

Dear Reader,

Some readings pose almost timeless questions. The February 1980 report of the Brandt Commission, led by former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, seems to belong to this category. 40 years after the publication of the report, sef: is keen to encourage reflection on some of its major findings – considering the global challenges of our times such as climate change, digitalisation and inequality.

Under [#Brandt40](#), we will be publishing 40 excerpts from the Brandt Report throughout the year. You can find them on this [webpage](#) and on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#). Join in our debate and let us know your thoughts on today's relevance of the report!

More about this and other projects and about recent publications can be found in our sef/INEF News.

We wish you an interesting read!

Elena Sondermann,
Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)

Dr Mischa Hansel,
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

UPCOMING EVENTS



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: The UN at 75: Europe's vision for the world organisation

Policy Lunch
3 March 2020 in Brussels

In 2020, the United Nations is celebrating its 75th anniversary. At a time when multilateralism is retreating in the face of resurgent nationalism in international relations, Europe's continued support for the UN seems to be more crucial than ever. At the same time, the EU finds itself in a state of fragmentation, and its ability to act is questioned in practice.

At the [Policy Lunch](#) entitled "The UN at 75 – Europe's vision for the world organisation", we will join the current conversation initiated by the UN on "the future we want" and discuss European vision(s) for a multilateral system of the future and the UN's role in these visions.

Please register for this event at our [website](#)!



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: Building Sustainability into African Free Trade

Potsdam Spring Dialogues
26-27 March 2020 in Potsdam

The agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) entered into force on 30 May 2019. By reducing tariffs and other barriers, signatory states seek to boost intracontinental trade and to overcome the continent's marginalisation in the world economy. At the same time, they need to find common ground between strong and weak economies and to prevent social conflicts within countries.

How can a Pan-African free trade regime support sustainable development on the continent? What can international partners contribute to this endeavour? These are the guiding questions of this year's **Potsdam Spring Dialogues**.

Participation by personal invitation only. If interested, please send an email to hansel@sef-bonn.org.

sef: insight
1|2020

AfCFTA has the ability to unite the continent
Interview with Maria Auma Horne on the promise of free trade for young innovators and businesses

Maria Auma Horne

How do trade barriers affect the daily work of innovators and business entrepreneurs in Africa?

Trade barriers make it difficult for innovators and businesses to expand and make profits, which ultimately slows down economic growth. For example, the stringent taxes in the export and import business within the regional blocks themselves cut away at the potential profits of those trying to sell new products or bring new products into their country's markets. I experienced this first-hand when we were running a wheat and spelt business in East Africa. Every single time the cost of paying duties was equal to or even twice the cost of purchasing the wheat at the "Free on Board" (FOB) price (the price before shipping and customs), which immediately would shoot up once the CIF price (including duties, insurance and freight cost) was quoted. This of course means that businesses and -women need to have ample capital and particularly cash on hand to take care of contingencies.

With the ease of innovation, it means that young developers are faced with patent rights and cost of operations. Because trade barriers are not only just about tariffs, but also about the cost of travel and setup and registration costs that within Africa is close to non-existent and extremely unscalable. There is also the poor infrastructure not just on the roads but on technology where more than half of the population still does not have access to internet resulting in lack of efficient communication for businesses. As the scope of expansion for innovators is narrowed because they are limited to their level of access towards new consumer markets.

Could AfCFTA be a real game changer on the ground?

AfCFTA could be a real game changer if the policies are implemented right. It does have the ability to unite the continent not just by economic strength but political as well, which really is key in terms of sustainable development and long-lasting out of poverty and a jobs economy. Right now the structure includes the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to name a few. These trade agreements try to unite countries to ease the flow of goods and services within these regional blocs. What AfCFTA can do is consolidate these trade blocs into one single market bringing a wealth of resources that could potentially spark real growth. It will also encourage the flow of goods and services towards areas that are in dire need of them and it will further equip the continent with the tools needed to address the crises and catastrophes.

"AfCFTA has the ability to unite the continent, not just by economic strength but political as well."

I think one of the biggest challenges as to why Africa as a continent is stalled in growth is because we are not going full circle with our production. We have the raw materials but lack the technology or political will to practice value addition. And so we end up exporting tonnes of raw products primarily copper only to end up buying them later on at twice or three times the price in imports from the same people we sold them to... except this time the product is packed in a can, or processed for us to consume. This does not help the fact that Africa was not really built on exchange of money, but on exchange of goods. So a lot of folks who do not have cash in hand, do have plenty

: „AfCFTA has the ability to unite the continent“

sef: insight 1|2020

In this **sef: insight**, Maria Auma, socially-conscious female entrepreneur and founder of BLI Global, explains the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) for businesses and young innovators on the African continent.

sef: insight

11|2019

It is about building community
Interview with Mariana Alegre
on how to create better public
spaces for everyone

What is the idea behind Ocupa tu Calle?

