

: Programme

Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2023 **Food Security in Africa in Times of Global Crises –** **Regional Strategies Against Hunger and Dependency**

27-28 April 2023
NH Hotel Potsdam, Germany

Conference languages
German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

Cooperating partners



#Potsdam23

BACKGROUND

The world is currently facing the worst food crisis in 20 years, and many countries rely on food imports, particularly from Russia and Ukraine. As a result of the war in Ukraine, global supplies of staple foods have declined and trade and transportation costs have increased, contributing to a dramatic increase in food prices.

Of the various regions affected by these developments, Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly hard hit, with households spending up to 50 % of their income on food. However, the war is only one factor destabilising Africa's food supply. Many regions are still struggling with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which aggravated social inequality and poverty. In addition, climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events leading to crop failures and the degradation and destruction of natural resources. These multiple crises encounter a highly vulnerable and fragmented global food system, which theoretically produces enough food for everybody. However, access to food is unequally distributed across the globe. In many African countries, conflict settings make it even more difficult to provide enough food for the population. On the other hand, a deteriorating food supply and the further destruction of natural resources may also contribute to fuelling new conflicts in the region.

On the occasion of World Food Day on October 16, 2022, UN Secretary-General Guterres called on governments, scientists, the private sector and civil society to work together to make nutritious food available and affordable for all.

This call is not new in principle, but it is of utmost urgency given the current situation: how can this goal be better achieved? What success do the various solutions promise against the background of the current crises? What contribution can national governments, international and regional organisations, research and civil society provide? Which supporting role can and should other international organisations (UN, G7) as well as European governments play?

The Potsdam Spring Dialogues Series

The Potsdam Spring Dialogues have become established as a major forum on regional cooperation in Africa in the past decade. Since 2010, they have been organised by the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:) in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

: First Conference Day – 27 April, 2023

10.00 hrs Arrival and Registration

Chair

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

10.30 hrs Welcome

Jobst-Hinrich Ubbelohde
State Secretary for Europe
Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs
of the State of Brandenburg, Potsdam

Martin Gorholt
Former State Secretary
Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

KEYNOTE

LONG-TERM STRENGTHENING OF FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

This key note will give an overview of the current state of global food security and how the African continent is particularly affected. Particular attention will be paid to the links between hunger and conflict, i.e., how food insecurity and hunger are exacerbated by conflict and how food insecurity can trigger new conflicts or exacerbate existing ones.

Finally, an overview of current international initiatives aimed at making the food system in Africa more resilient is provided, along with ways to improve it.

10.45 hrs Input

Dr Vongai Murugani
Researcher in the Food, Peace and Security Programme
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Solna

11.30 hrs Coffee Break

SESSION 1**AGRICULTURAL STRATEGIES AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY, POVERTY, AND DEPENDENCY**

Researchers and policymakers are proposing various options to improve Africa's food system, such as modernising agriculture through digitisation, knowledgeable use of fertilisers, and more intra-African trade. In its Agenda 2063, the African Union (AU) supports most of these approaches. The EU encourages the establishment of secure agricultural and food systems through sustainable agriculture and the promotion of local food production. Civil society organisations, on the other hand, are calling for a fairer distribution of power in access to land and means of production, as well as changes in international trade policy.

What do these suggestions and policies hold? What are the latest innovations and how are they implemented on the ground?

Chair**Angelika Spelten**

Former Senior Researcher

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

11.45 hrs

Discussion Round

Dr Alec Thornton

Climate-Migration-Conflict Analyst

Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Potsdam

H.E. Tom Amolo EBS

Ambassador of Kenya

to the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin

Dr Karin Gaesing

Senior Researcher

Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), Duisburg

Daniel Duke Odongo

Programme Management Specialist

Ushahidi, Nairobi

13.00 hrs

Lunch Break

SESSION 2

SHIFTING GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT – HOW NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES TO GLOBAL CRISES IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

In an increasingly globalised world not only global crisis like climate change, the Covid-pandemic and the war in Ukraine as such effect production and trade of agriculture, but also, or even more so, will the „crisis management strategies“ adopted at national and international level like export restrictions or in connection with the war in Ukraine, international sanctions impact on the global systems of food security.

