

Dear Reader,

The COVID-19 pandemic raises questions of global justice and solidarity with an even stronger sense of urgency. While in Germany a debate is unfolding on how to take back restrictions for vaccinated people, many countries in the Global South do not have anywhere near enough vaccines - for example, less than 2% of the African population have been vaccinated so far.

This is a stark contrast to many statements by politicians from wealthier nations, who emphasise the importance of solidarity in the global fight against the pandemic. Is this just lip service? We will explore this question in detail at our **sef: Policy Lunch** on 18 May 2021. In addition, our latest **Global Governance Spotlight** deals with solidarity in global health cooperation.

Further announcements from INEF and sef:, new publications and reports of past events can also be found in this newsletter.

Enjoy reading and best wishes from Duisburg and Bonn!

Elena Sondermann,

Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)

Ingo Nordmann,

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



© istock.com/pickup

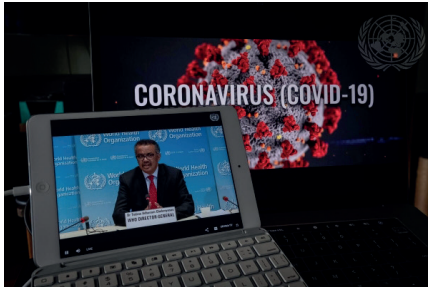
### **⚡ Making Digitalisation Work for Peaceful Development**

**Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2021**

**10 – 12 May 2021, online**

Next week, we are kicking off the Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2021, where we will discuss the impact of digitalisation on peaceful development in Africa with leading activists, politicians and academics. The **full programme** is available on our website.

Registration is by personal invitation and only possible for a few more days. If you are interested, please contact [nordmann@sef-bonn.org](mailto:nordmann@sef-bonn.org) with a brief explanation.



© UN Photo/Loey Felipe

## ■ The EU and Solidarity in Global Health Cooperation

**sef: Policy Lunch**

**18 May 2021, 12.30-13.45 hrs (CEST)**

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the concept of solidarity has been on everyone's lips. But while solidarity is held dear in political speeches and debates at all levels of politics, the prevailing impression is that political practice is often different.

At this **sef: Policy Lunch**, we will discuss what solidarity means in concrete terms as a political concept guiding action in the international context. How can it be operationalised in global health cooperation? In particular, we would like to explore how the EU can contribute to institutionalising genuine solidarity in global health cooperation, based on the experience during the current pandemic.

Online **registration** is available on our website.



© flickr.com/Leo Peng

## ■ Peacebuilding in a Digital Age – Which Role(s) for Civil Society?

**Web event co-organized by the German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management and INEF**

**20 May 2021, 14.00-15.30 hrs (CEST), online**

The wide availability of digital technologies is increasingly impacting the work of peacebuilders, altering both peacebuilding practices and conflict dynamics, and establishing a new field of practice: 'digital peacebuilding'. Many of the innovative uses of peace technologies – for conflict prevention, transformation and reconciliation – have been driven by civil society organisations. Julia-Silvana Hofstetter, author of the newly released **INEF Report on "Digital Technologies, Peacebuilding and Civil Society"**, will present her insights on how digital tools alter the role(s) of civil society and discuss challenges and opportunities.

Further information and registration are available **here**.



© Stiftung Frauenkirche

## ■ Russia and the European Union in international relations

### Public Online Forum Frauenkirche

**20 May 2021, 19.00 - 20.15 hrs (CEST)**

In January, an online event hosted jointly by sef., Frauenkirche Dresden Foundation and the Saxon State Agency for Civic Education (SLpB) focused on the role of the US and Europe in global politics. A **follow-up online event** in May is now dedicated to EU and Russia in international cooperation. While relations are currently strained, there are a multitude of international challenges for which cooperation would be necessary. How can this be balanced? You are cordially invited to join the discussion with Rüdiger von Fritsch, former German Ambassador to Moscow, Irina Kobrinskaya Historian and Senior Research Fellow at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, and Prof. Angela Stent, Director at the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies at Georgetown University in Washington D.C..

Sign up [here](#).

## REPORTS AND FINDINGS



© istock.com/AMO

## ■ Responses to COVID-19: An Interim Review and Lessons Learned

### Brandenburg Online Dialogue “Learning with Africa”

**21 April 2021**

For more than a year, the Coronavirus pandemic has had the world firmly in its grip. On the African continent, experience from previous epidemics has played a decisive role in responding promptly and consistently to the outbreak of the pandemic. As a result, the health consequences of COVID-19 turned out to be less dramatic than initially feared. What lessons has Africa learned from previous epidemics? What is the balance sheet of the pandemic response in Europe so far? And what lessons can be taken from this for global health cooperation?

