Programme

Berlin Summer Dialogue 2016
Displacement and Forced Migration – Rethinking prevention

Berlin Town Hall
29-30 June 2016

Conference languages
German and English (simultaneous interpretation)

With financial support from
The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
At the end of 2015, the number of refugees and displaced persons worldwide reached a new record high of 65.3 million. Most remain inside their own national borders as internally displaced persons (IDPs) or flee to neighbouring countries. Only a very small number have so far sought refuge in Europe. Nonetheless, due to the surge in refugee numbers last year and the often dramatic circumstances in which they attempt to reach safety, which attracts considerable media coverage, there has been a noticeable shift in public attitudes in Europe and the pressure for action to be taken has increased. In addition to the question of how the refugees are initially to be cared for and subsequently integrated, the focus has shifted towards “tackling the causes of migration”. In media reports and political debates, however, the meaning of the phrase often remains unclear. A closer look at the situation reveals that the causes of displacement and forced migration are diverse and often interlinked. People leave their homes because their lives are at risk from war and armed conflict or because they lose their livelihoods, perhaps as a result of environmental change or the effects of international policy. The spread of Islamist groups in various countries also plays a role.

This year’s Berlin Summer Dialogue will provide a forum for debate about the underlying causes of displacement and forced migration and ways of tackling them – beyond short-term financial assistance and humanitarian aid. What role is played by international politics, e.g. trade or climate policy, in this context? Which political conditions in the countries of origin force people to leave their homes? What can the international community do to improve the situation in these countries? What measures can be taken in the host countries to create prospects for local communities but also for refugees – who often stay for many years – with a view to preventing further movements of people? And how can existing mechanisms be interlinked and refined to make them more sensitive to displacement and forced migration?
Wednesday, 29 June 2016

09.45 hrs Registration

WELCOME

10.15 hrs Welcome notes
Barbara Loth
Permanent Secretary of State
Senate Department for Labour, Integration and Women’s Issues, State of Berlin
Klaus Brückner
Member of the Executive Committee
Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn

SESSION I
A GLOBAL CHALLENGE: INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GERMANY’S ROLE IN THE FACE OF RISING REFUGEE NUMBERS

Last year, more people were displaced than at any other time since records began, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Large scale mixed movements of refugees and migrants are a global phenomenon, affecting all UN Member States and requiring closer cooperation and more robust responsibility-sharing. To address this, the UN General Assembly adopted a decision to convene a high-level plenary meeting on large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016. How can the international community fulfil its responsibility more effectively than it has so far? What are the results of the World Humanitarian Summit? How can fair burden-sharing be achieved? What is Germany’s role here, both at UN and at EU level?

Chair
Klaus Brückner
Member of the Executive Committee
Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn

10:30 hrs Keynotes
Fabrizio Hochschild
The UN Secretary-General’s Deputy Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, New York
Dr Elke Löbel
Commissioner for Refugee Policy
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn

11:15 hrs Plenary discussion
It is easy to gain the impression, from the current debate, that displacement and forced migration are a new—a modern—phenomenon. The fact that refugee movements and migrations have occurred throughout history tends to be overlooked. What were the main causes of displacement and forced migration in the past, and how should the current situation and the rise in refugee numbers be viewed in terms of this history? Can any qualitative changes in the causes of displacement and forced migration be identified? How do we need to react to possible shifts in the future?

Chair
Klaus Brückner
Member of the Executive Committee
Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn

12:00 hrs Input
Susanne Melde
Research and Policy Officer
IOM - Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), Berlin

12:20 hrs Plenary discussion

13:00 hrs Lunch
Displacement always has domestic as well as global causes. Civil war, human rights abuses and repression often force people to seek refuge abroad. And if they have no way of earning a living, or if they lose their livelihoods, leaving their home country may be the only option for their survival. During crises in particular, it is often difficult for the people affected to access assistance from the international organisations or engage in dialogue with those in positions of power. So can these local communities be helped? How can humanitarian aid and development link in with conflict and crisis prevention? How can development programmes be designed so that they are sensitive to refugees and displaced persons and have a preventive effect? And where do the limits to external engagement lie?

