

## **Welcome Message**

**Heidemarie Wieczorek Zeul**

**Former Federal Minister of Development**

Dear friends,

It is with great sadness that I will not be able to participate in your important congress "Restorative Justice After Genocide". I feel close to your discussions and your desire for justice after all those years, and after years in which the genocide had been denied.

Your congress is all the more important as it is indispensable that civil society engages in these questions and does not leave discussions to governments. Only with the participation of the Herero and Nama will there be lasting understanding.

I sincerely hope that finally the formal acknowledgment of the responsibility for the genocide will be delivered by the German government, as well as the apology for the committed crimes and also the necessary moral and financial compensation.

I wish your endeavors the success that you deserve so very much!

With all my heart yours

Heidemarie Wieczorek Zeul