

# : Programme

as of 24/01/2023

## Dresden Forum for International Politics 2023 Delivering the goods – Securing global supply chains despite multiple crises

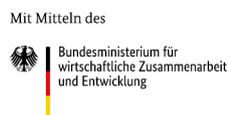
**Landhaus Dresden (City Museum)**

2 February 2023

**Conference languages**

German/English

**Partners**



The event is partially funded from tax revenue within the budgetary framework approved by the Members of the Saxon State Parliament.



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## BACKGROUND

What do the blockade of the Suez Canal by the Ever Given, the coronavirus pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have in common? These very different events have all managed to highlight the vulnerability of global supply chains. The Dresden Forum for International Politics 2023 will focus on what this means for Saxony, Germany and other regions of the world, and what solutions are available.

In recent decades, an international division of labour has been established in the global economy, and it has been assumed that all participants benefit from it. In producing countries, often located in Asia, jobs were to be created and economic and social development promoted. At the same time, the Global North was to benefit from diverse and cheap products, made possible by lower production costs in the countries at the beginning of the supply chain. In practice, however, this division of labour often results in poor working conditions, low wages, unequal dependencies and the destruction of natural resources. These costs are incurred almost exclusively in the countries of the Global South.

Many global supply chains were thus already in a state of crisis before the pandemic and the Ukraine war, which has now also become more visible in the Global North. At the same time, the current crises have further worsened the situation to the detriment of all regions of the world: lockdowns have crippled production, basic labour rights have been infringed, and parts and materials to finish products are lacking. While European governments are taking targeted measures to minimise the impact on the population and the economy, many countries in the Global South do not have these options. In many cases, the multiple crises have undone successes achieved in many countries, e.g. in poverty reduction or in environmental and climate protection.

The current crises challenge us to strengthen the resilience of global supply chains, also from an economic perspective. At the same time, they demonstrated that to work in the long run, the strengthening must be designed in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable way. The question is how we can achieve a transformation of supply chains ensuring that all stakeholders benefit in practice from a global division of labour, that human rights are respected, that natural resources are protected, and that prosperity is maintained or created.

In both producing and importing countries, governments, companies and civil society as well as consumers are important actors in supply chains. The Dresden Forum for International Politics 2023 will address the different ways in which these actors can promote sustainability and resilience in global supply chains.

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**10.00 HRS      ENTRY AND REGISTRATION**

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**MODERATION****Dr Marcus Kaplan**

Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

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**10.30 HRS      WELCOME****Sebastian Gemkow**

Minister for Science of the Free State of Saxony and Member of the Saxon Parliament, Dresden

**Viola Klein**

Deputy Chairperson

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

Executive Director of the Saxonia Systems Holding GmbH, Dresden

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**10.45 HRS      KEYNOTE****„GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS IN TIMES OF MULTIPLE CRISES“**

This keynote will give an overview of impact of the current crises on different international supply chains. Different world regions will be addressed. In a next step, possible solutions for promoting resilience and sustainability in supply chains will be presented, taking into account the possibilities of different actors.

**Dr Tilman Altenburg**

Head of the Research Programme „Transformation of Economic and Social Systems“ at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Bonn

followed by      Questions and discussion with the audience

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**11.30 HRS      SESSION 1****SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT? - THE ROLE OF POLITICS IN GERMANY AND EUROPE**

The Global North benefits economically from global supply chains and therefore bears a special responsibility for negative consequences in other regions of the world. Countries in the Global North have been increasingly concerned with this for some years. Germany and other European countries have developed supply chain laws to counteract these negative consequences. At the European and global level, work is being done on corresponding legislative projects.

At the same time, efforts are being made to increase the resilience of international supply chains to ensure stability in price levels and availability of goods. Free trade agreements could also play a role in this, as they are increasingly taking human rights and environmental protection into account. This session will explore the possibilities and limitations of FTAs and supply chain legislation, as well as their impact on supply chains. In addition, the question of how the current crises affect these developments will be explored.

**Manuela Gogsch**

Director for Industry and Foreign Trade, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK), Dresden

**Guus Houttuin**

Chair of the OECD Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group on „Responsible Minerals“

**Maren Leifker**

Economy and Human Rights Officer, Bread for the World;

Member of the Steering Committee on the Supply Chain Act Initiative, Germany

**Torsten Safarik**

President, Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control, Germany

Chair: Dr Marcus Kaplan, Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

13.00 hrs      Lunch break

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14.15 HRS

**SESSION 2**

**BETWEEN PROFIT AND RESPONSIBILITY –  
THE ROLE OF COMPANIES AND CONSUMERS IN GERMANY AND EUROPE**

Companies are obliged by supply chain laws to assume their responsibility for other links in the chains. In addition, they can make voluntary contributions to more sustainability in their supply chains. In this way, consumers in the Global North also have the opportunity to influence production conditions through their purchasing decisions. At the same time, companies have various options to increase the resilience of supply chains, e.g. through diversification or regionalisation.

This session will discuss whether the current crises encourage or inhibit the willingness of companies to work towards greater sustainability and resilience, and what control options they have. It will also shed light on the intersection between resilience and sustainability in supply chains and how both can be strengthened in synergy.

**Dr Rubana Huq** (*joining digitally*)

Chairperson, Mohammadi Group; former President, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA); Vice Chancellor, Asian University for Women, Bangladesh

**Jens Klein**

Founder, Café Chavalo eG, Leipzig, Germany

**Anke Oppermann**

Head of Directorate „Decent work worldwide; food and nutrition security“, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Chair: Dr Christian Scheper, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF),  
University of Duisburg-Essen

15.45 hrs

Coffee break

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16.15 HRS

**SESSION 3**

**GLOBAL EQUITY “DELIVERED“ - POSSIBLE ROLES OF ACTORS IN THE PRODUCING  
COUNTRIES (GOVERNMENTS, COMPANIES, UNIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY)**

Actors in producing countries can also influence the sustainability and resilience of global supply chains. We will discuss what opportunities are available for governments and companies in interaction with their partners in importing countries. The role of critical civil society and trade unions in producing countries will also be considered. And last but not least, we will analyse whether the crises have created new opportunities or rather new obstacles.

**Stephen Karingi**

Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa

**Artemisa Ljarja**

Coordinator, Clean Clothes Campaign Germany; formerly Network for Development Saxony

**Samuel Makokha**

Board Member, Voices for Labour, Kampala, Uganda

**Dr Christian Scheper**

Institute for Development and Peace, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Chair: Ingo Nordmann, Research Coordinator, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

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17.45 HRS

**SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK**

**Doreen Nyanjura**

Deputy Lord Mayor, City of Kampala, Uganda

18.15 hrs

Farewell

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**18.30 HRS**

**RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE MINISTER-PRESIDENT**

Welcoming speeches

**Michael Kretschmer**

Minister President of the Free State of Saxony

Deputy Chairman, Board of Trustees, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

**Doreen Nyanjura**

Deputy Lord Mayor, City of Kampala, Uganda

**Oliver Krauß MdL**

Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn