



The Federal President

Berlin, May 16, 2007

**Message of greeting
by Federal President Horst Köhler
for the "Friends of Modern Africa" Internet Platform
May 2007**

Africa and modernity, for many in Europe these seem to be diametrically opposed. Yet there is the modern Africa, an Africa full of potential and creativity which is facing head on the challenges of the 21st century.

This Africa is being shaped by people, above all by young people, whose optimism and inventiveness continually impress me during my visits. The meeting with young leaders from Africa and Germany also showed me that the two sides can learn a lot from one another. After all, in our world which is growing ever closer together, we depend on one another. We cannot devise solutions for the pressing problems of our age if we go it alone.

That is why I am especially pleased that the Friends of Modern Africa Internet Platform is giving Africans and Germans a forum in which to exchange ideas for a bright future together. I wish the initiative every success and hope it will help us to change the way we see the continent, a continent of the future.

Horst Köhler