

**Tana-BDI-MSC Side Event,
February 18th, 7:30-9:00 am (Munich Time)
Bayerischer Hof, Yellow Parlour**

Africa's Place in a Multipolar World: Moving from Strategy to Action

Synopsis

Global competition for spheres of influence, technological supremacy, and raw materials is heating up. States increasingly use their economic power to shape the global order according to their national interests without due diligence to how these actions impact others. Increasing tensions between USA and China, the Russian war in Ukraine, and regional instability in the Sahel are but a few examples. With their abundant natural resources and markets, emerging space for innovation and creativity, African countries are rapidly gaining strategic importance. Due to their limited hard-power profiles, they so far could hardly challenge the ambitions of global powers. Simultaneously, institutions and norms of the liberal world order continue to reflect the views of those who wield the most power. The renewed global competition offers a unique opportunity to redefine African states' global partnerships. It evokes and reinforces the need to seek avenues that engender democratic norms and values even in a context of diverse interests.

Key Questions:

- How can international cooperation be made constructive for Africa and its willing partners?
- Are European and African countries able to build sustainable strategic political and economic partnerships based on the UN Charter and shared visions?
- In contemporary global configurations, how does Africa follow a development path that enables it to meet its development goals in the context of international cooperation?
- Are international cooperation and partnerships in Africa increasingly being driven by Africa's natural resources, external energy security needs, new markets, and votes in international bodies – and how can African countries take this as a defining moment for creating truly strategic partnerships with a benefit for all?
- How can the use of high-tech innovations be fostered to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and the formation of innovative industrial sectors in African countries?
- How can states revisit global configurations based on credible democratic norms and values that ensure fair competition, growth, and development in the context of Africa's growing importance in a multipolar world?