

# **No Marshall Plan for Africa, Please!**

## **"Cologne Memorandum" for a Different Development Policy**

It is a more than 50-year-old mistake to believe we could make development policy for Africa. An error with fatal consequences. The rich and the powerful became richer. Poverty grew as a result of population growth. Most African countries became not more independent, but more dependent. A spiral like a drug ring: the more material is offered, the more lethargic and addicted the addicts become. But in this case, the offer does not come from greedy cartels, but from well-meaning governments. And it is not distributed by shady dealers, but by often very dedicated helpers on the ground. In short, a tragedy.

The truth is this: development in Africa can and must only be done by Africans. The African countries need to know what they want, and plan what they can. If they need support from other countries, they must say this and justify it. And if the reasons are good, they will get help. We will no longer regard them as natural "recipient countries" and us no longer as "donor countries."

### **It therefore follows that:**

1. A massive increase in the level of government aid will not bring about a significant improvement in living conditions in African countries. Rather, large parts of the additional resources are expected to flow into the wrong channels and the exodus continues.
2. Overall, development aid has not yet set in motion any fundamental and sustainable economic development in sub-Saharan Africa.
3. On the contrary, state development aid has strengthened the dependency of the recipient countries and hampered the emergence of economic dynamism.
4. Despite privileged trading conditions, there are scarcely any produced goods from sub-Saharan Africa on the world market.
5. The current state development policy has assumed responsibilities that prevent development in Africa.
6. Development aid has become a machinery that increasingly serves its self-preservation.

### **Africa needs**

- Local and foreign entrepreneurs who build production plants in Africa. They are to be comprehensively supported, because the economic development of Africa is not possible without industrialization.
- Provide practical vocational training as a basis for sustainable economic development.
- Development aid that is provided to reliable organizations on site to promote African self-initiative.