



mdplatform.ch 1st Annual Conference 2017

## **MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: SWISS INITIATIVES AND INTERNATIONAL DEBATES**

*PRIORITIES AND EXPERIENCES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE AREA OF  
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL*

Friday, 10th November 2017, 9:00 h, Hotel Kreuz, Bern Programm & Information [www.mdplatform.ch](http://www.mdplatform.ch)

## THEME

This first national conference of mdplatform.ch will illuminate the relationship between migration and development. It will present the current state of the discussion and allows discussing the future priorities for Swiss actors. The conference also aims to promote the exchange of civil society experience in the area of migration and development, as well as to strengthen the role of migrants as actors in development. International and national speakers will also outline elements of future international migration governance, as well as their observations and expectations regarding national policy coherence in the area of migration.

### **The current migration and development debate**

The issue of migration has become increasingly important on the agenda of the international community. At the international level, Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development (SDG) explicitly recognizes migration and migrants' contribution to sustainable development. The New York Declaration of 2016, which triggered the process of a comprehensive Global Compact on Migration, addresses the challenges of today's migration. It lists the government's obligations and today's challenges and calls for a better governance of migration at the global level. The Declaration formulates opts for a framework for Member States interlinking Migrating and the Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Negotiations for a global migration agreement**

The Global Compact on Migration (GCM) shall be an important step towards coherent guiding principles and standards for improved human rights and solidarity-on global level. It should guarantee the protection and dignity of all migrants regardless of their status. In the consultations taking place this year (2017), civil society puts priority on improved human and labour rights, access to jobs and a framework that fosters migrant's positive role as actors in the sustainable development agenda. Following a comprehensive consultation process, UN Member States will elaborate two global compacts on refugees and migration by September 2018; negotiations will be moderated by Switzerland and Mexico. The implementation of any recommendations and the adaptations of policies at national level, will be thereafter the duty of states, and this will be major challenge, where civil society has to take an active part!

### **The Swiss Civil Society Platform on Migration and Development mdplatform.ch**

The Swiss Civil Society Platform on Migration and Development (mdplatform.ch) provides space for the exchange of information and experiences among civil society interest groups dealing with migration and development (M & D). The platform is open to all civil society and non-governmental actors who are interested in the nexus of migration and development and who want to participate in a continuous dialogue and exchange of experience at national and international level. The platform is coordinated by Caritas Switzerland and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation based on a mandate financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The platform has been inaugurated in spring 2016.

# Program

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8:30 Arrival

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9:00 Opening – **Alec von Graffenried**, Mayor of City of Bern

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Keynotes:

Migration as a common concern for mankind – Exploring a global phenomenon

**Thomas Cottier**, [World Trade Institute](#)

9:15 Migration and Development – Exploring the interlinkage of migration and development

**Markus Reisle**, Head of [Global Program Migration and Development](#), SDC

Mdplatform.ch – Exploring the role of Civil Society

**Peter Aeberhard**, [Caritas/mdplatform.ch](#)

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10:00 Video by Albinfo

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Introduction to World Café

10:10 A challenge for projects in the MD area from the perspective des diasporas.

**Ramla Alani**, [Internationa Social Service ISS](#) / CTRS

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10:30 Coffee Break and World Café opening

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10:45 1<sup>st</sup> Round World Café: Sharing experiences on M&D

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11:30 2<sup>nd</sup> Round World Café: Sharing experiences on M&D

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12:15 Lunch

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13:30 Conclusions from World Café

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Panel Discussion

Towards Policy Coherence on Migration and Development at international and local level.

