

: Programme

Bonn Symposium 2023 **Integrated, inclusive, in partnership?** **Germany's National Security Strategy** **and international cooperation**

Deutsche Welle Bonn, Gremiensaal
23 November 2023, 09.45am - 6.15pm

Conference language
English

Cooperating partners



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BACKGROUND

For the first time in its history, Germany has published a National Security Strategy. This strategy speaks of “integrated security”; i.e. it outlines a comprehensive concept of security that also considers issues such as climate change, food and energy security, migration and conflict prevention as relevant to Germany’s national security. For the first time, the German government recognises that today’s world is “multipolar” and that Germany’s security cannot be analysed in isolation from other continents.

Nevertheless, the Strategy focuses primarily on the global actors USA and EU, Russia and China. Other world regions are hardly mentioned. In his foreword, Chancellor Scholz emphasises the importance of partnerships “with the up and coming countries of Asia, Africa and America”, but he bases this exclusively on “a secure supply of energy and raw materials” for Germany. The challenges and opportunities offered by strategically shaping the relations with countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia (beyond China) are not further elaborated.

This is where special opportunities for German security policy are located: with a view to Germany’s long-term security, relations with countries of the so-called Global South should be shaped in a spirit of partnership and at the famous “eye level” - and not only with a view to economic advantages. In this way, Germany could prove its credibility and contribute to (re)building trust between world regions, taking into account the multipolarity of today’s world. Only the implementation of the Strategy will show how serious the German government is about building globally equal partnerships.

At the Bonn Symposium 2023, international experts from politics, academia and civil society will join us to discuss the implications of the Security Strategy for Germany’s international cooperation, how countries beyond the main global players view the Strategy and how Germany can and should shape its relations with them in a partnership-based and sustainable manner.

The Bonn Symposium Series

Since 2013, the Bonn Symposium has been a regular feature on the City of Bonn’s international conference calendar and has been regarded as a key platform for dialogue on the significance and implementation of Agenda 2030. Since the series began, numerous projects, initiatives and programmes from various regions of the world have been presented and discussed in Bonn. The Symposium thus makes an important contribution to the dialogue between local, national and international stakeholders. After its 10th edition in 2022, the Symposium has for this year changed its focus from sustainability towards international security.

: Thursday, 23 November 2023

09.45 hrs Arrival and registration

10.15 hrs Short welcome by the Chair

Dr Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Welcoming words

Ludger Siemes

Director General, European and International Affairs,
State Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf

Oliver Krauß, MdL

Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Nicole Unterseh

Deputy Mayor of the City of Bonn

10.45 HRS

KEYNOTE

THE CORE OF GERMANY'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

The keynote will briefly look at the thematic priorities of the National Security Strategy. It will explore which understanding of international cooperation and a (future) global order can be derived from them. Which surprises can be discovered between the lines? Where do possible conflicts of interest or contradictions become apparent? And what does this mean for cooperation with international partners?

Professor Dr Anna-Katharina Hornidge

Professor for Global Sustainable Development (University of Bonn), and
Director, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Comments by

Ottilia Anna Maunganidze

Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Johannesburg, South Africa (joining online)

followed by

Q&A

11.30 HRS

SESSION I

THE SECURITY STRATEGY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

The Security Strategy states that German security is “linked to the security and stability of other regions of the world” (p.14). Which conclusions does the German government draw from this realisation? And what does that mean for the fields of development and peace in general, and more specifically for the triple nexus of humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peacebuilding?

This session will also look at how the Security Strategy relates to other government strategies (Guidelines for Feminist Foreign and Development Policy, Crisis Guidelines 2017, etc.) that explicitly seek a more balanced relationship with countries of the Global South. It will also explore what challenges actors in the Global South currently see at the intersection of development cooperation, humanitarian aid and peacebuilding.

Moderated by

Dr Holger Niemann

Senior Researcher, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH), Hamburg

Discussion

Dr Elke Löbel

Commissioner for refugee policy, Director for Displacement and migration; crisis prevention and management

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Dr Jörn Grävingholt

Head of Policy Department, Bread for the World, Berlin

Dr Jannie Lilja

Director of Studies, Peace and Development

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Stockholm

Faith Mabera

Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue, Pretoria, South Africa

followed by

Q&A

13.00 HRS

LUNCH

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14.15 HRS

SESSION II

**THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY VIEWED FROM DIFFERENT WORLD REGIONS:
INTERNATIONAL AND AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES**

In her foreword, Foreign Secretary Annalena Baerbock states that Germany is “committed to partnerships that benefit both sides, are sustainable and do not create one sided dependencies” (p.7). However, the Security Strategy hardly addresses what these partnerships should look like in detail and how Germany wants to ensure they are truly at eye level, especially with countries in the Global South. The relation with Africa as Europe’s neighbouring continent bears a special significance in this context.

This session will therefore explore how representatives from African countries view Germany’s National Security Strategy and the geopolitical interests it mirrors. It will examine what consequences the Strategy should have for Germany’s existing partnerships and future relations with countries in Africa and other world regions.

Moderated by

Dr Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

Discussion

Professor Emmanuel Kwesi Aning

Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs & Research,
Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Accra, Ghana

Dr Nneka Okechukwu

Senior Policy Officer, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Maastricht

Oyewole S. Oginni

Researcher, Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC)

Anselm Vogler

Researcher, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH), Hamburg

followed by

Q&A

15.45 hrs

Coffee break

16.15 HRS

SESSION III

THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY BETWEEN ASPIRATION AND REALITY

National security and the need for strong defensive capabilities have been brought to the top of the German political agenda and are addressed by the National Security Strategy. At the same time, it promotes a “free international order based on the Charter of the United Nations, universal human rights and international law” (p.15). The Strategy claims to uphold fundamental values including “the right to life and physical integrity, freedom of opinion, the press, assembly and religion, equal rights for all and the right to free development of personality” (p.20).

This session will explore where these values might conflict with the new prioritisation of security and “Wehrhaftigkeit” (robustness). It will discuss how Germany can and should resolve these conflicts of interest, and how they might influence the country’s actions in a multipolar world with competing world views. It will also examine what this means for Germany’s international partnerships.

Moderated by

Dr Cornelia Ulbert

Executive Director, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), Duisburg-Essen

Discussion

Dr Kudakwashe Chirambwi

Programmes Officer, Peace in Action Trust; Founder of the Peace, Leadership and Conflict Transformation Programme, National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe

Melanie Hauenstein (online)

UNDP Resident Representative in Lebanon; Member of the German Advisory Board for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding

Dr Florian Krampe

Director of the SIPRI Climate Change and Risk Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

17.45 HRS

WRAP UP

SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

Martin Vehrenberg

Vice Managing Director, AGIAMONDO, Cologne, Germany
Member of the German Advisory Board for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding

Moderated by

Dr Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

18.15 HRS

END