

Dear Reader,

Throughout the world, we see cities and local governments pushing forward highly innovative projects for more sustainable development. Oftentimes this happens despite rather opposing national policies. How can these projects be better connected? How can they lead the way in a truly societal transformation towards sustainability? What is the best way to motivate local communities and businesses to join these efforts? These questions will be at the center of our **Bonn Symposium** in November.

Find out more about this and other current projects in this newsletter! Furthermore, you might take a look at sef's new website which is now optimized for use of your mobile devices. Under the heading "Topics", you will now find all sef: projects indexed by issue areas.

Sarah Hinz, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)
Dr Mischa Hansel, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

UPCOMING EVENTS



© United Nations Photo / flickr.com

: Rethinking local sustainable development

Bonn Symposium 2018
28/29 November 2018, Bonn

The 'transformation of our world' towards a sustainable path – as agreed upon by the UN member states in the Agenda 2030 – requires more than one-off projects. How can a fundamental change in policies, in the society and the economy be initiated? What can municipalities contribute to this shift towards sustainable development and how can the local impetus be escalated to the other political levels? The **Bonn Symposium 2018** aims to stimulate ideas and inject fresh momentum into the debate about these issues. **Register now!**



CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 Fotomovimiento / flickr.com

: Sharing responsibility. The UN Global Compact on Refugees and its implications for Europe

Policy Lunch 2018
22 November 2018, Brussels

The United Nations will adopt a Global Compact on Refugees this December. What are the implications for the European Union's refugee policies? What needs to be changed to better support the aims of the UN Compact? Experts will discuss these questions at the [sef: Policy Lunch](#) on November 22. [Register now!](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Global Governance Spotlight
4 | 2018

sef:

The Global Refugee and Migration Compacts. Responsibilities and Policy Impact

Elspeth Guild

In recent years, the number of people who are forced to leave their home countries has risen to almost unprecedented levels. Millions seek to escape the killing in places like Syria, Afghanistan or South Sudan. Others suffer from situations of economic despair and hope to find a better future in more prosperous countries. In reality, though, the vast majority of both refugees and migrants end up being hosted in relatively poor countries in the Global South, stretching their capacities to the limit and beyond.

Individual rights of migrants and envisages a shared responsibility among states for the protection of these rights. The implications of these differing notions of responsibility will be discussed in the second part of this paper with regard to the European Union's border management policies.

Negotiation processes

Recognition of the need for more international solidarity to provide durable solutions for refugees and opportunities for migrants opened the way for new UN initiatives in the field. Against the backdrop of the 2015/2016 refugee crisis, the UN convened a Summit for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. As a result, the UN Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (New York Declaration) of 19 September 2016 called for the adoption of two compacts by the General Assembly, one on refugees, the other on migrants, by the end of 2018.

The responsibility for developing the Refugee Compact was assigned to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The process for the Migration Compact was led by two states, Switzerland and Mexico, with a substantial role for the UN Special Representative for International Migration (a post which was vacant following the serious illness and death of the incumbent, Peter Sutherland, for most of the initial part of the preparations until the UN Secretary-General appointed a new Representative, Louise Arbour, in March 2017). The negotiations on both Compacts were preceded by a year of stocktaking which ran in tandem for the two compact processes. This was followed by a year of negotiations, resulting in the final version. UNHCR ran the stocktaking and negotiation of the Refugee Compact with all the support of a large international organisation specialised in the subject matter. With the Refugee Compact on the agenda for the UNHCR, it was not to be touched, the focus was on international solidarity in the form of responsibility-sharing and resettlement. The negotiation of the Migration Compact was a more open-ended affair.

Both compacts are expected to be adopted in December 2018. While on the surface, they seem to pursue similar goals, a deeper look reveals substantial differences. In particular, they envisage very different notions of responsibility, as shown in the first part of this paper where parts of the Global Compact on Refugees (Refugee Compact) read as a reaffirmation of national sovereignty, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Migration Compact) puts much more emphasis on the

: UN Refugee and Migration Compacts

Global Governance Spotlight 4|2018

Millions of people across the globe are forced to leave their home countries. To improve their protection and to support hosting countries in the Global South, the United Nations started negotiations on two global compacts, one on refugees and the other on migration. What kind of obligations do state parties have according to the two compacts? What rights of refugees and migrants are recognized? And how justified are EU policies in light of the global compacts?

On the verge of their adoption by the UN General Assembly, Elspeth Guild emphasises important differences between both compacts in [Global Governance Spotlight 4|2018](#). Her particular focus is on implications for contemporary EU border control and asylum policies..

sef: insight

8|2018

"City governments should be the agent of local communities"

Interview with Professor Anél du Plessis on the foundations of the global urban governance narrative

Professor du Plessis, would you say international and regional law increasingly affects cities' scope to shape their own policies?

