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This past week, the President of the African Union visited Berlin. While he was here, we spoke about the situation in Africa, and I outlined our new Strategy for Africa on behalf of the German Government. This is Germany and Africa starting a new chapter.

We spoke about the African situation, and we noted that there is a lot happening on the continent today. More and more security issues are being gradually resolved and, happily, an astonishing number of countries are experiencing development and growth. Germany wants to actively support this.

This is a very special day for Africa, today will see the founding of the Republic of South Sudan – a new country in Africa. As you know, Germany is holding the Presidency of the UN Security Council this month, this July. Sudan will be right at the top of the agenda there, because we want the creation of North and South Sudan to be the founding of two stable states. And South Sudan particularly needs our support and the support of the entire international community.

Next week – from Monday to Thursday – I will be making my second visit as Federal Chancellor to the African continent. This time, I will be in Kenya, Angola and Nigeria. All three of these countries are economically very important for the continent, but all three also still have major problems to overcome if they are to develop really stable structures of government.

Events of the past weigh heavily on all three countries. Germany wants to help these countries towards stability and, at the same time, develop economic cooperation with them. To that end, there will be a delegation from German business coming with me.

In Nigeria, in Angola and in Kenya, the subject of energy has top priority. Why is that? In Kenya, I will be finding out how renewables, above all, are being used more. I will also be visiting UNEP there – the United Nations Environment Programme – and hearing about the work it is doing in Africa.

In Nigeria, there is already an energy partnership and with Germany in place. As this has only been developing very slowly in recent years, my visit is intended to spark the impetus needed

to drive that development forward – and I believe that, together with the business delegation, we will be able to create new momentum.

In Angola, we want to establish an energy partnership and a raw materials partnership. We will be taking the first steps towards that, and we want this to support Angola in improving its own economic development.

My visit of course only includes three of the more than fifty countries in Africa. But I mean it as a sign that Germany takes development on the African continent very seriously; it is important to Germany that we are increasingly in partnership and cooperate with one another as equals. I look forward to the coming days in Africa.