

: Programme

Bonn Symposium 2013 **Local Actors and the Post-2015 Agenda.** **Good local governance: a prerequisite for** **development?**

Deutsche Welle, Bonn

28-29 November 2013

Conference language

German/English (Simultaneous interpretation)

Cooperating partners

Minister for Federal Affairs, Europe and the Media of North Rhine-Westphalia
Service Agency Communities in One World, Engagment Global

Minister for Federal Affairs,
Europe and the Media of
North Rhine-Westphalia



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BACKGROUND

With the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, around 190 heads of state and government undertook to combat extreme poverty in its various forms. The target date set for the achievement of these Goals – the end of 2015 – is rapidly approaching. There is already intense debate at both global and national level about the thematic focus that should be adopted for a new post-2015 agenda, with some key figures calling for a paradigm shift away from a purely development-based agenda towards a global agenda with responsibilities for industrial, emerging and developing countries alike. The advocates of this approach include the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which published its report *A new global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development* in late May 2013.

Whatever shape this new agenda may take, its implementation is a matter for the local level. This is why the High-level Panel points out the important role of local actors as follows: “Local authorities form a vital bridge between national governments, communities and citizens and will have a critical role in a new global partnership (...) They have a critical role in setting priorities, executing plans, monitoring results and engaging with local firms and communities.” This would require to listen and incorporate local actors ideas into a new agenda instead of making them only accountable for its implementation. If the paradigm shift called for by the High-level Panel becomes reality, the local authorities in the northern hemisphere – and therefore also in Germany and North Rhine-Westphalia – must become active players in shaping and implementing the future global sustainable development agenda.

The Bonn Symposium therefore aims to give future local stakeholders from various regions of the world an opportunity to discuss the necessary tasks of the new development agenda and how they can be addressed as democratically, transparently and effectively as possible. In view of the rapid urbanisation that has been taking place for many years, cities have a key role to play in this context. The Symposium therefore aims to stimulate debate with stakeholders who see themselves as drivers of local governance and are working for genuine change.

With this initial event in its new conference series, the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF) aims to link in with one of the core demands voiced in the UN General Assembly’s report *The Future We Want*, published in 2012. The report states: “We reaffirm that to achieve our sustainable development goals we need institutions at all levels that are effective, transparent, accountable and democratic.” It is therefore appropriate that the relevant structures, rules, processes and capacities for good local governance should be the focus of the debate in 2013. This must include an exploration of issues relating to citizens’ participation, as well as the legal, institutional and administrative conditions which must be in place for good governance, including good financial governance, at the local level.

: Thursday, 28 November 2013

14.00 hrs. Registration

CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE

Mirjam Gehrke

Journalist
Deutsche Welle, Bonn

WELCOME

14.30 hrs.

Ralf Nolting

CEO of DW-MEDIA SERVICES
Deutsche Welle, Bonn

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), Bonn

SESSION I

SETT ING UP A NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA POST 2015 - GETT ING LOCAL

14.45 hrs.

Keynotes

Local actors and the post-2015-agenda: Much more than just implementation

Dr Maren Bettina Lipps

Division Federal government/states/local authorities
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin

More Voice - more accountability?

Hon. Dr Nana Ato Arthur

Member of Parliament, Accra

Eliminating inequalities - fostering local development

Nicola Crosta

Head of Policy and Advocacy
United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) , New York

16.00 hrs.

Plenary discussion

16.30 hrs.

Coffee break

SESSION II

THE FRAMEWORK IS THE KEY: LOCAL GOVERNANCE AS A POLITICAL AND LEGAL CHALLENGE

The hallmark of good local governance is that it improves public service delivery based on transparent, effective and needs-based deployment of public resources. This approach is essential for achieving global development goals, but presents major challenges for local administrations and assemblies. Local actors can only master these challenges if the right legal and administrative frameworks are in place, if powers are clearly defined on this basis, and if these actors have the requisite core competences in key areas such as planning and budgeting. This Panel will therefore identify particularly promising approaches for building local actors' political and administrative capacities to improve their delivery of essential public services. It will also have a closer look on local partnerships and discuss how these could foster mutual learning.

