



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

How many refugees can and should Germany accept? How can an equitable sharing of the burden in Europe be organised? And what will be the consequences of the influx of hundreds of thousands of people for the cohesion of the societies affected? These are just some of the many questions that are currently occupying the minds of politicians, businesspeople and members of the society in Germany and Europe in equal measure. However, there is another aspect that is not receiving much attention and that Chancellor Merkel subsequently made a point of emphasising during a speech on the occasion of the UN Development Summit in New York: "Anyone who witnesses the suffering of those who have left their homes to seek protection and a future elsewhere, and who is aware of the challenge facing the countries which take in the refugees, knows that in the end there can be but one solution: we must tackle the causes of flight and expulsion."

Anybody who wishes to tackle the causes of flight and expulsion for the long term will need to demonstrate substantial staying power – that is the key message of the so-called Agenda 2030, which was adopted at the summit and has appropriately been entitled the "Agenda for Sustainable Development". In their articles for this issue, Winfried Weck and Sabina Wölkner examine what sustainable development is all about, which goals the community of states intends to pursue in future, how to evaluate the new development agenda, and in what sense Germany has now itself become a "developing country".

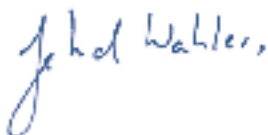
The article on what are known as illicit financial flows by Andrea Ostheimer illustrates the concrete challenges facing Development Cooperation beyond summits and agendas. For years now, the volume of illicit financial flows in Sub-Saharan Africa has exceeded the volume of development aid provided there. By implication, this means that if it were possible to curb illicit financial flows in the region, many African states could, at least theoretically, fund their development efforts themselves overnight.

The states in Sub-Saharan Africa that are affected substantially by illicit financial transactions include Ivory Coast, where a presidential election is scheduled to take place at the end of October. As the previous election had led to bloody clashes costing the lives of over 3,000 people, Valentin Katzer examines not only the election chances of individual candidates in his article but also the conflict potential of the impending election.

The article by Julia Bimler and Hans Maria Heÿn on the long-term involvement of the European Union in the building of a Palestinian state illustrates the challenges facing external actors involved in Development Cooperation, particularly in conflict zones. Bimler and Heÿn argue the case for the European Union to accept greater responsibility in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – not least to ensure that the money provided by European taxpayers does not serve to prop up the status quo, but contributes to finding an enduring solution to the conflict.

Europe is not the only region that has to deal with the repercussions of flight and expulsion. Australia has also been faced with strongly rising refugee numbers for some time and has most recently responded with a policy aimed at sealing the country off. In their article, Denis Schrey and Tobias Schneider express their doubts as to whether the so-called Pacific Solution can represent a true solution to the refugee problem and instead argue for a return to a “humanitarian refugee policy”.

Aside from all the discussions on Germany’s willingness to welcome refugees and the Australian stance aimed at keeping them out, the following applies: The most efficient refugee policy is still that which ensures that streams of refugees are not triggered in the first place. That is what Angela Merkel called attention to in her speech in New York, and political foundations are also called upon to make a contribution to allow such a policy to be realised.



Dr. Gerhard Wahlers
Deputy Secretary General

gerhard.wahlers@kas.de