

: Programme

International Expert Workshop 2021 – Online edition

Global Shocks: Considering long-term prevention in short-term responses

Draft as of: 23 August 2021

Kick-off workshop

21 September 2021, 15:00-16:30 hrs (CEST)

Working group session A

23 September 2021, 15:00-17:00 hrs (CEST)

Working group session B

27 September 2021, 15:00-17:00 hrs (CEST)

Working group session C

29 September 2021, 15:00-17:00 hrs (CEST)

Final workshop

7 October 2021, 15:00-16:30 hrs (CEST)

Conference language

English

BACKGROUND

Global shocks are defined by the OECD* as “major rapid onset events” with “severely disruptive consequences” on at least two continents. They can be caused, for example, by international financial crises, pandemics, large-scale natural disasters, global terrorist attacks, cyber security failure or armed conflicts between major powers. The frequency and intensity of global shocks are likely to increase in the future. In addition to high international interdependence, there is a clear link to fundamental challenges such as global inequality, climate change, loss of natural livelihoods and biodiversity, concentration of digital power and the rise of authoritarian/semi-authoritarian regimes.

In many areas, there are already measures in place to avoid or mitigate future shocks, such as pandemic preparedness plans. However, once societies are hit by global shocks like the current coronavirus pandemic or the financial crisis in 2008, rapid responses at all political levels are required – along with multilateral cooperation. In many cases, existing structures and instruments do not meet expectations in a real-life test. Moreover, the urgent need for action means that measures – often implemented ad hoc – tend to look inwards only or have negative side effects that make it more difficult to address fundamental long-term challenges. At worst, they may thus encourage future global shocks.

Breaking out of this vicious cycle is imperative and in part already under way, for example in disaster response. In the future, it will become even more important to think about the long-term consequences when responding to global shocks, despite the need to act immediately. And more than that: the substantial financial and social forces that are mobilised to overcome global shocks should be used to reorient national and multilateral policies towards sustainable, peaceful and solidarity-based development (“recover better”). This involves both aspects – taking into account the consequences for future generations and thinking about the consequences for different regions of the world.

International reports are replete with recommendations on how to cope with global risks and shape transformations. But which of them are feasible? What does it take to implement them? Which successful practices and structures are already in place? And where are the gaps in the existing proposals? In the International Expert Workshop 2021, we will concentrate on the following key areas:

- A. *Leadership and participation*: Coping with global shocks relies on trust-based leadership, normative credibility and public acceptance. The latter in particular can be achieved through the participation of all sectors and stakeholders in the political process.
- B. *The complexity of scientific evidence*: Scientific evidence is central to informed policy-making. Complex challenges make it necessary to process knowledge from a wide range of disciplines and to weigh up the recommendations for action that can be drawn from it. This is already challenging under normal conditions. During global shocks, the need for quick decisions and for knowledge that may first have to be generated makes it even more difficult.
- C. *Mechanisms, instruments and procedures*: In order to become more independent of the capabilities and will of individual leading actors, it is necessary to develop mechanisms and institutionalised procedures that can be activated at the various political levels during global shocks. They must be designed in such a way that they bring together all relevant policy fields, overcome institutional silos and always take long-term goals into account.

* OECD (2011), Future Global Shocks: Improving Risk Governance, OECD Reviews of Risk Management Policies, OECD Publishing, Paris.

ONLINE DEBATE

GLOBAL SHOCKS: CHALLENGES IN CRISIS RESPONSE FOR POLICY-MAKERS AND ACADEMICS

At the kick-off workshop, we will identify key challenges for policy-makers and academics in global shock situations where immediate and effective action is required.

Key questions

- Under what conditions must such decisions be made, who is involved in the decision-making process, and what are the requirements for scientific advice?
- What are the particular challenges at the international level?
- And what would have to change – in the processes and in scientific advice – so that longer-term policy goals and the effects on other countries and world regions can be taken into account even under time pressure?

15.00 hrs

Welcome to the International Expert Workshop 2021

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Dr Cornelia Ulbert

Executive Director

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

15.10 hrs

Input: National interests vs. international solidarity in dealing with global shocks

Professor Ana Revenga (tbc)

Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution

Adjunct Professor at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University

Input: Global shocks as a catalyst for the Great Transformation? Prerequisites in politics and science

Professor Reinhard Loske

President of the Cusanus Hochschule für Gesellschaftsgestaltung, Bernkastel-Kues

15.30 hrs

Plenary debate

16.20 hrs

Take-aways for the Working Groups

Chair

Dr Marianne Beisheim

Senior Associate, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Berlin

Chair of the Advisory Board, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

ONLINE DEBATE

RESPONDING TO GLOBAL SHOCKS: POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

This working group will examine which criteria leadership must fulfil in order to react in a far-sighted but not populist way to global shocks and secure the support of society in the process. The latter in particular can be achieved through the participation of all sectors and stakeholders in the political process. Stakeholders can provide invaluable input to inform decision-makers about policy impacts, and thereby help governments develop more sustainable policies that are oriented towards the long term. They can also be crucial in helping the public understand the necessary measures and in building trust in political leadership.

