

PRESS RELEASE**20.09.2022**

Dignity - Continuity – Transparency

Ideas, suggestions and expectations by the participants of the opening symposium from September 12th to 14th as part of the final opening of the Humboldt Forum

Around 80 international partners developed future perspectives on collaborating with the Humboldt Forum during a three-day symposium in the run-up to the final opening season. The international partners formulated ideas, suggestions and expectations to the Humboldt Forum in a joint declaration entitled Dignity - Continuity - Transparency, which they signed together on Sunday 18 September.

Guiding principles for the Humboldt Forum

In the first section, the participants formulate key principles for the Humboldt Forum's work. The Humboldt Forum must assume its responsibility and role in international collaboration, and its international partners must be recognized as key stakeholders of the organisation. In addition, the participants call on those responsible to recognise the collections as Cultural Belongings that are part of a living network of relationships. The Humboldt Forum and their stakeholders shall recognize, that their mandate towards their collection is being constituted and provided by the international community. Furthermore, the recognition of diverse forms of knowledge must be fundamental to all activities of the Humboldt Forum, especially in the area of provenance research and programming. Finally, the Humboldt Forum must create spaces in which international stakeholders can become productive on their own terms and also support these activities and create visibility.

Six fields of action

Specifically, the international partners propose six fields of action: To establish a permanent Indigenous representation, a world conference on restitution and repatriation, an appropriate and sensitive use of language, the principle of circulation as a guiding strategy for future exhibitions and programming, so called "silent projects" as "safe spaces" for open-ended work and the institutional advancement as a "new museum" in

which decentralization and as well as an international self-awareness acts as an organizational and operational guiding principles.

The full declaration you will find [here](#).

Hartmut Dorgerloh, Director General of the Humboldt Forum: “We are extremely grateful for these very specific suggestions and recommendations from our international partners. To have active and engaged partners to shape to the future of the Institution together with us and to agree on this unique opportunity to make the Humboldt Forum a special place, encourages us in our work. It is now up to us, the Humboldt Forum to create an appropriate framework and effective structures to make this happen.”

Around 80 international community representatives, indigenous experts, colleagues from small and large museums, artists, filmmakers and scientists took part in the opening symposium from September 12-14, 2022. These international partners have actively contributed to the exhibitions and programs at the Humboldt Forum in different ways, e.a. through co-curation, collaborative research, expert advice, or artistic commentary. In their heterogeneity, they reflect the diversity and, in many cases, longevity of the cooperation projects, going much beyond exhibition making. During the opening weekend, the international partners engaged in direct contact and dialog with the 22,000 visitors.

At the time of the declaration on 18.09.2022, 47 international participants of the opening symposium had already signed by 6 pm. The document is available for further signature.

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