

Programme

As at 01 December 2022

Bonn Symposium 2022 **Local Solutions to Global Risks:** **Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable** **Development**

Gustav-Stresemann-Institut (GSI), Bonn

7-8 December 2022

Conference languages

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

Cooperating Partners

Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)/Engagement Global gGmbH

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BACKGROUND

For local communities across the world, disaster risks are dramatically increasing as a result of climate change and other hazards. Extreme weather events are occurring more frequently, posing a threat to human lives and health. It will not be possible to prevent disasters in all cases, so it is important to learn lessons from past events, manage risks effectively and thus mitigate harmful impacts. In light of this, comprehensive disaster risk reduction (DRR) and efficient crisis management are essential for sustainable development.

Local stakeholders worldwide are already preparing for current and future risks and developing innovative solutions. Some cities and municipalities in regions most at risk have already made substantial progress; others are just starting out. An international dialogue between local stakeholders is therefore especially important. At the Bonn Symposium 2022, municipalities and other local and regional stakeholders can gain new insights into sustainable disaster risk reduction and engage in shared learning to build their resilience to future crises and disasters.

Agenda 2030 defines disaster risk reduction as a direct contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The local level has a direct responsibility for protecting communities and, in doing so, can actively shape sustainable development at the same time. Disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting topic which must be factored into all aspects of municipal management. A dedicated global agreement on the topic already exists in the form of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which reaches its mid-point this year. The Framework underlines the importance of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development and thus offers a potential entry point for linking the two strands of discourse more effectively.

What are the greatest challenges in disaster risk reduction and crisis management at the local level at present? Which lessons are municipalities learning from the most recent disaster events? And which new solutions exist in Germany and other regions of the world? Experts from local authorities, politics, academia and civil society will be discussing these and other questions at the Bonn Symposium 2022.

THE BONN SYMPOSIUM SERIES

The Bonn Symposium series was launched in 2013 and is organised by the sef: in cooperation with the Municipalities for Global Sustainability Department of the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW), a division of Engagement Global gGmbH. The Symposium benefits from funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The event is now a regular feature on the City of Bonn's international conference calendar and is regarded as a key platform for dialogue on the significance and implementation of Agenda 2030 at local and regional level. Since the series began, numerous projects, initiatives and programmes from various regions of the world have been presented and discussed in Bonn. The Symposium thus makes an important contribution to the dialogue between local, national and international stakeholders.

: Wednesday, 7 December 2022

10.30 HRS

REGISTRATION, ADMISSION AND WELCOME COFFEE

SYMPOSIUM CHAIR

Dr. Marcus Andreas

Freelance Moderator, Berlin

11.00 HRS

WELCOME

Oliver Krauß MdL

Chairperson of the Executive Committee

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn, Germany

Dr Jens Kreuter

Chief Executive Officer, Engagement Global, Bonn, Germany

11.15 HRS

KEYNOTE

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT AS AN ELEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Disaster risk reduction can be seen as a direct contribution to achieving the SDGs. An integrated approach to preparedness and targeted prevention measures can reduce risks and thus contribute to ensuring that they do not escalate into disasters for human communities. Systematic efforts to build resilience within society are essential in this context. Cities and municipalities have a particularly important role to play here, as they have initial responsibility for protecting populations when disasters occur.

Vulnerable groups require special protection in this context. Women and girls across the world are particularly exposed to disaster-related risks and often have fewer resources available to cope with the negative impacts of disasters. Intersectionality – the simultaneous interaction of multiple forms of discrimination – must also be considered. What can be done to ensure coherence in thinking about sustainable development and disaster risk reduction while, at the same time, providing special protection to people most at risk?

Professor Dr. Matthias Garschagen

Director, Institute of Spatial and Regional Planning (IREUS), LMU Munich;

IPCC Co-author

Comments from:

Professor Gina Ziervogel

Associate Professor, University of Cape Town, South Africa

11.45 HRS

INTERVIEW

REPORT FROM A LOCAL AUTHORITY

Catastrophic flooding in western Germany on 14 July 2021 caused devastation on a wide scale and highlighted the dramatic impacts of climate change. Regions along the rivers Ahr (Rhineland-Palatinate) and Erft (North Rhine-Westphalia) were particularly affected. Which lessons are local authorities learning from this disaster? How can effective disaster risk reduction contribute to improving the future response to extreme weather events of this kind?

