

**Answer of the Federal Government to the Minor Interpellation submitted by the Members of the Bundestag Niema Movassat, Wolfgang Gehrcke, Christine Buchholz, Sevim Dağdelen, Annette Groth, Heike Hänsel, Andrej Hunko, Katrin Kunert. Kathrin Vogler and the Left Party parliamentary group**

**- Bundestag printed paper no.: 18-8859 of 22.06.2016 -**

**State of play of the negotiations on the reconciliation process with Namibia and addressing the genocide of the Herero and Nama**

*Preliminary remarks of the questioners*

*Between 1904 and 1908 the German Empire waged an inhumane war of extermination against the Herero and Nama in what was then the colony of “German South-West Africa”, the present-day Republic of Namibia, with its “Schutztruppe” (literally “protection force”), which the expert scientific community clearly categorises as genocide. In 2014, a political dialogue process was initiated between the Federal Government and the Namibian government to deal with this past. In the scope of this, both countries are engaged in negotiations over a joint declaration on the atrocities committed during this period. Additional aims of the process are finding a suitable form of commemoration and remembrance and overcoming the consequences of the colonial period, which are still tangible in Namibia to this very day.*

*In a resolution adopted unanimously in 2006, the Namibian National Assembly calls on its government to work to secure acknowledgement of the genocide and reparations from the Federal Republic of Germany ([http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/voelkermord-deutschland-verhandelt-ueber-entschaedigung-der.724.de.html?dram:article\\_id=345814](http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/voelkermord-deutschland-verhandelt-ueber-entschaedigung-der.724.de.html?dram:article_id=345814); Resolution: [http://genocide-namibia.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2006\\_09\\_Motion\\_Genocide\\_nam\\_parliament-1.pdf](http://genocide-namibia.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2006_09_Motion_Genocide_nam_parliament-1.pdf))*

*Im In contrast to this, there continues to be a lack of clarity about what the German Federal Government’s assessment of the past events is. One the one hand, at the Federal Press Conference on 10 July 2015, the spokesperson for the Federal Foreign Office Dr Martin Schäfer described the war of extermination as genocide and emphasised the following sentence as the position of the Federal Government: “The war of extermination in Namibia from 1904 to 1908 was a war crime and genocide.” (<https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/DE/Mitschrift/Pressekonferenzen/2015/07/2015-07-10-regpk.html>).*

*President of the Bundestag Norbert Lammert also came to the same assessment a few days earlier (<http://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2015-07/herero-nama-voelkermord-deutschland-norbert-lammert-joachim-gauck-kolonialzeit>). In the first reading of the motion tabled by the Left Party parliamentary group “Reconciliation with Namibia – remembrance of and apology for the genocide in the former colony of German South-West Africa” (Bundestag printed paper 18/5407) on 24 September 2015, speakers from all parliamentary*

groups spoke of genocide. On the other hand there continues to be no official resolution by the Bundestag acknowledging the genocide. The aforementioned motion was defeated on 17 March 2016. The Federal Government is also currently avoiding using the term “genocide” in public. The subject is now increasingly in the public spotlight again following the acknowledgement of the Armenian genocide (Bundestag printed paper 18/8613) by the Ottoman Empire, the precursor to present-day Turkey

In the German-Namibian dialogue process a great deal needs to be changed. The victims associations of the Herero and Nama have criticised their involvement as insufficient (<http://www.lalamobile.com/content/62838/Rukoro-adamant-to-be-included-in-genocide-negotiations>). The Herero Paramount Chief Vekuii Rukoro states clearly in a press statement on 3 October 2015: “Nothing can be about us, yet without us; anything about us, but without us is necessarily against us!” (<http://genocide-namibia.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Statement-delivered-to-the-Press-by-Paramount-Chief-Adv-Rukoro.pdf>). It therefore seems doubtful whether the current reconciliation process will actually be capable of bringing about a lasting satisfactory solution recognised by all parties.

Instead of secret government negotiations, Rukoro is calling for a three-way dialogue between representatives of the Herero and Nama peoples, the Namibian and the German Government ([http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/voelkermord-deutschland-verhandelt-ueber-entschaedigung-der.724.de.html?dram:article\\_id=345814](http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/voelkermord-deutschland-verhandelt-ueber-entschaedigung-der.724.de.html?dram:article_id=345814)).

