

Dekoloniale



Dekoloniale Berlin Africa Conference 2024: 10 Demands

Working Group 1: Human Rights

1. We demand that EU States address the glaring issue of hypocrisy in the realm of human rights in African countries. Hypocrisy undermines the very foundation of human rights, eroding trust and credibility due to selective diplomatic, economic and political interests. True coherence in our efforts towards human rights demands that EU States abandon selective advocacy and enforce universal accountability.
2. We urgently call upon African leaders to take decisive action to uphold and protect human rights and end the repression of human rights defenders. The following demands are central to ensuring a coherent and principled approach with spirituality and humanity as the center points.

Working Group 2: Anti-Racism

1. Recognizing the ongoing impacts of European colonialism and in line with their obligations under international and European laws and standards, European governments should adopt transformative actions that unconditionally recognize systemic racism, inequalities, and inequities. These actions should be taken in a meaningful collaborative process with experts, including those with lived experiences, and civil society: We recommend that this process should take the form of a truth commission, which unconditionally confronts and investigates

Europe's colonial legacies and produces concrete recommendations on reparations.

2. Recalling the obligation to implement international and EU standards to combat racism, European governments should adopt robust national action plans against racism and anti-discrimination laws, which are anchored in intersectionality and reflect the multi-layered experiences of racism affecting Africans and People of African Descent: We recommend that European governments should adopt effective accountability mechanisms including a European level review (mirroring the Universal Periodic Review) of compliance with anti-racism policies and sanctions for violations of compliance with international and EU standards.

Working Group 3: Economy & Trade

We have learned from our own struggles (against enslavement, colonialism, apartheid, racism) that we do not address demands to those who control the systems. We usually mobilize and organize our people to liberate ourselves. But for the sake of our assignment here, we formulate the following two demands.

1. We demand fair and equitable trade and investment regimes between Africa (African diasporas) and Europe. Therefore, the colonially framed models of trade and investment should be stopped in order to allow the African countries (and African diasporas) to diversify their own

economies. African countries (and African diasporas) should fully exercise their sovereignty in prioritizing critical resources.

2. European Aid will never compensate what Africa (and African diasporas) lose through unfair trade regimes, illicit financial flows and unfair debt management. We are aware that more money has been flowing from Africa (and African diasporas) to Europe than Africa (and African diasporas) receive in development aid. We demand that member States of the European Union use international cooperation to address the imbalances in all these sectors and to be transparent about the true financial flows between Africa (and African diasporas) and Europe.

We have realized that most of the work (rejecting or reviewing international agreements, trade policies, environmental climate and investment agreements contracts) has to be done in Africa and in the African diaspora. We reserve our demands regarding these responsibilities for internal dialogues between Africa and the African diasporas. Our future is ancestral, anticolonial and antiracist.

Working Group 4: Migration

1. Border control policies must prioritize **ending the externalization of EU borders** and ensuring that **no EU-imposed borders exist on African soil**. Freedom of movement for survivors of colonialism in African countries is a fundamental right that must be upheld.

There must be a **rejection of externally imposed agreements** like those of the G5 Sahel and a firm stand **against EU detention camps** on African soil. Respect for Africa's sovereignty and the rights of its people is non-negotiable.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), established in 1979, predates the Schengen Agreement of 1995 and was founded on principles of regional free movement. However, since 2015, these principles have been undermined by intensified border reinforcements, exemplified by the 36 checkpoints along the 500-kilometer route between Ouagadougou and Niamey. European Union interference has further compromised confidence in ECOWAS, eroding trust in its ability to serve the region's interests.

2. Africans in Europe

Migration laws for Africans in the EU must be reformed to ensure fair and just treatment. This includes changing the legal status of African migrants to grant them greater security and equality. **Easy access to Schengen visas** must be guaranteed, eliminating discriminatory practices such as refusals based on assumptions about whether applicants will return to their home countries.

African migrants should have the right to European **ID cards**, which guarantee their right to stay and work in EU countries. Additionally, children born to African migrants in any European country must be granted **citizenship** automatically, ensuring their rights within the society where they are born.

Working Group 5: Reparations

1. To European governments and stakeholders

Give us back what you stole from us, without conditions - whether it's land, object, the remains of our ancestors. Give it directly to those you stole it from, like the local communities. If we can't price the harm that you did, give indirect reparations, like forgiving debt, preferential trade and migration. In the interim, European states must remove themselves from setting the terms of the conversation. The negotiation framework should be the point where the affected African communities set the terms.

2. To African governments and stakeholders

We need an inclusive dialogue on what we want - with everyone affected, local communities. African governments should only play the role of facilitators.