

# :Programme

## **SEF Expert Workshop Shifting Parameters. The Post-2015 Process and the Future of International Cooperation for Development**

**Berlin**

12-13 September 2013

**Conference language**

English

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## BACKGROUND

International development cooperation and its parameters have been the subject of intense and critical debate for many years, and this process is certainly not over yet. At present, the “post-2015 agenda” is the focal point of this debate. At the same time, permanent power shifts in the international system are emerging which will change the face of international cooperation in future. Due to strong economic growth in many previously impoverished regions, coupled with an economic downturn and crises in the industrialised world, we are now witnessing the rise of numerous newly self-confident “emerging countries”, which are forming new alliances such as BRICS and launching initiatives such as the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries. Weaker actors, too, are endeavouring to organise and make their voices heard, with a view to strengthening their position in international negotiations: the g7+ group of fragile states is currently a prime example. But it is not only governments which are seeking to redefine their future role. Established international organisations and regimes are coming under growing pressure to reform in order to avert the threat of – or compensate for – a loss of significance. Private actors – from the business community and civil society alike – are also becoming more professional in their approach and thus gaining influence.

As a consequence of these trends, described briefly above, the global system is in a state of flux, radically altering the way in which international cooperation is conducted. This is reflected in the post-2015 process, which would appear, at least on the face of it, to be highly participatory and thematically very broad in scope, and could hardly be more different from the technocratic process which culminated in the determination of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Two weeks before important milestones in this process are reached – the MDG Summit 2013 and the first session of the new High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – the workshop will review progress to date. How has the manner in which sustainable development issues are discussed worldwide changed? Is the new stakeholder landscape reflected in more participatory processes, and if so, what are the outcomes? Does the new diversity also harbour the risk that progress will be retrograde, for example by lowering the standards that previously applied? Who wins, and who loses?

In addition to this review and analysis, the Workshop will also consider how the fundamental parameters of international cooperation could change as a result. Specifically, what are the possible consequences for global decision-making processes in future? How will the new stakeholder relationships impact on the outcomes of negotiations and their subsequent implementation? And how is the new direction in international cooperation likely to affect the development prospects of the poorest countries and social groups? What are the specific implications for the further shaping of the post-2015 agenda?

These questions will be explored at the Expert Workshop by around 25 selected international academics, policy-makers and practitioners, who will consider these issues primarily from the standpoint of individual stakeholder groups. After an introductory session in which representatives of these various groups briefly evaluate the post-2015 process to date, an open discussion will take place, focusing on the basic principles and structures required for problem-oriented international cooperation for development under changed geopolitical conditions.

# **:Thursday, 12 September 2013**

13.30 hrs. Registration and light refreshments

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## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP**

14.00 hrs. **Professor Tobias Deibel**

Member of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF),  
Director, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), University Duisburg-Essen

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## **SESSION I**

### **IN ADVANCE OF THE MDG SUMMIT 2013:**

### **EVALUATION OF THE POST-2015 PROCESS TO DATE FROM VARIOUS STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES**

Chair

**Jens Martens**

Director

Global Policy Forum Europe, Bonn

14.15 hrs. Inputs

#### **The perspective of OECD**

**Dr Hildegard Lingnau**

Senior Counsellor, Strategic Analysis & Cross-Cutting Issues,  
Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD, Paris

#### **The Middle-Income Countries' perspective**

**H.E. Saúl Weisleder**

Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica  
to the United Nations, New York

#### **Fragile states/g7+ perspective**

**Dr Helder da Costa**

Head, g7+ Secretariat

Ministry of Finance, Dili

#### **The Global South: the think tank/civil society perspective**

**Professor Rehman Sobhan**

Chairman

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka

15.15 hrs. Question and answer session

16.15 hrs. Coffee break

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## **SESSION II**

### **“TOO MANY COOKS?” BROAD PARTICIPATION – POOR OUTCOMES?**

One reaction to the shifting power relations, and the ensuing increase in the number of stakeholders who are willing and able to make their voices heard, is that international negotiating processes are increasingly emerging from behind the closed doors of diplomacy into the public arena, with goals and strategies for global cooperation being negotiated in broad-based participatory processes – as is currently being attempted with the post-2015 agenda.

#### **Key questions**

How can this approach be put in practice? Which conditions need to be in place for its implementation to be successful? What are the obstacles and pitfalls, and what are the benefits of this approach? And can all stakeholders genuinely make their voices heard – or is it ultimately still the most powerful who dominate the process, while the weakest groups, without their previous advocates, are lost from sight?

Chair

**Dr Cornelia Ulbert**

Executive Director

Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), University Duisburg-Essen

16.45 hrs.

Input

**The contribution of people living in extreme poverty to the post-2015 agenda:  
opportunities, strategies and risks**

**Xavier Godinot**

Delegate to the MDGs

International Movement ATD Fourth World, Pierrelaye

17.00 hrs.-18.15 hrs. Discussion

19.00 hrs. Dinner at the restaurant Alpenstueck

# • Friday, 13 September 2013

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## SESSION III

### WINNERS AND LOSERS: MORE DIVERSITY – LOWER STANDARDS?

One of the demands being voiced by many of the parties involved in the post-2015 process is for the “one size fits all” principle to be abandoned. Instead of one set of binding and quantifiable goals for everyone, there are calls for a general framework which allows scope for implementation in line with local conditions. This takes account of the different levels of development and local resources, as well as the diversity of development pathways. At the same time, however, relinquishing the “one size fits all” principle creates numerous opportunities to circumvent the objectives set out in an international agreement. It also moves closer to meeting the demand voiced by many emerging countries for a stronger emphasis on the principle of non-interference in their domestic affairs.

#### Key questions

Does such an approach therefore conflict with the widespread demand for a stronger legal basis for globally agreed targets and the emphasis on universal human rights? Who will actually benefit from the demise of the “one size fits all” principle? And how will it impact on the poorest of the poor? How can flexible solutions be developed which offer no loopholes for lower standards?

09.00 hrs.      Coffee/welcome

Chair

**Professor Tanja Brühl**

Professor for International Institutions and Peace Processes  
University of Frankfurt/Main

09.30 hrs.      Input  
**Gabriele Köhler**  
Development Economist, Munich

09.45 hrs.      Discussion

11.00 hrs.      Coffee break

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## **SESSION IV**

### **THE LOCI OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS: UNIVERSAL INSTITUTIONS OR FLEXIBLE NETWORKS?**

Another key question relates to the future loci of global negotiations. In the post-2015 and other international processes, the United Nations, with its numerous organisations and agencies, acts at best as an “honest broker” rather than the helmsman. Nowadays, the UN can rarely be said to embody a vision – especially one which carries any real power of conviction. More than any other institution, the UN Security Council in particular embodies an obsolete world order which no longer adequately reflects today’s realities.

#### **Key questions**

But is a renaissance of the UN possible and desirable? Are other structures emerging in its place, such as an enhanced G20? Or is international cooperation more likely to take place in flexible networks in future, blurring the division between state and non-state actors? Can such flexible structures provide an adequate response to the highly complex interdependent problems facing the world?

Chair

**Dr. Silke Weinlich**

Head of Research Unit 1: The (Im) Possibility of Cooperation

Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Duisburg

11.30 hrs.

Inputs

**Cormac O'Reilly**

Strategic Planning Officer

UNIDO, Vienna

**John Sinclair**

Distinguished Research Associate

North-South Institute, Ottawa

12.00 hrs.

Discussion

13.00 hrs.

Closing remarks

**Dr. Michèle Roth**

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (SEF), Bonn

followed by light refreshments