**Concept on the establishment and organisation of a
German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts**

(As of 16 October 2019)

1. Basic principles

On 13 March 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 agreed on the Framework Principles for dealing with collections from colonial contexts[1] (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework Principles"). Article 3 of the Framework Principles states:

> "We will give people and institutions from the countries and societies of origin in particular the possibility to learn about the collections from colonial contexts held in Germany and to obtain concrete advice, also as regards possible return and cooperation. In order to greatly facilitate and improve access to such information, we will draw up a proposal for the establishment and organisation of a contact point."

2. Tasks

The Contact Point is aimed in particular at individuals and institutions from the countries and societies of origin. As the first point of contact, it will give them access to information on collections in Germany from colonial contexts. In this regard, the Contact Point is to perform the following tasks:

> 1. Inform and guide in particular individuals and institutions in the countries and societies of origin as well as in Germany on collections from colonial contexts in Germany and pertinent topics, especially on relevant collections, institutions that hold collections and the organisations that fund them, the general legal framework, regulations, guidelines, databases, online resources, procedures, structures, competences and funding opportunities for measures, projects and joint projects;

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[1] https://www.kmk.org/aktuelles/artikelansicht/eckpunkte-zum-umgang-mit-sammlungsgut-aus-kolonialenkontexten.html. The Federation-Länder Working Group on Dealing with Collections from Colonial Contexts (hereinafter referred to as the "Federation-Länder Working Group") has drawn up this concept on the establishment and organisation of a German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts and suggests that it be set up.

2. Forward all types of enquiries, including requests for the return of objects, on a case-by-case basis, in particular requests from the countries and societies of origin to the institutions/organisations concerned and, where necessary, especially when politically sensitive cases are involved, also to the responsible units in the federation, Länder and municipalities; in the case of requests for the return of objects, the responsible units in the federation, Länder and municipalities must always be involved;

3. Establish contacts between individuals and institutions in Germany and abroad and build up networks;

4. Collate, structure, document, publish and statistically evaluate data and information required for the provision of information and guidance, including documentation on returns and return procedures; where necessary, systematically collate data, e.g. from relevant institutions and the organisations that fund them;

5. Support the Federation-Länder Working Group in defining and further developing the action fields and objectives laid down in the "Framework Principles", in particular by providing organisational support and expertise to specialised forums, with participation by experts from the countries and societies of origin and possible assistance with concrete tasks.

3. Establishment and operation

The Contact Point will initially be tested as a three-year pilot project beginning in 2020 and evaluated at the end of this period. For reasons of practicability and cost effectiveness, the Contact Point will be set up within existing institutional structures. In concrete terms, the Contact Point will be established and operated as follows:

1. The Cultural Foundation of the Länder (KSL), which is financed by the Länder, will be responsible for the Contact Point's administrative and organisational tasks (recruitment, funding coordination, provision of work places and IT infrastructure).

2. The KSL will form a group with other institutions and organisations (group partners) from the fields of policymakers responsible for the "Framework

Principles" whose expertise is relevant to the Contact Point's work, that is, with the German Lost Art Foundation (Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste, DZK), which is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media; the International Museum Cooperation Agency (Agentur für Internationale Museumskooperationen, AIM), which is funded by the Federal Foreign Office (until this Agency has been set up, the Federal Foreign Office will be the partner organisation); and the municipal umbrella organisations.

3. A framework declaration by the partners will describe the goals and contents of the group cooperation, the partners' tasks and responsibilities, the areas on which joint decisions will be made, and any possible overarching tasks the partners may have.

4. A committee will be formed to support the Contact Point with its work and the KSL with its organisational role and in order to facilitate coordination among the partners. This committee will be comprised of a representative of each of the partners in the group. As funders of the partners, the members of the Federation-Länder Working Group can also be represented at group committee meetings.

5. Consulting with the committee, the KSL will conclude bilateral cooperation agreements with other institutions that can help the Contact Point to fulfil its role.

6. The Federation-Länder Working Group will be the Contact Point's central management and supervisory board. It will define the priorities and strategic goals of the agreed tasks.