



Amid increasing global insecurity, there is a persistent trend recorded in recent years of declining aid contributions from the major aid donors, culminating with the suspension of USAID funding this past January 2025. USAID funding cuts alone are estimated to affect 120 million people in 100 countries. These cuts have devastating effects, impacting all fields of international cooperation. Declining aid is also coupled with rising securitisation as a foreign aid strategy: a comparative scale of global investment in defence and development underlines this skyrocketing increase, as military expenditure reached a record total of USD 2'388 billion in 2023, in contrast with total combined ODA of USD 288.5 billion in the same year. In this shrinking donor landscape and shifting priorities, the diversification of funding sources seems to be crucial for aid actors, inviting an increasing number of them to diversify sources of aid funding - bringing a new set of risks and opportunities.

Overall, these elements speak to new, steep challenges. This panel will foster a reflection on different ways to tackle the impact of shrinking availability of resources: by engaging new actors and including the private sector, by streamlining and maximising the use of reduced resources and supporting country-wide conflict sensitivity facilities, or by promoting partnerships across the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding nexus.