- 17.00 hrs. Introduction to the topic
Dr Philip Amis
Research Advisory Group of Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
International Development Department, University of Birmingham
- Best Practice
Ulrich Nitschke
Director of Local Governance and Civil Society Development Programme
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Ramallah
- Commentaries
Tobias Fuhrmann
Research Assistant
Department of Politics and Administration
University of Hagen
- Stefan Wagner**
Head of Department for International Affairs and Global Sustainability
City of Bonn
- Dr Stefan Wilhelmy**
Director Service Agency Communities in One World
ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL gGmbH, Bonn
- 18.00 - 19.00 hrs. Plenary discussion
- 19.30 hrs. **RECEPTION BY THE CITY OF BONN**
Welcome by Angelica Maria Kappel
Mayor of the City of Bonn
- informal get-together with snacks and drinks

: Friday, 29 November 2013

08.30 hrs. Registration

CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE

Mirjam Gehrke

Journalist
Deutsche Welle, Bonn

SESSION III

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION – MANAGING OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

In addition to delivering public services and utilising/scrutinising the use of public resources, one of the main tasks of local governance is to achieve a sustained increase in citizens' participation. This Panel will discuss how this can be achieved, and will consider which forms of communication and cooperation are particularly suitable in this context. It will also seek to identify potential conflicts that may arise due to changes in power relations and resource redistribution.

09.00 hrs. Introduction to the topic

Professor Frank Bliss

University of Hamburg

Best Practices

Dr Franklin Oduro

Head of Research and Programs
Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD), Accra

Julian Petrin

Nexthamburg, Hamburg

Commentary

Kurt-Michael Baudach

Senior Project Manager
Municipal Climate Partnerships Project
Service Agency Communities in One World,
ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL gGmbH, Bonn

09.45 hrs. Plenary discussion

10.30 hrs. Coffee-break

SESSION IV**GOOD FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

Genuine improvements in public service delivery can only be achieved if the devolution of powers is matched by appropriate decentralisation of resources. The local level must be in a position to access and manage its own sources of revenue on an autonomous basis. This Panel will therefore identify and discuss the measures that are necessary to ensure that sufficient resources are available for implementation of the tasks defined for a post-2015 agenda. It will also discuss the requirements for efficient and democratic budget planning and the supervisory and control mechanisms that are needed to avoid and combat mismanagement and corruption.

- 11.00 hrs. Introduction to the topic and Best Practice
Nicola Crosta
Head of Policy and Advocacy
United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) , New York
- Commentaries
Sabine Drees
Senior Advisor Foreign Affairs
German Association of Cities, Berlin
- Dr Angela Reitmaier**
Independent Consultant
Deputy Chair, Working Group 'International Agreements'
Transparency International Germany, Berlin
- 11.45 hrs. Plenary discussion
- 12.30 hrs. Lunch break

SESSION V

BEST PRACTICE: PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

The concept of participatory budgeting (“citizens’ budgets”) was developed in the 1980s. In line with this model, cities, municipalities and other administrative entities give their local residents the opportunity to decide how some elements of the financial resources available in their communities should be spent. Participatory budgeting was first practised by Porto Alegre in 1989 and, since then, has reached every other continent as well. The “Best Practice” Panel will present examples from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

13.30 hrs.

Best Practices

Dr Yves Cabannes

Chair of Development Planning
University College London

Yuna Farhan

General Secretary
Indonesian Forum for Budget Transparency (SEKNAS FITRA), Jakarta

Norbert Hölcker

Development Policy Consultant Peru
Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Areas
of Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel

Dr Oliver Märker

Founder and Managing Director
Zebralog, Bonn

14.30 hrs.

Plenary discussion

15.30 hrs.

Conference roundup and prospects

Professor Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka

Professor of Social Anthropology at the Faculty of Sociology at the University of Bielefeld
Member of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), Bonn