

Common Goods in a Divided World

Challenges and Opportunities for International Cooperation



Location:
Vrije Universiteit
Amsterdam

This series is organised in cooperation with NCDO, Worldconnectors, VU University and VUconnected, Radboud University Nijmegen, Maastricht University and Maastricht Debates, University of Groningen, Institute of Social Studies (ISS) and Socires.

Lecture series 2009 – 2010
organised by SID Netherlands

Society for International Development

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USEFUL DATA

Date: October 2009 - June 2010

Time: 18.00 - 19.30h

Place: Auditorium, Vrije Universiteit (VU)
De Boelelaan 1105, Amsterdam

Costs: Free

Language: English

Door is open: From 17.30h

Accessible: Public transport: from Station Amsterdam Zuid WTC:
by foot, tram 51 or tram 5 (5 min.). From Amsterdam CS:
tram 51 (15 min.) or tram 5 (25 min.);
by car: motorway A10, junction S108
Buitenveldert/Amstelveen Centrum.

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Society for International Development (SID)

SID is an international non-governmental association of individuals and organizations founded in 1957 to promote social justice and foster democratic participation. Through locally driven international programmes and activities, SID strengthens collective empowerment and facilitates dialogue and knowledge sharing worldwide.

SID's Netherlands Chapter is one of the 45 national subdivisions of the Society. SID NL has in recent years become an important platform in the Netherlands for the debate on (the renewal of) international cooperation for policymakers and politicians, scientists and students, the NGO-community, the private sector and the media.

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Emergence of a new multipolar world order

Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall the world is starting to move away from the 'unipolar moment' towards a multipolar world. Several non-Western economies have been reaching annual growth figures which shadow those of most Western countries, as a result reducing the West's relative weight. Aside from differences in economic growth, differences in endowment of natural resources, price developments of energy, food and raw materials, and the changing relevance of these 'strategic commodities' in light of (future) scarcities, all contribute to the power shifts that are taking place. The current economic downturn will contribute hugely to these shifts as some countries and regions are bound to suffer more than others. These factors combined are contributing to a gradual redistribution of power, with the international system moving towards an increasingly multipolar world.

Global common goods and global cooperation

Given that the new multipolar world will be more diverse and fragmented, the main question now is how current and future political actors will deal with and respond to the complex process of global change and readjustment. Will the transition to multipolarity take shape along traditional political lines, or will it be seized as an opportunity for global cooperation and for a move towards a more sustainable and equitable world system? This question is crucial in particular because, parallel to the changes of the international system, mankind is increasingly confronted with a variety of global challenges, ranging from poverty and development; security and international terrorism; climate change and loss of biodiversity; the new scarcities; demographic developments and migratory flows; and, very recently, the collapse of the financial system(s) and subsequent economic decline. **Global common goods** make up many of the global challenges described above, and they, by definition, do not only affect us all, but can also only be efficiently and effectively addressed *by* us all.

While there is an increasing awareness of the interdependency between today's and tomorrow's world, this has not yet translated into political action geared towards effectively addressing the challenges we are all facing. Efforts for global cooperation far too often get trapped in the

sticky world of international politics, as opposed to being forwarded by the shared willingness of countries to assume a greater share of responsibility for protection and furthering the common good, and contribute to the solution of cross-border challenges. For the current global challenges to be addressed, new ways and forms of coordination and cooperation must be established.

At the crossroads: will global challenges bring us together; or will they drive us further apart?

The size and urgency of the cross-border challenges the international community sees itself confronted with, should provide more than sufficient reason to undertake far reaching collective action to secure global common goods. Conversely, each of these global problems may also prove to be a trigger for deepening polarization and increasing conflict tendencies - and it appears, in fact, this might become the dominant trend. The uncertain state of international relations inherent to a time of transition threatens create a vicious circle, whereby cross-border challenges are increasing, while the willingness and capacity to jointly address those challenges are decreasing. In order to tackle the global issues we are facing, the willingness to opt for cooperation should be raised; the levels of trust should be restored and fostered; and the legitimacy and capacity of the international institutional frameworks for global cooperation should be confirmed and reinforced.

In its 2009-2010 lecture series, SID will address the vast problematique sketched above. Prominent speakers will be asked to screen a number of relevant cross-border issues on their cooperation/conflict potential. These issues include: sustainable economic development; human and global security; and migration. Some of the questions that will be addressed are: How will the international community tackle the standoff in global climate cooperation? Which new efforts are being or can be made? How will the increasingly powerful non state actors, such as NGOs, MNCs and international organizations, be involved in the new world order and contribute to addressing the global challenges? How have upcoming global powers transformed the traditionally western dominated field of development cooperation? And finally, what is the place of Europe in the new world order?

Speakers at VU Amsterdam – Lecture series 2009-2010

Place: VU	Theme	Speaker
Monday 19 October 2009	Opening lecture: The challenges of international cooperation in a changing world order	Herman Wijffels Co-chair Worldconnectors, former executive director of the Rabobank and former chairman of the SER
Monday 16 November 2009	Sustainable economic development in times of economic down turn	Aart de Geus Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD
Monday 14 December 2009	Human security in turbulent times	Andrew Mack Director of the Human Security Report Project – Simon Fraser University, Canada
Monday 18 January 2010	Global security in a multipolar world	Seth Kaplan Chairman of Alpha International Consulting; author of <i>Fixing Fragile States: A New Paradigm for Development</i> (2008)
Monday 15 February 2010	Challenges and opportunities of migration	Richard Black Head of the School of Global Studies - University of Sussex
Monday 15 March 2010	New efforts towards climate change cooperation	Yvo de Boer* Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Monday 19 April 2010	International cooperation in a multi-stakeholder world	Robert Falkner Senior Lecturer of International Relations – London School of Economics
Monday 17 May 2010	New actors in development cooperation	Hannah Edinger Economist at the Centre of Chinese Studies, South Africa
Wednesday 9 June 2010	The relevance of Europe in a changing world	Mark Leonard Executive Director of the European Council for Foreign Relations (ECFR)

* confirmed, but possibly subject to change due to unforeseen developments of the UNFCCC