Translation

Joint Guidelines
for dealing with cultural property and human remains
from colonial contexts
agreed by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, the Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, the Cultural Affairs Ministers of the *Länder* and the municipal umbrella organisations

14 October 2025

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A. Preamble

Addressing Germany's colonial past is of fundamental importance to Germany and forms an integral part of the relations with countries and communities that suffered under German colonial rule in the past. The public in countries and communities of origin concerned show great interest in the cultural property and human remains that

were misappropriated in the colonial context.[1] Most of the cultural property and human remains found in Germany[2] is stored in public museums and collections.

In 2019, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, the Federal Foreign Office Minister of State for International Cultural Policy, the Cultural Affairs Ministers of the *Länder* and the municipal umbrella organisations adopted the "Framework Principles for dealing with collections from colonial contexts"[3], including the following: "We (...) acknowledge the historical responsibility resulting from German colonialism and the responsibility deriving from actions marked by colonial attitudes. The injustices committed during the colonial era and their repercussions, some of which pertain still today, must not be forgotten. Addressing Germany's colonial history, one aspect of our society's shared culture of remembrance, forms part of the basic democratic consensus in Germany (...)." (Preamble, Framework Principles).

The "Framework Principles for dealing with collections from colonial contexts" have been further developed into these "Joint Guidelines for dealing with cultural property and human remains from colonial contexts" on the basis of the experience acquired since 2019.

We remain committed to the tenets and areas of activity contained in the Framework Principles. Their further development is one of several lines of action entailed in addressing Germany's colonial past. The aim of this further development is to provide concrete recommendations in order to simplify the return of cultural property and the repatriation of human remains from colonial contexts from public museums and collections. The idea is to establish processes that further the addressing of the

[1] In line with the terminology used by the German Museums Association, we understand the term "community of origin" as the community from which an object comes or which regards this object as part of its cultural heritage. The terms "community of origin" and "country or nation of origin" are not synonymous. Cf. "Guidelines for the Care of Collections from Colonial Contexts", German Museums Association, 2021, p. 22 f. "Country of origin" means the current country from whose territory the cultural property comes.
[2] As also stated by the German Museums Association in its "Guidelines: Care of Human Remains in Museums and Collections", p. 6 ff. in order to include human tissue (e.g. hair, teeth and nails) in addition to human remains.
[3] https://www.kmk.org/aktuelles/artikelansicht/eckpunkte-zum-umgang-mit-sammlungsgut-aus-kolonialen-kontexten.html

colonial past in our museums and collections. We expressly welcome discussions on this subject in all areas of society and politics. Museums remain called upon to play an active role in social discourse in addressing Germany's colonial past and the injustice it entailed.

In order to live up to our historical responsibility, wide-ranging measures in addition to those that address cultural property and human remains are needed. However, such measures are not the topic of these Guidelines. Nor are matters of international law addressed here. Germany stands unreservedly to its obligations under international law.

The Guidelines are primarily aimed at public museums and collections and their governing bodies, as well as at cultural policy practitioners on the Federal, *Land* and municipal levels. They serve to guide countries and communities of origin on how Germany deals with cultural property and human remains from colonial contexts.

<u>Involving the countries and communities of origin</u>

It is not possible to address colonialism without discussion in a spirit of partnership with representatives of the countries and communities of origin. Dialogue with the countries and communities of origin is thus essential for public museums and collections, their governing bodies and those in positions of political responsibility in order to develop an appropriate approach to cultural property and human remains from colonial contexts.

We see ourselves playing an active role here and want to make the information we have on cultural property and human remains available to everyone in a transparent manner. Furthermore, we intend to address the countries and communities of origin proactively, to involve them from an early stage and to work with them in a spirit of partnership. Our aim is to thus deepen mutual relations, without interfering in the domestic discourses of the countries of origin.

In drawing up these Guidelines, too, we sought dialogue in order to include the views of the countries and communities of origin and of the diaspora in Germany.

Information and advice from public museums and collections, civil society, cultural institutions, associations and academia, as well as comments by international experts, have been included in the Guidelines.

