

# : Programme

As at 13/12/2022

## **sef: Policy Lunch – Online**

**Towards more Cooperation and Equity in Global Health?  
A New International Treaty on Pandemic Prevention**

**15 December 2022**

**12.30 hrs – 13.45 hrs (CET)**

**Conference language:** English

**Supported by**

The State Government of  
North Rhine-Westphalia



**#sefLunch**

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## BACKGROUND

All countries around the globe had and still have to struggle with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it was evident that countries were equipped with different resources to deal with these challenges. The pandemic strengthened existing inequalities and inequities both within but also between countries, and it also created new ones and set back the global implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by several years. To make matters worse, there were serious shortcomings regarding cooperation during the pandemic, which severely eroded trust and solidarity between different world regions. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) did not have the authority to overcome these divides and promote stronger global cooperation.

As the world is likely to experience more pandemics in the future, the World Health Assembly, mainly on the initiative of the European Union and Chile, decided to establish an intergovernmental negotiating body (INB) to draft an international agreement for pandemic prevention, which could put into place ‘a comprehensive and coherent approach to strengthen the global health architecture.’ The agreement is expected to enter into force in 2024.

Until then, there are still many issues under discussion. One question refers to the legal design the agreement should have to increase its chances for a widespread ratification by member states, and at the same time enhances liability and accountability. Another question is how to integrate in the „One Health” approach into the agreement. However, the most important aspect, particularly for many countries from the Global South, is how the agreement can contribute to more equity in the global health system. This mainly refers to equal access to vaccines and medicines, but also to the preparedness of and access to national health systems which are needed to deal with the impacts of a pandemic. Overall, there are strong voices demanding the agreement to ensure compliance not only with agreed rules for sharing information and medical products, but also fundamentally with human rights.

The discussion in this Policy Lunch will touch upon some of these points and will particularly shed light on the question how the agreement can contribute to more equity and solidarity in the global health system. The panel will also discuss the role of the EU for supporting the agreement, so that all countries can benefit from it and that global cooperation is re-strengthened.

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**12.30 HRS**

**WELCOME**

**Dr Marcus Kaplan**

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

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**12.40 HRS**

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**Professor Anna Holzscheiter**

Professor of Political Science with a focus  
on International Politics

Executive Director, Institute for Political Science  
Technical University Dresden

**Dr Americo Beviglia Zampetti**

Minister Counsellor - Global Health and SPS issues

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations and  
other International Organisations, Geneva

**Dr Remco van de Pas**

Senior research associate

Centre for Planetary Health Policy (CPHP)

Lecturer Global Health ITM Antwerp

Research fellow Clingendael Institute & Maastricht University

**Chair**

**Dr Cornelia Ulbert**

Executive Director

Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), Duisburg

Member of the Executive Committee of the

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Followed by discussion with the audience

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**13.45 HRS**

**END OF EVENT**