



With funding from the



: Programme

Dresden Forum for International Politics 2018 “Sustaining Peace” Current challenges for democracy

Haus der Kirche - Dreikönigskirche, Dresden

8-9 February 2018

Conference languages

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

Partners



BACKGROUND

According to the prevailing view in mainstream debate, the responsibility for peace and security still lies primarily with states and intergovernmental organisations. This perception is based on a state-centric concept of security which is fixated on inter-country conflict but rarely overlaps with society's understanding of what security means. Violence and human insecurity have many dimensions, most of which become manifest at the local level first and foremost.

The United Nations is currently in the process of reviewing its conflict resolution strategy. Rather than redefining peacebuilding, the focus is on processes and structures which facilitate and foster the prevention and peaceful management of conflicts for the long term ("sustaining peace"). Achieving and sustaining peace is seen as a universal task not only for policy-makers but for each and every individual, based on a shared vision of how society should develop. The rule of law, accountability, democracy and human rights are the key pillars of this vision, with sustaining peace seen as a continuous responsibility for all countries and the communities within them.

Starting from this premise, the Dresden Forum for International Politics 2018 will explore possible pathways towards lasting peace and nonviolent societies. In so doing, it will focus particularly on the role of the democratic polity, which is facing numerous challenges today.

By way of introduction, the concept of "sustaining peace" and the significance of democratic governance for its implementation will be considered. The focus will then shift to current challenges that contest the very concept of democracy worldwide today – even in well-established democratic societies. Which conditions need to be in place for peaceful and democratic forms of conflict resolution to be effective and successful? What can be done to ensure that social participation for all does not exist solely on paper?

Drawing on real-world examples and supported by academic analyses, the Dresden Forum for International Politics 2018 will seek to map out practical strategies in response to the critical challenges that democracies face worldwide, thereby strengthening their contribution to sustaining peace.

THE DRESDEN FORUM SERIES

The Dresden Forum for International Politics will offer a high-level platform for discussion of current challenges in international politics and will be held once a year, starting in 2018. The purpose of the series is to add to the body of knowledge of current global processes and to raise awareness and understanding of the diversity of standpoints. The hallmark of the series will be its open-ended, solution-oriented debate about the options available to national and regional governments, Members of Parliament, civil society and the business sector in fostering peaceful and sustainable development worldwide.

The Dresden Forum will consist of an international symposium and a public evening session with distinguished speakers, the latter offering the opportunity for interested citizens to gain insights into current international debates and learn more about how issues are viewed in other regions of the world.

: Thursday, 8 February 2018

- 13.00 hrs Registration
- Chair
- Professor Lothar Brock**
Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef.)
Senior Professor at Goethe University Frankfurt/Main
- 13.30 hrs Welcome addresses
- Oliver Schenk**
State Minister for Federal and European Affairs and
Chief of the State Chancellery
of the Free State of Saxony, Dresden
- Renate Hendricks**
Chairperson of the Executive Committee
Development and Peace Foundation (sef.), Bonn

OPENING SPEECHES

- 14.00 hrs **“Sustaining Peace”:
A promising new direction in international peace policy?**
- Steve Killelea AM**
Founder & Executive Chairman
Institute for Economics and Peace, Sydney/New York/Mexico City
- 14.20 hrs **“Sustaining Peace” through democratic governance:
Challenges for the international agenda**
- Judith Large**
Senior Research Fellow
Conflict Analysis Research Centre (CARC)
University of Kent
- Q & A
- 15.15h hrs Coffee break

CHALLENGES FACING PEACE POLICY TODAY - ROUND TABLE I

SOCIAL FRAGMENTATION BY EXTREMIST MOVEMENTS

Nationalist, ethnic and religiously motivated extremist movements are in the ascendant in many countries. They are driving forces behind the fragmentation of societies, glorifying violence and, with their often xenophobic and anti-democratic agendas, putting social cohesion at risk. What are the reasons for these movements' assumed or actual surge in popularity, and what can be done to address them? What role do external factors play? And how can society and politics respond constructively to these destructive forces?