Terminology and (linguistic) constraints

The consultations showed us once again that we are dealing with a large number of languages and cultures that use different terms or special descriptions. Finding a dignified term for human remains and body parts poses a particular challenge. Given the lack of a term in German that does justice to all needs, we decided to use the term “menschliche Überreste” based on the predominantly used term in English, “human remains”. The aim is that this term will cover both the deceased and human body parts in a dignified way.

The understanding of subject and object under German law also poses terminological problems for us. Under German law, items in a collection are classified as “objects”, regardless of whether they are human remains, natural history, historical, art or cultural historical or archaeological objects, objects classified as “ethnographic” or documents. We are aware that the countries and communities of origin attach spiritual qualities to some of these objects and that cultural property and human remains are understood as an entity in some cases. We want to address this divergence in cultural perception mindfully by mentioning it transparently here. We ask the communities of origin for their understanding and cooperation.

B. Projects and measures implemented to date under the Framework Principles

The Framework Principles set out the following areas of activity and objectives: transparency and documentation; provenance research; presentation and information; return and repatriation; cultural exchange and international cooperation; science and research. A large number of measures have been implemented since the publication of the Framework Principles. Important milestones are presented here as examples.

1. Area of activity: transparency and documentation

The German Contact Point for Cultural Property and Human Remains from Colonial Contexts set up by the Federation and *Länder*[4] began its work in the Cultural Foundation of the *Länder* in August 2020. It provides information and guidance to individuals and institutions from the countries and communities of origin. It also serves as a contact point for German institutions on questions concerning cultural property and human remains from colonial contexts.

In order to gain an overview of the human remains held in public museums and collections in Germany, the Contact Point conducted a nationwide survey in 2022.[5] This survey revealed that at least 17,000 human remains from colonial contexts are located in the 33 institutions surveyed. The geographical origin of almost half of these human remains cannot presently be ascertained. Most of the human remains that can be classified geographically originate from Africa and Oceania.

In its online portal, “Collections from Colonial Contexts”, the German Digital Library provides centralised access in three languages to objects from colonial contexts in the collections of German cultural, scientific and academic institutions. The basis is

[4] The German Contact Point for Cultural Property and Human Remains from Colonial Contexts was set up at the Cultural Foundation of the *Länder* in 2020 following a decision by the Federation, *Länder* and municipalities. https://www.cp3c.org/

[5] The report on the “Survey on Human Remains from Colonial Contexts Held in Museum and University Collections in Germany” is available in several languages on the website of the German Contact Point for Cultural Property and Human Remains from Colonial Contexts. https://www.cp3c.org/dealing_with_human_remains/

the minimum dataset recommendation for the digital publication of cultural objects drawn up by 25 museums and collections with the participation of representatives of countries of origin.[6]

2. Area of activity: provenance research; science and research

The Federation, *Länder* and municipalities have undertaken numerous measures to enhance provenance research.[7]

The Department of Cultural Goods and Collections from Colonial Contexts established at the German Lost Art Foundation (DZK) on 1 January 2019 supports provenance research and publishes the findings online in the Proveana database[8] and in several publications[9]. Universities, academic organisations and private foundations also make important contributions.[10] The museums and their specialist associations have drawn up new guidelines, advisories, recommendations and statements on dealing with cultural property and human remains from colonial contexts.[11]

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[6] Cf. https://ccc.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/en/content/ueber-das-portal. Access to human remains can be provided on request, as information pertaining thereto is not made available online for ethical reasons.

[7] Examples of these measures include the establishment and ongoing provision of guidance structures at *Land* level, such as the Coordination Unit for Provenance Research in North Rhine-Westphalia (https://www.kpf.nrw/); the Coordination Unit for Dealing with Collections from Colonial Contexts at the Hesse *Land* Institutions (https://museum-wiesbaden.de/das-hessische-verbundnetzwerk); the Network for Provenance Research in Lower Saxony (https://www.provenienzforschung-niedersachsen.de/); the Research Association for Provenance Research in Bavaria (https://provenienzforschungsverbund-bayern.de/en/home); the Coordination Unit for Provenance Research in the Saxony-Anhalt Museums Association (https://www.mv-sachsen-anhalt.de/museumsverband/provenienzforschung) and the Coordination Unit for Provenance Research in the Thuringia Museums Association (https://museumsverband-thueringen.de/geschaeftsstelle/).