Cornelia Weigand

District Commissioner, Ahrweiler County, Rhineland-Palatinate

FOLLOWED BY

QUESTION & ANSWERS

12.15-13.15 HRS

LUNCH

FROM 12.45 HRS

OPPORTUNITY FOR GUIDED NETWORKING

13.15 HRS

SPOTLIGHTS

PRACTICAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Climate change has made heavy rainfall events between 1.2 and nine times more likely in Germany. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the number of devastating forest fires such as those seen in Australia and California, but also in Brandenburg and Saxony in summer 2022, will increase by 30% worldwide by 2030 – even if global warming is held at 2°C at the same time.

Disaster risks are increasing worldwide, but according to the Global Climate Risk Index, they are unevenly distributed. In many cases, already vulnerable regions face a particularly high disaster risk. After an introduction to the international risk situation, experts will discuss the challenges posed by flooding and heavy rainfall, heat, drought and aridity, and identify possible solutions at the local level.

Dealing with heat, drought and aridity:

Sade Gawanas

Mayor, City of Windhoek, Namibia

Erick Kalisti Mvati

Head of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, City of Mwanza, Tanzania

Dealing with flooding and heavy rainfall:

Marcus Ramers

District Commissioner of Euskirchen, Germany; Municipality for Global Sustainability

Current developments in the international risk situation:

Thea Uhlich

Policy Advisor - Low-Carbon Strategies & Energy, Germanwatch, Bonn, Germany

FOLLOWED BY

QUESTION & ANSWERS

AND BROADER DISCUSSION WITH THE AUDIENCE

14.30HRS

SHORT BREAK

14.35 HRS

DISCUSSION SESSION

TALKING ABOUT RISKS: COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

How we talk about disaster risks can have a major impact on the level of damage caused by an extreme event. In the context of prevention, continuous and transparent communication is essential in order to raise public awareness of risks. If an extreme event occurs, warnings must be issued swiftly and on a broad scale and must include clear instructions on what to do next. For this to work, communication channels must be established on a credible basis beforehand and embedded in a comprehensive strategy. How can this be achieved?

Ramian Fathi

Researcher, University of Wuppertal; Team Leader, Virtual Operations Support Team, THW

Irina Rafiana

Associate Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Dr Benni Thiebes

Chief Executive, German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV)

FOLLOWED BY

QUESTION & ANSWERS

15.45-16.15 HRS **COFFEE BREAK**
OPPORTUNITY FOR GUIDED NETWORKING

16.15 HRS **PARALLEL WORKSHOPS**
PRACTICAL DIALOGUE

In order to deepen the discussions from the two previous sessions and offer participants the opportunity for active involvement, parallel workshops will be held on the following topics:

Workshop 1: Heat, drought and aridity (in English) **room S 25/26**

Chaired by: Dr. Marcus Andreas

Resource persons:

Ilse Keister-Elago, Councillor, City of Windhoek, Namibia

Erick Kalisti Mvati, City of Mwanza, Tanzania (tbc)

Workshop 2: Floods and heavy rainfall **room S 30/32**
(simultaneous interpretation German/English)

Chaired by: Dr Till Winkelmann (SKEW)

Resource person: Sarah Nolting, Project Developer for Reconstruction and District Development, District of Euskirchen, Germany

Workshop 3: Communicating risk and raising awareness (in German) **room S 29**

Chaired by: Ingo Nordmann (sef:)

Resource person: Dr. Benni Thiebes, DKKV

17.25-17.40 HRS **JOINT CLOSING SESSION**
PRESENTATION OF CONCLUSIONS IN PLENARY AND PREVIEW OF DAY 2

17.40 HRS TRANSFER TO KUNSTMUSEUM BONN (SHUTTLE BUS)

Evening programme in the Kunstmuseum Bonn

18.15-18:45 HRS **QUICK TOUR OF THE BUNDESKUNSTHALLE**

“RUSHING INTO MODERNISM – August Macke and the Rhenish Expressionists”

or

“MAX ERNST: AND NATURE AS AN INVENTION”

19.00 HRS **RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE CITY OF BONN**
10 YEARS OF THE BONN SYMPOSIUM: A RETROSPECTIVE

In 2022, the Bonn Symposium will take place for the tenth time. Together with the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW; part of Engagement Global gGmbH) and the City of Bonn, we look back on the last 10 years and the Symposium’s focus on local implementation of Agenda 2030.

