

# : Programme

**Brandenburg Dialogue “Learning with Africa”**

**Tailwind for the energy transition?  
Opportunities, obstacles, and incentives  
for a decentralised energy supply**

**23 October 2024 18:00-20:00 hrs**

**NH Hotel Potsdam**

Simultaneous interpretation German/English

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## BACKGROUND

Within the context of the global energy transformation, the debate on the expansion of decentralised energy is gaining momentum. Tomorrow's energy should be reliable, sustainable, affordable, and accessible – universally. Yet, the global community still has long way to go to achieve this goal. Currently, 840 million people worldwide have no access to electricity, approximately 600 million reside in Africa. The lack of a comprehensive and reliable power supply is a key obstacle to economic development on the African continent. At the same time, African countries hold enormous potentials for renewable energy. Decentralized energy, especially solar energy, present an opportunity to electrify rural regions without the need for expensive and lengthy grid expansion. It offers a crucial chance for millions to overcome poverty.

The hopes placed in the expansion of decentralised energy are high: It promotes regional value creation, generates hardly any emissions, creates energy self-sufficiency, and strengthens citizen participation in the energy transition. In Germany, the Land of Brandenburg is one of the pioneers in the expansion of renewable energies, with around 4,000 wind turbines and 60,000 photovoltaic systems already installed. The small village of Feldheim has made a particular name for itself. The village's concept of a decentralised renewable energy supply is attracting tourists from all over the world eager to learn about its success.

At the fourth Brandenburg Dialogue „Learning with Africa“, we will discuss opportunities and obstacles to the expansion of a decentralised energy supply. Is decentralisation the solution to our problems regarding climate change and energy security? What is needed to increase acceptance and demand for decentralised solutions? What can community energy projects in Africa and Germany learn from each other? And what role can a decentralised energy supply play compared to centralised solutions?

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## PROGRAMME

18.00 hrs

### Admission

**Dr Marcus Kaplan**

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

18.10 hrs

### Welcome

**Jobst-Hinrich Ubbelohde**

State Secretary for Europe

Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs  
of the State of Brandenburg, Potsdam

18.15 hrs

### Panel discussion followed by Q&A

#### Chair

**Andrea Steckert**

Director

EBUS Institut für Entwicklungsberatung und Supervision,  
Hannover

#### Panelists

**Dr Claudia Herok**

Head of Directorate, Energie, Rohstoffe

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Energy of the  
State of Brandenburg, Potsdam

**Bärbel Höhn**

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

**Borris Philipp**

Expert for Education and Communication

Neue Energien Forum Feldheim e.V.

**Amos Burudi Wemanya**

Responsive Campaigns Lead

Greenpeace Africa

20.00 hrs

### Fairwell and Light Refreshment

The **Brandenburg Dialogue “Learning with Africa”** is open to anyone interested in engaging in conversation with African and European experts. The emphasis is on learning through partnership, drawing on regional and local experience from Brandenburg and selected African regions in thematic areas of common interest. The series forms a separate strand of the longstanding Potsdam Africa Dialogues (former Potsdam Spring Dialogues).

The **Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)** is a cross-party, non-profit organisation, funded by the German federal states of Berlin, Brandenburg, North Rhine-Westphalia and Saxony. sef: provides an independent international forum for creative thinking on urgent peace and development issues. It brings together present and future policy-makers, their advisors and academic experts, civil society and the business community in dialogue. The sef: attaches special importance to integrating perspectives from different world regions into the political debate.