

# : Programme

## Potsdam Africa Dialogues 2024

**Sunny Side Up? The energy crisis as an opportunity  
for a just transition in Africa**

**24-25 October 2024**

NH Hotel Potsdam, Germany

### **Conference languages**

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

Supported by the



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



LAND  
BRANDENBURG

Ministerium für Wirtschaft,  
Arbeit und Energie

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## BACKGROUND

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has propelled the issue of energy security to top of the international political agenda and made the need for a climate-friendly, crisis-proof, and affordable energy supply one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

Game changer on the way to a global energy transformation might be the very continent that lags far behind in terms of energy access. Out of the 840 million people with no access to electricity worldwide, about 600 million reside in Africa. With limited or no access to energy supply, people in rural areas are particularly prone to remain trapped in poverty. However, the continent's energy poverty is not due to a lack of resources. Africa boasts vast renewable energy resources, including about 60 percent of the world's prime solar energy locations, holding the potential to cover up to 40 percent of the global solar energy demand. The International Energy Agency (IEA) even suggests that Africa is capable of covering the entire global energy demand with "green" hydrogen.

Clearly, the benefits of a successful energy transition in Africa extend beyond its local scope. Africa could become the most important energy partner for Germany and Europe. With its Green Deal the European Union aims to become climate-neutral by 2050, and the German government emphasises that a crisis-proof energy supply can only be achieved through a comprehensive energy transition. The dilemma: Europe does not have the means to produce sufficient renewable energy but relies on energy imports. Thus, the African energy transformation has an impact far beyond the continent's borders and could become a triple win for Africa, Europe, and the climate.

With international experts from politics, business, and civil society, we will discuss whether the global energy crisis presents an opportunity for a just energy transformation for African countries. Are there untapped potentials to enable a just transition? What strategies are being discussed on national and international level to overcome energy poverty in Africa and what obstacles stand in the way of a successful transformation?

### **The Potsdam Africa Dialogues Series**

The Potsdam Africa Dialogues (formerly Spring Dialogues) have become established as a major forum on regional cooperation in Africa in the past decade. Since 2010, they have been organised by the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:). The conference brings together experts from business, science, political decision-makers and civil society actors from Africa, Europe, and Brandenburg to discuss current opportunities, challenges and solutions to global challenges.

## : First Conference Day – 24 October 2024

10.00 hrs      Registration

**Chair**

**Dr Marcus Kaplan**  
Executive Director  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

10.30 hrs      Welcome

**Oliver Krauß MdL**  
Chairman of the Executive Committee  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

**Jobst-Hinrich Ubbelohde**  
State Secretary for Europe  
Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs  
of the State of Brandenburg, Potsdam

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### KEYNOTE

#### ENERGY MADE IN AFRICA – AFRICA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL

Africa boasts the richest renewable energy potential of any region globally. The keynote provides a comprehensive outlook on Africa's projected energy demands through 2043, exploring how renewable energy can bridge the production gap and drive rapid, sustainable development across the continent.

#### Chair

**Dr Marcus Kaplan**  
Executive Director  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

10.45 hrs      Input

**Alize le Roux**  
Senior Researcher  
African Futures Program  
Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Pretoria

11.30 hrs      Coffee

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**SESSION 1****FULL THROTTLE INTO THE FUTURE? POLITICAL STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME ENERGY POVERTY IN AFRICA**

Rapid growth in population, coupled with efforts to boost economic development and to accelerate industrialisation present a dual challenge for African countries: producing more energy without harming the climate. In the global energy transition, Africa could play a leading role, as the continent has the potential to generate more renewable energy than it requires. At the same time, many countries on the African continent are rich in resources of fossil fuels including coal, oil, and gas. Especially countries possessing fossil fuels, are now at a crossroads. Will they choose to meet their own energy needs and Europe's appetite for energy with fossil fuels, or will they turn towards renewable energies for the future?

This session will examine the current discourse on energy security and the importance of renewable energies from the perspective of African decision-makers. What political strategies exist at national and international level? What conflicts of interest arise? And is the goal of overcoming energy poverty at odds with a just energy transformation?

**Chair****Nora Witt**

Research and Programme Coordinator  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

11.45 hrs

Discussion Round

**Bärbel Höhn**

Former State Minister for the Environment and Agriculture in North-Rhine Westphalia

Special Representative for Decentralised Energy Supply for the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Dr Kamugisha Kazaura**

Director, Department of Infrastructure and Energy (DIE)  
African Union Commission

**Isaac Kiva (online)**

Secretary Renewable Energy  
Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Kenya

**Amos Burudi Wemanya**

Responsive Campaigns Lead  
Greenpeace Africa

13.15 hrs

Lunch

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## SESSION 2

### GEOPOLITICS OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION – A NEW SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA?