We focus on transforming public spaces, but we do not only have in mind the public space itself. Rather, we focus on the process that we start by transforming public spaces. By taking some spaces of the city back to the citizens, and with their participation during that process, we actually want to have an impact on public policies, on private practices and of course on citizens' behaviour. What is more, we make use of all interactions and create working relationships with all stakeholders, the community, the municipalities, the companies and with universities.

What can you achieve through these urban interventions?

The idea of these urban interventions ultimately is to improve the quality of life for people. It's not only about having a new touch to sit or about having a better public transport stop. It is actually about building community. Over the course of these projects, you can make people work together on what they really want. It is like testing a process or a model of engagement that can then be replicated with a much bigger investment of public money, without the mistakes of the pilot project. So, you can actually try to find out what the project should be all about and in so doing you will enable a better public space for everyone.

How do you cooperate with local authorities?

We are accumulating and working with urban data for quite some time. In the framework of the Lima conu vamo project. So local governments already know us and they are actually keen to know more about innovations and new ways of doing city for people. So, they are quite interested in learning and in taking action, as long as it will help them with their goals. You need to actually be very, very careful and to make sure to provide them the opportunities to succeed. At the same time, you want to leverage some of the benefits of the process with the community, with their citizens and of course with the media. The key for this is to actually have a public face that can communicate the results and the benefits not only to the authorities but also to the community and the general public.

How can small-scale interventions influence regular city planning?

We are ourselves as facilitators of change processes and as articulators of public needs. We are not the ones making or re-making public spaces. We want local governments to do that. Or maybe also companies who could do better in managing areas within public spaces. So, with that in mind we do make plans, but by observing these pilots either the companies or public governments could learn new processes and incorporate them in their own business or policy planning. Particularly when you

"It is actually about building community."

„It is about building community“

sef: insight 11|2019

At the **Bonn Symposium 2019**, Mariana Alegre presented her initiative Ocupa tu Calle. In this sef: insight we asked her to explain the idea behind urban micro-interventions in Lima and other places and how they are used to regain public spaces for everyone.

Read the interview as **sef: insight** or watch the **video** on our YouTube channel.

sef: insight

10|2019

There is a need to amend tender procedures
Interview with Ntomboxolo Cynthia Ngxesha
on public procurement as key instrument for
realizing the SDGs at the local level

Do we need to change tender procedures to achieve local sustainability?

There is a need to amend tender procedures. But first we need constitutional changes that allow us as administrators to do so. According to our South African constitution, we must conduct public procurement in a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective manner. Yet sustainability is missing here. We need to procure in a sustainable manner and ensure that we improve the quality of life of our communities in a sustainable way. Once this is recognised within the constitution, we will be able to amend all other laws, regulations, processes and procedures.

"We need to procure in a sustainable manner."

What are the goals of the Procura+ Africa Network?

The municipalities that decided to join the Procura+ Network have an interest in ensuring that they serve their community in a more responsible manner. The Procura+ Network is assisting us through workshops and conferences where we can learn a lot from each other. Unfortunately, we have financial challenges. At the moment we are not even able to conduct workshops or conferences where we can meet on a regular basis and share knowledge and skills. Hence, we need support in terms of financial support or any other resources that will be useful to the network. At the same time, the people of this network are greatly

driven by the idea of creating job opportunities and, thus, to improve the quality of life of our communities. At the same time, we need to look after the environment. So, this network is there to assist us and to ensure that we perform in a more responsible manner.

Are there new ways of partnering with businesses?

Oh yes, there is a room for that, there is a possible way of doing that. There are many strategies that the government can implement. The first one will be amending tender processes. We need to have an environmental requirement as one of mandatory tender conditions. Based on that the government would do business with companies that can prove that they have sustainability embedded in their processes. Or they can prove that their business model meets all the requirements of sustainability and environmental issues. Secondly, we need to conduct business strictly with companies that show a willingness to assist the government in improving the quality of life. Currently, we mostly do business with companies that are focusing on profit generating rather than on giving back to the community. The other strategy that the government can also do is motivate companies to become more sustainable to change funding mechanisms. They can adjust or amend their requirements in a way that favour those companies who are innovative and who support the environmental requirements. Finally, governments

"Peoples of this network are driven by the idea of improving the quality of life."

„There is a need to amend tender procedures“

sef: insight 10|2019

Ntomboxolo Cynthia Ngxesha is Senior Director of Supply Chain Management at the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality in South Africa. At the occasion of the **Bonn Symposium 2019** we had the chance to ask her about public procurement as key instrument for realising the SDGs at the local level.

Read the interview as **sef: insight** or watch the **video** on our YouTube channel.

sef: insight

9|2020

"This is fundamentally an issue of procedural justice"
Interview with Mithika J. Mwenda
on climate justice and the voice of
marginalized communities

What is the main purpose behind the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance?