- 14:00
- **Pietro Mona**, Swiss Ambassador on Development, Forced Displacement and Migration
  - **Marta Foresti**, [Overseas Development Institute ODI](#)
  - **Marianne Hochuli**, [Caritas Schweiz Policy Unit](#)
  - **Khadija Jaamac**, [Swiss Somaliland Association](#)
  - **Bashkim Isen**, [Albinfo.ch](#)
  - **Alec von Graffenried**, Mayor of the City of Berne
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Conclusions from different perspectives

- 15:45
- **Pascal Fendrich**, [Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation / mdplatform.ch](#)
  - **Dozie Celeste Ugochukwu**, [African Diaspora Council](#)
  - **Peter Aeberhard**, [Caritas/mdplatform.ch](#)
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16:30 Closure

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## World Café: Exchange of experiences on migration and development

The World Café is organized in 4 thematic groups at separate tables. Each table has a coordinator who is familiar with the topic and guides the discussion. There are 1-2 pre-selected discussion starters (organizations / persons) that start presenting their experiences and projects in the area of M & D. You will discuss the following questions:

- What are your specific experiences?
- How can your experience become part and enrich a local / national policy dialogue.

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### World Café Table Themes

#### Table Coordinator

#### Discussion Starter

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#### *Respecting human rights of migrants*

1. rights & protection" of migrants
2. integration/inclusion/anti-xenophobia

Magdalena Urrejola – ([Iamaneh Schweiz](#))

Discussion starters: [APDH](#); [TdH](#)

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#### *Labour migration*

1. work mobility, circular migration,
2. recognition of competences and qualifications

Claudia Paixão ([Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation](#))

Discussion starters: [HelvetasSwiss Intercooperation](#); [Unia](#) (tbc)

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#### *The role of the diaspora: Contributions from migrants and the diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development*

1. on projects in home countries / working for development in host countries
2. The role of Diaspora Platforms

Théogène Gakuba (f) ([REFORMAF](#)) and Hamdija Kocic ([Matica BIH](#)) (d/e)

Discussion starters: [Swiss Kalmo](#); [i-dijaspora](#)

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#### *Forced migration*

1. effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-induced crisis situations
2. trafficking and smuggling of migrants

Katharina Thurnheer (Caritas)

Discussion starters: [Swisspeace](#); [Caritas](#)

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## Members showcases

Find more about mdplatform.ch members. Members are invited to present their approaches, projects and experiences to the wider public through roll-ups and show-stables (flyers, etc.) in the hall at the entrance of the conference

## SPEAKERS

### Opening



#### **Alec von Graffenried, Major of the City of Berne**

Graffenried grew up in Berne. He first studied history and psychology and, from 1984 onwards, jurisprudence at the University of Bern. After finishing his studies, he worked as an advocate. From 2000 to 2007 he was a government official of the Berne district. He was responsible for Sustainable Development from 2007 to 2011, and from 2012 to 2016 Director of Real Estate Development at Losinger Marazzi AG. He has been President of Bern Tourism since 2010. [1] He is also President of the Bern Section of the New European Movement Switzerland and President of the Bern Section of NHG Rencontres Suisses. He was President of the Musikalisches Sommerakademie Lenk until 2015 and is a member of the Waldstadt Bremer Association as well as a member of numerous clubs. Graffenried is married and father of four children. He lives in Berne.

### Keynotes



#### **Thomas Cottier, Emeritus Professor of Law, Senior Research Fellow World Trade Institute, University of Bern**

Thomas Cottier, former Managing Director of the World Trade Institute, is Professor Emeritus of European and International Economic Law at the University of Bern. He published widely in the field of international economic law, with a particular focus on constitutional theory and intellectual property. He directed the national research programme on trade law and policy (NCCR International Trade Regulation: From Fragmentation to Coherence) located at the WTI from 2006-2014. He is an associate editor of several journals. He was a visiting professor at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, the Paris I Sorbonne, University of Barcelona, and regularly teaches at the Europa Institut Saarbrücken, Germany, at Wuhan University, China, at the University of Torino and more recently at the University of Ottawa, Canada. He was a member of the Swiss National Research Council from 1997-2004 and served on the board of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) Rome during the same period



#### **Markus Reisle, Chief Global Program Migration and Development, SDC**

Markus Reisle was born in 1961 in Biel. He holds a Master's degree in Ethnology and Art History from the University of Freiburg in the Netherlands. He worked for 14 years for the Swiss Red Cross with management functions in the field of migration. In 2003 he joined the SDC. Until 2007 he was Senior Adviser for Migration at the headquarters in Berne. From 2007 to 2011 he was deputy coordinator in Kigali (Rwanda), where he was responsible for migration and development. Since 2013, he has been the head of the Global Program Migration and Development at the SDC headquarters in Berne. He is married and has two adult children.