Chair
Dr Linda Helfrich
Deputy Head of Sector Programme Peace and Security
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Eschborn

14.00 hrs
Input
Professor Tobias Debiel
Director
Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), University of Duisburg-Essen
Member of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn

14.15 hrs
Roundtable Talk
Caroline Njuki
Regional Migration Coordinator
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Secretariat, Djibouti
Elizabeth J. Rushing
Senior Strategic Advisor on Conflict
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (idmc), Geneva
Dr Christian Voelkel
International Advisor for Transitional Justice
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bogotá

15:00 hrs
Plenary discussion

16:00 hrs
Coffee
SESSION IV
REDUCING THE APPEAL OF EXTREMISM – KEY CHANGES IN POLICY AND PRACTICE

All over the world, extremist groups, most of them Islamist, are gaining in popularity. Transnational terrorism threatens the stability of numerous countries, particularly in the MENA region and Africa and has developed as one of the main causes for displacement. But what makes them so appealing, especially to young people? What role do the policies pursued by the West over the past decade play in this rejection of Western values? Has international politics recognised this trend too late? What changes are needed at the global level? What mechanisms are available so that development cooperation can make a contribution by offering young people an alternative to terror? And how can training and employment opportunities help?

Chair
Dr Jochen Hippler
Senior Researcher
Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), University of Duisburg-Essen

16:30 hrs Roundtable Talk
Hesta Groenewald
Senior Conflict and Security Advisor
Saferworld, London
Liv Ingeborg Wibe
PhD Student
Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science (OSI)
Freie Universität Berlin
Mohamed Yahya
Africa Regional Programme Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Addis Ababa
Rashid Zuberu
Founder
Young Peace Brigades, Obuasi

17:30 hrs Plenary discussion

RECEPTION

19:00 hrs Reception hosted by the Governing Mayor of Berlin
Venue: Berlin Town Hall

Welcome by
Secretary of State Hella Dunger-Löper
State of Berlin Delegate to the Federation, and Commissioner for European Affairs and Commissioner for Active Citizenship, Berlin
SESSION V
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE CAUSING MIGRATION. PREVENTION AND ADAPTATION

Wars and armed conflict are the main causes of displacement at present. However, climate change and growing scarcity of natural resources have the potential to trigger further conflicts and forced migration in future years and decades. People already living close to the poverty line in developing countries are especially vulnerable. What can be done to build the resilience of communities in affected regions so that they do not need to migrate due to environmental change? What can be done to prevent armed conflicts over water resources and land?

Chair
Dr Linda Helfrich
Deputy Head of Sector Programme Peace and Security
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Eschborn

9.15 hrs Roundtable Talk
Dr Annabelle Houdret
Researcher
German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn
Professor Tasneem Siddiqui
Founding Chair
Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), University of Dhaka
Dennis Tänzler
Director International Climate Policy
Adelphi, Berlin

10:15 hrs Plenary discussion

11:00 hrs Coffee and refreshments
Hosting refugees is rarely a short-term project. The situation often becomes entrenched, with the long-term presence of refugees, especially in neighbouring countries, creating challenges for both sides. In some cases, the lack of clarity over refugees’ status can make it more difficult for them to create a new life for themselves in another country. This uncertain future can then lead to new refugee movements. So what measures can be taken to offer refugees prospects for the future in the host country while simultaneously building the capacities of these host countries and local communities? How can jobs be created to offer them opportunities? What role does education policy play in this context? What kind of new initiatives can make a contribution?

Chair
Andreas Cichowicz
Editor in Chief and Deputy Director of Television
Norddeutscher Rundfunk, Germany, Hamburg

11:30 hrs  Roundtable Talk
Dr Steffen Angenendt
Head Global Issues Division
German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin
Stefan Delfs
Advisor, Policy Planning Staff
German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
Norah Gaiti Kariba
Programme Manager
Windle Trust Kenya, Dadaab
Dr Elke Löbel
Commissioner for Refugee Policy
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn
John Speakman
Advisor
World Bank, Washington, D.C.

12:30 hrs  Plenary discussion

13:30 Uhr  Closing remarks
Dr Michèle Roth
Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (sef), Bonn