

Dear Reader,

This year the United Nations will celebrate its 75th anniversary – at a time when global multilateralism and the UN have come under attack from nationalists and populists worldwide. Against this backdrop, the continued support of other multilateral bodies such as the European Union is more needed than ever before. On 3 March, we met with policymakers, academics and civil-society representatives at a **sef: Policy Lunch** in Brussels to discuss European contributions to a revival of the UN.

Read more about this and our other projects and publications 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:)

EVENT POSTPONED



: Building Sustainability into African Free Trade

Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2020

Due to the current Corvid-19-epidemic we regretfully have to postpone our March 26/27 conference to **December 14/15 2020**.

We are looking forward to our debate about the developmental prospects and challenges of the African Continental Free Trade Area with African and European experts from businesses, international organisations, academia and civil society.



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

Policy Lunch

3. März 2020, Brüssel

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** in Brussels, we discussed European vision(s) for a multilateral system of the future and the UN's role in these visions. Read the **summary report** now.



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: Resources for Climate Action: Conflict Potential and Prevention Strategies

Dresden Forum for International Politics

23-24 January 2020, Dresden

Digital solutions and environmental technologies can help to reduce carbon emissions. However, they generally rely on specific raw materials whose extraction, in some cases, damages the environment and is associated with human rights abuses and conflict. What can be done to prevent such outcomes? How can recycling and innovation contribute to avoid resource conflicts?

At the end of January, we discussed these questions with the polar adventurer Arved Fuchs and many other international experts. Read our **conference report** now!

sef: insight

3|2020

"We need to shift from a product ownership mindset to a service ownership mindset"
Interview with Deepali Sinha Khatriwal on circular economies

What challenges do we face with regard to recycling climate technologies?

Climate technologies are seen as green technologies, but this assumption only lasts until they need to be recycled. Solar panels, batteries and so on are incredibly difficult to recycle. One of the challenges is actually to collect used items. We have done some work on off-grid solar products which are distributed across regions that are very difficult to access in the first place. They bring a lot of value to those communities and start, but at the end of their lifecycle, it is a huge challenge to bring the panels back for recycling. There is no incentive mechanism, and there is no framework to pay for the costs of collecting and returning the solar panels. The second challenge is the recycling process itself because it is not known yet how to best recycle them.

"Solar panels are fused with layers of amazing materials sandwiched between glass. There is no way yet to recover these resources."

Solar panels are fused with layers of amazing materials sandwiched between glass. There is no way yet to recover these resources. Another challenge is the issue of safety hazards. Lithium batteries are a very good example. They are very good in some ways, much better than lead-acid batteries, but nobody wants to recycle lithium ferrophosphate batteries, for example. There can be fire hazards when storing, or recycling them, and there is a high chance they might just burst up in flames. There are several challenges, demonstrating that climate technologies are not a silver bullet.

How can we build a more circular and sustainable economy?

There is a lot of research going on in this field. But first of all, it is important to focus on the reduce, reuse, recycle approach. In addition, we have to reduce the number of products we really need.

One way to contribute to this idea is to expand the sharing economy. We see this already happening in the car sector. With mobility services offered through mobile apps, people are owning fewer cars, for example. We should move from a product ownership model or mindset to a service ownership mindset. The way you use a product for its service, but don't need to own it. Philips has pioneered this idea. Instead of selling bulbs, they developed a programme where they sell light. That way, they have a continued business opportunity with a regular cash flow instead of only selling one bulb at a time. Since they still own the product, incentives exist to make products better and last longer. These kinds of frameworks can support the creation of a circular economy. There is recycling at some point in the lifecycle, of course.

But even earlier in the value chain, especially in the design phase, you can already choose to create a more modular system, enabling you to upgrade the small parts when they break down instead of replacing the whole product. We have seen this

"... we have to reduce the number of products we really need."

"Early in the value chain you can choose to create a more modular system to improve reparability."

:"We need to shift from a product ownership mindset to a service ownership mindset"

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At the **Dresden Forum for International Politics 2020**, Dr. Deepali Sinha Khatriwal, Head of the India Office of Sofies in Bangalore, shared some ideas about building a circular economy and using innovative ideas to incorporate the sharing-economy for resource efficiency.

Read the interview as [sef: insight](#) or watch the [video](#) on our YouTube channel.

sef: insight

2|2020

"The salt flats have much more to offer to the world than only lithium and copper"
Interview with Ramón Morales Balcázar

How is Chile affected by the high demand for resources critical for climate technologies?

Chile has substantial lithium and copper deposits. There is a high demand for both minerals due to the energy transition. Electric cars rely on those resources, especially for the manufacturing of batteries. Both minerals can be sourced in the Atacama Desert around the salt flats. At the moment, we have two major copper projects and two large-scale lithium projects in the area.

What does the extracting process look like and how is it affecting local communities?

The lithium in Chile, Argentina and Bolivia is extracted from saltwater. This involves pumping large quantities of water out of the aquifers. It is then allowed to evaporate so that the lithium carbonate can be extracted. Pumping out water affects the lagoons and wetlands around the salt flats and also reduces biodiversity in the surrounding area. In addition, the local communities are struggling to protect the water resources used for livestock, mainly llamas, alpacas and goats. Water is vital for community livelihoods.

"Local communities are struggling to protect the water resources used for livestock."

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How can local communities benefit more from the extraction?

I think that local communities should be able to participate more in the decision-making process on what is being done in their territory. In addition, they have the right to be compensated for the damage, not only by the state, but also by the companies. However, this is not really enough. We are not only talking about much-needed benefits for the communities, we are also talking about biodiversity. No amount of money can compensate for the loss of biodiversity. It is very important to understand that, and it goes without saying that it is the same with water. If the water resources are exhausted, we can never recover that with any amount of money. So the compensation can only be a short-term solution, of course. In the long run, we need to assess the possible damage through independent modelling and then decide which projects should be granted operating licenses and which should not.

What are the goals of your organisation?

The Tanti Foundation is a very small NGO. One of our main goals is to provide environmental education. In addition, we want to raise awareness on all issues related to sustainability. We are especially active in San Pedro, in the north of Chile. All of this work relates to agroecology and the practices that the indigenous communities have preserved since time immemorial. This includes sharing

"No amount of money can compensate for the loss of biodiversity."

:"The salt flats have much more to offer to the world than only lithium and copper"

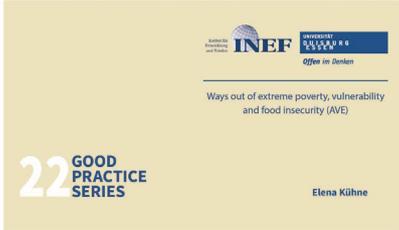
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During the **Dresden Forum for International Politics 2020**, Ramón Morales Balcázar, founder of Tanti Foundation and member of the Plurinational Observatory of Andean Salt Flats, shared his experiences with the worldwide demand for resources and its impact on the Salt flats in the Atacama desert.

Read the interview as [sef: insight](#) or watch the [video](#) on our YouTube channel.



ETHIOPIA: The R4 Initiative as a Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Strategy to Build Rural Resilience in Tigray



: Disaster Risk Management in Ethiopia

Good-Practice-Series 22

For more than ten years, the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative has aimed to protect poor and vulnerable people in Northern Ethiopia against climate risks. 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), Elena Kühne shows that with a set of financial and economic measures the programme has contributed to mitigating drought impacts on food and income security in her **Good Practice 22**.

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