

Dear Reader,

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers significant development opportunities for many African countries. The European Union is one of its international supporters. However, European-African trade relations are still very unequal. This poses a particular challenge for the implementation of the free trade zone.

In our new **sef: Global Governance Spotlight**, David Luke, Simon Mevel and Melaku Geboye Desta call for a rethink of EU trade policy towards the African continent. At a virtual **sef: Policy Lunch** on November 17, 2020, we will discuss what this could mean in practice. We cordially invite you to participate!

As always, this newsletter entails information about our other current activities as well.

Kind regards and stay well!

Elena Sondermann,

Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)

Dr Mischa Hansel,

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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### **: Reducing Social Inequality – Strategies at Local Level**

**Bonn Symposium**

**5-6 November 2020, Bonn and online**

All over the globe, the coronavirus pandemic reveals and aggravates problems of social inequality. At the same time, many local communities and city governments take innovative and extraordinary steps to strengthen social cohesion. How can we build on such initiatives to make our communities integrative and fair on a larger scale? What is our vision of social justice and equality at the local level in 2030? These questions will be discussed with local policymakers, scientists and activists at the **Bonn Symposium 2020** on 5-6 November.

If you are interested in participating online, please send a message (indicating your professional background) to [hansel@sef-bonn.org](mailto:hansel@sef-bonn.org).



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## • EU-Africa Trade Arrangements at a Crossroads

### Policy Lunch

**17 November 2020, online**

One key to Africa's economic development is the strengthening of intra-African trade. Great hopes are therefore placed in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is to come into force at the beginning of 2021. But how do the EU's trade policy approaches affect African efforts to deepen trade cooperation and to create regional value chains? From the perspective of African experts, how should the EU adjust its policy in order to promote the continent's independent economic development? These questions will be discussed at the **sef: Policy Lunch**. Register now to **participate online!**



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## • Building Sustainability into African Free Trade

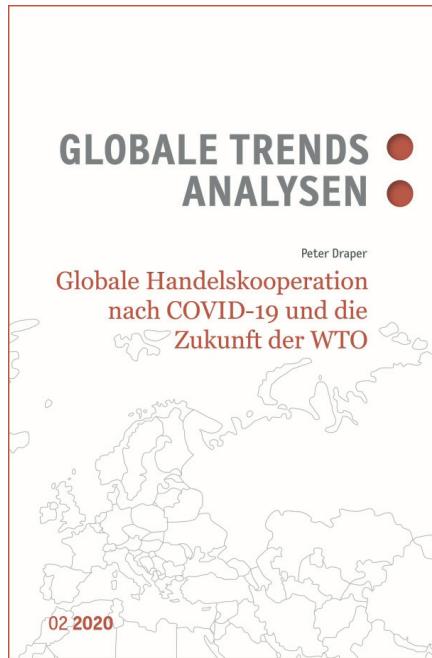
### Potsdam Winter Dialogues 2020

**14-15 December, online**

The focus of the **Potsdam Winter Dialogues 2020** will be on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. We look forward to discussing the opportunities and challenges at the heart of the continent's economic integration with a wide range of African and European experts. How can the free trade zone contribute to economic recovery and create as many jobs as possible? How can small economies or workers in the informal sector benefit from the new landscape of regional trade?

If you are interested in joining us to discuss these questions, please send a message (indicating your professional background) to [hansel@sef-bonn.org](mailto:hansel@sef-bonn.org).

## PUBLICATIONS



### • Global Trade Cooperation after COVID-19: What is the WTO's Future?

#### GLOBAL TRENDS. ANALYSIS 02|2020

International trade cooperation has been under growing strains since at least the turn of the twenty-first century. Forces promoting global trade integration were in the ascendancy for most of the first decade. However, since 2008, successive shocks unleashed cumulative disintegrative forces. As Peter Draper describes in **GLOBAL TRENDS. ANALYSIS 2|2020**, COVID-19 mostly accelerates this trajectory, rendering WTO reform increasingly challenging. But he does not see this as the end of global trade integration – every crisis also presents reform opportunities.



### • EU-Africa Trade Arrangements at a Crossroads

#### Global Governance Spotlight 3|2020

In **Global Governance Spotlight 3|2020**, David Luke, Simon Mevel and Melaku Geboye Desta call for a new direction in trade policy between the EU and Africa. They argue that the current highly asymmetrical trade relations are unsustainable and damaging to intra-African trade. The goal of trade with the EU should be to strengthen Africa's economic integration. To achieve this, the EU must give priority to the realization of the African Continental Free Trade Area and postpone the conclusion of further bilateral free trade agreements with individual African states.



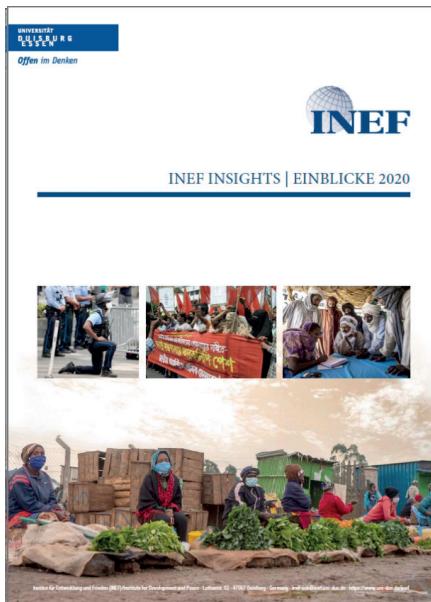
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### • INEF project on extreme poverty, vulnerability and food insecurity enters second phase

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the aim of the **project** is to develop recommendations for German governmental development cooperation on how to improve targeting those people who suffer most from poverty and food insecurity. In the second project phase, priority topics are rural financial services to promote agriculture and value chains, small credit grantors and micro-loans through the example of Cambodia and a review of the holistic approach to promote agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### • New „INEF Insights“

INEF Insights present some of the highlights of our latest projects and publications and locate them in our current research programme. In light of the institute's thirtieth anniversary, INEF Insights offer a brief overview of three decades of research at the interface between development and peace.



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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.