Answers were provided by the first Brandenburg Online Dialogue "Learning with Africa" on 21 April 2021. Find a **short report** and a series of **video quotes** on our website now.

## PUBLICATIONS



## Freeing Fiscal Space: A human rights imperative in response to COVID-19

GLOBAL TRENDS. ANALYSIS 1|2021

Inequality between states has been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic consequences have been particularly devastating in countries of the Global South. The resources they can mobilise to respond to the crisis are totally inadequate. This makes it all the more important that wealthier countries and international financial institutions (IFIs) cooperate by lifting the barriers their debt and tax policies impose on the fiscal space of low- and middle-income countries. Such cooperation is not only a global public health imperative. It is also a binding human rights obligation, as Ignacio Saiz explains in his **GLOBAL TRENDS. ANALYSIS 1|2021**.



## Solidarity and Global Health Cooperation During COVID-19 and Beyond

Global Governance Spotlight 2|2021

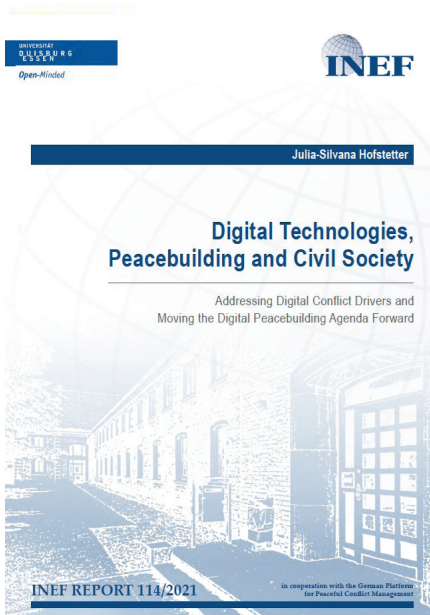
Solidarity is one of the most over-used terms in the Coronavirus pandemic. In many cases, the term solidarity is mentioned but not followed by any substantive action. Power differentials and inequities are thereby merely papered over instead of addressed. In **Global Governance Spotlight 2|2021**, Hanna Kienzler and Barbara Prainsack show that current global responses to the pandemic are far from genuine solidarity. They explain what genuine solidarity means and how it would allow for a more effective pandemic response.



## Hybrid Diplomacy: How COVID-19 changes the way we negotiate

### Global Governance Spotlight 1|2021

In the second year after the start of the pandemic, COVID-19 has fundamentally changed international diplomacy. Negotiations continue across the world, but increasingly take place online, in video conferences, chats and breakout sessions. This affects the time and space dimensions of diplomatic interaction. What does that mean for transparency and inclusion? What effects do these changes have on developing countries? And do countries still need embassies all across the world, if meetings are taking place online anyway? Jovan Kurbalija and Katharina Höne address these and other questions in the **Global Governance Spotlight 1|2021**.



## Digital technologies and peacebuilding

### New INEF Report released

How does digitalisation affect the work of peacebuilders from civil society? In this new **INEF Report 114**, Julia-Silvana Hofstetter provides an overview of the opportunities and challenges digital technologies create for peacebuilders, discusses how they alter the role of civil society, and proposes future directions for the digital peacebuilding agenda.



© Karin Gaesing

## Empowering smallholder women

### Joint article by INEF and Kindernothilfe

The team of the INEF research project "**Ways out of poverty, vulnerability and food insecurity**" (AVE), which is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), together with the German NGO Kindernothilfe ("Supporting children in need") has published an article on the social and political empowerment of smallholder women in Kitui County, Kenya. The project relies on regional organisational structures for representatives advocating for the interests of smallholder women. The article is based on one of **INEF's good practice studies**.



© INEF

## : Christof Hartmann elected as new INEF Director

The INEF Board has elected Prof. Dr. Christof Hartmann as its new Spokesperson. He assumes the office of INEF Director for the next six years. Prof. Dr. Tobias Debiel, who has headed the institute since 2006, remains closely associated with INEF as Deputy Board Spokesperson and project manager. Christof Hartmann is a renowned **expert on international relations and the politics of Africa** and holds a professorship at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Currently, he is managing the **INEF research project “Party Competition and Collective Jihadist Radicalisation in Sub-Saharan Africa”**, which is funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF).

---

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



[Unsubscribe Newsletter](#)

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

© sef: 2021

---

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.

