



Advisory Board to the Federal Government
Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding



Annual Conference of the Advisory Board to the Federal
Government for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding

What Do Crises Teach Us?

Civilian Crisis Prevention in Germany and the EU

2 October 2020, 09:30–17:00 hrs

Programme

Advisory Board to the Federal Government for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding

Bringing together expertise on crisis prevention and peacebuilding from both civil society and academia, the Advisory Board assists the Federal Government in these areas. It is appointed for four years and comprises twenty experts from academia, foundations and civil society organisations. It follows the implementation of the Federal Government's guidelines on "Preventing Crises, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace" published in 2017. With its work, the Advisory Board fosters constant exchange between the Federal Government and civil society. It can also publish positions on overarching strategic questions. In addition, it may develop its own contributions on various issues. For the next two years, the Advisory Board will focus inter alia on peace policy coherence, gender, peace and security, and climate change as a security threat.

Programme

9:30–10:00 hrs

Welcome and Opening Statements

- Bodo von Borries & Dr Kira Vinke, Co-Chairs of the Advisory Board
- Niels Annen, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office

Facilitation:

Dr Almut Wieland-Karimi, Director of the Centre for International Peace Operations

10:00–11:15 hrs

Panel Discussion

Perceptions of Crises and How They Shape Prevention Efforts

The global efforts to contain the spread of SARS-Cov-2 showed that crisis perception guides our actions. When societies and political systems feel threatened, even drastic measures can be enforced with substantial support from the population. Lifestyle changes and personal sacrifice are accepted to avoid danger and to serve the common good. However, we are witnessing multiple crises at the same time, including mounting security risks from the spread of extremist groups, widening inequalities, the health crisis and climate change. Our perception of the urgency to prevent escalations and resolve these crises guides political and financial decision-making. Looking at the Sahel region, where leaders are forced to address multiple complex crises, we want to discuss in this first panel how we perceive contemporary crises differently, and how insights from the region could shape European approaches to crisis prevention in the region.

Panelists:

- Dr Chukwuemeka B. Eze, Director West African Network for Peacebuilding
- Dr Gilles Yabi, Director, Think Tank Citoyen de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
- Maria Klatte, Head of Africa Department Misereor
- Walter Bartsch, Head of Field Office Agadez, EUCAP Sahel

Facilitation:

Dr Almut Wieland-Karimi, Director of the Centre for International Peace Operations

11:30–13:00 hrs

Break

13:00–14:30 hrs

Workshops (parallel sessions)**Workshop 1: Irregular Armed Groups – Privatization of Security? (English)**

In the Sahel and West Africa, irregular armed groups, including pro-state militias, are spreading across borders at great speed. This goes hand in hand with the illegal proliferation of small arms. To what extent are German and European approaches to security sector reform and small arms control appropriate and effective? Are the causes of the proliferation of small arms being tackled? Are adjustments to strategies necessary? Representatives of the German Foreign Office, the EU, Nigeria and Burkina Faso will discuss these issues.

Panelists:

- Albrecht von Wittke, Head of Division OR10, Federal Foreign Office
- Claudio Gramizzi, Conflict Armament Research
- Dr Kennedy Agade Mkutu, Associate Professor of International Relations, Security Studies and Peace Studies, US International University Africa
- Frederick Amphia, Partnerships and Compliance Advisor, UNDP Liberia

Facilitation:

Professor Andreas Heinemann-Grüder, Member of the Advisory Board, Bonn International Centre for Conversion

Workshop 2: Non-traditional Security Threats: Pandemics & Climate Change (English)

The Covid-19 pandemic exposed how vulnerable our economic and social systems are to external global shocks. Though it was well known that a health crisis through a contagious virus could emerge, few countries took adequate precautions to be in the position to contain the spread of infections. The coronavirus puts inequalities under a magnifying glass and aggravates the situation of marginalized people, especially in situations of conflict. Other latent security threats, like climate change have been debated for decades, but only few measures of risk mitigation have been taken. How well is the European Union positioned to prevent crises from global shocks? How can non-traditional security threats, like pandemics and climate change, be better integrated into crisis prevention? What is needed to close the gap between early warning and early action? Which principles should guide European strategies of crisis prevention? These and other questions will be discussed with experts from academia, policy and civil society in this workshop.

Panelists:

- Dr Susanne Dröge, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs SWP
- Ambassador Hinrich Thielken, Director for Climate and Energy Policy and Digital Transformation, Federal Foreign Office
- Jennifer Tollmann, Policy Advisor, E3G
- René van Nes, Head of Division ISP.2 Conflict Prevention and Mediation Support, European External Action Service

Facilitation:

Dr Kira Vinke, Co-Chair of Advisory Board, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Workshop 3: Bringing More Harm than Peace? Safeguards and Operational Procedures for the European Peace Facility (English)

