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: Programme

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Dresden Forum for International Politics 2022

The Pandemic as a Multidimensional Crisis – Strategies for a successful international response and prevention

Online Conference hosted at the Landhaus Dresden (City Museum)

30 June - 1 July 2022

Conference languages

German/English (Simultaneous interpretation)

Cooperating partners



THE TOPIC

The coronavirus pandemic, which spread to every continent within a matter of months, has created a global threat on a hitherto unprecedented scale, casting human vulnerability in an interconnected world into sharp relief. However, the major challenge does not stem from the pandemic alone. It is also worsening numerous pre-existing crises, as a glance at the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) makes clear. A reversal of progress can be observed both on healthcare provision and on other Agenda 2030 goals, including food security, poverty reduction and the elimination of child labour. Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions is also under threat. Violence against women and children has increased worldwide and there is a risk that general progress on the rule of law will be cancelled out. The term “poly pandemic” was coined to describe these multifaceted impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

As a result of this poly pandemic, inequality within and between societies is increasing, particularly in the Global South. At the same time, the recognition that “nobody is safe until everyone is safe” has highlighted the need for solidarity-based action and more intensive international cooperation, including in the area of global health.

The Dresden Forum for International Politics will therefore consider which lessons we should learn from the coronavirus pandemic for future global cooperation, and what kind of course now needs to be set within – and beyond – international health policy. What were the factors hindering international cooperation, particularly at the start of the pandemic? How can we take joint action more swiftly in future pandemics and leave no one behind? And which preventive measures should be taken in order to prevent future pandemics or mitigate their effects?

These questions will be the focus of the Dresden Forum for International Politics 2022. The evening event in the Frauenkirche Dresden will turn the spotlight on Europe and ask which lessons can be learned from the pandemic for intra-European solidarity.

DRESDEN FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Radical social and political upheavals are a characteristic feature of world politics today. The Dresden Forum for International Politics (DFIP) explores the background to these events and discusses strategies for intergovernmental and societal cooperation and an inclusive approach to fostering peaceful and sustainable development worldwide. With “cooperation in global change” as its leitmotif, the Forum, which is held annually, brings together experts from various world regions for an open-ended dialogue in Dresden.

: Thursday, 30 June 2022

13.50 HRS Online-Registration

Chair

Ute Lange

Moderator and Communication Coach
i3kommunikation, Bonn

14.00 HRS Opening Speeches

Oliver Schenk

State Minister for Federal Affairs and the Media and
Chief of the State Chancellery of the Free State of Saxony, Dresden

Viola Klein

Deputy Chairperson
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
Geschäftsführerin der Saxonia Systems Holding GmbH, Dresden

SESSION I

“THE POLYPANDEMIC” – THE MULTIFACETED IMPACTS OF COVID-19

In a report published by the Munich Security Conference, the coronavirus pandemic is described as a “polypan-
demic”. The term makes it clear that COVID-19 is not merely a global health crisis, but has brought numerous
other crises in its wake. For example, alongside the health impacts of the pandemic, there has been a noticeable
increase in the number of people suffering from hunger, living in extreme poverty or lacking adequate access to
education. Democracy is under pressure, state fragility is increasing and in some regions, violent nonstate actors
have already begun to extend their reach. Two years into the pandemic, it’s time to take stock. Which political, so-
cial and economic impacts of the pandemic can be observed worldwide? And which countries are most affected?

14.15 HRS Input

Dr Sophie Eisentraut

Author „Polypandemic – Munich Security Report Special Edition on Development, Fragility,
and Conflict in the Era of Covid-19“
Munich Security Conference, Munich

Commentary

Roberto Bissio

Coordinator, Social Watch
Representative in Latin America, Third World Network, Paris

followed by Discussion with the audience

15.30 HRS Break

SESSION II**IN FOCUS: GROWING INEQUALITY IN THE WAKE OF THE PANDEMIC –
LESSONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

The coronavirus pandemic has worsened political, social and economic inequalities in almost every country. Inequality between countries is increasing at the same time; the shortfalls in vaccine production and especially distribution are just one example. Countries which were not necessarily a focus of development cooperation or humanitarian assistance before the pandemic are now affected by more inequality and require support. As a result of the pandemic, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 is almost impossible. What might a global solidarity-based response for collective management of the pandemic's impacts look like? Where is there scope to respond to this worsening inequality?

