

Conference

“Agenda 2030 – Six African Municipalities and the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg”

06 – 08 November 2019

Conference house Eckstein, Nuremberg/Germany

DOCUMENTATION



Participating municipalities:

HOST CITY: City of Nuremberg in cooperation with the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg and the cities of Neumarkt, Schwabach and Fürth

GUESTS:

- Anéjo, Bassar and Sokodé (new name: Tchaoudjo 1) in Togo
- Gossas in Senegal
- Drakenstein in South Africa
- Midoun in Tunisia

Welcome

On the evening of November 6, all delegations from the African municipalities and the German participants are welcomed by City Councillor Nasser Ahmed in the Hall of Honour at the City Hall. Every member of each delegation introduced himself.

Introduction

In her welcoming address, the **moderator Kiki SCHMIDT** points out that the conference “Agenda 2030 – Six African Municipalities and the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg” is by far the largest Afro-German conference which is held in Nuremberg. The conference was organized by the city of Nuremberg and prepared in cooperation with the cities of Neumarkt, Schwabach and Fürth, as well as the development agency Faire Metropolregion of the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg (EMN). It is emphasized that the conference was arranged together with the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) of the German non-profit limited organization Engagement Global funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



Dr. Ulrich Maly, Lord Mayor of Nuremberg, states in his opening remarks that Mr. Gerd Müller, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), has recognized the benefits of international cooperation, when it comes to the introduction of a local component. In addition, sister-city partnership has a long tradition in Germany, so that it is now time for an increased cooperation with African municipalities. Given the fact of the difficult common history between Africa and Europe, today great importance is given to exchanges at the same level.

After the presentation of a 3-minute film about the Fair Trade Town Nuremberg, (<https://skew.engagement-global.de/nuernberg-3-platz-im-wettbewerb-hauptstadt-des-fairen-handels-2019.html>) **Mr. Dirk SCHWENZFEIER, head of the subdivision in BMZ**, congratulates the city of Nuremberg in his greeting for the third place in the competition of “Fair Trade Capital City 2019”. The city of Nuremberg has participated in the competition every time since 2011 and has already won several (special) awards. This time the city ranked third among 100 municipalities being particularly awarded for the good regional networking, the wide range of projects and innovative approaches as well as prominent support on the part of the city government. Not only were the subjects of human rights and toys (Nuremberg International Toy Fair) mentioned, but also the public procurement by the municipalities of the metropolitan region, which due to their market power have a major impact on e.g. working conditions and supply chains.



In view of the full auditorium, Mr. Dirk Schwenzfeier realizes that the Agenda 2030 is well received at the local level and more and more municipalities worldwide are recognizing themselves as global actors. The collaboration at a municipal level is normally put on a broad (also civic) level and the diversity proves to be an important success factor. Based on the equal exchange and partnership, the cooperation enjoys the support of BMZ due to its great potential. Therefore, the United Nations have agreed on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which hold all nations equally accountable.



Prof. Eliseo MACAMA, head of the Center for African Studies at the University of Basel/Switzerland, appears in his keynote regarding the SDGs less euphoric. In fact, he regards them as an important initiative and is convinced of the sincerity of the conference. Moreover, such events show the African continent that much attention is paid to human beings and the lessons from the history have been learned. Nevertheless, he is suspicious: The agenda points out goals (e.g. poverty reduction), but not the means in order to achieve these results. Actually, poverty is only a problem, because the economic system makes it one. The wealth of the northern hemisphere could rather be the real problem. Prof. Macama is convinced that the problems generated by certain (economic) structures cannot be solved if the structures remain untouched.

Dr. Dina BARBIAN, head of the Institute for Sustainability and lecturer at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg agrees in her keynote with Prof. Macama and yet defends the SDGs. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of 2000 consisted of only eight sustainable goals and affected merely the developing countries. The SDGs of 2015, however, contain 17 goals and apply to all countries at all levels (municipality, region, country), which are the most comprehensive goals that the United Nations have ever created. Many coun-



tries have already started the implementation of the SDGs, conferences on the subject are held worldwide and SDGs have long been a topic at many schools and universities.

Panel discussion: “The Agenda 2030 – which challenges do we have to face all together? “

Together with the guests of the panel discussion, Mrs. Kiki Schmidt introduces briefly to the history and the contents of respective partnerships. Podium guests include:

- **Dr. Peter PLUSCHKE**, director of the Forum for Climate Protection and Sustainable Development of the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg and head of the Department of Environment & Health of the city of Nuremberg.
- **Madiagne SECK**, mayor of the city of Gossas
- **Lauren WARING**, municipal head of Planning & Development Department of the city of Drakenstein
- **Tchanilé OURO-GBELE**, mayor of the city of Sokodé (on behalf of all three Togolese municipalities)
- **Ahlem BEN THAYER**, first deputy mayor of the city of Midoun



From left to right: Moderator Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Ben Thayer, Mr. Seck, Mrs. Waring, Mr. Ouro-Gbele, Mr. Dr. Pluschke

Question 1: What is the role of climate change in each municipality?