What are the new trends, how do they affect the quest for a more equitable and sustainable global food security, and what does it mean for Africa in particular? How could the situation be improved to make the global food system more resilient? What is role of multilateral institutions?

Chair

Dr Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

14.15 hrs

Panel discussion

Dr Yeboua Kouassi

Senior Researcher at the African Futures and Innovation Programme
Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Pretoria

Dr Bettina Rudloff

Senior Associate

German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin

Teniola T. Tayo

Trade Policy Fellow

APRI - Africa Policy Research Private Institute, Abuja

Roman Herre

Agrarian Advisor

FIAN Deutschland e.V., Cologne

15.45 hrs

Coffee Break

SESSION 3**WORLD CAFÉ – HOW CAN WE KEEP PACE WITH CURRENT CHALLENGES?**

The World Café is an interactive method in which participants discuss a specific topic or question in a cafe-like atmosphere in smaller groups.

All participants and speakers are invited to propose a topic that addresses aspects of the theme „Drivers of innovation in food security and its strengthening“.

Chair**Angelika Spelten**

Former Senior Researcher

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

16.15 hrs

World Café

Table hosts**Daniel Duke Odongo**

Programme Management Specialist

Ushahidi, Nairobi

Teniola T. Tayo

Trade Policy Fellow

APRI - Africa Policy Research Private Institute, Abuja

Francisco Marí

Senior Policy Officer World Food Security, Agritrade and Maritime Policy

Brot für die Welt, Berlin

17.45 hrs

Summary of the First Day and Outlook to the Second Day

Dr Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

EVENING PROGRAMME

18.00 hrs

City tour and transfer to reception

19.00 hrs

Reception at the Invitation of the
Minister President of Land Brandenburg, Potsdam

: Second Conference Day – 28 April, 2023

08.45 hrs Arrival and Registration

09.00 hrs Welcome and Short Review of the First Day

SESSION 4

MAKING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE – STRATEGIES FROM THE EUROPEAN AND THE AFRICAN UNION

The global crises are affecting and changing social, economic and political conditions in Africa as well as in Europe, but with distinctly different effects on people's living conditions. The European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) regard the task of reducing the crises and stabilizing the food situation in Africa in particular as a joint challenge.

To this end, numerous agreements have been reached and initiatives launched in recent years that also aim to reduce hunger and food shortages and reform the food security system.

- What are the key entry points and initiatives on the part of the AU and the EU?
- What are the main joint policies and programs and what are their achievements so far?
- How united are EU member states in their commitment to the goal of food security in Africa?

Chair

Angelika Spelten

Former Senior Researcher

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

09.15 hrs Discussion Round

Dr Jakkie Cilliers (online)

Head of African Futures & Innovation

Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Pretoria

Dr Leonard Mizzi (online)

Head of Unit, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries

Directorate-General International Partnerships (DG-INTPA)

European Commission, Brussels

Dr Koen Dekeyser

Policy Officer

European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Brussels

Francisco Marí

Senior Policy Officer World Food Security, Agritrade and Maritime Policy

Brot für die Welt, Berlin

10.45 hrs Coffee Break

SESSION 5

THE ROLE OF CHINA AND RUSSIA IN AFRICA AND THE GLOBAL FOOD MARKET

A round of interviews on changing trade relations and new priorities in the international food market.

What is the role of China and Russia in international efforts to achieve equitable and stable global food security?

What future trends are emerging in the current situation of geopolitical reorientation?

11.00 hrs Interview Angelika Spelten with

Professor Lixia Tang (online)
China Agricultural University, Beijing

11.30 hrs Interview Dr Marcus Kaplan with

Dr Linde Götz
Deputy Head of Department Agricultural Markets
Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) Halle

SESSION 6

POLITICAL SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

Chair

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

Dr Irene Heuser
Deputy Head of the Department for European Affairs
Ministry of Finance and for Europe of the State of Brandenburg, Potsdam

12.00 hrs **Takeaways and Outlook**

12.30 hrs **Farewell and thanks**

followed by Light Lunch