

**Günter Nooke,**  
**Personal Representative of the German Chancellor for Africa**

**Titel**

**„Africa's Green Revolution - Green Energy as a key element for a new Africa-  
Europe Partnership“**

Rahmen: Opening Ministerial Keynote Remarks auf der African Energy Week

Ablauf:

- Beginn 8.45 Uhr; Ende 10.00 Uhr
- Teilnahme im Zeitraum von 9.30 bis 10.00
- Keynote zu „Africa's Green Revolution - Green Energy as a key element for a new Africa-Europe Partnership“

Honorable Ministers, Dear excellencies, dear ladies and gentlemen, my friend NJ Ayuk

Thank you all for inviting me. I play the role of the green sheep in the flock of those knowing everything about crude oil and natural gas and – more importantly– knowing much more about Africa and its energy needs than I do.

I am going to speak about renewable energy. I hope you will allow this kind of response to the contributions of previous speaker. Because we are living in the same world, affected by climate change and challenged by the need for a carbon-dioxide free world in round about 2050. But, I am also fully aware of opportunities linked with traditional businesses using fossil resources in your countries, paying taxes for national budgets and contribute to the wellbeing hopefully not only for the lucky few but for the entire population.

I agree that Europe is facing different challenges than the people in African countries.

But our world is facing two existential challenges that it must solve by the middle of the century:

The first global challenge is: to ensure that the dramatically growing energy demand, especially electricity, is met, both in industrialized countries in Europe and in developing countries in Africa or in an emerging economy like South Africa.

The second global challenge is: to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Here, the rapid transformation of the global energy, heat and transport sectors is key to achieve climate neutrality by the middle of the century, as I mentioned before.

I am convinced that these challenges can be met in a fruitful cooperation between the African and European continent because common interests and interdependencies are high. The wellbeing of Africa is in Europe's and Germany's interest. We do not fear interdependencies; they commit us to each other with mutual trust.

These notably include common interests in renewable energy expansion and an ambitious global green recovery narrative. At the same time, a number of critical challenges remain.

With regard to financing, I share Chancellor Merkel's view that this is also about the credibility of the industrialized countries. To demonstrate Germany's commitment, we have joined others in supporting the phase out South Africa's coal-fired power generation, as announced last week in Glasgow.

In the future, the EU will only be in a position to achieve its goals, codified in the European Green Deal, if it builds strong international partnerships that help to promote sustainable trade relations and green transitions globally.

The comprehensive partnership between Europe and Africa would be decisive in this regard, but so far, it consists of paper only – real joint projects are still missing.

For a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral future, Europe will be largely dependent on the import of green hydrogen and its derivatives in the medium and long.

I would like to push the idea of mutual commitment and joint projects in the context of the INGA III or Grand INGA project which would tap into giant untapped hydropower resources in the DRC. Hydro is more suitable for hydrogen production because it is steadily available, not dependent on sunshine or wind.

In the future, the EU will only be in a position to achieve its goals, codified in the European Green Deal, if it builds strong international partnerships that help to promote sustainable trade relations and green transitions globally.

The comprehensive partnership with Africa, as highlighted in the strategic agenda 2019-2024, is decisive in this regard but only a general paper work.

Concretely, Europe will be largely dependent on the import of green hydrogen and its derivatives in the medium and long term.

This opens up economic and environmental opportunities for sun- and wind-rich partner countries where there are opportunities to build hydrogen production capacities.

In this context, "green" hydrogen as an alternative to fossil fuels and raw materials plays a decisive role for a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral future.

One opportunity for this partnership for a clean, renewable and affordable solution is the giant untapped hydropower resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Congo Forest Basin represents thirteen percent of the world's hydropower plants. The currently most cost-effective realisation design envisages a potential of around 11500 megawatts and would have the lowest generation costs for electricity in a global comparison.

However, the amount of electricity would by far exceed the demand of the DRC and the region by far.

This would change if there were demand and guaranteed purchase conditions for hydrogen in the EU. This, in turn, would guarantee the purchase of a certain amount of electricity from Inga III and make the investments of Inga III and hydrogen production in the DRC more bankable on the market. Inga 3 is a run-of-river power plant without large dams and reservoirs, to be implemented in a socially and ecologically very responsible manner and would be enough to supply the entire German steel industry with green hydrogen.

Such a change towards green energy comes with significant economic costs and requires additional national and international private capital.

It is evident that, if we spot opportunities and grasp them now, we will be able to achieve a successful global energy transition towards a green energy-based economy.

At best the result will be sustainable climate action and an economic win-win situation, for Europe and its African partner countries alike!

Inga III plus hydrogen production would be the Power2X lighthouse project between Africa and the EU.

This could turn development policy towards economic growth. As mentioned above, the mutual commitments would link the implementation of the German and European hydrogen strategy with Africa-policy, climate and geopolitics. Inga III could be a starting point for the industrialization of the entire region in central Africa. Inga 3 and the region around the Congo-Delta including Cabinda, Matadi up to Kinshasa has the potential to become the Shenzhen of Africa. Friends in Africa often said to me, we want to become like the China success story. We, the African Union, African countries like DRC and Angola, Partners in Europa and primarily the private sector should think about those things not only about oil and gas. Thank you very much for your attention!