You, international and regional law increasingly add directions to cities' own policies and bylaws. In terms of hard law it is mostly climate change law having a visible influence on municipal law and policy reform at the moment. In terms of policy and municipal strategic planning it is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to some extent the New Urban Agenda that are having a compliance pull factor. Except for Europe, regional law and policy seems to have less of an influence for now. It is important also to distinguish between high level players at regional and international meetings and the real transformation of municipal laws, policies and plans back home. We should be very critical about what is or may be symbolic and what is material."

"We should be very critical about what is or may be symbolic and what is material."

What I am concerned about, though, is the limitations imposed on city governments by national constitutions. Constitutional law has the potential to become a barrier for local government innovation and reform in the future – at least in those countries where local government is being constitutionally acknowledged and regulated. South Africa is one such example.

Can city governments become intermediaries between the global and the local level?

I would like to start out by saying that I agree with the statement of Luis E. Guaranizo made some twenty years ago that "the local state of global processes do

matter. I am a bit cautious though to immediately say yes to the word intermediaries in this instance. It may be a bit formalistic in my understanding but I think it is necessary at least to say that an intermediary is an institution that acts as a link or helps to make an agreement between two or more others.

Being from a country where democracy was non-existent for very long, I measure the success of democracy and for me this means that city governments should be the agent and the front-person of local communities. And this is not implying that city governments must form a biggest group of local governance activities not also extracting from the global arena what is relevant and important for local governance. City governments must address one and bridge barriers of understanding in the name of, and to the benefit of local communities – a task certainly easier said than done in a world where global flows of infrastructure, capital and people, global markets and globalisation itself increasingly make it hard to even define and confine local community. I fear that sometimes – especially at schools who do not necessarily conduct deep empirical research – we work with 'imagined communities'. We imagine how things are which can be quite distinct from how things work in diverse localities in different parts of the world. The really critical ingredients of the agency I refer to, are regulatory and accountable municipal leadership, political will and sustained financial, human and other resources.

"City governments must help to bridge barriers of understanding in the name of, and to the benefit of local communities."

"What I am concerned about is the limitations imposed on city governments by national constitutions. Constitutional law has the potential to become a barrier for local government innovation and reform in the future."

: "City governments should be the agent of local communities"

sef: insight 8|2018

In an interview with sef: on the occasion of the [International sef: Expert Workshop 2018](#), Professor Anél du Plessis speaks about the changing role of city governments in global governance. How are cities affected by international law? What is their role as agents of local communities? And how is their potential restricted by national constitutions?

[Read the sef: insight!](#)



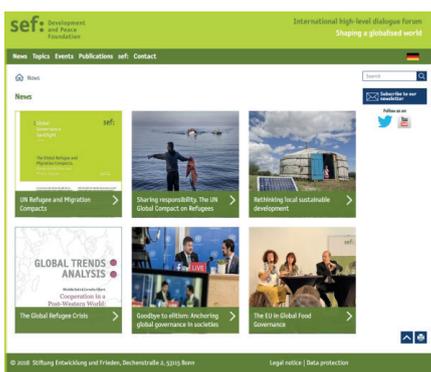
© Swisspeace

! The democratizing effect of non-violent resistance

Swisspeace Working Paper 3/2018

Does nonviolent resistance against autocratic regimes tend to have a democratic dividend? Looking at the peaceful transition in Benin in 1989, INEF member Markus Bayer shows that such a democracy proves to be more inclusive and stable than democracies that come into existence by violent means or by top-down liberalization. The nonviolent resistance in Benin established a founding narrative for the country's new democracy, thus stabilizing its democratic institutions. [Read](#) more about how the founding narrative led to an active civil society that takes its role as watchdog very seriously until today

SEF://INEF INSIDE



! New sef: homepage launched!

sef: has launched a new homepage! The new web presence is optimized for mobile internet devices. It also offers additional options, for example by displaying all sef: activities that relate to one of eight key topics. [Visit our new website now!](#)

! New sef: programm and research coordinator/media

On 1 October, [Dr Mischa Hansel](#) joined sef: as programme and research coordinator/media, succeeding Rebekka Hannes in this position. Mischa graduated and later obtained a Ph.D in International Relations from Cologne University. More recently, he has worked as postdoc at the University of Giessen and RWTH Aachen University respectively.



© Mischa Hansel

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)
Dechenstraße 2 | 53115 Bonn | Germany
sef@sef-bonn.org
www.sef-bonn.org



[Unsubscribe Newsletter](#)

Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)
Lotharstraße 53 | 47057 Duisburg | Germany
inef-sek@inef.uni-due.de
<http://inef.uni.due.de>

© sef: 2018

The Development and Peace Foundation (sef:) was founded in 1986 on the initiative of Willy Brandt. It is a cross-party and non-profitmaking organisation. sef: provides an international high-level forum for shared thinking on the complex challenges of globalisation. It is linked to the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) by a cooperation agreement. The aim of INEF's application-oriented research is to build bridges between theory and practice. It is one of three host institutions of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research.