In a press release on 17.05.2016, Herero und Nama victims associations drew attention to the submission of a complaint against the Federal Republic of Germany at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague (<http://genocide-namibia.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/NAMA-AND-OVAHERERO-LEADERS-PUT-GERMAN-GOVERNMENT-ON-TERMS.pdf>).

It continues to be unclear in what form a postcolonial culture of remembrance is to be cultivated or regarding the issue of the return of pillaged mortal remains.

We ask the Federal Government:

- 1. Is the statement made on 10 July 2015 by the spokesperson for the Federal Foreign Office Dr Martin Schäfer at the Federal Press Conference that the past events constituted genocide the official position of the Federal Government?**

The answers in relation to this by the spokesperson for the Federal Foreign Office and the government spokesperson reflect the position of the Federal Government.

- a) If so, to what extent does the description of the war of extermination as genocide currently constitute the official line of German government representatives and officials, in particular at the German missions abroad?**
- b) If representatives of the Federal Government are not currently officially clearly using or allowed to use the term genocide, why not?**

**In this case, to what extent does the Federal Government see this as contradicting the public statement made by Dr Martin Schäfer on 10 July 2015 that it was indeed genocide?**

Questions la) and b) shall be answered together: Please refer to the answer to question 1.

2. *Does the Federal Government continue to be of the opinion that the UN Convention on Genocide of 1948 cannot be applied retroactively (cf Bundestag printed paper 17/10481, answer to question 1)?  
If so, why?*

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948 cannot be applied retroactively as there is no basis in the wording of the convention to suggest an intention to apply it retroactively on the part of the parties to the convention.

3. *Is the Federal Government of the opinion that it is not possible to speak of genocide for the war of extermination against the Herero and Nama as the UN Genocide Convention did not enter into force until 1948?*

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948 itself refers in its legally non-binding preamble to the historical dimension of the concept of genocide by noting “that at all periods of history genocide has inflicted great losses on humanity”. For this reason in a historical and political public debate, the definition set forth in the Genocide Convention can serve as a yardstick for a non-legal assessment of an event as genocide.

4. *Is the Federal Government of the opinion that the mere use of the term genocide in assessing and describing a historical case could already have legal implications and consequences for the Federal Republic of Germany?*

No.

*If so, what legal consequences does the Federal Government expect?*

The Federal Government does not expect any legal consequences to be triggered.

5. *What conclusions does the Federal Government draw from the acknowledgement of the genocide of the Armenians (Bundestag printed paper 18/8613) in relation to addressing the Herero and Nama question?*

In the Federal Government’s opinion there is no connection between the events under the Ottoman Empire and those in former South-West Africa. The dialogue process between the Federal Government and the Namibian government to address the past already began in 2014. Please also refer to the answer to questions 1, 3 and 4.

6. *What is the Federal Government’s assessment of the statement by Esther Muinjangu, Chair of the*

*Ovaherero Genocide Foundation to the newspaper "Die Welt" on 8 June 2016 ("The genocide of the Armenians took place just seven years after that of the Herero, here the Germans are suddenly talking of genocide as if it goes without saying [...] What is the difference? The Herero are black, the Germans think that they don't have to take black people seriously. For me, it is the only conclusion")? (<http://www.welt.de/156078534>)*

Please refer to the answers to questions 1 and 5.

7. *Based on its knowledge, to what extent does the Federal Government see the fact that commemoration of the Armenian genocide is now receiving more attention in Germany in contrast to the genocide in German South-West Africa as possibly also being due to structural racism, as in Turkey it is a Muslim and in Germany a Christian "perpetrating country" and the Armenian victims are "white" and "Christian" as opposed to "black" and "savages"? (Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper on 6 May 2015, p. 19)?*

*To what extent is the Federal Government aware of the fact that following the genocide resolution of the German Bundestag on the massacre of the Armenians under the Ottoman Empire, the Istanbul member of parliament Metin Küllük from the governing AKP party intends to put the German genocide of the Herero and Nama on the agenda at the Turkish parliament with an initiative in Ankara which plans to state: "Between 1904 and 1907, in South-West Africa, colonial Germany pursued an organised policy of extermination against the people of a country that is now known as Namibia"? ([http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/tuerkei-akp-will-ueber-deutschen-voelkermord-an-herero.1818.de.html?dram:article\\_id=356368](http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/tuerkei-akp-will-ueber-deutschen-voelkermord-an-herero.1818.de.html?dram:article_id=356368))*

*How did the Federal Government react to this publically or through diplomatic channels or how will it react if such a resolution is passed at the Turkish parliament?*

On paragraph 1: The Federal Government refers to the answers to questions 1 and 5.

