

DEAR

MEMBERS OF THE

BUDGET COMMITTEE

**AN
OPEN
LETTER**

Urgent Appeal to Sustain Germany's Commitment to Development Aid

We write to you as representatives of several African Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with a shared commitment to fostering sustainable development and addressing pressing global challenges. Our collective concern stems from recent reports indicating proposed budget cuts of nearly 1 billion euros in development aid for the 2024 fiscal year, scheduled for a final negotiation on January 18th, 2024.

Development assistance from Germany has played a crucial role in supporting a myriad of initiatives to alleviate poverty, improve healthcare, advance education, foster job creation, promote youth entrepreneurship, green energy and jobs, and mitigate climate change across the continent. These funds have not only had a transformative impact on the lives of countless individuals but have also contributed to building resilient communities that are better equipped to address shared global challenges.

The potential ramifications of significant budget reductions in this critical area are profound, and the shock waves will be felt across Africa. They extend beyond immediate economic and social implications, touching upon the very fabric of international cooperation and solidarity. Reductions in development aid can undermine progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals, exacerbate existing inequalities, limit the ability of vulnerable communities to adapt to the evolving challenges of our interconnected world, worsen Europe's migration crisis, and, in extreme cases, lead to loss of life.

As a leading global economy, Germany has a unique opportunity and responsibility to continue its robust support for international development. Maintaining a strong commitment to development aid aligns with the principles of justice and equity and serves Germany's interests. A strong German commitment to international cooperation also serves as a role model to other donors, pushing them to maintain their commitments.

It is crucial to recognize that investments in sustainable development abroad contribute to a safer and more stable world, which inherently benefits Germany. Development initiatives foster economic growth, create new markets, and enhance stability, thereby reducing the likelihood of conflict and displacement. Moreover, collaborative efforts in areas such as public health and environmental protection yield global benefits, safeguarding the health and well-being of people worldwide.

We appeal to the Budget Committee to carefully consider the far-reaching consequences of proposed budget cuts and advocate for the preservation of Germany's esteemed legacy in development cooperation. By continuing to invest in international development, Germany will uphold its commitment to global solidarity and foster a safer, more prosperous world for us all. In the spirit of Germany's renewed friendship with Africa, especially under Chancellor Scholz, please do not put further stress on the aid budget as well as the budget for humanitarian support.

We remain hopeful that, in the spirit of shared responsibility and partnership, Germany will continue to stand as a beacon of leadership in the global community.

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