



Annual Policy Dialogue 2022

Draft Programme

“Leading in a World of Converging Crises”

October 31st and November 1st

Bertelsmann Representation "Unter den Linden 1"
Berlin

Club de Madrid (CdM) is organising its 2022 Annual Policy Dialogue in partnership with the **Liz Mohn Center**, an initiative of the Bertelsmann Stiftung, bringing key stakeholders to Berlin for a timely discussion on how to best address the multiple, converging crisis afflicting the world in 2022.

The world is facing a confluence of emergencies unlike anything we have seen in decades. Just as we were beginning to focus on recovery from the substantial social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 unleashed the rage and dangers of the war in Ukraine and its swift and profound impact on food security, energy prices and the global economy, leading to mounting social and political unrest and to rising geopolitical tensions.

According to the United Nations Task Team for Global Crisis Response, 1.7 billion people worldwide will be severely affected by at least one of the three global transmission channels of this Megacrisis – food, energy prices, and financial conditions. Given the high levels of social and economic stress in the wake of COVID-19 and the increasing impacts of climate change, just one of these channels is enough to trigger collapse – debt defaults, food shortages, or blackouts.

This year's Club de Madrid Policy Dialogue aims to facilitate, promote and support a set of recommendations that will prove effective for governments and multilateral organisations to address the Megacrisis of 2022 and effectively respond to these multiple needs in a coordinated manner.

The Dialogue offers a unique platform for action-oriented conversations, gathering 40 participants, including democratic former Heads of State and Government, thought leaders, policy experts and representatives of governments, multilateral organisations, business and academia.

October 31st

09:00 – 09:30h CET OPENING REMARKS

Location: "Unter den Linden 1"

09:20 – 11:00h CET SESSION I: *A world in converging crises: What are we facing? What to expect?*

Location: "Unter den Linden 1"

CdM Members will reflect on the international context within which this Policy Dialogue is taking place. Participants will analyse the state of geopolitics and the nature of the multiple crises the world is facing in 2022 as a consequence of three major, converging emergencies: Covid-19, Climate Change and the war in Ukraine.

11:00-11:15h CET COFFEE BREAK

11:15 – 12:45h CET SESSION II: *The Energy Crisis, Climate Change and Net Zero Commitments*

Location: "Unter den Linden 1"

Global energy prices have risen sharply, mainly as a result of the war in Ukraine and European efforts to move away from dependence on Russian natural gas and oil. But increased gas demand in Asia, especially China, and difficulties in production from shale in the United States are also having a destabilising impact on the geopolitics of both energy consumption and energy production. These developments will deepen the interest in increasing renewable energy output and reducing fossil fuel energy consumption, further boosting the manufacturing and supply chain costs around renewable energy.

The session is devoted to assessing the impact the energy crisis is having at a global level and to identifying coping strategies that will not jeopardise international efforts and commitments towards a Net Zero economy.

12:45-14:15h CET LUNCH

14:15-15:45h CET SESSION III: *Addressing global food insecurity*

Location: "Unter den Linden 1"

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), as many as 828 million people are now chronically hungry, due to a combination of conflict, COVID, the climate crisis and rising food costs. Up to 345 million people are facing the prospect of starvation and a total of 50 million people in 45 countries are teetering on the edge of famine.

The session is devoted to understanding the causes and dimensions of the unprecedented hunger that the world is set to face, and to identifying political and policy recommendations for an efficient international response.

15:45-16:00h CET COFFEE BREAK

16:00-17:30h CET SESSION IV: *Debt Crisis: comprehensive global response*

Location: "Unter den Linden 1"

The world is entering a global debt crisis. Even before the start of this Megacrisis, developing countries spent on average 16% of their export earnings on servicing debt obligations, with Small Island Developing States spending more than twice this figure. The International Monetary Fund suggests that 60 per cent of low-income countries and 30 per cent of middle-income countries are in debt distress or facing a high risk of debt distress.

The session will be devoted to reflecting on the causes, characteristics and consequences of the current debt crisis and to identifying proposals to facilitate immediate relief to highly-indebted developing countries, as well as long-term measures to guarantee resilience and debt sustainability, including the reform of the international financial architecture.

November 1st

09:00 – 10:30h CET PLENARY SESSION V: *Coordinated response and the role of multilateral institutions*

Location: "Unter den Linden 1"

Some multilateral initiatives have already been launched to address debt, energy, and food insecurity. To be effective, however, such efforts must be coordinated and comprehensive. Our problems are too interconnected to be addressed piecemeal.

CdM Members and key partners will discuss concrete ideas for a coordinated response to the Megacrisis of 2020 in the context of the implementation of the UNSG's Report "Our Common Agenda", the work of the G20 under the Indonesian and Indian chairships and of the upcoming UN Summit of the Future.

10:30-11:00h CET COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30h CET PLENARY SESSION VI: *Innovative firewalls: How to prevent the recurrence of future Megacrisis?*

Location: "Unter den Linden 1"

The world has paid a high price for its ad hoc responses to recent global shocks. The international community needs to manage future global crises in a faster and more coordinated way but most importantly, it has to be able to improve its capacity to prevent new crises.

Panellists will address the issue of innovation as a tool to strengthen international capacity to prevent the recurrence of global crises.

12:30- 12:45 h CET FINAL STATEMENT AND CONCLUDING WORDS

Location: "Unter den Linden 1"