[8] https://www.proveana.de/en/start

[9] https://kulturgutverluste.de/en/medialib/publications

[10] These overviews are given as examples: “Atlas der Abwesenheit. Kameruns Kulturerbe in Deutschland” (Atlas of Absence. Cameroon’s Cultural Heritage in Germany). Group publication coordinated by Andrea Meyer and Bénédicte Savoy, 2023; “Locating Namibian Cultural Heritage in Museums and Universities in German-Speaking Countries. A Finding Aid for Provenance Research”. Gesa Grimme, Larissa Förster and Christoph Rippe, “Working Paper, German Lost Art Foundation”, 2024.

[11] These include in particular the German Museums Association’s “Recommendations for the Care of Human Remains in Museums and Collections” and the “Guidelines on Dealing with Collections from Colonial Contexts”; the latter are now available in a revised and updated third edition from 2021 that provides, inter alia, numerous specific and helpful pointers regarding the international context. Cf. also the “ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums” of 2017, a revised version of which is due to be published in 2025.

3. Area of activity: presentation and information

Awareness of a culturally appropriate and responsible approach to cultural property and human remains from colonial contexts has taken firm root in museum practice in Germany. Ethnological museums are adopting new forms of exhibitions and education. They attach importance to care in the presentation and description of the objects, the presentation of controversial narratives and the inclusion of views from the communities of origin, diaspora communities and civil society groups. The museums and their governing bodies have made and are continuing to make huge efforts here, investing substantial resources; this will remain necessary.

The museum definition by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) also emphasises museums' social responsibility and underscores the importance of the ethical, professional and participatory cooperation and communication with communities of origin.

4. Area of activity: return and repatriation

As an example of intensified efforts on the part of the Federation, *Länder* and municipalities to return cultural property,[12] we cite the return to Nigeria of a first lot of Benin Bronzes from five German museums in 2022. Prior to this, Germany and Nigeria had signed a Joint Declaration on 1 July 2022 in which Germany undertook to return all of the Benin Bronzes unconditionally and to engage in future bilateral museum cooperation. In addition, a German-Cameroonian dialogue began in October 2023. It brings together eleven German museums with the Cameroon Interministerial Committee for the Restitution of Illegally Obtained Cultural Assets. There have also been intensive discussions with Tanzania, both with communities of origin and at state level, the most recent example being the visit by the Tanzania National Committee for Discussions on the Return of Antiquities, Artefacts and Human Remains from Germany in March 2025. Human remains have been

[12] An overview of returns from 1970 to 2021 can be found in Rikke Gram and Zoe Schoofs, "Germany's history of returning human remains and objects from colonial contexts: An overview of successful cases and unsettled claims between 1970 and 2021", "Working Paper, German Lost Art Foundation", 2022. For an overview up to 2021, cf. also https://www.museumsbund.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/e-reader-care-of-collections-from-colonial-contexts.pdf

repatriated to countries including Australia, Brazil, Namibia, New Zealand, Palau, Paraguay, Tanzania and the United States of America (Hawaii).[13]

5. Area of activity: cultural exchange, international cooperation

We are actively following the strategies used by other former colonial powers – particularly in Austria, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom – in dealing with cultural property and human remains from colonial contexts. The Federal Government has an interest in continuing to share experiences of addressing colonialism, including at the multi- and supranational level, for example in EU external relations or in the framework of the United Nations.

[13] Detailed information on repatriations and requests for repatriation of human remains can be found on pages 35 to 39 of the above-mentioned report on the "Survey on Human Remains from Colonial Contexts Held in Museum and University Collections in Germany". The report can be accessed at https://www.cp3c.org/dealing_with_human_remains/P%C3%A9rez_Ram%C3%ADrez-KSL_2023_Survey_on_Human_Remains.pdf

C. Further development of the Framework Principles: Joint Guidelines for the return of cultural property and the repatriation of human remains from colonial contexts

The areas of activity identified in the Framework Principles remain valid and will continue to be addressed consistently.

However, dialogue with the countries and communities of origin has shown that some of the areas of activity need to be defined in greater detail. This applies in particular to the topics that directly affect the formerly colonised regions and communities and are at the heart of these Guidelines:

1. The principles governing the return of cultural property from colonial contexts
2. Dealing with human remains from colonial contexts
3. International cooperation

One major realisation deriving from previous returns processes is that cultural property and human remains from colonial contexts entail overwhelmingly different processes and questions for German administrative practice. One reason for this is the understanding of subject and object in the German language and under German law, as outlined above. Cultural property and human remains will therefore be considered separately in the following.

