



HYBRID THREATS AND CIVILIAN CRISIS PREVENTION: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD



The conference language is English (with simultaneous translation into German).

The conference will be held in person at the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg) in Berlin and online.

**Thursday, 9th of October 2025
9 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.
at the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg)
and online**

Location:

Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg)
Stauffenbergstraße 18 | 10785 Berlin

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

By bringing together expertise on crisis prevention and peacebuilding from both civil society and academia, the Advisory Board supports the Federal Government in these areas. It is appointed for four years and comprises twenty experts from academia, foundations, and civil society organizations. It follows the implementation of the Federal Government's guidelines on "Preventing Crises, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace" published in 2017. The Advisory Board fosters constant exchange between the Federal Government and civil society. It publishes positions on overarching strategic questions. In addition, it develops contributions on pertinent issues.

The global situation is worsening: the Russian war against Ukraine has destroyed the peace order that has existed since the end of the Cold War. Around the world, we are witnessing a shift away from a rules-based order and joint peacekeeping towards the "law of the jungle". Growing authoritarianism and polarization are threatening multilateralism, international cooperation, collective security, democracy and the rule of law. Increasingly, hybrid threats are also coming to the fore – for example in the form of disinformation campaigns, cyber attacks, sabotage or the

targeted undermining of social cohesion. Such threats combine state and non-state actors, military and non-military means and have a cross-border impact. They aim to destabilize democratic societies, make international conflict resolution more difficult and impair the ability for civil crisis prevention and peacebuilding.

The need for international and national capabilities for conflict management, crisis prevention and peacebuilding is increasing. Only the ability to defend itself and the capacity for peace together can guarantee security for Germany and fulfill the mandate of the Basic Law to serve peace in the world.

In order to strengthen the civilian components of international crisis management and peace engagement and to bring together key players in this field, the Federal Government's Advisory Council on Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding organizes the annual Berlin Peace Dialogue. The Advisory Council is also celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.



PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE

Master of Ceremonies:

Nora Müller, Member of the Advisory Board, Director of the International Politics Division & Director of the Berlin Office, Körber Foundation

9:00 AM

WELCOME & OPENING

Welcome by the Advisory Board

- PD Dr Julia Leininger and Bodo von Borries, Co-Chairs of the Advisory Board

Welcome by the Federal Ministry of Defence

- Dr Nils Schmid, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg)

9:30 AM

INTERVIEW

- Dr Nils Schmid, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg)
- Nora Müller, Member of the Advisory Board, Director of the International Politics Division & Director of the Berlin Office, Körber Foundation

10:15 AM

COFFEE BREAK



11:00 AM

KICK-OFF-PANEL: WHAT DO HYBRID THREATS MEAN FOR INTEGRATED SECURITY?

- What are the implications of increasing hybrid threats against Germany and its international partners for the Federal Government's engagement in foreign, security, and development policy?
- How can hybrid threats be effectively defined and addressed across civilian and military sectors, and what implications do they have for integrated security and crisis prevention?

Panelists:

- Prof Dr Peter Neumann, Professor of Security Studies at King's College London
- Major General Tilo Maedler, Chief of Staff German Joint Forces Command, Berlin
- Dr Konstantin von Notz, Member of the German Parliament for Alliance 90/The Greens and part of the Parliamentary Control Committee
- Prof Dr Susanne Fischer, Federal University of Applied Sciences for Public Administration Department of Intelligence Services
- Ambassador Dr Julia Monar, Federal Foreign Office (AA)

Facilitation:

Dr Jana Puglierin, Member of the Advisory Board & Head of the Berlin Office of the European Council on Foreign Relations

12:30 AM

LUNCH BREAK

1:30 PM

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

1. HYBRID THREATS BETWEEN UKRAINE AND THE WESTERN BALKANS – REPERCUSSIONS TO THE EUROPEAN SECURITY ORDER

- What do hybrid threats mean for Ukraine, Moldova and the Western Balkans and, how can these hybrid threats and disinformation campaigns be countered?
- How are hybrid threats dealt with in the EU's security policies, e.g. in civilian areas of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), including the role of civil societies in countering these threats and how are they empowered to do so?

