

: Programme

Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2014 **Natural Resource Governance** **in Africa. How to Benefit from** **Regional Integration**

Hotel Voltaire, Potsdam

07-08 May 2014

Conference language

English

Cooperating partners:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Eschborn/Bonn
WeltTrends, Potsdam



Welt  **Trends**
Zeitschrift für internationale Politik

BACKGROUND

Nowadays, many African countries are described as “resource-rich”. In the past, however, resource wealth has often had a negative impact on national development. This is partly due to macroeconomic challenges and price volatility in the world commodity markets, but some of the causes are home-grown. Inadequate legislative and regulatory frameworks, particularly in relation to the award of mining contracts, a lack of accountability in respect of revenues and expenditure, and inadequate tax systems are obstacles to development and to pro-poor growth. The situation is exacerbated by widespread corruption, an absence of transparency, and failure to implement social and environmental standards. Instead of promoting development, resource abundance has, in the past, often had the opposite effect, with the desire to control these resources sometimes triggering brutal conflicts that have lasted for years.

Many resource-rich African countries have already begun to address these challenges. Guidance for these countries comes in the shape of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) adopted by the African Union in 2009. It aims to achieve good resource governance and thus improve African countries’ position in the international resource markets. The African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), launched by the African Union in 2013, will provide strategic and operational support for the Vision and for its Action Plan, adopted two years ago. Various initiatives to improve and harmonise resource governance exist within the individual economic communities as well.

In 2000 – long before the AMV came into being – the Southern African Development Community (SADC) launched a programme on harmonisation of mining policies, whose aims include improving convergence between country policies and monitoring compliance with international environmental and social standards. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) set out its objectives for this policy area in the ECOWAS Directive on the Harmonization of Guiding Principles and Policies in the Mining Sector, adopted in summer 2009. It defines principles for policy harmonisation, as well as sustainability and transparency criteria. To support implementation, the ECOWAS Mineral Development Policy (EMDP) was adopted in 2011. And in East Africa, the issue of harmonised mineral resource governance is enshrined in the founding treaty of the East African Community (EAC), although the 3rd EAC Development Strategy, which contains a similar commitment, is now regarded as more significant.

At the Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2014, the sef: and its partners will be turning the spotlight on some of the challenges facing development-oriented resource governance, with a focus on solutions. We will discuss questions for licenses and mining contracts, transparency and good financial governance and have a comparative view on different initiatives of RECs and other transnational regional groupings. The final panel will finally open its focus on the international level and thus also ask for German and European opportunities and responsibilities.

: Wednesday, 7 May 2014

09.30 hrs. Registration

WELCOME

10.00 hrs.

Dr Dietmar Woidke

Minister-President of Brandenburg, Potsdam

Dr Gerd Harms

State Secretary (ret.), Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

SESSION I

NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE: AFRICAN EFFORTS AND THE NEED FOR TRANSPARENCY

Chair

Dr Gerd Harms

State Secretary (ret.), Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

10.15 hrs.

Keynotes

Antonio Pedro

Director of the Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa
United Nations Economic Commission on Africa (UNECA), Kigali

Marinke van Riet

International Director
Publish What You Pay (PWYP), London

11.15 hrs.

Plenary discussion

12.30 hrs.

Lunch

SESSION II

LICENCES AND CONTRACTS: A CORNERSTONE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Fair contracts are the essential legal and financial basis for a long-term, mutually beneficial relationship between countries and private investors. In many cases, however, asymmetries persist to this day. Companies are often better informed than government officials and are able to exploit this imbalance during contract negotiations. This panel will look at the challenges arising in relation to the award of licences and contracts, offering insights into some of the regional initiatives.

Chair

Professor Raimund Krämer

Professor for International and Comparative Politics at the University of Potsdam

Managing Director of the foreign policy journal WeltTrends

Member of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation

13.30 hrs.

Input

Myriam Carius

Legal Counsel

African Legal Support Facility, Tunis

13.50 hrs.

Comments

Magnus Ericsson

Chairman & Co-founder

Raw Materials Group, Stockholm

David Robert

Head of Programme “Strengthening of Governance in Extractive Industries“
in CEMAC region

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Jaunde

followed by plenary discussion

15.00 hrs.

coffee-break

SESSION III

TRANSPARENCY IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR

In many of Africa's resource-rich countries, mismanagement and corruption prevent the revenues from resource extraction from being utilised for inclusive, pro-poor development. To ensure that all groups within society benefit from resource wealth, the governments of the countries concerned must combat corruption – for example, through more transparency in public finances. Tax authorities, audit institutions and parliaments also play an important part in achieving and sustaining transparency. This panel will discuss ways of how this could and should be done by African governments, institutions and organisations themselves and how international initiatives could support such efforts.

Chair

Professor Raimund Krämer

Professor for International and Comparative Politics at the University of Potsdam
Managing Director of the foreign policy journal WeltTrends
Member of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation

15.30 hrs.

Inputs

Joseph Hirya

African Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI)
Director of Audit of Extractive Industries of the Office
of the Auditor General of Uganda, Kampala

15.50 hrs.

Comments

Henri Pierre Gebauer

Advisor to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Bujumbura

Dr Orji Ogbonnaya Orji

Director of Communications
Nigeria EITI, Abuja

followed by plenary discussion (until 17.00 hrs)

CULTURAL PROGRAMME AND RECEPTION

18.00 hrs.

Walk to the City Palace Potsdam
(today parliament house of the federal state of Brandenburg)
Guided tour and reception hosted by the Minister-President of Land Brandenburg

: Thursday, 08 May 2014

SESSION IV

TASKS FOR TAXATION

Resource-rich countries have often been unable to make full use of the revenues from resource extraction. This is partly due to weak tax systems and companies' exploitation of opportunities for tax avoidance, such as transfer pricing. By contrast, a well-performing public finance system generates revenue and thus forms the basis for transparent, legitimate and development-oriented government action. An efficient tax system also promotes accountability and contributes to good governance. The panel will consider how to create and implement tax systems that are independent of external influences, are immune to manipulation (as far as possible) and generate reliable revenue flows. It will also discuss possible trade-offs between existing tax regimes, licences and contracts.

Chair

Dr Matthias Witt

Head of Programme "Good Financial Governance in Africa"

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Pretoria

10.00 hrs.

Input

Logan Wort

Executive Secretary

African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), Pretoria

10.20 hrs.

Comments

H.E. Philip Sang'ka Marmo

Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania, Berlin

Nicholas Shaxson

Author and Writer for the Tax Justice Network, Berlin

followed by plenary discussion

11.30 hrs.

coffee-break

SESSION V

GOOD RESOURCE GOVERNANCE - AN INTERNATIONAL QUEST

In the final panel, we will discuss the role of other regional organisations, particularly the EU, and of the “classic” industrialised countries and the emerging economies in this context, for this is not simply a matter for policy- and decision-makers in the African countries: importing country governments also have a responsibility to utilise their specific capacities to ensure that resource extraction is conducive to development. A closer look will be given to the EU transparency directive.

Chair

Professor Tobias Diebel

Director of the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), Duisburg

Member of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

12.00 hrs.

Input

José Correia Nunes

Head of Unit “Budget Support and Public Finance Management”

European Commission, Brussels

12.20 hrs.

Comments

Dr Ola Bello

Programme Head: Governance of Africa’s Resource Programme

South African Institute of International Affairs, Johannesburg

Professor Raimund Bleischwitz

Institute for Sustainable Resources

University College London

followed by plenary discussion

13.30 hrs.

Closing remarks by the organisers

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)