Nevertheless, aware of the differing approaches and spiritual needs of communities of origin, we wish to meet their specific wishes as best we can.

1. Principles governing the return of cultural property from colonial contexts

A fundamental readiness to return cultural property is a prerequisite for a dialogue based on partnership with the formerly colonised communities and an important aspect of addressing and overcoming colonialism and its repercussions. Experience gleaned to date shows that returns can often form the starting-point for a further-reaching dialogue with the countries and communities of origin. They offer an

opportunity to address a shared history from different perspectives. We therefore regard returns not as the culmination of the dialogue to process the repercussions of colonialism, but as part of a further-reaching overall process.

As stated in the Framework Principles, the fundamental readiness to return cultural property from colonial contexts is a moral and ethical obligation. Making returns possible and easier is an important political task. In this respect, the public museums and collections and their governing bodies bear a special responsibility not only with regard to provenance research but also in direct contacts with representatives of the communities of origin. The differing needs of individual groups make this dialogue challenging, because their particular customs, spirituality and specific history must be respected.

The following principles should apply in the return of cultural property from colonial contexts:[14]

General

- Cultural property acquired in the colonial context and in a legally or ethically unacceptable manner is to be returned if so desired by the country and community of origin. Specific requests for the return of cultural property from colonial contexts are to be processed as a matter of priority by the public museums and collections and their governing bodies.

- Returns are unconditional and nothing will be demanded in exchange. Decisions on where cultural property is subsequently to be kept and how it is to be used will be taken solely by the countries and communities of origin. This may lead to cultural property being put to everyday or sacred use once again, altered or even destroyed.

[14] Cf. also the German Museums Association Guidelines: https://www.museumsbund.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/e-reader-care-of-collections-from-colonial-contexts.pdf and https://www.museumsbund.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/dmb-leitfaden-umgang-menschl-ueberr-en-web-20210625.pdf

- All stakeholders involved on the German side will endeavour to conduct returns processes in the broadest possible consensus with the country and community of origin or private individuals concerned. Import authorisation is required from the country of origin.

- In addition to returns, the stakeholders involved may also reach other agreements. These may include long-term loans, the joint curation of exhibitions, or joint research, as well as cultural and scientific exchange or the production of replicas.[15] In the event of a loan, the borrower does not necessarily have to guarantee the same conservation conditions as German museums and collections.

Role of museums and collections and the scientific and research community

- The public museums and collections will endeavour to establish an intensive dialogue with the communities of origin and will be available for direct communication. They will grant the countries and communities of origin access to their collections.

- Wherever possible, communities of origin are to be involved in talks and negotiations at an early stage.

- In identifying the colonial context and ascertaining whether an object was acquired in a legally and/or ethically unacceptable manner, due attention must be paid to the perspective of the country and community of origin. There may be gaps or uncertainties in provenance owing to the passage of time since acquisition, the lack or imprecision of documentation or other factors. Such circumstances must not lead to returns being refused per se. It must also be remembered that, in many colonial contexts, legally and/or ethically unacceptable acquisition was frequent practice.

[15] Cf. https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/138823.html and https://www.uebersee-museum.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Uebersee-Museum-Bremen-January-till-July-2024_2.pdf, page 5.

- Provenance research is the precondition for returns. Within the scope of their required provenance research, the public museums and collections are called upon to identify, independently and proactively, those cultural objects in their collections for which there are indications that acquisition may have been illegal and/or unethical. This research is carried out on their own initiative or in response to queries from communities and countries of origin. Countries and communities of origin and diasporas are important partners in researching and assessing provenance. Various academic disciplines must be involved in provenance research as required. The German Lost Art Foundation (DZK) can, upon application, provide financial support for this research.

- It is the task of the public museums and collections to ensure transparency for the countries and communities of origin with respect to their holdings of cultural property from colonial contexts. The museums and collections are encouraged to make their digital data publicly accessible via the German Digital Library's portal "Collections from Colonial Contexts".