Panelists:

- Dr Oleksandra Keudel, Associate Professor at the Kyiv School of Economics
- Anastasia Pociumban, Research Fellow at German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)
- Prof Dr Andreas Heinemann-Grüder, Fellow at GPPI
- Philipp Schweers, Seconded German expert to the International Criminal Court
- Dr Niels von Redecker, Head of Western Balkans Division, Federal Foreign Office (AA)

Facilitation:

Lieutenant General (ret.) Rainer L. Glatz, Member of the Advisory Board & Former Commander of the Bundeswehr Operations Command

2. DISINFORMATION, CIVIC SPACE AND PEACE – ANSWERS FROM POLITICS AND PRACTICE

- How can we effectively confront the threat of disinformation to peace, inclusion, and civic space – especially in fragile contexts – and what can we learn from peacebuilders already taking action?
- What bold political steps are needed to protect civil society, strengthen global responses to hybrid threats, and foster real collaboration between peace actors, policymakers, and tech platforms – now and beyond 2030?

Panelists:

- Emma Baumhofer, Digital Consultant and Facilitator
- Carly Rosenthal, Social Media and Fundraising Manager at Combatants for Peace
- Levinia Addae-Mensah, Executive Director at West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)
- Gitte Zschoch, Secretary General of the ifa, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen

Facilitation:

Dr Nicole Rieber, Head of Unit Peace Education at Berghof Foundation

3. HYBRID THREATS OF CLIMATE DISINFORMATION AND DENIAL

- What are the links between climate denial, right-wing extremism, anti-migration rhetoric and conspiracy theories?
- What challenges do actors face when trying to communicate ambitious climate policies in polarized environments? How can policymakers, journalists and civil society respond to the spread of disinformation without further polarizing audiences?

Panelists:

- Nikki de la Rosa, Trustee and Senior Adviser at the Council for Climate and Conflict Action Asia (CCAA)
- Dr Jan Altgelt, Federal Ministry for Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

- Dr Katja Muñoz, Research Fellow at German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)
- Prof Dr Stefan Rahmstorf, Co-Head of Research Department on Earth System Analysis of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Professor of Physics of the Oceans at the University of Potsdam

Facilitation:

Dr Kira Vinke, Member of the Advisory Board & Head of Center for Climate and Foreign Policy at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

4. PEACEBUILDING UNDER SIEGE – THE IMPACT OF HYBRID THREATS ON LONG-TERM PEACE IN THE SAHEL

- What are the key features of hybrid threats, including disinformation campaigns, used by various actors in the Sahel, and what impact do they have on peacebuilding efforts?
- What are concrete examples of initiatives responding to those hybrid threats in affected countries in the Sahel, and what can we learn from them?

Panelists:

- Dr Boubacar Haidara, Senior Researcher at Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (bicc)
- Fatima Al Ansar, Director at Tilwate Peace Network
- Dr Beatriz de León Cobo, Independent Consultant on Security in Sahel and West Africa region & Director of the Sahel-Europe Dialogue Forum expert group
- Will Brown, Senior Policy Fellow – Africa at European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)
- Sandra Sebastian, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Facilitation:

Milena Berks, Member of the Advisory Board & Senior Advisor and Researcher at the Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (bicc)

Melissa Li, Research Fellow at the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI)

3:30 PM

COFFEE BREAK

4:00 PM

CLOSING PANEL: CONFRONTING HYBRID THREATS: IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE CIVIL CRISIS PREVENTION

- What works against hybrid threats such as disinformation or cyberattacks?
- What are the main takeaways for policymakers and civil society who aim at strengthening civilian crisis prevention against hybrid threats?

Panelists:

- Prof Dr Anita Gohdes, Member of the Advisory Board & Professor of International and Cyber Security at Hertie School
- Alexander Mauz, Member of the Advisory Board & Chairman of Pro Peace and Representative of the Consortium for the Civil Peace Service (ZFD)
- Lieutenant General (ret.) Rainer L. Glatz, Member of the Advisory Board & Former Commander of the Bundeswehr Operations Command

Facilitation:

PD Dr Julia Leininger, Co-Chair of the Advisory Board & Head of the Department 'Transformation of political (dis)order' at the Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

5:15 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

PD Dr Julia Leininger and Bodo von Borries, Co-Chairs of the Advisory Board

5:30 PM