Revenue from the export of mineral and natural resources accounts for the major part of income in Africa. Up to now the rise in income from the extraction of raw materials has often gone hand in hand with corruption, low economic growth and a worsening of living conditions for the majority of people. This is the sobering finding of a study by the World Bank, which also highlights a connection between resource economies and irresponsible and/or unviable state institutions. Countries in Africa dependent on the export of raw materials have a higher percentage of poverty and greater income disparities, spend less on the health sector and have lower schooling rates than other countries with a similar level of income without significant deposits of raw materials. Thus without transparency and monitoring by democratic bodies of how a government uses its resources, this wealth has little effect.

Increasing this transparency is the goal of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), for which the Federal Government should increase its support. The aim of this joint initiative, supported by governments, companies, investment funds and NGOs, is to persuade governments and companies to undertake to publish details of income and payments from raw materials, thus combating corruption and making it more difficult to divert money from its intended use, providing the general public with information on the true amount of income received. Transparency with respect to income from resources is thus the first step towards a truly sustainable development for the population in resource-rich countries. In view of the high level of engagement of China and other Asian countries, there is a need to incorporate these countries in the discussion on transparency and the upholding of standards. The World Bank, OECD, NEPAD and the bilateral EU-China dialogue are places where this discussion should be conducted. The Federal Government and the EU can only act credibly in this context if they urge European or, as the case may be, German companies to adhere to binding ecological and social standards.

### **Environmental and climate protection and economic development belong together**

Developing countries are worst affected by climate change. Within just ten years Kilimanjaro will have lost its white cap. When this happens the change will be far greater than “only” the loss of a place of magical beauty. High temperatures and large fluctuations in rainfall are already creating considerable problems. A further warming will exacerbate the situation, particularly in the agricultural sector in which most Africans work. Harvest yields in African countries will fall. It is also already possible to observe a greater regional spread of infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, as well as a rise in water-related diseases caused by deteriorating water quality.

Changes in water supply would increase the potential for conflict with respect to the numerous international bodies of water in Africa. Tackling climate change and adapting African countries in particular to its effects should be integrated systematically into bilateral and multilateral development policy and strategies to eradicate poverty, which has so far not been the case.

Without increased international aid the countries themselves will not be able to overcome the consequences of climate change. The lack of readiness on the part of the industrialised countries to make financial resources available is already having devastating consequences. In the year it holds the Presidencies of the G8 and the EU, Germany must act resolutely to take the lead internationally. However difficult it may be to make specific forecasts, it is now accepted that the number of so-called environmental refugees will increase substantially.

According to figures from the UN University, their number already exceeds the number of refugees from civil wars. As well as reducing emissions at home, Germany and the EU must develop ambitious approaches to helping the developing countries to tackle climate change. Where the African continent is concerned, more far-reaching efforts are needed above all to conserve the rainforests. Wood from illegal logging must be prevented from entering the EU. The G8 should speed up the dialogue on preventing illegal logging, which was begun recently on the periphery of the World Bank Meeting in Singapore and which, in addition to the G8, China and India, included on the African side Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Adjustment Fund agreed at the Climate Conference in Nairobi which is intended to provide developing countries with funds to tackle the consequences of global warming must be urgently increased.

In view of the growing demand for energy including in less developed countries, as well as the fact that ever greater expansion of renewable energies and greater energy efficiency are crucial to securing the future, this is a subject which is becoming increasingly important. Renewable energies with their decentralised structures are particularly well suited to being put into use rapidly in regions without expensive transmission grids. There is a need for technology transfer to make available technologies adapted to the conditions in these countries and enable production, construction and, above all, maintenance of the plant in question by people on the spot. This will create jobs both in Africa and in the industrialised countries.

II. The Bundestag calls on the Federal Government:

### **Establishing partnership-based and strategic relations between Germany and the EU and Africa**

1. to use Germany's Presidencies of the EU and the G8 to further develop partnership-based cooperation with Africa in all political fields,
2. to continue to support the NEPAD process and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and to lobby for civil society and the parliaments of the African countries to play a bigger role in the implementation of the Peer Reviews,
3. to support the African Union and its regional organisations through capacity building in all areas,
4. to further develop the EU Strategy for Africa and to enshrine within it the readiness to cooperate in all relevant political fields,
5. to urge for greater representation of all the regions of the world and developing countries in discussions on reforming the UN Security Council and, within the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, to support proposals offering African countries greater participation,
6. to persuade the African members of the UN Human Rights Council to act in accordance with the human rights principles of the AU and the UN,

### **Making a more resolute contribution to peace and security in Africa**

7. to strengthen cooperation with the African Union and its regional organisations in the creation of an African security architecture and to make a greater contribution in terms of personnel and technical support to UN peacekeeping missions in Africa,
8. in conjunction with the AU and the UN, to take diplomatic initiatives to develop steps to end the violent conflicts in the Horn of Africa and in particular in the case of the creeping genocide in Darfur finally to send a robust UN peacekeeping,