Despite critical opposition from the European and German peacebuilding community, the European Council concluded in July 2020 to establish the European Peace Facility (EPF). The negotiations on the new instrument are ongoing. Designed as an off-budget instrument, the EPF aims at funding the common costs of EU military Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations. The new – and up to five billion Euros strong – EPF (2021–2027) will also allow the EU to supply security actors in unstable environments with arms and ammunition. Alike the German Enable and Enhance Initiative (E2I, “Ertüchtigungsinitiative”), the EPF is meant to bridge old-style military assistance approaches with democratic security sector reform aspirations, thereby placing effective security provision and human security concerns in the centre of their programming. Yet, there are a number of recent examples demonstrating that Western trained and equipped soldiers do not necessarily contribute to stabilizing politically contested regions, or to paving the way for peaceful conflict transformation but sometimes even exacerbate conflicts. How should EPF and E2I programmes be designed to contribute to peacebuilding objectives and reduce harmful effects on human rights? What safeguards could help to ensure that security assistance programmes are not escalating conflicts? What oversight and monitoring mechanisms are imperative to guarantee that these programmes lead to the desired effects, and prevent unwanted results?

Panelists:

- Emily Knowles, Associate Fellow at the Oxford Research Group and former Director of the Remote Warfare Programme
- Dr Olivier Guiryanan, Executive Director, BUCOFOR
- Tjorven Bellmann, Commissioner for Security Policy, Federal Foreign Office

Facilitation:

Christoph Bongard, Co-Speaker, German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management

Workshop 4: The Future of Africa: Do Strategies Respond to Challenges and Opportunities of the Continent? (English/French)

Scenarios for Africa for the coming ten years identify the activation of traditional identities, the provision of natural resources and growing sales markets for industrialized societies, the politico-economic orientation towards China, rapid demographic growth and urbanization as long-term driving forces for the continent. The continent's natural wealth, benefits of the demographic dividend,

its diversity and a fast growing middle class are a huge potential for development and prosperity. At the same time, the governance capabilities of African states and the social cohesion of African societies are increasingly under pressure by the exploitation of the primary sector, the import of food, scarce resources and kleptocratic elites. To further tap the potential, investments in governance, education, research and development, digitalization and social and physical infrastructure will be needed. The German Federal Government as well as the European Union have developed specific strategies to revive their partnership with Africa. Do these strategies reflect the long-term trends? How coherent are these strategies? How do they respond to challenges and opportunities on the ground? Which resources are actually available to reach the declared objectives of the Africa strategies?

Panelists:

- Dr Jakkie Cilliers, Chairman of the ISS Board of Trustees and Head of African Futures and Innovation Team
- Ambassador Robert Dölger, Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Federal Foreign Office
- Dr Annamarie Sehovic, Associate Research Fellow, Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick
- Levinia Addae-Mensah, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
- Christoph Rauh, Deputy Director General (Africa), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (tbc)

Facilitation:

Melanie Hauenstein, Member of Advisory Board, United Nations Development Programme

Workshop 5: Policy Coherence for Peace in German and European Africa Policy (English)

In conflict regions around the world, a variety of external state and non-state actors are active with the aim to prevent the escalation of conflict, to end violence or to initiate or support peace processes. Achieving policy coherence for peace is a major concern in fragile and conflict-affected states because external actors intervene with different aims and approaches. Policy coherence would require improved coordination and cooperation between donors and local partners. The German Guidelines “Preventing Crises, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace” from 2017 have provided important impetus for the creation of policy coherence for peace. What are lessons learnt that are also relevant for European foreign policy? What challenges remain to achieve a more coherent German foreign policy? What strategies and approaches are needed to create policy coherence for peace at the European level and in the conflict regions themselves? Representatives from academia and civil society from Germany, the EU and the Sahel region will discuss these questions.

Panelists:

- Dr Christine Hackenesch, Head of Programme, German Development Institute
- Michael Keating, Executive Director, European Institute for Peace
- Philipp M. Goldberg, Director, FES Peace and Security Competence Centre in Dakar, Senegal

Facilitation:

Dr Melanie Coni-Zimmer, Member of Advisory Board, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt
Ginger Schmitz, Member of Advisory Board, German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management

14:30–15:30 hrs

Break

15:30–16:50 hrs

Closing Panel

What do Ongoing Conflicts Teach Us for Future EU Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding?

Building on insights from the breakout sessions, this last panel investigates what crises can teach us. Focusing on the European level of governance, the debate will explore how institutional learning could be integrated into existing frameworks. Drawing from the experience of different crises, like terrorism, the coronavirus pandemic and climate change, the role of civil society in European crisis prevention and peacebuilding will be discussed. When is preventative policy most effective and supported by the public? What instruments and guiding principles are necessary to multiply good practices? How do we build momentum for a more resilient and fair European Union that is able to anticipate and mitigate crises internally and abroad? We want to find answers to these pressing questions of our time and reach across silos in this closing panel.

Panelists:

- Ottmar von Holtz, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Civil Crisis Prevention, Conflict Management and Comprehensive Action of the German Bundestag
- Helga Schmid, Secretary-General, European External Action Service (tbc)
- Martin Jäger, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (tbc)
- Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
- Michelle Ndiaye, former Head of the Tana Forum

Facilitation:

Dr Almut Wieland-Karimi, Director, Centre for International Peace Operations

16:50–17:00 hrs

Concluding Remarks

Bodo von Borries & Dr Kira Vinke, Co-Chairs of the Advisory Board