On paragraphs 2 and 3: The Federal Government is aware of the media reports on said issue, it has no information of its own going beyond this. The Federal Government has not reacted to this to date and does not respond to hypothetical questions.

8. *What meetings have taken place since 2014 at what times and at what level between representatives of the Federal Government and Namibian representatives?*

2014

- 7-10 March Visit of the Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Ambassador Egon Kochanke, to Namibia
- 31 May – 5 June Visit of the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Alpheus Naruseb, to Berlin
- 2 June Consultation between Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Foreign Minister Nandi-Ndaitwah in Berlin

- 28 September - 1 October Visit of the Namibian Minister of Education Dr David Namwandi to Berlin

2015

- 13-16 January: Visit of the Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Ambassador Georg Schmidt, to Namibia
- 17-19 February: Development policy governmental consultations in Windhoek
- 20-22 March: Visit by former Federal President Köhler to the celebrations marking Namibian Independence Day on 21 March and the inauguration of President Geingob (accompanied by the Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Ambassador Georg Schmidt)
- 12-14 May: Visit of the Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Ambassador Georg Schmidt
- 3-5 August: Visit of the Speaker of the Namibian National Assembly Peter Katjavivi to Germany
- 29 September: Consultation between Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Foreign Minister Nandi-Ndaitwah in New York
- 1 – 2 October: Development policy governmental negotiations in Berlin
- 14 – 16 December: Visit of the Special Representative for the German-Namibian dialogue process, Ruprecht Polenz (former Member of the Bundestag), to Namibia

2016

- 24–29 April: Visit of the Namibian Special Representative Dr Zedekia Ngavirue to Germany
- 5-11 May: Visit of the Minister of Poverty Eradication Dr Zephanja Kameeta to Germany

**9. *Is there a specific schedule for the German-Namibian reconciliation dialogue and the negotiations connected to this?***

**a) *If so, what is it?***

**b) *By when does the Federal Government intend to complete the dialogue process?***

**c) *To what extent are there already concrete negotiation outcomes and decisions? (Please provide a list of the (partial) outcomes in this case)?***

Questions 9 a) to c) shall be answered together: Both governments intend to complete the dialogue before the end of the year. There are no concrete negotiation outcomes or decisions yet.

**10. *Was or is it particularly important to the Federal Government to include the victims associations representing the Herero and Nama in the negotiations now under way between the two governments?***

- a) *If so, how and when was this desire of the Federal Government made known to the Namibian government?*
- b) *If not, why not?*

Questions 10 a) and b) shall be answered together: The German-Namibian dialogue about the past is taking place between two democratically elected governments. Both governments are in agreement that the ethnic groups especially affected should be involved but without them participating directly in the negotiations.

11. *Does the Federal Government consider the involvement of the associations representing the Herero and Nama victims over the course of the negotiations to be sufficient?*

*If so on what grounds?*

*If not, why not?*

Involvement of the victims' associations is an internal matter for the Namibian government. As the Federal Government has been told, it has provided the ethnic groups with the opportunity to contribute to the negotiation process.

12. *Has the Federal Government submitted specific proposals to the Namibian government at a time before or during the negotiations as to what form the inclusion of the Herero and Nama in the process could take?*

*If so, at what exact points in time were these proposals submitted by which actors on the German side to which actors on the Namibian side?*

Please refer to the answer to question 11.

13. *What criticism by Herero and Nama associations towards the dialogue process currently under way is the Federal Government aware of?*

The Federal Government follows the criticism voiced publically by some representatives of the affected ethnic groups.

14. *What conclusions, including in terms of action to be taken, does the Federal Government's draw from the criticism by various different Herero and Nama associations that they have not been sufficiently included in the reconciliation process?*

*Does the Federal Government share this view?*

*What is the Federal Government's assessment of what it can do to advocate and work towards greater inclusion of the descendants of the victims?*

Please refer to the answer to question 11.

