

: Programme

As at: 19 April 2021

Brandenburg Online Dialogue “Learning with Africa”

Responses to COVID-19: An Interim Review and Lessons Learned

Via Zoom

21 April 2021, 17.00 – 18.30 hrs (CEST)

Conference languages German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

With funding from the State of Brandenburg



Background

The health impacts of COVID-19 have been less severe in Africa than many had feared. Although the number of confirmed infections increased significantly in the second wave, it remains relatively low compared to other regions of the world. There are various reasons for this. Lessons learned from previous pandemics/epidemics, the timely response by many African countries and regions to the unfolding pandemic and the low average age of the African population are all factors of significance. Digital tracking of the spread of the virus also seems to work better, at least in some African countries, than in Europe, for example.

The economic and social impacts, by contrast, are severe. Depending on which scenario is used, Africa is likely to take between five and 10 years to bounce back to 2019 average income levels. The main victims are children and young people, whose schools were closed for months after the outbreak of the pandemic.

Europe, on the other hand, is one of the world regions with the highest infection and death rates. While Germany was able to keep the incidence of infection low in the first wave, the picture has worsened considerably in the second wave. And in Europe, too, the economic and social consequences are massive.

What lessons has Africa learned from previous epidemics that have helped it to manage the current pandemic more effectively than Europe? What would an initial COVID-19 review for Africa and Europe look like? Why were parts of Africa and Germany hit so much harder by the second wave? How can the collateral damage to economy and society, caused by prioritising the protection of health, be mitigated in the future? What contribution can digitalisation make? These questions will be the focus of the first Brandenburg Online Dialogue “Learning with Africa”.

The **Brandenburg Online Dialogue “Learning with Africa”** is open to anyone interested in engaging in conversation with African and European experts. The emphasis is on learning through partnership, drawing on the African, European and local experience in the state of Brandenburg in thematic areas of common interest. The series forms a separate strand of the longstanding Potsdam Spring Dialogues.

The **Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)** is a cross-party, non-profit organisation, funded by the German federal states of Berlin, Brandenburg, North Rhine-Westphalia and Saxony. sef: provides an independent international forum for creative thinking on urgent peace and development issues. It brings together present and future policy-makers, their advisors and academic experts, civil society and the business community in dialogue. The sef: attaches special importance to integrating perspectives from the Global South into the political debate.

Programme

- 16.55 hrs** **Virtual “check-in”**
- 17.00 hrs** **Welcome**
Martin Gorholt
Former State Secretary, Potsdam
Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
- 17.05 hrs** **Musical prelude**
Sauti é Haala
- 17.10 hrs** **Africa’s experience with epidemics:
An Advantage in dealing with COVID-19?**
Dr Merawi Aragaw Tegegne
Head, Division of Emergency Preparedness & Response,
Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Addis Ababa
- 17.20 hrs** **Measures in Europe to combat COVID-19:
An initial assessment from a Brandenburg perspective**
Ursula Nonnemacher
Minister for Social Affairs, Health, Integration and Consumer
Protection of the State of Brandenburg, Potsdam
- 17.30 hrs** **Musical intermezzo**
Sauti é Haala
- 17.35 hrs** **Open debate and Q & A**
- 18.25 hrs** **Farewell**
Dr Michèle Roth
Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
- Chair**
Abdou Rahime Diallo
Expert Promoter (Fachpromoter) for Development Policy and
Migration, Potsdam

Speakers' Bios



Dr Merawi Aragaw Tegegne

Dr Merawi Aragaw is a Medical Epidemiologist with more than 10 years of experience in health systems and public health programmes, disease surveillance, investigation and management of disasters and outbreaks, and evaluation of surveillance system. He currently serves as Acting Head of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division at Africa CDC, where he oversees coordination and capacity building of African Union Member States for emergency preparedness and response, and the preparation for medical and non-medical countermeasures.



Ursula Nonnemacher

Ursula Nonnemacher worked as a doctor in a hospital in Berlin-Spandau from 1983. She specialised in intensive and emergency medicine in the internal intensive care unit and in the emergency ambulance. After 26 years as a doctor on shift duty, she ended her work at the hospital in 2009 and in the same year became a member of the Brandenburg state parliament for the parliamentary group BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN. Until 2019, she was a member of the Committee for the Interior and Local Government, the Committee for Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Women and the Family and Chair of the parliamentary group. Since 20 November 2019, she has been Minister for Social Affairs, Health, Integration and Consumer Protection and Deputy Minister President.



Sauti é Haala

Sauti é Haala combines two languages – Swahili (Sauti=sound) and Fulani (Haala=word) – into the concept of sound-word

....interweaves two forms of expression – poetry with musical styles from West Africa

....connects and links two people – Zaida Horstmann (poetry, singing) from Germany/Tanzania & Abdou-Rahime Diallo (guitar, kalimba, singing, percussion) from Guinea.

Sauti é Haala critically deals with colonialities and experiences of racism and on the other hand with spirituality, love, patterns of life and society in the Global South and its diasporas. The repertoire includes texts by May Ayim, one of the best-known black activists in Germany.