

**Declaration on African migration during the 5th colloquium  
on traditional people and communities  
Kassel-Hofgeismar 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2017**

We the participants at the 5th colloquium on traditional people and communities, held in Kassel-Hofgeismar from 23rd to 26th of June 2017,

from 14 countries of four continents (America, Asia, Africa, Europe), have discussed about the on-going tragedy of massive migration, from most African countries South of Sahara, particularly those enduring severe political, economic and climatic crisis, that push millions of men, women and children on a deadly journey through the Sahara and the Mediterranean Sea, that burry them any way, either on the route or at the end station in asylums or at the mercy of slave-like cheap labour dealers.

The growing number of these political, economic and climate refugees since 2008 is a dramatic revelation of the failure of the short-sighted governance of the world economy, the political and climate crisis by the world global institutions. The political and economic governance in African countries, the education systems there, as well as the international cooperation over the past century have proven totally incapable, neither of preventing, nor of adequately handling a disaster of magnitude.

If the poverty of their everyday livelihoods and the total lack of future perspective at home push Africans from home, not the worst of ones are embarking on this hopeless roads. Only those capable of gathering important amount of cash of their own assets and from their families and communities' networks, and healthy enough to start the journey, get trapped in the claws of those slave dealers' networks of 'modern' times.

The current situation reminds us of the slave trade from the 15th to the 19th centuries, which drove millions of vigorous young Africans in the Atlantic sea and in the America, and deeply harmed African cultures, traditions and livelihoods since then.

The present tragedy is of much deeper harm, damage and shocking to human kind and rights. That's why we, participants of the colloquium call upon the International and national NGOs, the German Government, the European Union, the G20 countries, the United Nations institutions, the African Governments, the Regional States Organisations of Africa, the African Union, the African based international Banks, Foundations and voluntary organisations, for a sustainable human-centred economic and political governance at global level.

There is the need for a global initiative in response to the actual African migration tragedy.

More specifically,

- International institutions should give more attention to local communities' rights, traditions and visions in their polities and intervention strategies,
- special attention should be devoted to African education systems so as the reinforce the dignity of the African youth through a genuine valuing of their traditions, cultures and natural environment,
- the full participation of local communities in the governance of African affairs, lands and natural resources is the ultimate sustainable way to stop the migration trends.