#### **Peter Aeberhard, Caritas/mdplatform.ch**

Mr. Peter Aeberhard has a 20 years' experience with people from worn torn countries and in the context of migration. He has a working experience as regional director for the Horn of Africa for Caritas and established Caritas Switzerland's peace promotion unit. He worked as Director of Foundation Hironnelle establishing independent radios [www.hironnelle.org](http://www.hironnelle.org). Thereafter we worked in the Swiss Foreign Ministry's Human Security Division in Strategic Controlling and Evaluation, thereafter as political advisor in the Africa Division. Mr Aeberhard is a trained mediator and has recently done courses in Harvard's Program on Refugee Trauma. For the last 10 years he has been co-chairing the Swiss Branch of the International

Fellowship on Reconciliation. 2015 he founded the Trauma Healing and Creative Arts Coalition [www.thac.ch](http://www.thac.ch). Additionally, he is coordinator of the Swiss Civil Society Platform on Migration and Development [www.mdplatform.ch](http://www.mdplatform.ch).

## Introduction to World Café



### **Ramla Alani, International Social Service ISS CTRS**

Ramla Allani Migration and Development Officer within "Tunisian Community Resident in Switzerland for development project " based at The Swiss Foundation for International Social Service in Geneva. Ramla is a lawyer holds the Mediterranean Master's Degree in human rights and democratization from the University of Malta. Previously of joining her actual position, she has worked for the UN high Commissioner for Human Rights and other UN bodies.

## Panel Discussion



### **Pietro Mona, Swiss Ambassador on Development, Forced Displacement and Migration**

Pietro Mona, currently deputy head of the Global Program for Migration and Development of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Berne, received the ambassador's title for his new role as ambassador for development, flight and migration in Berne.



### **Marta Foresti, Overseas Development Institute ODI; Managing Director**

As a member of the ODI Senior Management team Marta contributes to setting the institute's strategic agenda, priorities and goals. Marta leads ODI's portfolio on governance, security, climate and migration. Her interests include the political economy of development and reform, migration and human mobility, natural resource management, conflict and fragility. She has over 20 years of research, policy formulation and delivery, as well as management experience and has an interest in applied social research methodologies and policy evaluation. Before joining ODI in 2006, Marta was a senior policy advisor in the Department of Development Policy of the Italian Treasury and Head of the Learning and Impact Assessment team at Save the Children UK and at Amnesty International. She has extensive country experience in West Africa, South, South East Asia and several European countries.



### **Marianne Hochuli, Caritas Head of Policy Department**

Marianne Hochuli is Member of the Executive Board of Caritas Switzerland. She is responsible for the research section of Caritas Switzerland. This section analyses the Swiss Migration-, Development- and Social policies critically and makes proposals for a more inclusive society. She was born 1959 in Zurich and is Historian. Before coming to Caritas she worked for ten years for the Development NGO Public Eye as a specialist for trade policy and fair trade regulations between Northern and Southern countries.



**Khadija Jaamac, Swiss Somalia Association**

Khadija Jaamac is Migrant and actor of development, President of Somaliland Swiss Association, intercultural translator for the past 10 year with experience in women health issues, currently working with "Mamamundo Begleitgruppe Netzwerk gegen FGM" and Core group member MD platform.



