

# The Africa Lectures



The **Democracy School** (Germany), together with its partners, is currently developing a pan-African initiative to coincide with COP29 in order to set a spectacular sign that cannot be ignored and creatively draws attention to the challenges and crises arising from **climate-induced migration**.

The idea is to convene a large number of so-called **Silent Lectures** on the same date simultaneously across Africa during COP29, and to share both messages from and coverage of these gatherings with both the participants of COP29 and the wider world via 'climate ambassadors' on the one hand, and social media on the other. In parallel, a silent *Solidarity Lecture* would be held synchronously at COP29 itself.

There is great interest in this **intervention in Africa**. Expressions of interest have already been received from numerous local organisations in different countries and the number of potential African partners wishing to participate continues to grow.

The initiative has been conceived as a **transcultural art project** that aims to create a transcontinental **social sculpture** in a Beuysian sense through synchronized, yet locally grounded *Silent Lectures* of various sizes. Since this intervention offers an extremely wide spectrum of stakeholders, with vastly different cultural and political orientations/backgrounds, the opportunity to get involved creatively, and thus identify with the project personally, it will have a significant impact far beyond the art world itself. Out of this intervention a pan-African grassroots climate movement with global reach can develop and both find and raise its voice.

From a European perspective, the initiative provides a much-needed opportunity to proactively participate at various levels, together with our **African partners**, in an **international dialogue** on climate, migration and their consequences, and to jointly place these issues within the **global context** of COP29. In so doing, all sides will gain a much deeper understanding of the challenges Africa will face in coming years and thus will be better able to identify areas where **international cooperation** has the greatest positive impact from an economic, social and environmental point of view.

By proactively engaging with this project, **the initiative's patron** (to be announced officially by January the 1<sup>st</sup> 2024) will have the opportunity to take on a central **global leadership** role in an area that is of great importance both for European cohesion and for the protection of German, as well as European **democracy and rule of law**.