Katja Dörner

Mayor of the City of Bonn

Dr. Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

Dr Jens Kreuter

Chief Executive Officer, Engagement Global, Bonn, Germany

: Thursday, 8 December 2022

08.45 HRS REGISTRATION, ADMISSION AND WELCOME COFFEE

09.00 HRS WELCOME AND REVIEW

Brief discussion: What did you take away from yesterday's session? What are you expecting from today?

Dr. Marcus Andreas
Freelance Moderator, Berlin

09.10 HRS CULTURAL INTERLUDE
ARTISTIC RÉSUMÉ OF DAY 1, HOSTED BY THE CITY OF BONN

Ella Elia Anschein
Poetry slammer

09.20 HRS INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
THE CLIMATE IS THE CATASTROPHE -
WHAT MIGHT REALISTIC AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN FOR 2050 LOOK LIKE?

There is scientific evidence that the risk of extreme weather events and resulting disasters will increase in Germany in the next 30 years. However, the extent to which this will take place is not yet known everywhere. Nick Reimer, engineer, journalist and author, will take us to the year 2050 and explain how dramatically climate change will really affect us.

Cities and municipalities will have to prepare for more frequent extreme events and develop long-term strategies to protect local communities. In an interactive dialogue, potential scenarios for realistic urban and local planning will be developed for 2050.

Discussion with

Nick Reimer
Co-author of "Deutschland 2050", a study of how climate change will impact life in Germany by 2050

FOLLOWED BY AN INTERACTIVE EXCHANGE WITH PARTICIPANTS

10.30-10.50 HRS COFFEE BREAK

Optional guided networking

10.50 HRS

INSPIRATION FROM THE FIELD

SUCCESS STORIES IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: FINDING OUT WHAT WORKS

Across the world, especially at the local level, innovative solutions are being developed in response to current challenges in disaster risk reduction. Particularly interesting examples from various world regions will be presented in five-minute inputs.

Mónica Silvana González MEP

Member of the European Parliament, Brussels

Katharina Haupenthal

Research Fellow „Urban Flood Resilience - Smart Tools (FLOREST)“, Hochschule Trier, Germany

Prof. Dileep Mavalankar

Director, Indian Institute for Public Health, Gandhinagar, India

Julius Ng'oma

National Coordinator, Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC), Malawi

Festus Yambu

Coordinator, Forecast-based Action project, Welthungerhilfe, Kenya

FOLLOWED BY

QUESTION & ANSWERS

12.05 HRS

POLITICAL OUTLOOK

DISASTERS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Risks affect our societies in complex ways and do not occur in isolation. On the contrary, the risks associated with climate change, pandemics, species extinction and armed conflicts overlap and reinforce each other in many cases. Our response should, therefore, no longer be based on a case-by-case (hazard-by-hazard) approach but should be integrated and long-term in focus.

Policy-makers have a role to play by providing strategies and direction for these efforts. Again, vulnerable groups such as women and girls must be given special consideration. Disaster risk reduction should be viewed as part of a whole-of-society transition towards a climate-compatible and sustainable lifestyle and economy. How can this work?

Alexandra Gauß

Mayor, City of Windeck, Germany

Professor Saleemul Huq

Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Bangladesh

Md. Atiqul Islam

Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation, Bangladesh

David Jácome Polit

Senior Officer Resilient Development, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
Former Director of Resilience, City of Quito, Ecuador

Christoph Spies MdL

Member of Parliament in Rhineland-Palatinate;
Vice Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry “Future Strategies of Disaster Prevention”

13.25 HRS

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

Dr Till Winkelmann

Project Leader, Municipalities for Global Sustainability, SKEW

13.30 HRS

LIGHT LUNCH