15. *How does the Federal Government respond to the statement by the Namibian Special Representative Dr Zed Ngavirue on 18 May 2016 in the daily newspaper Namibian Sun that the German Federal Government insisted on excluding the Herero and Nama from the outset (<http://rn.sun.com.na/history/genocide-no-cloak-secrecy>)?*

Please refer to the answer to question 10.

16. *Which delegation visits to Germany has the Namibian Special Representative Dr Zed Ngavirue undertaken since 2015 and who accompanied him on these delegation visits? (Please list with name and position/organisation)?*

- a) *What was the exact programme during the visits?*
- b) *Which organisations, representatives or individuals and groups were there meetings with?*
- c) *Was the Federal Government involved in the planning of the visit? If so, to what extent (for instance in selecting which people to meet with)?*
- d) *Was there a meeting with the civil society alliance “Völkermord verjährt nicht! – No Amnesty on Genocide!”?*

*If so, what was the content of the consultations?*

*If not, why not?*

- e) *Were there meetings with other civil society organisations and government institutions?*

*If so, how were they selected and what was the content of the consultations?*

Questions 16 a) to e) shall be answered together: The Namibian Special Representative visited Germany from 24 to 29 April 2016. He was accompanied by Ms Selma Ashipala- Musavyi (State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Ms Tonate Itenge-Emvula (Chair of the Technical Committee), Mr Festus Ueriuka Tjikuua, Mr Steven Isaack, Mr Mateus Kaholongo and Ms Saara Vranckx. The programme consisted of talks with President of the Bundestag Dr Norbert Lammert and Federal Foreign Minister Dr Frank Steinmeier and visits to colonial places of remembrance. Official talks were at the heart of the programme. The visit was planned by both governments and the Namibian embassy in Berlin.

17. *What delegation visits to Namibia has the German Special Representative Ruprecht Polenz undertaken since 2015 and who accompanied him on these delegation visits (Please list with name and position/organisation)?*

- a) *What was the exact programme during the visit?*
- b) *Which organisations, representatives or individuals and groups were there meetings with?*
- c) *Were there meetings with representatives of the Namibian opposition?*

d) *Were there meetings with the Herero and Nama victims associations?*

*If so, which and when?*

*If not, why not?*

Questions 17 and 17 a) to d) shall be answered together: The German Special Representative Ruprecht Polenz visited Namibia from 14 to 16 December 2015. He was accompanied by the Regional Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Ambassador Georg Schmidt, and Senior Counsellor of Legation Dr Martin Schmidt, deputy head of section at the Legal Directorate-General of the Federal Foreign Office. In addition to an extensive exchange with Namibian Special Representative Ngavirue the programme included talks with Namibian Vice-President Iyambo and Speaker of the National Assembly Katjavivi. The Special Representative visited Okakarara and met with Herero representatives there.

18. *What other visits to Namibia by German Special Representative Polenz are planned in the future and what talks and consultations are planned (please provide as specific a list of the planned programme as possible)?*

The next visit by Special Representative Polenz to Namibia will take place from 4 to 7 July 2016. In connection with this, in addition to the time spent in the capital, a visit to the south of the country and to the places of remembrance there has taken place.

19. *What is the Federal Government's assessment of the prospects of a successful and lasting reconciliation process if the descendants of the ethnic groups affected are not being sufficiently included, especially against the backdrop of the aforementioned statement to the press by Paramount Chief Vekuü Rukoro on 3 October 2015 (<http://genocide-namibia.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Statement-delivered-to-the-Press-by-Paramount-Chief-Adv-Rukoro.pdf>), sowie zahlreicher weiterer derartiger Äußerungen?*

Please refer to the answer to question 11. We must wait and see how the negotiations proceed.

20. *To the knowledge of the Federal Government, who are the members of the Technical Committee of the Namibian government, which is supposed to take on board the expectations, demands and hopes of the Herero and Nama and experts in the scope of the governmental negotiations? (Please list with name and position/organisation?)*

*To what extent is the Federal Government or the Special Representative of the Federal Government conducting direct talks with the Technical Committee or individual members of the Technical Committee?*

The composition of the Technical Committee is an internal matter for the Namibian government. The Federal Government was not informed of the names of the members. There are no direct talks with the

Technical Committee. The German-Namibian dialogue to address the past is conducted between the Special Representatives.

