

## Draft Programme

(Status: 17 April 2009)

# Developmental States in Africa: What Prospects and Whose Interests?

**Bonn, 28-29 April 2009**

While Asia has seen tremendous development successes over the last three decades, vast parts of Africa have not been able to achieve impressive growth and development over the same period. Often quoted, when comparing Ghana at independence and Korea in 1958, prospects for Ghana were considered to be much brighter than for war-torn Korea. Yet, a number of Asian states, including South Korea, as well as Latin American countries, became success stories. Most recently, Vietnam, China, and India are examples of economic successes. The Chinese example of strongly state-driven development looks particularly appealing to numerous observers and policy-makers in Africa. Yet, conditions for development are quite different in Africa compared to China: states are usually weak and hardly exercise basic control over their territories, let alone provide social services to their populations.

The so-called Washington Consensus consisted of belief in limited public sectors, deregulation and “lean states”. This policy receipt seems to be dead in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – not just since the most recent financial crisis. A mistrust in the state has turned into a focus on state capacities. How to make states fit to provide proper framework conditions for economic growth and subsequent poverty reduction? The debate about “developmental states” has thus appeared on the agenda of public debates in Africa.

This debate comes with numerous conceptual questions: How much substance does the concept of developmental states have? How much can African countries learn from other regions’ experiences, i.e. how much of the experience is suitable for an African context? How much of the discussion actually appeals to rather authoritarian understandings of “the state” and thus veil a quest for power by certain elites? And how do donors engage with this new agenda? The conference aspires to explore these questions among European and African scholars and practitioners and draw conclusions for tomorrow’s development cooperation policy towards and within Africa.

## Conference

The idea is to have presentations as input per panel, with a maximum speaking time of 15-20 min each. These presentations, available before the conference, will be commented on by discussants, speaking time max. 10 min each. This would allow for a 45-minutes discussion with participants.

## Developmental States in Africa?

### Monday, 27 April 2009 **Arrival of Participants**

#### **Transfer to Hotel**

HOTEL RESIDENCE

Kaiserplatz 11

51113 Bonn

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Fax: 0049 (0)228 2697 777

E-Mail: [hotel.residence@guennewig.de](mailto:hotel.residence@guennewig.de)

Internet: [www.guennewig.de](http://www.guennewig.de)

19:00 h

**Welcome Dinner**, Meeting at Reception of Hotel

## Developmental States in Africa?: Concept and Context (Day 1)

**Tuesday 28 April 2009; Venue:** Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Godesberger Allee 149, 53175 Bonn

9:00 h

#### **Welcome** by Hosts:

Michèle Auga, Head of Africa Department at FES

Dr. Jörg Faust, Head of the Governance, Statehood, Security Department at DIE

09:15-11:00 h

#### **Why the debate about a developmental state in Africa?**

- *What is the background against which the debate is conducted? i.e. why this debate now?*
- *Discussion about concept of the developmental state. Is there one concept or are there clear key elements defined? i.e. are actors speaking about the same thing?*

Chair: Davina Makhan, DIE

**Input:** Dr. Obadiah Mailafia, Chairman of Centre for Policy and Economic Research (CEPER), Abuja, Nigeria

11:00-11:30 h

**Coffee Break**

## Developmental States in Africa?: Concept and Context (Day 1)

11:30-13:00 h

### Experiences with developmental states beyond Africa?

- *What are experiences with developmental states in Asia and Latin America?*
- *What can we learn from these experiences for the case of Africa? Which elements of the context matter(ed) elsewhere – and which are given in today's Africa?*

Chair: Dr. Ulrich Golaszinski, Africa Department, FES

Input: Prof. Aurel Croissant, Univ. of Heidelberg (on Asia)  
Prof. Kurt Weyland, University of Austin (on Latin America)

Discussant: Dr. Omano Edigheji, Human Science Research Council, South Africa

13:00-14:00 h

### Lunch

14:00-15:45 h

### An “attractive autocracy”? – Developmental states and accountability/democracy

- *Who owns the development process in “developmental states”? What about participation in developmental states? Is the debate an easy way out of elite accountability?*
- *Is the idea of good governance a question of absolute standards or minimum requirements (good enough governance)?*

Chair: Christoph Pohlmann, International Policy Analysis Unit at FES

Input: Dr. Jörg Faust, head of Dept. on governance at DIE  
Prof. Ben Turok, Member of Parliament (ANC) and Director of the Institute of African Alternatives, South Africa

Discussant: Kojo Asante, head of governance and justice programme at CDD-Ghana

15:45-16:15 h

### Coffee break

## Developmental States in Africa?: Concept and Context (Day 1)

16:15-18:00h

### Developmental states in Africa – an uneasy concept for donors with respect to ownership?

- *Ownership is one of – if not the – key principle of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Donors thus demand ownership. But they might feel uneasy about “letting go”. How should/can donors reposition themselves, in a context where African states are expected to deliver on their commitments towards development and are already taking increasing ownership of the development process in their countries?*
- *The idea of ownership is apparently much subscribed to. However, donors are not fully clear how to “create” ownership in partner countries. How can donors strengthen state capacity or foster the emergence and sustainability of “developmental” states in Africa? Is there and should there be scope for engaging more with politics/why hasn’t it?*

Chair: René Gradwohl, ecbp-Coordinator at DED Ethiopia;  
Initiative Southern Africa, INISA

Input: Dr. Stephan Klingebiel, KfW  
Adriano Nuvunga, Lecturer, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane,  
Maputo, Mozambique

Discussant: Dr. Sven Grimm, DIE

18:00-18.15

### Wrap-up day 1

## Developmental States in Africa: what prospects and whose interests? (Day 2)

**Wednesday 29** April 2009; **Change of Venue:** public discussion at DIE, Tulpenfeld 6, 53113 Bonn

10:00 h-12:00 h

### **Panel discussion:**

#### **What to make of developmental states in the African context?**

- Who are the “drivers of change” for developmental states in Africa?
- Do African states have the necessary means and capacities to develop and implement developmental strategies?
- What would be recommendations for donors, particularly with regard to ownership?

Chair: Dr. Sven Grimm, DIE

Panelists: Dr. Omano Edigheji, Human Science Research Council,  
South Africa

Kojo Asante, Head of governance and justice programme at CDD-  
Ghana

Prof. Ben Turok, Member of Parliament (ANC) and Director of the  
Institute of African Alternatives, South Africa

Dr. Stephan Klingebiel, KfW

12:00-13:30 h

**Lunch reception at DIE**