

Marshall Plan with Africa: A “Paradigm Shift” or ‘New Wine in the Old Bottle’?

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Abstract:

The year of 2014 marks a turning point in terms of policy making and development discourse towards the African continent in Germany. In that year, the government issued “the Federal Government Policy Guidelines for Africa” with the aim of developing a comprehensive approach towards the continent, focusing on varying issues ranging from peace, security and human rights to poverty, economic growth, trade and investment. Thereafter, the year of 2017 was declared as the year of Africa not only in Germany but in the European Union. The continent was also the main theme of the G20 2017 meeting in Hamburg under Germany’s presidency. In the same period, the European Union also worked to re-define economic relations with the continent, including the replacement of the Cotonou Agreement with a new partnership agreement. In 2017, three policy proposals came onto the agenda in Germany: The First is “Pro!Africa” by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and with the aim of strengthening stability and development in the continent. The second is “Compact with Africa (CwA)” by the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) in cooperation with the IMF, World Bank and African Development Bank, and with particular focus on macro economy, economic development and sustainability of ‘the partner countries’ in the continent. Finally, “Marshall Plan with Africa” by the Federal Ministry of Development Cooperation (BMZ) and with particular focus on economic activity, trade, employment, peace, security, democracy and rule of law in ‘the partner countries’ in the continent. Being regarded as a special visible and active development policy with focus on a specific area for a defined period of time, “Marshall Plan with Africa” claims not only a “paradigm shift” in development cooperation but also a stronger commitment to the notion of development. This paper aims to discuss “the Marshall Plan with Africa” within the context of global political economy, through the literature on foreign aid policies and with particular focus on the terms of ‘development cooperation’ and ‘development partnership’.

Keywords: Global Political Economy, Development Cooperation, Foreign Aid

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