

African Civil Society engagement with the G20

Berlin and Hamburg in Germany were respectively the venues of the G20 Africa Conference on the theme “G20 Africa Partnership: Investing in a Common Future” from 12-13 June 2017 and the Civil20 Summit from 18-19 June 2017 that convened more than 400 CSOs from all over the World. The Civil20 is the Civil Society process around G20 which has been under the German Presidency till July 2017, when Argentina took over at the G20 Summit.

A few African CSO representatives participated in the process, with two of them contributing as Members of the Steering Committee of the Civil20: Martin Tsounkeu, the General Representative of Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN) and Fanwell Kenala Bokosi, the Executive Director of the Africa Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD). Their two organizations initiated a consultation process in Africa ahead of the events in Berlin and Hamburg to examine the “Compact with Africa” and the Germany proposed “Marshall Plan in order to convey the African citizen’s voice on these initiatives in particular and the G20 process in general.

The paper that resulted from a week-long consultation in which 60 representatives of African Civil Society Organizations, from 40 African countries, and all the sub-regions of the Continent participated is entitled "THE G20 COMPACT WITH AFRICA AND THE GERMANY PROPOSED MARSHALL PLAN FOR AFRICA: WELCOMING THE INITIATIVES WITH CAUTION. It guided the participation of the few African CSOs that attended the Civil20 Summit and the interventions of ADIN and AFRODAD at the G20 Africa Conference.

The following key issues and priority expectations were identified for African Citizens:

- 1- Full alignment of investments with national development strategies and the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and not just a mere literal cross-referencing in the documents;**
- 2- Rationalized and balanced combination of private and public investment, supported by a more substantial and effective Official Development Assistance (ODA) and effective debt management solutions, looking forward to exit the ODA trap;**
- 3- Involvement of African citizens and consideration of their expectations, through direct institutionalized dialogue with the civil society while designing the compact;**
- 4- Clear mechanisms to groom an African domestic, effective and competitive private sector that operates alongside or with foreign investors, to add value to African natural resources before exporting;**
- 5- Harmonization of all the various partnership initiatives that target Africa, if not in terms of priority (because of natural differences of interest), at least in terms of investment schedule;**
- 6- Transparency, accountability and social as well as environmental responsibility, to avoid tax avoidance and illicit financial flows, to make sure**

that Domestic Resource Mobilization is strengthened, as a result of the new partnership initiatives.

There are perspectives and opportunities for future further engagement of the African Civil Society with the G20. ADIN and AFRODAD will organize work on these within the African Working Group (AWG) on sustainable development, building mainly around the six key areas of concern; and will assess African countries' interactions with the G20 accordingly.

The Civil20 Summit in Hamburg from 18-19 June 2017 also provided an opportunity for an African caucus meeting, in the spirit of the African Working Group (AWG). Participants from 10 African countries agreed on the necessity for an organized and coherent CSO engagement in the G20 process, with the following key action areas:

- 1- Management of a mailing list of African CSOs in the G20 process;
- 2- Organization of the African CSO engagement as a sustainable process in the long run;
- 3- Engagement of African governments on the expectations of African citizens with regard to the G20 initiatives ("Compact with Africa" and Marshall Plan for Africa")
- 4- Initiation of a preparation process before attending G20 and IFIs meetings in a collective spirit;
- 5- Capacity building, substance creation and expertise development as basis of African CSO engagement;
- 6- Specific engagement of South Africa as African member of the G20 to make sure the Continent's message is conveyed rather than just a single country's concerns;
- 7- Immediate way forward meeting in Africa, after the Berlin G20 Africa Conference and the Hamburg Civil20 Summit;
- 8- Identification of other African CSOs interested by the G20 process.

ADIN and AFRODAD committed to take the lead in making necessary steps possible to get the African CSO engagement in the G20 process going. Attendance of the African caucus meeting in Hamburg was as follows:

African Caucus at the Civil20 Summit in Hamburg from 18-19 July 2017

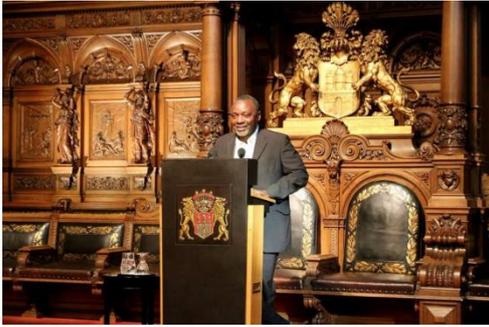
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The General Representative of Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN), Martin Tsounkeu, delivered a speech¹ on behalf of the Civil20 at the Welcome Reception at the Hamburg Town Hall, offered by the Mayor of the City. He focused on the changing global context and related challenges as well as the role of the Civil20 in particular and the Civil Society in general in taking these on the path of sustainable development. Speaking as a member of the African Working Group (AWG) on Sustainable Development, he also called for African citizen's voice to be considered for any initiative targeting Africa.

Photo Report (following page)

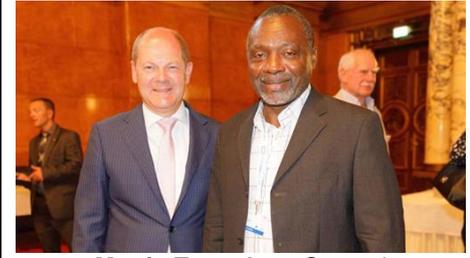
¹ Full text attached



Martin Tsounkeu, ADIN, delivering his speech at the Hamburg Town Hall after the Mayor's welcome address.



Chancellor **Angela Merkel** with members of the Civil20 Steering Committee.



Martin Tsounkeu, General Representative, ADIN; with **Olaf Scholz**, Mayor of Hamburg at Welcome reception at Hamburg Town Hall.



A table at the Hamburg Town Hall welcome reception



Presentation of communiqué for the Civil20 summit by two members of the Civil20 Steering Committee: **Nancy Alexander**, Heinrich Boell Foundation and **Jürgen Maier**, Venro



Jürgen Maier, Venro interacting with **Martin Tsounkeu**, ADIN before the opening ceremony



Presentation of the document containing the Civil20 recommendations to be submitted to the G20



Martin Tsounkeu, ADIN, commenting the Civil20 Summit communiqué: "It is inclusive of recommendations from all working groups"!



Participants at coffee break, with a smile from **John Ruthrauff**, InterAction.



A view of the Civil20 Summit attendance



Two couples of Steering Committee Members in discussion.