16.00 HRS Short interviews on hands-on experience in the field

Mathias Anderson

Executive Director
Arche NoVa e.V., Dresden

Andrea Ordóñez

Director
Southern Voice, Quito

Commentary

Dr Jürgen Zattler

General Director „International development policy; 2030 Agenda; climate“
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn/Berlin

followed by Discussion with the audience

17.30 HRS Light refreshments at the museum

18.30 HRS Arrival at the Frauenkirche – see separate Evening Programme

19.00 HRS Livestream available for online participants

: Friday, 1 July 2022

09.50 HRS

Online-Registration

Chair

Ute Lange

Moderator and Communication Coach

i3kommunikation, Bonn

SESSION III

NEW STRATEGIES FOR COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PANDEMICS

At the start of the pandemic, many countries initially attempted to find go-it-alone solutions, e.g. in PPE procurement or via isolationism, with entry bans for travellers. It soon became apparent, however, that the pandemic could only be overcome if all countries worked together. Nevertheless, there is still considerable room for improvement, notably in the production and distribution of vaccines. In spring 2021, 24 heads of government and international agencies, including Angela Merkel and the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), launched an initiative for a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response. The President of the European Council also supports this idea for the management of future pandemics under the auspices of the WHO. Which lessons learned should be considered in the treaty? Which gaps need to be filled to accelerate international cooperation and boost its effectiveness in future pandemics? And is a treaty the right approach, or do the challenges lie elsewhere?

10.00 HRS

Spotlight

A practical example of lived European solidarity during the pandemic

Marian Wendt

Former Member of the German-Italian Parliamentary Friendship Group

Former Member of the German Bundestag, Berlin

Roundtable discussion

Professor Anna Holzscheiter

Chair of Political Science, with a focus on International Politics

Technical University Dresden

Governance for Global Health Research Group, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Elisabeth Massute

Head of Africa Department

Heinrich-Boell-Foundation, Berlin

former: Doctors Without Borders, Berlin

Achal Prabhala

Author and Coordinator

AccessIBSA, Bangalore

followed by

Discussion with the audience

11.45 HRS

Break for online participants/light lunch at the museum

SESSION IV**SPOTLIGHT: NEW EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR PANDEMICS**

Scientists assume that mankind will increasingly have to deal with pandemics in the future. In order to react more quickly to disease outbreaks, it makes sense to collect and bundle information. Pandemics could be prevented or at least mitigated by better linking of data. Data analysis with the help of artificial intelligence could also play a role in this.

12.30 HRS

Interview

Dr Oliver Morgan

Director of the Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment Department
in the WHO Health Emergencies Program
Member of the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, Berlin

Q&A

SESSION V**OUTLOOK: “PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN MITIGATION” –
TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL HEALTH STRATEGY**

While new mechanisms for cooperation in global pandemics are important, it is also essential to rethink our approach to pandemic prevention. With steadily shrinking habitats and human encroachment on natural ecosystems, diseases can be transmitted more easily between people and wildlife, making pandemics more likely. A comprehensive global health strategy must therefore include people, wildlife and the environment. This “One Health” approach requires multi-level cross-governmental cooperation, involving specialist agencies and institutions that are often still caught up in “silo thinking”. How can more emphasis be placed on the “One Health” approach at the international level? How can it be implemented and contribute to global health prevention?

12.50 HRS

Dialogue with

María Fernanda Espinosa

Former President of the UN General Assembly and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Defense (Ecuador)

Member of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission

Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow

Robert Bosch Academy, Berlin

Dr Huk Su Lee (tbc)

veterinary epidemiologist

International Livestock Research Institute, Vietnam

Professor Christoph Lübbert, DTM&H

Head of the Department of Infectious and Tropical Medicine

Managing Director of the Centre for Infectious Medicine

University Hospital Leipzig

followed by

Discussion with the audience

13.50 HRS

Final words by the organisers

Dr Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef.), Bonn

14.00 HRS

End of the conference