9. in post-conflict societies – particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo – to establish and expand civil programmes to stabilise peace and provide post-conflict aftercare, in particular in the areas of security sector reform, the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of former fighters and transitional justice,
10. to lobby for the implementation of the Paris Principles for the protection of children in armed conflicts and to participate more fully in programmes to prevent the involvement of children in armed groups or forces and for the lasting disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers and former soldiers,
11. within the EU Common Foreign Policy and development cooperation, to strive to secure better protection and ongoing care for child soldiers. This also includes finally recognising recruitment as a child soldier as a ground for asylum in Germany.
12. By virtue of the particular need to protect minors and with a view to the forthcoming European harmonisation of asylum procedures, the age at which applicants are deemed to be competent to act should be raised from the present age of 16 to 18. Unaccompanied refugees below the age of majority should not be treated as adults in the asylum process.

### **Implementing the Millennium Development Goals and strengthening Africa's self-reliance**

13. to increase funds for development cooperation without delay to 0.7 per cent of gross national income in line with the EU's timetable and – as decided in the EU – to double funds for development cooperation with Africa by 2010. These funds should be targeted specifically on the eradication of poverty and hunger, rural development, water supply and sanitation, health and education for a sustainable economy;
14. to introduce new debt relief initiatives for highly indebted developing countries in Africa;
15. in consultation with partner countries and other donors, to concentrate bilateral development cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa on a sector-related and country-related basis and hence to increase the efficacy of German cooperation;
16. to ensure that strengthening women's rights and tackling breaches of human rights are central to the implementation of the MDGs;
17. in development cooperation, to build above all on the interfaces between environmental protection and poverty reduction;
18. to incorporate measures to tackle climate change in Africa systematically in bilateral and multilateral development policy and strategies to combat poverty;
19. to lobby for more funding to be made available internationally for measures to prevent climate change in developing countries;
20. to expand the use of renewable energies in African countries;
21. to help African countries make their economies more efficient through additional energy efficiency projects;
22. to give greater priority in German and European development cooperation than hitherto planned to both the mitigation of and adjustment to climate change in Africa.

### **Improving water supply and sanitation as a key factor for development**

23. to actively support the implementation of the Hashimoto Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) in all six main areas (integrated water resources management, strengthening water operators, financing, basic sanitation, monitoring and water-related disasters), as well as

UNSGAB agreements with African partners (the African Ministers' Council on Water and the African Development Bank);

24. to actively support the UN International Year of Sanitation in 2008 with its own contributions relating to Africa.

### **Making a more explicit contribution to realising the right to food**

25. to press for an explicit reorientation of agricultural support in developing countries in favour of small farmers;
26. to make the voluntary guidelines on the right to food an important basis of poverty reduction measures within the framework of a joint approach by the G8 and the countries of Africa;
27. to press for the implementation of the right to food and application of the voluntary guidelines to be included in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP),

### **Creating greater transparency in the exploitation of resources**

28. to speed up the dialogue on preventing illegal logging and to prepare an ambitious action plan,
29. to lobby for banks to undertake to cooperate in tracking embezzled raw materials revenues and flight capital and to ensure that cooperation within the OECD is expanded to include embezzled money in a similar way to the method used in relation to money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
30. to ensure that treaties relating to the exploitation of natural resources are made public and that standards developed for transparent competition-oriented public tendering processes and multilateral initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative are promoted and are made more binding on companies and financial institutions.

### **Strengthening health systems in African states**

31. to respond with greater commitment to the special challenge posed by HIV/Aids, malaria and water-related diseases, without which no real developmental progress will be possible.
32. to make available more funds for healthcare in developing countries. In view of the huge volume of financing required, alongside the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis (GFATM), which will need to be further increased in the coming years, there is a need to support innovative financing mechanisms with larger binding funding commitments.
33. to make a contribution – including financial – to ensure that the pharmaceutical industry presses ahead with research into neglected diseases and in particular the development of vaccines against HIV/Aids, malaria and tuberculosis. In addition to greater investment in this area, there is also a need to promote new incentive systems such as purchasing commitments.

### **Creating fairer trade relations**

34. to lobby for the continuation of the current world trade round with the aim of granting African states better market access and in the agricultural sector in particular to refrain from doing anything that jeopardises rural development in Africa.
35. to frame economic partnership agreements as development partnerships which help to fight poverty and hunger and to create rules to support the integration of the ACP states in the global economy for the good of the people and within the framework of sustainable development;
36. to ensure with respect to direct investments that in addition to putting in place regulations on new rights and greater procedural security for investors, investors are required at the

same time to undertake to uphold internationally agreed standards as contained in multilateral environmental agreements, the ILO core labour standards and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises;

37. on the basis of clear social and ecological criteria, to support programmes on the part of the EU and World Bank to improve infrastructure in Africa.