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

This event is co-financed by tax money based on the budget agreed upon by the members of the Saxon State Parliament.

#DFIP18
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
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 Schekauski
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
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
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