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance just celebrated its sixth anniversary last year. We came together as African civil society organisations, bringing together multilateral farmers, fisher folk, forest communities, women and small business owners. The starting point was the fact that we did not have a voice in the international discourse on climate change. Africa was really not represented at international climate change conferences. This is fundamentally an issue of procedural justice and we have been talking about this for a long time.

"This is fundamentally an issue of procedural justice."

must participate. Over the last ten years we achieved a lot in this regard. The other aspect is to see how those at the very bottom who do not have voice are given a voice so that they can be able to shape decisions that determine our future. We have been really looking for that and now we have grown into a massive movement of around 100 non-organisations from all African countries. So we are trying to ensure that there is a conversation around the issues that affect people, about solutions to climate change that help people at the very local level, and we want to make sure that women, youth, indigenous people and those people at the frontline of the climate crisis have a voice at the national or international level.

What strategies do you use for influencing the public and decision-makers?

We apply various strategies. Of course, we work constructively with governments. What this means is that we talk as partners in this effort, bearing in mind that climate change requires unprecedented levels of

cooperation between government and non-governmental actors and between different regions in the world. There is no single country which can solve the climate crisis, including the most powerful, the United States. There is no individual who can solve the climate crisis. There is no sector which can solve the climate crisis. We need all of us. However, if we realise that it is very difficult for policy makers to accept what we want and the voices of the people, then we apply what civil society is known for. We use protests, petitions, and many other tactics. And those tactics are very effective. Because if we really want to change people, particularly at civil society level, we need to reach a critical mass. And this is what we are building at the very local level. Because governments are generally conservative. They will only listen to people if it makes political sense for them and that's why social movements on climate justice are very important, particularly youth movements which are really making the world right now.

"We want to make sure that people are at the frontline of climate crisis have a voice."

Is there something that Fridays for Future and your organisation can learn from each other?

Fridays for the Future is a spontaneous movement that emerged from the frustration of policy makers. While the planet is heating and heating, policy makers are still living in their comfort and they are just making promises and promises. Fridays for Future is a reaction to this passivity. My hope is that we are going to have a sustained movement that eventually is more than a spontaneous reaction. So, one of the things that Fridays for the Future can learn from PACJA is

„This is fundamentally an issue of procedural justice“

sef: insight 9|2019

How can indigenous communities or small farmers have a voice in regional and international climate governance? What is required for achieving climate justice? Answers can be found in our interview with Mithika J. Mwenda, Executive Director of the Panafrican Climate Justice Alliance at the **Bonn Symposium 2019**.

Read the interview as **sef: insight** or watch the **video** on our YouTube channel.



BURKINA FASO: The Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters Programme (BRACED)



: Strengthening climate and disaster resilience

Good-Practice-Series 19

The Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) programme aims at improving the resilience of vulnerable people in Burkina Faso against climate extremes and disaster. In the context of “Ways out of Extreme Poverty, Vulnerability and Food Insecurity” (AVE), a project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), INEF researcher Jana Herold shows in her **Good Practice 19** study that the programme has had positive impact, not only on the economic situation and food security of the beneficiaries but also on the social cohesion in the villages.

SEF:/INEF INSIDE



: #Brandt40

North-South: A Programme for Survival – the Brandt Report at 40

On 12 February 1980, Willy Brandt formally presented the report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues (Brandt Commission) to the UN Secretary-General. It sees development and peace as truly interrelated and defines poverty and hunger, the depletion of natural resources and the proliferation of weapons as major challenges that require common solutions.

How relevant is the Brandt Report today? Which unsolved challenges identified by the Brandt Commission do we still face in 2020? Where has positive change been achieved? With the **#Brandt40** hashtag, the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:) will publish 40 excerpts from the Brandt Report throughout the year. You can find them on this [webpage](#) or on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#).



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: New sef: Executive Committee

Meeting of the sef: Board of Trustees in Dusseldorf

At its session in Dusseldorf on January 21st, the sef: **Board of Trustees** appointed Oliver Krauss, member of the Parliament of North-Rhine Westphalia, as chair of the new **sef: Executive Committee**. Viola Klein, Executive Director of Saxonia Systems Holding GmbH, was elected as new Vice-Chair together with Dr Gerd Harms. They are joined by Klaus Brückner (treasurer), Dr. Julia Leiniger and Dr Cornelia Ulbert (Executive Director of INEF).



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We congratulate the new Chair and sef: Executive Committee Members and we are very much looking forward to working together in the coming years!

Also, we say thank you to the outgoing Chair Renate Hendricks and Executive Committee members Professor Helmut Breitmeier and Professor Tobias Deibel for their tireless efforts and always very constructive discussions!

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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.