Key questions

- What is the role of political leadership with regard to measures that may be uncomfortable in the short term but have a positive effect in the long term?
- How can transparency and participation be reconciled with the need for rapid action – at international, national and local levels?
- Which factors help the political leadership to gain popular support for necessary but painful measures or for international solidarity in acute crisis situations?

15.00 hrs

Welcome

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

15.05 hrs

Inputs

Dr Naomi Hossain

Senior Professorial Lecturer

American University, Washington DC

Markku Mölläri

Chair for 2021

European Committee on Democracy and Governance at the Council of Europe

15.25 hrs

Plenary debate

16.50 hrs

Take-aways for the Final Workshop

Chair

Dr Christian Scheper

Senior Researcher

Institute for Development and Peace Foundation (INEF), Duisburg

ONLINE DEBATE

RESPONDING TO GLOBAL SHOCKS: THE COMPLEXITY OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

Ideally, decision-making should be based on knowledge. In this working group, we will take a closer look at the kind of knowledge needed to make informed decisions. We will also discuss the prerequisites and institutional structures and procedures necessary to weigh knowledge from different disciplines and to cope with newly acquired scientific knowledge.

Key questions

- What kind of knowledge is required in order to be able to align emergency measures in such a way that they also support long-term goals – or at least do not hinder them?
- How can this knowledge be made easily accessible to policy-makers?
- What are suitable methods and institutional structures to deal with continuously generated research results, to weigh scientific findings from different disciplines and to arrive at balanced political decisions in situations where rapid action is required?

15.00 hrs

Welcome

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

15.05 hrs

Inputs

Professor Anna-Katharina Hornidge

Director

DIE - German Development Institute, Bonn

Dr Melissa Leach

Director

Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex

Dr Philani Mthembu

Executive Director at the Institute for Global Dialogue, Tshwane (Pretoria)

15.35 hrs

Plenary debate

16.50 hrs

Take-aways for the Final Workshop

Chair

Dr Cornelia Ulbert

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

ONLINE DEBATE

RESPONDING TO GLOBAL SHOCKS: MECHANISMS, INSTRUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

The final working group focuses on how to institutionalise the consideration of long-term goals and international impacts in the processes that lead to policies in response to global shocks. Coordination and collaboration across thematical and institutional silos can play a key role in creating policy inter-linkages, synergies and trade-offs. Sustainability assessments or the involvement of independent, long term-oriented institutions can also make an important contribution to respecting the interests of current and future generations.

Key questions

- What mechanisms and institutionalised procedures can help ensure that long-term objectives and international impacts are taken into account, including when there is a need to respond rapidly to global shocks?
- How can appropriate structures be created at national and international level and activated at short notice in response to a wide variety of international shocks?

15.00 hrs

Welcome

Dr Cornelia Ulbert

Executive Director

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

15.05 hrs

Inputs

Professor Nora McKeon

Lecturer, Università Degli Studi Roma Tre | UNIROMA3

Dr Louis Meuleman

Visiting professor, Public Governance Institute, University of Leuven

Andrea Ordóñez

Director of Southern Voice, Quito

15.35 hrs

Plenary debate

16.20 hrs

Take-aways for the Final Workshop

Chair

Dr Silke Weinlich

Senior researcher

German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

: Final workshop

7 October | 15.00-16:30 hrs (CEST)

ONLINE DEBATE

GLOBAL SHOCKS: CONSIDERING LONG-TERM PREVENTION IN SHORT-TERM RESPONSES

At the concluding workshop, the results from the working groups will be brought together and the draft of the Global Governance Spotlight will be presented. The conclusions and recommendations will be discussed with policy-makers and experts in applied science from various world regions.

- 15.00 hrs Welcome
- Dr Michèle Roth**
Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
- 15.05 hrs Reports from the Working Groups
- Chair Working Group A**
Dr Christian Scheper
- Chair Working Group B**
Dr Cornelia Ulbert
- Chair Working Group C**
Dr Silke Weinlich (tbc)
- 15.20 hrs Presentation of the draft Global Governance Spotlight
- Dr Cornelia Ulbert**
Executive Director
Institute for Development and Peace Foundation (INEF),
University of Duisburg-Essen
- 15.25 hrs Comments
- Dr Adriana Abdenur**
Executive Director, Plataforma CIPÓ, Brazil
- Sarah Bernardy**
Deputy Head of Policy Planning at the Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
- 15.40 hrs Plenary debate
- 16.25 hrs Farewell by the organisers
- Chair
- Dr Marianne Beisheim**
Senior Associate, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Berlin
Chair of the Advisory Board, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)