Federation, *Länder* and municipalities

- As a rule, responsibility for deciding on returns lies not with the museums and collections themselves, but with their governing bodies. Public-sector governing bodies – mostly *Länder* and municipalities, and in some instances the Federation – will strive to take a uniform approach and will coordinate regularly within the framework of the Federation-*Länder* Working Group on Dealing with Cultural Property and Human Remains from Colonial Contexts.

- The Federal Foreign Office is the lead ministry for communication with the country of origin.

- Requests for returns received from abroad by the Federal Foreign Office will be passed on to the responsible institutions and governing bodies, which will then inform the German Contact Point for Cultural Property and Human Remains from Colonial Contexts. If public museums and collections or their governing bodies

receive such requests, they in turn will inform the Federal Foreign Office and the Contact Point.

Further cooperation in Germany

- When provenance research identifies a cultural object which meets the conditions for return and is to be returned, the museum or collection will inform its governing body and, in consultation with it, the Federal Foreign Office and the Contact Point. Contact with the country of origin will be initiated by the Federal Foreign Office in consultation with the museum or collection and its governing body.

- Where requests for returns are received from a community of origin or a private individual, the governing body and the Federal Foreign Office will consult to inform the country of origin and involve it in the ensuing process.

- If a cultural object is to be returned, the country of origin's agreement must first have been notified to the Federal Foreign Office, for example in the form of an official government communication (Note Verbale), or be documented in an intergovernmental declaration of intent.

- We recommend that owners of non-state and private collections proceed in line with these principles and that they also make their collections publicly accessible via the German Digital Library's portal "Collections from Colonial Contexts". The German Contact Point for Cultural Property and Human Remains from Colonial Contexts is the first port of call for advice.

Next steps:

Museum and collection governing bodies are called upon, if they have not already done so, to put in place the necessary budget provisions for returning cultural objects from colonial contexts from their collections.

The Federation, *Länder* and municipalities acknowledge their continuing responsibility to make funds available for the appropriate preparation, organisation and conduct of returns and repatriations. The Federation has made available not only funding for provenance research via the German Lost Art Foundation (DZK) but also funding for returns of cultural objects. In future, the International Museum Cooperation Agency is to be able to provide support on behalf of the Federation for the return of cultural property from colonial contexts.

An interdisciplinary and international network of experts is to be established to provide guidance to the museums and collections and their governing bodies. This network is to be dynamic in nature and is to include not only academics and museum practitioners but also, in particular, representatives of communities of origin. The German Museums Association, ICOM Germany, the German Lost Art Foundation (DZK) and the International Museum Cooperation Agency will support the initial creation of this body.

Some countries of origin, such as Tanzania and Cameroon, have set up and mandated government bodies to coordinate negotiation and returns processes. In order to ensure a coordinated stance by the Federation, *Länder* and municipalities, the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, the *Länder* and the municipalities will develop a structured process. The decisions on returns will remain solely the responsibility of the governing bodies of museums and collections.

2. Dealing with human remains from colonial contexts

The acquisition of human remains and their shipment to public museums and collections for often racially motivated research purposes are among the serious crimes of colonialism. To this day, descendants and their communities suffer from the effects of this inhumane practice.

We remain unconditionally ready to repatriate human remains from colonial contexts if countries and communities of origin so wish. Import authorisation is required from the country of origin for the repatriation of human remains as well.

The lack of information and investigation regarding the origin of human remains poses huge challenges for the public museums and collections and their governing bodies, challenges which will continue to require substantial personnel and financial resources. This also applies to provenance research. When working through collections, human remains continue to have priority over cultural objects from colonial contexts.

As part of bilateral contacts, the Federal Foreign Office will provide the results of the survey carried out by the Contact Point to the Governments of the countries of origin in order to aid with the attribution of human remains.

The starting-point for the dignified repatriation of human remains from German museums and collections is close dialogue with descendants and the country and/or community of origin. The decision as to what measures are necessary in a specific case for dealing with human remains from colonial contexts that are (initially) remaining in Germany can only be taken in consultation.

Next steps:

The Federation has made available financing for the planning and establishment of a contact point on how to deal with human remains. It will be set up at the German Contact Point for Cultural Property and Human Remains from Colonial Contexts.