According to the responses, it is obvious that more and more countries share common experiences. The climate changes are becoming increasingly effective everywhere in the world, so that not surprisingly this subject is being dealt with in all partnerships. Droughts and the lack of rain in the last few years in Central Franconia and the city of Drakenstein have led to a growth in awareness of the problem in the population for the very first time. The late beginning of the rain in the city of Gossas is a problem as well. In order to counteract the negative consequences, reforestation needs to be done. In Togo, forests are also being reforested, yet with the purpose of having sufficient water storage capacity during heavy rains and flooding. Just like the city of Drakenstein, the city of Sokodé is attempting to increase the students' awareness of this subject. Moreover, one's individual responsibility is also addressed, as it has shown that thoughtlessly discarded rubbish block the sewer trench and cause overflows. An example is directly given from the city of Midoun about how to deal with the climate change: renewable energy is being used and photovoltaic systems are being built.

Question 2: At the conference the SDGs 4, 7, 11 and 12 are going to be mainly discussed. What are the other focuses in the respective municipalities?

Focuses in the city of Midoun are above all gender equality and culture, while in the city of Gossas education and waste management are top priorities. The city of Drakenstein promotes gender equality and equal educational opportunities for all population groups, whereas waste management also plays a key role. In Togo, energy supply, apart from the subjects of education, waste management and gender equality is becoming a major issue.

Question 3: Can organic products play a role in the partnership?

With the World's Leading Trade Fair for Organic Food & Products (BIOFACH) taking place in Nuremberg every year, organic products from the African partnership countries, where things are partly produced, which cannot be cultivated in Germany, are offered for sale. It will be decisive in the future, whether the value-added chain can be changed that further processing or refinements are performed in the countries of the global south. Each country has its own regional products, which would be suitable as organic food for export (South Africa: wine, Senegal: peanuts, Togo: yam roots). Naturally, the working conditions and the trade should be based on certain standards.

Dialogue: "Economic cooperation between Africa and the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg in consideration of sustainable aspects "

Mr. Germain Essohouna MEBA, president of Lomé Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Togo), discusses the role of economy during his talks and **Mr. Markus LÖTZSCH, managing director of Nuremberg Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK)** speaks about the entry of new markets as well as qualified vocational trainings.

As shown in an approx. 8-minute video of the Lomé Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Germain Meba expresses his wish for more investments in Togo. Moreover, he considers qualified training a crucial factor for development and sees the dual system from Germany as worthy of imitation. In particular, he is interested in the quality assurance by the IHK.



Mr. Markus Löttsch broadly describes the importance and tasks of the IHK, before he discusses the Franconia-African economic relationship, which is not yet particularly pronounced. He indicates that two things would be helpful, in order to reinforce the relationship: A sales market for the German export-orientated companies is only attractive, if the number of customers reaches a certain size. It is only worth an effort, if goods are exported to the entire sub-region of Togo. According to Mr. Löttsch, it would be quite

helpful if more local African businesses teamed up with German companies, because they know the situation and the culture on site better.

Mr. Germain Meba hopes that standards in Togo will be set and higher quality standards will be applied to. Therefore, he is interested in a certification of the vocational training in Togo by the IHK. Mr. Markus Löttsch points out that there are often too few qualified employees on site and he proposes to initially establish German companies in Africa, in order to train the qualified personnel and then to produce for the local cycles on site. Apart from that, he pleads a unification of the markets and a better networking of the (western) African countries. Until today there is, surprisingly, still little trade among the African countries.

In the future, there is need for discussion referring to a topic: the guiding principles of the UN for economy and human rights 2011 oblige the companies to observe human rights at every point of the supply chain. Nevertheless, how to reach reliable information about the economic partners and their working conditions? This needs further discussion.

Project examples from the municipalities and Gallery-Walk

All municipalities briefly present their projects as well as the related challenges through a presentation on the plenary. Afterwards, all participants have the possibility to have a look at the posters of each municipality. Even though the projects and problems are so individual, all municipalities are concerned with the environmental subjects: climate change, renewable energy, waste management or alternative mobility concepts are thoroughly discussed and dealt with. In addition, the issue of education is referred to time and again.