21. *What is the Federal Government's assessment of the fact that to the knowledge of the questioners only one seat is set aside for the representatives of the Nama on the Technical Committee, bearing in mind the varying interests of different Nama groups?*

This is an internal matter for the Namibian government.

22. *To the knowledge of the Federal Government, who are the members of the Political Committee of the Namibian government, which is supposed to take on board, assess and evaluate the submissions and entries of the Technical Committee for the decision makers (Please list with name and position/party)? To what extent is the Federal Government or the Special Representative of the Federal Government conducting direct talks with the Political Committee or individual members of the Political Committee?*

This is an internal matter for the Namibian government. The Federal Government was not informed of the composition of the Political Committee. There are no direct talks with the Political Committee.

23. *Is the Federal Government planning to increase the development aid for Namibia in the future? If so, is this to be declared as reparations or restitution?*

The German Bundestag decides on the level of budgetary funding for development policy in the scope of the annual Budget Act. Development funds serve development policy purposes and are not declared any differently.

24. *Is the Federal Government of the opinion that increased bilateral cooperation is sufficient for reconciliation between Germany and Namibia?*

*If so, what type of bilateral cooperation does this involve?*

*If not, what else is required in the view of the Federal Government for lasting reconciliation?*

*To what extent does the Federal Government share the view that a resolution like the one on the genocide of the Armenians is only credible if actions such as a symbolic or material recognition of the Armenian victims follows, as otherwise it remains but empty words (<http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/vorab/armenien-resolution-bundesregierung-mit-zweierlei-mass-a-1095651.html>)?*

The dialogue with Namibia conducted by the Federal Government on addressing the past aims to further deepen the cooperation between the two countries based on a mutual understanding of the past. How this cooperation is structured is the subject of the negotiations.

25. ***What conclusions, including in terms of action to be taken, does the Federal Government draw from the “Motion on the Ovaherero Genocide” adopted unanimously by the Namibian National Assembly on 19 September 2006, which clearly defines the German war of extermination against the Herero and Nama from 1904-08 as genocide and calls for reparations?***

***To what extent is this 2006 resolution by the Namibian National Assembly guiding the current negotiations between the governments of Namibia and Germany?***

The Namibian Special Representative was appointed by the Namibian government. The Federal Government does not know to what extent the resolution by the Namibian National Assembly guides the actions of the representative.

26. ***What position is the Federal Government adopting in the negotiations regarding the calls for reparations by the associations representing the Herero and Nama victims?***

The material demands made by some of the representatives of the ethnic groups of the Herero and Nama have no legal basis in the view of the Federal Government.

***a) Does the Federal Government reject the term reparation or compensation or restitution (Reparation or Kompensation or Wiedergutmachung)?***

***If so, why?***

***If not, to what extent is the Federal Government working with one of these terms?***

***b) If the Federal Government prefers another term here, what is it?***

Questions 26 a) and b) shall be answered together: Under customary international law, reparations (*Reparationen*) denote the intergovernmental compensation for war damages typically agreed on upon the cessation of fighting by the states involved. Restitution (*Wiedergutmachung*) usually denotes the compensation paid by Germany since the end of the Second World War to victims of the Holocaust and other injustices typical of the Nazis. Neither term fits the historical background and context of the German-Namibian talks in the view of the Federal Government.

27. ***To what extent does the Federal Government have any knowledge of the complaint by the Herero und Nama lodged with the international arbitration court in The Hague?***

***a) To the knowledge of the Federal Government, what is the content of the complaint and what legal foundations is the complaint based on?***

***b) When did the Federal Government learn of the complaint?***

***c) Has the Federal Government been in contact with the plaintiffs or the lawyers of the law firm which is representing the victims?***

***If so, when exactly and what was the content of the communication?***

Questions 27 a) to c) shall be answered together: The Federal Government is not aware of such a

complaint having been lodged.

The Federal Government does not comment on correspondence prior to or in the scope of possible legal disputes. Please also refer to the answer to the first part of question 26.