15.45 hrs Round table discussion

Dr Matthias Quent

Director

Institute for Democracy and Civil Society, Jena

Hajer Sharief

Extremely Together Young Leader,

Co-founder of Maan Nabniha (Together We Build It), Tripolis

Mohamed Yahya

Africa Regional Programme Coordinator

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Addis Ababa

Followed by Plenary debate till 17.15 hrs

17.30 hrs Dinner

18.30 hrs Group bus transfer to the Frauenkirche Dresden

PUBLIC EVENING EVENT AT FRAUENKIRCHE DRESDEN

“PEACE MUST GROW FROM WITHIN” – BUT HOW?

Peace within and among states and societies can never be taken for granted, so it is entirely logical that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the international community in 2015, identifies the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies worldwide as one of its key goals. But how can peaceful social relations be achieved and sustained?

“Sustaining peace” is the United Nations’ key phrase in its current discussion of this question. It is clear that peace must grow from within. But what does this mean in view of the global rise of nationalist and populist movements that not only demand a more isolationist approach externally but also target anyone they regard as “other” at home? What does “sustaining peace” mean at a time when discrimination against certain groups is increasing in almost every society? And what options do policy-makers and societal actors from the global to the local level have to counter social discord, up to and including separatist movements that threaten to spill over into violence? What should be their response to negative external influences?

Chair

Bernd Schekausti

MDR Kultur

19.00 hrs

Musical Prelude

19.10 hrs

Welcome

Frank Richter

Managing Director, Foundation Frauenkirche Dresden

Dr Jens Kreuter

Executive Director, Engagement Global gGmbH, Bonn

19.20 hrs

Opening Address

Michael Kretschmer

Minister-President of the Free State of Saxony, Dresden

Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

19.30 hrs

Keynote

H.E. Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy

Deputy Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for Syria, Geneva/Syria

20.00 hrs

Panel Discussion

Vera Baboun

Former Mayor of Bethlehem

Tanja Gönner

Chair of the Management Board

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Eschborn/Bonn

Hajer Sharief

Extremely Together Young Leader

Co-founder of Maan Nabniha (Together We Build It), Tripolis

20.45 hrs

Musical Farewell and **Reception** by the Minister-President

: Friday, 9 February 2018

CHALLENGES FACING PEACE POLICY TODAY - ROUND TABLE II

SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS: DRIVING THE DISINTEGRATION OF STATES

Horizontal inequalities that marginalise or isolate certain social groups can develop a particular power if these divisions run along ethnic lines. Again and again, separatist aspirations gain ground in these circumstances, in some cases triggering long-lasting conflicts which can drive even mature democracies to the limits of their capacities. Which opportunities do democracies have to deal constructively with regional minorities and ethnonational groups, both domestically and as part of the international community?

Chair

Professor Solveig Richter

Junior Professor for “International Conflict Management”
Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, University of Erfurt

9.15 hrs

Round table discussion

Ekkehard Brose

Ambassador
Special Envoy for Crisis Prevention and Stabilisation
German Foreign Office, Berlin

Professor Samir Kumar Das

Professor of Political Science
University of Calcutta, Kolkata

Dr Marc Sanjaume-Calvet

Adjunct Professor for Political and Social Sciences
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

followed by

Plenary discussion

10.45 hrs

Coffee Break with Snacks

CHALLENGES FACING PEACE POLICY TODAY - ROUND TABLE III**CITIES IN FOCUS: A SPACE FOR FREEDOM – AND PEACE?**

Cities are, historically, spaces for freedom and emancipation, but they are also flashpoints for conflicts with not only local but also transnational roots – now more than ever before. Sustaining peaceful urban communities therefore helps to mitigate conflicts in the wider world. How can and should cities contribute to building and sustaining peace within our societies? How does the relationship between city, state and international organisations need to change in order to create a framework for peaceful conflict management? And how can cities support each other in this process?

Chair

Anita Reddy

Head of Division

Educational programmes/Engagement Global gGmbH, Bonn

11.15 hrs

Round table discussion

Professor Scott A. Bollens

Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy

University of California, Irvine

Christine Grewe

Acting Head of the “Office for a Peace Culture”

City of Osnabrueck

Dr Tarik Kupusović

Former Mayor of Sarajevo

followed by

Plenary discussion

OUTLOOK AND FAREWELL BY THE ORGANIZERS

12.45 hrs

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director

Development and Peace Foundation, Bonn

13.00 hrs

Event ends