



Strategic Partnerships, Civilian Conflict Management, and Peacebuilding in a Multipolar World



The conference language is English, with simultaneous interpretation into German, Spanish and International Sign.

The conference will be held in person at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin and online.

Thursday, 8 October 2026

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**at the Federal Foreign Office
and online**

Location:

Federal Foreign Office
Werderscher Markt 1 | 10117 Berlin

Advisory Board to the Federal Government 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 organisations, police and the military. 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 world is undergoing a period of profound geopolitical and social upheaval. Growing geopolitical rivalries are compounded by social polarisation, authoritarian tendencies, hybrid threats and unresolved conflicts. At the same time, the need for effective civilian conflict management and peacebuilding is increasing, while the multilateral, national and local structures on which these efforts have traditionally relied are coming under growing pressure.

Against this backdrop, the Berlin Peace Dialogue 2026 focuses on international and global partnerships for civilian conflict management and

peacebuilding. As established forms of multilateral cooperation increasingly reach their limits, new forms of cooperation are emerging – more flexible, issue-specific and often rooted in regional and local contexts. The conference explores how partnerships can be built across different political systems and approaches, which instruments and alliances can contribute most effectively to peace and social resilience, and how cooperation can respond to both global and local challenges.

For Germany and Europe, these developments call for a more strategic and politically coherent approach to international cooperation. This includes strengthening partnerships beyond traditional alliances, engaging constructively with a diverse range of actors, and exploring new forms of cooperation in response to emerging challenges.

The central questions of the Berlin Peace Dialogue 2026 are: **How can Germany and its partners build effective and resilient forms of cooperation for civilian conflict management and peacebuilding in a changing geopolitical landscape? And how can the concepts and instruments of peacebuilding respond to increasingly interconnected global and local challenges?**



SCHEDULE

9:00 AM

OPENING

- **Nana Odoi**, Master of Ceremonies / Member of the Advisory Board / Managing Director of the Working Group on Peace and Development (FriEnt)

9:10 AM

WELCOME ADDRESS

- **Dr Johann Wadephul**, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
- **PD Julia Leininger** and **Bodo von Borries**, Co-Chairs of the Advisory Board

9:45 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS (ONLINE)

- **H.E. Juan Manuel Santos**, former President of Colombia (2010-2018) and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2016)

REFLECTION

From Local to Global – Partnerships for Sustainable Peace – A Civil Society Perspective

- **Levinia Addae-Mensah**, Executive Director of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)

10:15 AM

COFFEE BREAK

10:45 AM

OPENING PANEL:

Contested Concepts and Diverging Objectives – Civilian Conflict Management and Peacebuilding Today

Guiding Questions:

- What is shaping the future of civilian conflict prevention and peacebuilding?
- What role can Germany and its partners play?

Panellists:

- **Volker Oel**, Director-General Reconstruction and Stability; MENA, Sahel, Horn of Africa, Eastern Europe at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **Dr Alexandra Vacroux**, Vice President for Strategic Engagement at the Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine
- **Luxshi Vimalarajah**, Member of the Advisory Board / Senior Peace Mediation Advisor, Berghof Foundation
- **Dr Kira Vinke**, Member of the Advisory Board / Co-Director of the German Council on Foreign Relations and Head of the Center for Climate and Foreign Policy
- **Prof Martin Wählisch**, Associate Professor of Transformative Technologies, Innovation and Global Affairs, University of Birmingham

Moderation:

Prof Anita Gohdes, Member of the Advisory Board / Professor of International and Cyber Security, Hertie School

12:15 PM

LUNCH BREAK

1:15 PM

PARALLEL POLICY DIALOGUES

Overarching Guiding Question:

- Which partnerships, stakeholders, and instruments offer particular potential for civilian conflict management and peacebuilding in the respective region, and what challenges do they face?

1. New Alliances for Peace (with)in Africa? Civilian Crisis Prevention amid Shifting Powers and Shrinking Civic Space

Rathenau-Hall

This policy dialogue will be held in English without Translation.

Panellists:

- **Levinia Addae-Mensah**, Executive Director of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)
- **Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam**, Deputy Director-General for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Federal Foreign Office
- **Patrick Khamadi**, Policy Advisor, Humedica e.V.
- **Dr Henrik Maihack**, Head of Secretariat, South-North Commission on Development, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **Emeli Mohamed Ali**, Senior Regional Desk Officer, African Union Commission

Moderation:

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



2. Latin America Moves Forward – New Alliances and Untapped Potential for Cooperation

América Latina avanza: Alianzas emergentes y nuevas oportunidades de cooperación

Europa-Hall

This policy dialogue will be held in Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation into English.

Panellists:

- **Dr Andrés Jouannet**, Presidential Advisor, Chile
- **Marta Lucía Ramirez**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Former Minister of Defence, Colombia
- **Ana María Rodríguez Valencia**, Director of the Comisión Colombiana de Juristas, Colombia
- **General Patricio Carrillo Rosero**, Former Minister of the Interior, Ecuador
- **Paulina Rubio Fernández**, Federal Deputy and Ex-Vice President of The Chamber of Deputies, Mexico
- **Ambassador Annette Walter**, Deputy Director-General for the Americas, Federal Foreign Office

Moderation:

Maximilian Hedrich, Head of the Overseas Office in Brazil, Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (KAS)

Dr Jan Woischnik, Member of the Advisory Board / Head of the Latin America Department at the Berlin Headquarters, Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (KAS)

3. Syria in Transition – Emerging Opportunities for Partnerships and Engagement

Stresemann-Hall

This policy dialogue will be held in English, with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic.

Panellists:

- **Annette Chammas**, Head of Division Middle East II, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **Ambassador Clemens Hach**, Deputy Director-General for the Near and Middle East and Africa, Federal Foreign Office
- **Abir Haj Ibrahim**, Women Peacebuilder and Co-Founder of Mobaderoon, a women-led peacebuilding foundation
- **N.N.**, Syrian Embassy in Germany

Moderation:

Dr Karina Mross, Senior Researcher, Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

4. Middle Powers Rising – What Role Can They Play in a Changing World Order?

Main Conference Hall

This policy dialogue will be held in English, with simultaneous interpretation into German and International Sign.

Panellists:

- **Dr Paulo Esteves**, Director of the BRICS Policy Center, Brazil
- **Prof Hae-Won Jun**, Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), Korea National Diplomatic Academy, Republic of Korea
- **Andrew W. Mantong**, Researcher, Department of International Relations, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

Moderation:

PD Julia Leininger, Co-Chair of the Advisory Board / Head of the Department 'Transformation of Political (Dis)order', Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Dr Jana Puglierin, Member of the Advisory Board / Senior Policy Fellow and Head of the Berlin Office, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

3:00 PM

COFFEE BREAK

3:30 PM

REPORTING BACK:

Key Takeaways from the Policy Dialogues

3:45 PM

CLOSING PANEL:

Germany's Options for Supporting Mediation and Peacebuilding in the Future

Guiding Questions:

- How can Germany build stronger partnerships for dialogue, mediation and peacebuilding?
- How can these partnerships become more resilient and effective?

Panellists:

- **Katharina Ahrendts**, Director-General for Global Order, the United Nations and Humanitarian Assistance, Federal Foreign Office
- **Lieutenant General Muhammad Avais Dastgir**, Pakistan Army
- **Ambassador Tim Enderlin**, Head of the Division Peace and Human Rights, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)
- **Pekka Haavisto**, Personal Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Sudan, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finland

Moderation:

Dr Chris Coulter, Executive Director, Berghof Foundation

5:15 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

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