**28. *Is there an evaluation report or evaluative analysis of the “Special Reconciliation Initiative” launched in 2007 and now concluded? (If so, please send a copy)?***

An evaluation of the Namibian-German Special Reconciliation Initiative is currently being conducted on behalf of the Namibian Planning Commission as the project executing organisation on the Namibian side. The results are expected towards the end of the third quarter of 2016.

***a) What were the specific measures taken in the scope of the special initiative and whom did the funding go to?***

***Who implemented the funding?***

***(Please list?)***

Additional financial cooperation funds totalling EUR 36 million were made available for the special initiative. The funds were used for municipal development measures in the areas where the Herero, Nama, Damara and San communities who had suffered especially under German colonial rule are settled. The measures have improved the living conditions in these areas and pursue economic, social and cultural aims. They benefit all the people in these territories and as such support the Namibian policy of national reconciliation. In total these amount to almost 200 individual measures. They consist, for instance, of rehabilitation and the expansion of school infrastructure (classrooms, sports fields and more) and the construction of local cultural centres.

***b) Through which participatory process were the Herero and Nama involved?***

The project executing organisation on the Namibian side was the National Planning Commission. The leadership of this authority presented the special initiative to the local population at the start of the programme. In the scope of the implementation of the special initiative, the Federal Government and the Namibian government commissioned a consortium of consultancy firms acting as the project management team to draft the funding criteria, develop the selection and participation criteria and to closely monitor and support implementation. The individual communities proposed the measures outlined in the answer to 28 a) to the National Planning Commission in line with their needs.

***c) What problems were noted during implementation?***

The Namibian government was hesitant in accepting the offer of the special initiative initially. At the fore here first of all was the concern that privileging the ethnic groups of the Herero and Nama in a one-sided manner might endanger the government policy of national reconciliation. The participatory

selection process described in question 28 b) countered this concern.

During the course of implementation there were challenges for the consultants commissioned with project implementation caused by individual constructors. The implementation difficulties led to price increases which were offset by a final top-up of the funds for the special initiative of up to five million euros in order to ensure that all the measures originally agreed on are completed as planned.

- 29.** *Are there plans to relaunch the special initiative or to launch a comparable initiative?  
If so, how is this to be structured?*

The expiry of the special initiative at the end of 2015 was a mutual decision taken with the Namibian government during the development policy governmental negotiations in October. No new initiative was agreed on.

- 30.** *What is intended in terms of the specific structure of the planned “Foundation for the Future?”*
- a) What goals will it pursue and what subjects will it work on?*
  - b) In which countries is it to carry out its work?*
  - c) Who is to be in charge of the funds, who will be the owner of this foundation and who is to be on its management and decision-making bodies?*
  - d) To what extent are there plans to include the Herero and Nama?*
  - e) To what extent will the Federal Government maintain an influence over the foundation and its funds?*

Questions 30 a) to e) shall be answered together: The proposal for a German-Namibian Foundation for the Future is one of the subjects being dealt with in the current negotiations.

- 31.** *What specific measures to commemorate the genocide and remember the colonial past is the Federal Government planning in Germany?*
- a) To what extent are there plans to erect a monument at a central location in Berlin?*
  - b) Are there plans to create a foundation or similar to advocate and promote a postcolonial culture of remembrance in Germany?*
  - c) If so, how will this institution be designed, who is to be on the decision-making and management bodies?*

Questions 31 a) to c) shall be answered together: Measures of said kind will depend largely on the outcome of the dialogue with Namibia, which is currently still under way.

- 32.** *To what extent is the Federal Government envisaging including the groups who worked hardest in Germany to secure reconciliation and acknowledgement of the genocide in the process and the future*

*measures to promote a post-colonial culture of remembrance, such as recognised experts among historians, the organisations of the civil society alliance “Völkermord verjährt nicht!” and other human rights activists who have worked for many years to address this genocide and representatives of the Herero and Nama themselves?*

*Does the Federal Government consider it possible and desirable for these people and groups to be included in the management structures of such a foundation or funding organisation to address the colonial past in Germany or to include them in the bilateral cooperation at the level of the general population in the future and to benefit from their expertise to promote lasting reconciliation?*

*If not, why not?*

*Which other people or groups are capable of managing such an initiative in the opinion of the Federal Government?*

Please refer to the answer to question 31.

