

STOCKHOLM FORUM **on Peace and** **Development** **2024**

AGENDA

On the Edge: Navigating a Changing World

DAY 1 Monday, 6 May

Plenary session

9.15–11.00
Mässhallen

Building trust in a divided world

Moderator

Dan Smith, Director, SIPRI

Speakers

Fonteh Akum, Executive Director, Institute for Security Studies

Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, Oxfam International

Betty Bigombe, Ambassador of Uganda to Malaysia

Dag Juhlin Dannfelt, Director General and Head of Global Department, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Katja Keul, Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Welcome and opening remarks

Stefan Löfven, Chair of the SIPRI Governing Board

The opening plenary 'Building trust in a divided world' will reflect upon today's worrying geopolitical and security landscape. The panel will discuss questions of justice, equity and double standards within the global system. They will consider the rise of new alliances and spheres of influence and the implications of these geopolitical fragmentations for peace and security. They will explore how to rebuild trust between countries and how the multilateral system can remain relevant against a backdrop of division.

Partner-led sessions

11.00–11.30 Coffee break

11.30–12.45
Riddarsalen

A new agenda for trust: Forging peace in a divided world

Geneva Call and Interpeace

Since 1992, when the Agenda for Peace on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping was adopted by the United Nations Security Council, armed conflicts have changed. However, time and again, distrust has been observed as a consistent driver of conflict. Trust is usually the first element lost when conflict erupts, and the last to be regained. The eve of defining a New Agenda for Peace in 2024 offers decisive momentum to address this obstacle by placing trust at the centre of a renewed peacebuilding architecture.

2024 also marks the celebration of Interpeace's thirty years of existence. In collaboration with its long-standing partner and host, the government of Switzerland, and based on thirty years of peacebuilding experience, Interpeace will hold this discussion in the margins of the Swiss UN Security Council Presidency in May, and the session will follow the conversation held at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in January.

The session will explore avenues to rebuilding a trust-based international system that shapes peacebuilding policies, processes and practices, incorporating learnings from Burkina Faso, Colombia and Mali. It will also discuss the role peacebuilding organizations can play in fostering drivers of trust at the local level and helping to reshape multilateral relations, notably between the Global North and the Global South.

11.30–12.45

Galleriet

Hybrid

Bridging the global–local divide: Women, peace and security lessons from Iraq, Mali and Nigeria

Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) and Mercy Corps

This session will open a dialogue to generate lessons on best practices for contextualizing interventions and supporting locally led approaches to effectively implement the women, peace and security agenda. The focus will be on women's participation in community-level peacebuilding, conflict prevention and reconciliation. It will explore the challenges of translating a global policy agenda, often critiqued for its imposition of western values and norms, into relevant, effective and appropriate interventions for inclusive peacebuilding and gender norms transformation. The session will draw on case studies from Mercy Corps' and Folke Bernadotte Academy's research and programmes in Iraq, Mali and Nigeria.

11.30–13.00

Victoria

Workshop

Embodying transformation through the arts

Artas Foundation, Berghof Foundation and Centre for Social Change Nepal

To navigate a changing world, this session proposes embodying transformation through the arts. The essence is to rouse emotional intelligence to understand change holistically and expand imagination and agency towards alternative pathways. The hands-on, interactive format of the session will facilitate exploring how visual and performing art approaches and methods (can) induce social, cultural and political transformation and conflict transformation, by strengthening trust and social cohesion and stimulating collaboration.

Participants are likely to leave the session with a stronger intent, reason and means to (re)kindle the artist in them, and to create in their work and social context opportunities for learning and collaboration among artists and peacebuilders engaged at different levels, from the grassroots to the higher levels of diplomacy, dialogue, mediation and policymaking.

11.30–12.45

Fogelström

Good practices from operationalizing climate, peace and security in United Nations field missions

FBA, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and UN Climate Security Mechanism

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in 2023 that 'climate change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning.'

The climate emergency is a risk multiplier in fragile and conflict settings, as well as an entry point for cooperation, dialogue and confidence building. This roundtable will explore the evolving climate, peace and security (CPS) agenda with senior leaders and staff from UN field missions, with a focus on sharing experiences and emerging good practice in integrating CPS in offices, prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

11.30–12.45

Poseidon

Navigating a new era of European security: The role of the Western Balkans

Chemonics UK and the Young Professionals Network (YPN)

The Western Balkans faces a number of multifaceted, yet interrelated challenges that risk undermining the existing fragile stability of a region that is critical to Europe and NATO's security. Corruption and serious organized crime have eroded the rule of law and democratic processes, giving rise to increasingly autocratic governments and reinforced ethnic tensions. This has driven recent outbreaks of violence, including in Northern Kosovo, and ongoing instability across the region, e.g. in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, the influence of external actors such as China and Russia risks exacerbating all of these issues. The conflict in Ukraine understandably remains the focus of the international community's efforts. However failure to effectively support a region that is key to European security risks significant, broader, long-term implications.

This session will bring together experts from a range of backgrounds to help deepen the audience's understanding of these challenges and existing attempts to address them. Drawing on lessons learned, it will assess solutions for the future. In doing so it aims to inform policymakers and implementers working on rule of law, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the region and contribute to broader discussions on these topics at the 2024 Stockholm Forum.

11.30–12.45

Arkaden

Reluctant governments: Strengthening security in restrictive environments

Just Future Alliance and SIPRI

In a rising number of countries—for example Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Niger and South Sudan—governments are becoming less receptive to civil society having a role in providing justice and security. In addition to limiting civic space, in a number of cases these governments have also rejected external multilateral assistance.

