

Dear Reader,

„Forward into the past?“ reads the title of the **Peace Report 2019** that has just been published by four German peace and conflict research institutes, among them INEF. After pinpointing to the many weaknesses and blind spots of German and European peace and security policies, the report envisages new partnerships as a way of protecting existing rules and creating new governance mechanisms in the interest of peace worldwide.

The role of international partnerships in peacebuilding on the African continent was one of the topics of the **Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2019** on May 16th and 17th. More specifically, the event centred on African ownership as a guiding concept for both regional and international cooperation in this policy area.

Find out more about this and other current projects in this newsletter!

Dr Cornelia Ulbert,

Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)

Dr Mischa Hansel,

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

## PAST EVENTS



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### : **Shadow-Elites and the role of global investigative journalism**

**Tête-à-Tête at the DW Global Media Forum  
28 May, Bonn**

„Panama Papers“, „Lux Leaks“, „Offshore-Leaks“ – these transnational investigations have made headlines in recent years. What is far from clear, however, is their impact on public discourses and politics. To discuss the potential of global investigative journalism as a tool for increasing democratic control, sef: organized a tête-à-tête between political scientist Professor Janine Wedel, George Mason University, and Ilya Lozovsky, Managing Editor of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. Read the **short report** now!

There is also a **video reording** of the complete session available.



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## : Regional peacebuilding in Africa

**Potsdam Spring Dialogues**  
16-17 May, Potsdam

This year's **Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2019** focussed on ways to strengthen the capacity and political autonomy of the African Peace and Security Architecture. This is against the background of new international partners such as China as well as new intra-African challenges, for example the emergence of sub-regional ad hoc coalitions in the Sahel. Take a look into the **conference report** that summarizes main arguments and policy recommendations!

## PUBLICATIONS



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## : Forward into the past? Peace needs partners

**Peace Report 2019**

Achievements of multilateral cooperation that helped to globally secure peaceful coexistence are being jettisoned bit by bit in recent years. To prevent further divisions and the weakening of established cooperative procedures, German foreign policy must be proactive in identifying new partners and developing new forms of cooperation in key areas of peace and security policy. In a joint **Statement** on their **Peace Report 2019**, four German peace and conflict research institutes provide a number of recommendations on how to move forward.

sef: insight

6 | 2019

"We always regard development as our highest priority"  
Interview with Professor Zhang Chun on African-Chinese security cooperation

What are the drivers of China's growing security engagement in Africa?

I think that there are maybe three reasons or three motivations for us to strengthen cooperation in peace and security with Africa. First of all, peace and security cooperation is a symbol of bilateral relations. If peace and security relations are bad, diplomatic relations as a whole can hardly be very good. The second reason is that with our rising economic and political presence in Africa we have to pay more attention to interest protection in Africa."

"We have to pay more attention to interest protection in Africa."

Does the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) affect Chinese thinking on African security?

I think this question is very interesting. Currently, in my personal view, China is mainly focused on economic spill-overs, the economic effects of the Belt and Road Initiative. We haven't thought so much about the spill-over to peace and security while implementing the BRI. However, we have started some measures to link these areas together. So, for example, our president Xi Jinping has announced in his New Year message at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation that we will start 50 security assistance projects under the framework of BRI implementation.

How does China approach differ from Western approaches to peace and security in Africa?

I think there are two main differences between China's engagement in peace and security and the one of Western or developed countries. The first one is our principle of non-interference. Even if we engage in African peace and security we always insist on this principle. Take UN peacekeeping operations as an example. We insist that the host country must invite us, otherwise we will not come. Another difference between China and the developed countries is that we always regard development as the highest priority. We must take into account that African and other developing countries have only very limited resources. Therefore, if you channel all these very limited resources into the security area, you end up without any additional resources for development, which is why you will then have to borrow money from external partners. The situation then constitutes a vicious circle for African countries and developing countries more general. So that's why for us – in consideration of our own development experience in the past 40 years – development is our number one priority. Once we have achieved development goals we can put more resources into security and also in governance. Therefore, we will remain a minimum circle. This is another very important difference between China's approach and the one pursued by developed countries.

"Development is our number one priority."

**Professor Zhang Chun**  
Dr Zhang Chun is Professor of the Institute of International Relations, Yunnan University. He used to be a Senior Researcher at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIS), and a Visiting Fellow at Chatham House, the South Africa Institute of International Affairs (SAII) and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). His research focuses on Sino-African relations, African politics and security, international relations theory and development studies.



## : "We always regard development as our highest priority"

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At the **Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2019**, sef: talked with Professor Zhang Chun from Yunnan University in Kunming about the goals and motives behind China's growing security cooperation with African partners.

There is also a **video** available.



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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.