The interdisciplinary, international network of experts to advise museums and collections and their governing bodies[16] is also to consider questions relating to human remains.

Other outstanding challenges that we feel obliged to address in relation to human remains are:

- ***Rehumanisation***, to give human remains their human dignity back. Deaccessioning from collections can be an important first step. One element of efforts to ensure the dignified treatment of human remains is biographical research, to identify if at all possible the descendants, or the local communities in which these people lived. Also relevant are the dignified storage of the human remains and accessibility, taking account of ethical aspects and, if possible, in coordination with communities of origin. One possibility, for example, might conceivably be to establish separate rooms specially devoted to remembrance. If the human remains are held in a closed, secure space, access to them should also be made possible. Any change in storage must be made in a dignified manner; ceremonial procedures are to be agreed with representatives of the community of origin. Our responsibility endures until the human remains have been returned in dignity.

- ***Provenance research*** is one of the prerequisites for the repatriation of human remains and for their appropriate handling in museums and collections. It is generally interdisciplinary and includes both historical and natural scientific methods. If at all possible, provenance research is to be carried out in collaboration with academics and with the involvement of communities of origin or

[16] Cf. line no. 398.

family members.[17] Particularly when it comes to the use of scientific methods, there must be careful consideration and, if appropriate, a discussion with countries and communities of origin to determine which methods may be used. Both ethical and scientific/methodological considerations can play a role here.

- ***Transparency*** is an essential aspect in researching the provenance of human remains. At the same time, however, the question arises of what information can and should be made available in what way, to whom and for what purpose. Ethical standards still need to be developed for this. The countries and communities of origin play an important role in developing transparency standards and in digital documentation processes.

- ***Repatriations:*** Within the framework of a repatriation, there must be room for reconciliation. Communities of origin are, as far as possible, to be given the opportunity for the ritual preparation of the human remains prior to transport and repatriation to their homeland.

  In those cases in which the origin of human remains cannot be fully clarified using today's research methods, or where timely repatriation is not possible or not desired, a decision must still be taken about an appropriate approach to these human remains which also allows further research into their origin. Appropriate access is to be made possible.

Further issues are to be identified and prioritised in a dialogue process planned at the German Contact Point for Cultural Property and Human Remains from Colonial Contexts. The international, interdisciplinary network of experts is also to provide guidance in future.

Until the recommendations of the dialogue process have been presented and implemented, repatriations of human remains will be made possible as hitherto.

[17] Cf. also the guide published (in German) by ICOM, the German Lost Art Foundation and the Berlin Museum of Medical History: https://books.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/arthistoricum/catalog/book/893 and the guidelines from the German Museums Association: https://www.museumsbund.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/dmb-leitfaden-umgang-menschl-ueberr-en-web-20210625.pdf

3. International cooperation

Germany's colonial past is connected to the expansionist endeavours of European states and especially to the great imperialism of the 19th century. Addressing the colonial past, and in particular dealing with cultural property and human remains from colonial contexts, therefore requires a perspective that transcends national borders. For this reason, we also intend – as a complement to the dialogue with the countries and communities of origin – to further develop cooperation with European partners that were also colonial powers with a view to overcoming what have hitherto been predominantly national approaches to addressing historical responsibilities. There are already various formats for this, including discussions with representatives of Austria, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and these formats are being expanded.

The newly established International Museum Cooperation Agency and programmes such as TheMuseumsLab, which promotes exchange between museum experts from Europe and Africa, also aim to initiate and advance academic and cultural exchange.

Further, we support the deepening of cooperation between museums in Europe and museums in Africa via the planned EU project "Strengthening African-European Museum Partnerships", in which Germany plays a major role. In addition, the Governments of Germany and France have set up a joint fund to promote provenance research for cultural objects from sub-Saharan Africa.

In multilateral forums, we are committed to further strengthening protection of the cultural heritage – in the G7 context most recently in the Naples Statement of 21 September 2024 which focused strongly on Africa. Equally, we support UNESCO's Priority Africa Flagship Programmes, especially Flagship Programme 3 to support African member states with capacity building in the field of world heritage, as well as supporting African member states in the fight against trafficking in cultural objects. Museums and collections also collaborate actively with relevant institutions in the Asia-Pacific region and Oceania on a project-specific basis.