Since the invasion of Ukraine, “independence from Russian gas” has become the guiding mantra of the European Union. To satisfy its own energy needs and to tap into „critical raw materials“ for its green economic transition, the European Union is turning to Africa. Due to its abundant resources, Africa could be a geopolitical joker for Europe. But while European countries are still adjusting the starting blocks, China has already surged ahead in the race.

To what extent is the energy transition changing geopolitical objectives? What does the renewed interest of all the major powers in African resources mean for Africa’s negotiating position? And is the West able to keep pace in Africa as a strategic partner?

#### Chair

##### **Dr Marcus Kaplan**

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

14.15 hrs

Input

##### **Prof Dr Rainer Quitzow**

Research Group Leader „ Geopolitics of Energy and Industrial Transformation”

Research Institute for Sustainability

Helmholz Centre, Potsdam

15.00 hrs

Coffee

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**SESSION 3****PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA: THE AFRICA-EU GREEN ENERGY INITIATIVE**

International commitments such as the Nairobi Declaration and the decision reached at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference set out ambitious visions and actions for the development of the global energy system. In this context, the African Union has launched a harmonised continental regulatory framework for the energy sector in Africa (Africa Single Electricity Market, AfSEM) and initiated the African Continental Power System Master Plan (CMP).

To promote the energy transition and ensure energy access and security for both continents, the European Union and its Member States are working closely with their African partners. At the 28th World Climate Conference, the EU reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen the partnership with Africa by providing EUR 20 billion until 2027 through the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative. The initiative focuses on partnership-based co-operation on the topics of renewable energies, energy efficiency, and just transition.

**Chair****Dr Marcus Kaplan**

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

15.30 hrs

Discussion Round

**Johan van den Berg (online)**

Africa EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)

AEEP Head of Secretariat

**Dr Kamugisha Kazaura**

Director, Department of Infrastructure and Energy (DIE)

African Union Commission

**Philipp Knill**

Head of Directorate 21 "Africa II"

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Amos Burudi Wemanya**

Responsive Campaigns Lead

Greenpeace Africa

17.00 hrs

Summary of the First Day and Outlook to the Second Day

**Dr Marcus Kaplan**

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

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**EVENING PROGRAMME**

18.00 hrs

Reception at the Invitation of the

Minister President of Land Brandenburg, Dr. Dietmar Woidke

## :Second Conference Day – 25 October 2024

09.00 hrs Registration

09.15 hrs Welcome and Short Review of the First Day

**Dr Marcus Kaplan**  
Executive Director  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

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### SESSION 4

#### “MONEY, MONEY, MONEY” – WHO INVESTS IN THE AFRICAN TRANSFORMATION?

Although the average annual investment in the African renewable energy market has multiplied tenfold in the last 20 years - from USD 0.5 billion (2000-2009) to USD 5 billion (2010-2020) - the results remain sobering. Only two per cent of global investment in renewable energy is directed to Africa. Currently, the number of wind and solar power plants on the entire continent equals the number of plants Germany intends to install in a single year. To successfully master the energy transition in Africa, this must change fundamentally.

In this session we will discuss various obstacles hampering investment in renewable energies and how to boost investments in the African market. What role do different actors such as the private sector, the European Union and China play in financing the African energy transition? What financial instruments are available and how can attractive framework conditions be created to boost private investment?

#### Chair

**Celia Schmidt**  
Moderation, Facilitation and Process Support  
Berlin

09.30 hrs Discussion Round

**Adele Yayra Boadzo (online)**  
Senior Energy Specialist  
African Development Bank

**Isaac Kiva (online)**  
Secretary Renewable Energy  
Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Kenya

**Dr Grace Mbugu**  
Senior Fellow and Head of Climate Change Program  
Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI)

**Christoph Tiskens**  
Director Eastern Africa & African Union  
KfW Development Bank

11.00 hrs Coffee

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**SESSION 5****PRIVATE INVESTMENTS – OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS FROM A CORPORATE PERSPECTIVE****Chair****Celia Schmidt**

Moderation, Facilitation and Process Support  
Berlin

11.30 hrs Discussion Round

**Jan-Niklas Beck**

Project Manager  
Green Hydrogen Business Alliance  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

**Ndiarka Mbodji**

Founder & CEO  
Kowry Energy Services UG

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**SESSION 6****WRAP-UP SECOND DAY OF CONFERENCE****Chair****Dr Marcus Kaplan**

Executive Director  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

12:30 Input

**Daniela Krahl**

Senior Policy Officer  
Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)

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**SESSION 7****TAKEAWAYS AND POLITICAL OUTLOOK****Chair****Dr Marcus Kaplan**

Executive Director  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

12.45 hrs **Input**

**Philipp Knill**

Head of Directorate 21 “Africa II”  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Alize le Roux**

Senior Researcher  
African Futures Program  
Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Pretoria

13.00 hrs Farewell and Light Lunch