



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

RE

THINKING

DEVELOPMENT POLICY:
HOW TO CONFRONT COLONIALITY

4 December 2024

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Stresemannstraße 94 | 10963 Berlin

Speakers Booklet

Speakers

Moderator

Prasanna Oommen-Hirschberg

is a presenter, host, communications consultant and author. Prasanna and her Team work in the cross-cutting areas of culture, cultural education, Diversity, digitization and political communication in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) and Germany-wide. Prasanna is an active member and former board member of the Neuen Deutschen Medienmacher*innen (New German Media Professionals) and spent four decades working as a performing artist and dance teacher.



Dipo Faloyin

is a journalist and best-selling author. His writing on history, culture, race and identity has been featured in the New York Times, the Guardian, VICE, and other publications. His book 'Africa Is Not a Country' is a portrait of modern Africa that pushes back against harmful stereotypes of the continent to tell a more comprehensive story of the continent's past, present and future. Dipo Faloyin holds a degree in Psychology and has previously works as Senior Editor at VICE.



Speakers

Welcome and Opening

Federal Minister Svenja Schulze

first joined the Federal Cabinet when she became Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in March 2018. Since December 2021, she has been Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. Before joining the Federal Government, she served as Minister for Innovation, Science and Research of the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia. Prior to that Ms. Schulze worked as business consultant with a focus on the public sector. She holds a master's degree in German studies and political sciences from the University of Bochum.



Panel Impulse

Ambassador Martin Kimani

PhD, is the Executive Director of New York University's Center on International Cooperation (CIC).

From 2021 to 2024, he served as the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations (UN), where he held the positions of President of the Security Council in October 2021 and President of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Board in 2023. Prior to this role, he was Kenya's Special Envoy for Countering Violent Extremism and the Director of the National Counter Terrorism Centre. He holds a Master of Arts degree and PhD in War Studies from King's College London and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy. He was awarded the German Africa Foundation's Honorary Award in 2022.



Speakers

Panel

Dr. Bärbel Kofler

(SPD) holds the position of Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Before being appointed to this role in December 2021, she was the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid for six years.

She has been a member of the German Bundestag since 2004, where her previous roles included Development Policy Spokesperson of the SPD parliamentary group and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Dr Kofler holds a PhD degree in linguistics.



Lacina Koné

is the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of Smart Africa having joined the organisation in March 2019.

He oversees the process of defining and advancing Africa's digital agenda and has overseen the development of continental blueprints for Africa on Digital Identity, ICT Start-ups and Innovation Ecosystems, Smart Villages and the definition of Africa's Smart Broadband 2025 Strategy in addition to advancing additional key continental initiatives.

In recognition for this work, Mr. Koné has been recognized in 2021 as 12th among the 50 personalities advancing Africa's digital transformation and recently ranked number 3 among the 10 Africa digital trendsetters in the 2022 Jeune Afrique technology ranking.



Speakers

Panel

Carla Baldivieso

is a Ph.D. researcher at Humboldt Univ. Berlin, affiliated with the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, and JAINA Studies Centre (Bolivia). She is currently a fellow at the ATSAF Academy studying Collective Action in Aquatic Food Systems associated with WorldFish Cambodia.

She has seven years of experience in rural and agricultural research processes, with a specialization in socio-ecological systems, biodiversity, artisanal fisheries, and participatory methods. Carla has hands-on qualitative research experience in Bolivia and Cambodia. In September 2024, Carla has co-organized a workshop on decolonizing knowledge and practice in agricultural research at the Tropentag at BOKU University, Vienna.

She holds a Master in Rural Development from Ghent University and Humboldt University and a Bachelor in Economics from Misael Saracho University, Bolivia.



Dylan Mathews

is CEO of Peace Direct having joined the organisation in 2015. His commitment to supporting local organisations in the global south spans almost twenty years, during which time he has worked for a range of international development, humanitarian and peacebuilding organisations.

While at Peace Direct, Dylan has led the organisation's 'Decolonising Systems' work, which led to the publication of the landmark report 'Time to Decolonise Aid' in 2021.

Dylan is currently the Chair of the Board of CIVICUS, one of the largest alliances of civil society organisations worldwide.





Speakers

Key Take Aways

Birgit Pickel

is Director-General for Africa in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). She has more than 20 years of experience in development policy and cooperation, including 11 years in management positions. Her regional focus is on West and Southern Africa, thematic focus is on global health, governance, and sustainable economic development, including skills development, civil society, civic engagement, and international volunteering. Mrs. Pickel has lived and worked in the USA, South Africa, Zambia, and Yemen, and short term missions to Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Cameroon, and Bangladesh. She holds an MA in Political Science and a postgraduate certificate in Development Studies.