**33. *Which programmes are currently already under way in the area of addressing the colonial past and in particular of reconciliation work with Namibia which are being funded by the Federal Government, its institutions and executing agencies from federal budget resources?***

The Federal Government fosters an open discourse on Germany’s colonial past and duly addressing the acts of violence that took place in this context. It aspires to deal with the subject in a forward-looking manner which aims to contribute to the social discussion of models for the future and new governance models in addition to the need to address the past. This approach underlies the “Berlin Correspondences” series of events initiated by Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier in cooperation with the Gorki Theatre and the Berlin Humboldt University, for instance, whose opening event included a discussion with the two prominent thinkers Achille Mbembe and Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty on the topic of “Your Order is Our Disorder”.

In the scope of its funding programmes, too (for instance the culture conservation programme and “Action Africa” of the Federal Foreign Office, the Small Cultural Fund of the embassies, the German Federal Cultural Foundation’s TURN Fund, programme work by Goethe-Institut e. V.), the Federal Government endeavours to support projects and measures with a connection to colonial history at home and abroad. During the 2015 German Weeks, for instance, it supported a multimedia music project by Namibian and German learners, the German-Namibian artist Ees and the Herero music group Ongoro Nomundu dealing with the reconciliation of the young generation. Furthermore, in this vein the Federal Government has undertaken a host of cross-border measures including the development of scientific and academic relations with Africa, supporting platforms for African art and the creative industries (Music in Africa, Mokolo/Film, Contemporary And/Art), commissioning the Georg-Eckert Institute to conduct a textbook and curriculum analysis on the depiction of colonialism in school textbooks, organising visitor programmes with African colonialism experts, supporting the “ReMix” project of the University of Bayreuth studying hybrid identities in Germany and countries in the former colonial

territories for traces of colonialism, funding the stays of two guest curators from Namibia and Tanzania for the Deutsche Historische Museum in preparation of the exhibition planned from October 2016 on Germany's colonial past and proposing a working group on cultural goods at the German Museums Association.

The Federal Government does not have a complete overview of all measures related to Germany's colonial past. Please refer to the answer of the Federal Government to the Minor Interpellation submitted by the Alliance 90/The Greens on Bundestag printed paper no. 18/5166 of 12 June 2015.

**34. *Is it true that the Federal Agency for Civic Education is now funding a project by the Partnership with Africa Foundation in this context (and perhaps also other initiatives in the field of reconciliation and exchange with Namibia)?***

In 2016 and 2017, the Federal Agency for Civic Education (BpB) is funding the project 'Development and testing of teaching models on the subject of the genocide of the Herero and Nama' by the Stiftung Partnerschaft mit Afrika e.V. (Partnership with Africa Foundation). It is not a project "in the area of addressing the colonial past and in particular of reconciliation work with Namibia" (cf also answer to question 33), but rather an educational programme or a project to develop educational programmes. The aim of the project is to develop teaching materials on the subject of the Herero and Nama genocide in Namibia.

***a) If so, which organisations have been provided with what level of funding for which projects with what contents and aims?***

A grant award document was issued in response to a corresponding application by the Stiftung Partnerschaft mit Afrika e.V. for the duration of the project from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017 for EUR 103,652.09. No other applications were submitted.

***b) Was there a public call for the submission of bids for the funds provided? If not, why not?***

No. The Federal Agency for Civic Education can approve pilot projects and measures to develop and test new avenues in civic education outside of guideline funding pursuant to sections 23 and 44 of federal budget requirement. A prior call for bids only takes place here in cases with a special thematic focus (for instance "refugees and asylum"). The possibility to apply to receive funds is on-going and is also advertised on the Internet (<http://www.bpb.de/partner/foerderung/139974/foerdermoeglichkeiten>).

**35. *What plans does the Federal Government have for the mortal remains of Herero and Nama still stored in Germany?***

***Is the Federal Government planning to proactively compile a register which also includes mortal remains in the possession of private institutions and to support the requisite research into their origin***

*in order to offer to return them?*

*What are the planned activities and schedule for this?*

The Federal Government is engaged in a dialogue with the Namibian embassy and German museums and collections to enable further repatriations of mortal remains to Namibia. It is reliant on the cooperation with the German institutions and further progress in origin research when doing so.