

Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 global health crisis in times of austerity, debt crises and privatisation

Eurodad Policy Forum 2020: 15-19 June

New format: “Policy Forum unpacked” - a sequenced, virtual policy forum

The Coronavirus crisis has made it impossible to organise the policy forum in the usual face-to-face format. It will therefore be replaced by a virtual ‘unpacked’ Policy Forum from 15 to 19 June 2020, through a series of webinars. The General Assembly will take place on 19 June, also online.

The Covid-19 pandemic has unleashed multiple crises and created great uncertainty about the future of development. Careful analysis of current developments are essential to ensure that Eurodad’s new five-year strategy responds well to the external context. The strategy planning process has therefore been extended for the duration of 2020 to allow sufficient time for the changed external context to be reflected in the new strategy. The ‘unpacked’ Policy Forum will provide a dynamic space for these reflections, which will continue until the autumn.

The new Eurodad strategy will then be adopted in December at a face to face (if the situation allows) extraordinary General Assembly, closing a long process that has involved Eurodad members and allies since the 2019 Eurodad international conference.

The virtual Policy Forum will start with a webinar on Monday 15 June. The theme will be ‘Lessons to be learned from the Covid-19 pandemic.’ It will be followed by virtual workshops throughout the week. The workshops will provide the space for political and strategic analysis and discussion on the impacts of Covid-19 on our work and how to respond, to feed into our new strategy. See details below.

The virtual General Assembly will take place on 19 June. It will also be an opportunity to present our new website.

Objectives of the Policy Forum

- Deepen understanding: To understand the interlinkages between debt, tax governance, domestic resource mobilisation, development finance, austerity, the resilience of health systems, and climate change.
- Reflect on implications of the current multiple crises for our work: To discuss root causes of the problems, and reflect on how far our work and proposals for change will tackle these.
- Discuss our long-term strategy, beyond the Covid-19 response.



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Agenda & Registration

15 June		DAY 1: Public event	
Time	15.00-16.30		
Title	<p>MAIN WEBINAR Lessons to be learned from the Coronavirus – Why have responses been uneven and the global response so weak? How to build a more resilient and sustainable future</p> <p>Speakers: <i>Richard Kozul Wright</i>, Director of the Division on Globalisation and Development Strategies at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p> <p><i>Magdalena Sepulveda</i>, Executive Director, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR) and former UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights</p>		
Format	Virtual event: Zoom webinar and Youtube streaming.		
16 June		DAY 2: Eurodad strategy review workshop – members and invited participants only	
Time	13.30-15.15	15.30-17.00	
Title	<p>Development finance and COVID-19 : towards a new development finance architecture ?</p> <p>Speakers: <i>Hilary Jeune</i>, independent, formerly Oxfam. <i>Maria-José Romero</i>, Eurodad. <i>Jan Van de Poel</i>, Eurodad. <i>Dr. Celine Tan</i>, University of Warwick</p>	<p>Covid-19 and the right to public services: Addressing ecological and inequality emergencies in a post-Covid world through collective strategies</p> <p>Facilitators: <i>Sylvain Aubry</i>, GI-ESCR <i>Maria Jose Romero</i>, Eurodad</p>	
Format	Webinar with break-out groups and ppt presentation	Webinar with break-out groups and notepad	



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17 June		DAY 3: Eurodad strategy review workshop & training webinar – members and invited participants only	
Time	13.30 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.30	
Title	Building a roadmap to sovereign debt justice after Covid19 Speakers: Jaime Atienza, <i>Oxfam</i> Yuefen Li, <i>UN Independent Expert on debt and human rights</i> Patricia Miranda, <i>Latindadd</i> Lidy Nacpil, <i>APMDD</i>	Training webinar on investment treaties: a North-South perspective, by BothEnds and Seatini Speakers: Burghard Ilge, Both ENDS Faith Lumonya, Seatini (TBC)	
Format	Webinar	Webinar with presentation	
18 June		DAY 4: Eurodad strategy review workshop – members and invited participants only	
Time	12.30-14.00	14.30-16.00	
Title	Eurodad gender strategy review discussion Speakers: Nerea Craviotto, Eurodad Anna Melenchuk, ActionAid	Eurodad COVID-19 pandemics strategy discussion (follow up of the public webinar). Speakers: NA	
Format	Webinar with break-out groups	Webconference - brainstorming	
19 June		DAY 5: Eurodad General Assembly – members only	
Time	10.30-12.30		
Title	Eurodad General Assembly 2020		
Format	Webinar		
To register for any of the webinars and workshops please click here			



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- More in-depth details on all workshops will be distributed in coming days

Keynote webinar

Monday 15 June – 15:00-16.30 CEST - Eurodad Policy Forum opening and main webinar: Lessons to be learned from the COVID19 pandemic: Why has the global response been so uneven and weak? How can we build a more resilient and sustainable future?

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been testing the limits of global cooperation. In the case of countries with the fiscal space and resources, some responded swiftly and others lost time, juggling with competing priorities instead of putting people's health first. On the other hand, there are many countries in the global south who simply lack the capacity to respond in a timely way. Their future hangs in the balance, as financial institutions, donors and creditors discuss what to do.

We will need to draw lessons from this crisis to build a new system. The global economy risks sinking into a recession. To relaunch the economy, finance ministries, IFIs and MDBs might well go back to their "business as usual" agenda, and seek to attract very expensive private money to relaunch an old dysfunctional global system.

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were rising voices, especially from young people, to rethink a sustainable global system that preserves people and the planet. Now is the time to rethink our common future, to build a global green deal, and a system based on solidarity and sustainability to replace the one based on inequality and domination.

Speakers:

- Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Magdalena Sepulveda, Executive Director, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and former UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Moderator: Hannah Brejnholt, Senior Policy Advisor at Oxfam Ibis



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Format: The session will be interactive and divided into three rounds. Each will include a Q&A with participants and will allow for questions from the 'floor'.



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