The workshops

Since these topics have already emerged during the preparation of the conference, four workshops are provided for the participants:



In a first step (“our strengths, our weaknesses), the participants note in small groups the best practice models from their municipalities. Next, they record where needs exist. In a third step the wishes are formulated. Based on this, the first steps for implementing the realistic projects and the responsibilities are finally defined.

Finally, concrete cooperation projects are proposed and the necessary steps to implement the projects are also stated.

The presentation of the results of these four workshops is provided in the plenary.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4 (High-quality education): It quickly became clear that the same problem exists in all cities: Education is (most of the times) the responsibility of the country and the municipalities have little potential influence. Nevertheless, new impulses are to be generated, wherever possible. To achieve this, the actors must be defined, a coordinator be determined and the projects be planned. In this case, apart from envisaging a common project, the bilateral cooperation is considered promising.

In the field of vocational training, African instructors should be trained in Germany and afterwards share their knowledge in Africa. It is also important to better equip the schools and training centers on site.

Sponsorship and uniforms are expected to alleviate the (partly visible) poverty and enable school attendance.

Clinic partnership Nuremberg-Bassar: In Togo there is only one psychiatric hospital, namely in Aného. The medical center in Bassar has now received new contacts and up-date information from it and is planning to pay a visit to the colleagues in the near future.



SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy): All participants see their chances in the solar energy, whereby three subjects emerge: the construction of small plants, the construction of large plants and the vocational training of the instructors. The further training of vocational instructors has aroused great interest in the group.



Which municipalities/actors cooperate?

- Vocational schools Nuremberg
- Municipalities of Bassar, Sokodé and Aného



SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities): The central and concrete topic is waste management. Four fields of work are identified: sensitization of the population, construction of waste utilization plants, procurement of means of transport & transport materials and lastly, prevention of waste through upcycling (= creative reuse) or biodegradable products.

**Workshop on SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities,
Here: Topic „Waste management and clean cities“**

The next steps (results of the workshop):

Training of teachers in waste separation	Raising awareness among population	Procurement of materials for waste disposal	Training of staff and a team
Waste recycling plant: area, design of the facility (size, surface, storage), financing	Waste collection: means of transport (garbage trucks, small vehicles)	Biogas & composting: optimization: finding a catalyst for fermentation	

Which municipalities/ actors cooperate?

- Sokodé and Gossas
- Gossas, Aného and Midoun
- Sokodé and Bassar
- Gossas and Schwabach



SDG 12 (Sustainable consumption and production): The participants exchanged experiences about successful projects of individual municipalities specifically, e.g. upcycling projects, sustainable municipal procurement, markets with distributors and products from the region... Aside from that, challenges and wishes were clearly defined. In order to further network and learn the experience from others, contacts were made and fixed.

Workshop on SDG 12: Sustainable consumption and production

The next steps (results of the workshop):

Flexibility	Development of sustainable workshops	Role model in the municipality
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce working hours• At the place of work (at home, outside)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education framework to create awareness• For beginners, city employees and youth...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frameworks should be mandatory and not voluntary• Establishment of a procurement department• Use of materials (sustainable, ecological, innovative)• Distribution via social media

Result:

Establishment of a platform to promote exchange between the municipalities





Closing words

Mr. Tchanilé OURO-GBELE, mayor of the city of Sokodé/Tchaoudjo 1 - just as his two following speakers - expresses his gratitude to the participants and the organizers, especially to Ms. Karin Gleixner.

Ms. Jessica BAIER, head of Department of thematic partnerships and International Exchange of Expertise of Service Agency Communities in One World - SKEW- (subdivision of Engagement Global) calls everybody to prove how serious the conference is: Each municipality ought to contribute to it and now initiate the next steps. The SKEW offers further consulting services as well as financial support through Engagement Global. The municipalities are expected to stay in contact and the newly required knowledge is supposed to spread there.

Dr. Peter PLUSCHKE, managing director of the Forum for Climate Protection and Sustainable Development of the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg and head of the Department of Environment & Health of the city of Nuremberg hopes that this form of discussion helps to reach a new understanding and ultimately a sustainable cooperation. He also wishes that the entire European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg feels called upon to contribute to the process.

Excursion with professional accompanying

Afterwards, the accompanying program took place in the afternoon of the 3rd day: The excursion led the guests of the African communities first to the recycling yard and the waste incineration plant of the city of Nuremberg, where the director, Mr. Reinhard Arndt, presented the various steps of waste management.

In Kammerstein near Schwabach "Schnells Kürbishof und Kürbismühle" was visited: the family business presented the development of the company for the production of the Franconian pumpkin oil as well as many refined products made of pumpkin seeds. In recent years, the farm has also become a tourist attraction, with more and more busses visiting it. With home-made cake and in a pleasant ambience, the production (increasingly organic), sales and success of the family business is explained.

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