**Bashkim ISENI, Albinfo.ch**

Bashkim ISENI, Director of Swiss trilingual news agency [www.albinfo.ch](http://www.albinfo.ch) and Lecturer at the University of Fribourg. He is a specialist of migrations and development issues in the Balkans and integration process of migrants in Switzerland. Previously, he was a researcher at the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies at the University of Neuchatel (SFM) and lecturer in International relations at the University of Lausanne, where he earned a PhD in Political science in 2005. B. ISENI is a producer of TV programmes related to immigration, integration in Switzerland and development in the Balkans. His most recent publications related to Migration and Development are: "Albanian-speaking transnational populations in Switzerland: continuities and shifts".



**Alec von Graffenried, Major of the City of Berne**

Graffenried grew up in Berne. He first studied history and psychology and, from 1984 onwards, jurisprudence at the University of Bern. After finishing his studies, he worked as an advocate. From 2000 to 2007 he was a government official of the Berne district. He was responsible for Sustainable Development from 2007 to 2011, and from 2012 to 2016 Director of Real Estate Development at Losinger Marazzi AG. He has been President of Bern Tourism since 2010. [1] He is also President of the Bern Section of the New European Movement Switzerland and President of the Bern Section of NHG Rencontres Suisses. He was President of the Musikalisches Sommerakademie Lenk until 2015 and is a member of the Waldstadt Bremer Association as well as a member of numerous clubs. Graffenried is married and father of four children. He lives in Berne.

## Conference Conclusions



**Pascal Fendrich, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation /mdplatform.ch**

He has a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Development and Cooperation NADEL/ETH Zürich and a Master (postgraduate) in European Political and Administrative Studies. He made his first Master in International Relations at the Graduate Institute of International Relations in Geneva. Pascal Fendrich has more than 8 years of experience in development cooperation in the Western Balkans, West Africa and South Asia. His specializations are on migration and development; local governance and decentralization; further on water and sanitation. As coordinator for West Africa he is responsible for the supervision and coordination of country programmes.



**Dozie Celeste Ugochukwu, President African Diaspora Council of Switzerland**

Mr Ugochukwu studied Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and Law at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

He worked at different Law firms in Geneva (Python Schifferli, Peter & Associés) and in Biel (Suter & Partner), then at the Juvenile court in Biel. He is currently a legal counselor in migration law and consultant in African investment, migration and development. He led different integration, migration and development projects in his capacity as: President, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland and Coordinator

of the International Decade for People of African Descent in Switzerland; Director, African Foundation for Migration and Development; Member, Swiss Federal Commission against Racism; Member, African Union Diaspora Expert Support Group (African Institute of Remittances); Member, United Nations Selection Committee on Global Compact.

## Moderation Panel Discussions



### **Rosa Maria Losada, World Trade Institute, Switzerland**

Rosa Maria Losada Eiroa is currently a research fellow and outreach associate at the World Trade Institute of the University of Bern. Until May 2013, Rosa Maria Losada worked as deputy head and head of unit ad interim of the Unit of Third-State Nationals of the Swiss Federal Office for Migration (FOM) – now State Secretariat for Migration (SEM). Rosa Maria Losada is board member of Neue Europäische Bewegung Schweiz (NEBS - Team Bern) and the Association Suisse en Europe (ASE). On behalf of the World Trade Institute and Swiss Academia she is strategic partner and member of the group of the Swiss M&D Platform for Civil Society

The conference is held in three languages (E/F/D) and will be video recorded by [Swiss Diaspora TV](#).

## Practical Information



### Train / public transportation

The Kreuz Bern can be reached in 5 minutes by foot from the Bern main station.

The cost for a taxi is about CHF 10.00.

The Bernmobil stop "Bärenplatz" (tram 3/5/9, bus 12) is a 2-minute walk from the hotel.

### Parking

Metro, Waisenhausplatz 19, [www.metro-parking.ch](http://www.metro-parking.ch)

From 17.00 to 9.00: Special price CHF 15.00