This session aims to bring together the experiences and perceptions of civil society representatives who live in such restrictive environments. It asks the question: what can still be done if the government rejects assistance in the sphere of justice and security?

12.45–14.00

Lunch | Spotlight

13.15–13.45

Milles

Spotlight presentation with Juliana Uribe—Friday of peace: Lessons from civic technology in peacebuilding

Join us for an inspiring talk where we dive into the idea of achieving world peace through coordination and collaboration, using a fun metaphor about Fridays. We'll share lessons learned in civic technology during peacebuilding efforts in Colombia and conflict-affected areas. See how a simple agreement can transform realities. Don't miss it! #FridayOfPeace #BuildingPeace

14.00–15.15

Invitation only

Climate and environmental security in EU CSDP: Building greater impact through partnerships

Crisis Management Centre (CMC) Finland, SIPRI and ZIF Berlin - Center for International Peace Operations

Climate change and environmental degradation pose increasing risks to peace and security across the world. Climate change was first framed as a security risk by the European Union (EU) in 2003 and has since been mainstreamed into its foreign, security and defence policies. The EU's Strategic Compass (2022) and Civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Compact (2023) call to mainstream climate security into civilian crisis management, including through deploying an environmental advisor in all CSDP missions and operations by 2025. The 2023 EU Joint Communication presents a new outlook on the climate and security nexus and calls for international partnerships to be reinforced at political and operational levels.

In line with these policy documents, and in the spirit of moving the climate security agenda beyond policy and towards implementation, this closed workshop aims to: stimulate an open exchange among relevant experts, researchers and policy officers working in this space; promote learning between participants working at headquarters and in the field, especially among policy officers from the EU and the UN; and propose ways to enhance climate and environmental security partnerships in EU CSDP at both headquarter and operational levels. The session will explore the case study of Somalia as an example for current EU–UN partnerships on climate security.

Attendance at this session is by invitation only. If you would like to attend, please contact Julia Evans at: julia.evans@cmcf Finland.fi

14.00–15.15

Galleriet

Hybrid

Cultivating peace: Integrating peace into food systems transformation

HDP Nexus Coalition and World Food Programme (WFP)

Conflict, insecurity, and weather extremes profoundly impact global food systems, exacerbating food crises and perpetuating long-term consequences. 2022 has seen the highest number of conflicts (domestic and interstate) since the Second World War. Global food prices have also been impacted by conflicts such as the war in Ukraine. The 2023 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) indicated that as a result of these trends 258 million people in 58 countries or territories faced crises or worse levels of acute food insecurity in 2022. Addressing conflict is imperative for fostering resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems. By integrating peace-related interventions, local capacities can be strengthened, agricultural production restored, and peace consolidated.

This session will emphasize the interconnectedness between conflict, food systems, and sustainable development, drawing on strategies implemented in affected states. It will aim to highlight the pivotal role of addressing these challenges for achieving resilient and sustainable food security outcomes, particularly in fragile or conflict-affected contexts.

The discussion will delve into country-level experiences of food systems interventions and policies in fragile contexts, highlighting lessons learned and challenges faced. In addition to challenging the notion that food systems transformation is unattainable in fragile contexts, the session seeks to explore the value of in-country multi-stakeholder processes for effecting meaningful change in food systems.

14.00–15.30

Victoria

Workshop

Dismantling pillars of authoritarianism and violence

Humanity United and International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC)

Many of today's peace and security challenges are transnational and intersectional in nature. Complicating that context, there are a variety of organizations and institutions that enable authoritarianism, violence and insecurity. To counter these types of organizations and institution, bilateral institutions, philanthropic donors, researchers and policymakers can adopt strategies, tactics and roles to support non-violent movement ecosystems.

This interactive discussion will focus on identifying those strategies, tactics and roles. Specifically, this session will explore how to engage the security sector and kleptocratic networks, as well as the use of artificial intelligence to bolster movement ecosystems and effectiveness.

14.00–15.15

Riddarsalen

Fostering partnerships for people-centred security sector reform

UN Development Programme (UNDP) Crisis Bureau and UN Department of Peace Operations (UNDPO)

While security sector reform has been accepted as an indispensable component of the peacebuilding and development agenda—as underscored by Security Council resolutions 2151 (2014) and 2553 (2020)—traditional approaches appear less and less adequate in response to current challenges of delivering security and governance. Those increasingly complex and intertwined challenges—related to economic instability, debt crisis, climate change, the recent global health shock and conflicts—necessitate a new conception of security and justice governance and appropriate solutions to the evolving context and dynamics.

New approaches to security sector reform and governance require the engagement of multiple stakeholders. For instance, it is critical to strengthen the collaboration between the UN and international financial institutions to ensure coherent, sustainable and complementary support to the justice and security sectors, particularly in fragile and crisis settings.

The session aims to challenge policymakers, researchers and practitioners to critically reflect on what has been accomplished and what needs to change to better respond to the increasingly complex threats to peace and development and engage in anticipatory conflict and crisis prevention from security and justice sector reform and governance perspectives. The discussion will consider practical examples for engagement and recommendations on strengthening the peace, security and development nexus, including through people-centred justice and security systems.

14.00–15.30

Arkaden

Insights from conflict sensitivity hubs: DRC and Honduras**International Alert**

This roundtable offers an opportunity to share lessons learned and challenges encountered when using the Conflict Sensitivity Integration (CSI) Hub model. It will also demonstrate how integrating conflict sensitivity into development programming can produce better peace and development outcomes, using the examples of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Honduras. Bringing together experts who have been working directly with partners to integrate conflict sensitivity into dynamic conflict and violence-affected contexts, this interactive discussion explores the current state of play for CSI, grapples with knotty challenges and explores lessons and solutions.

14.00–15.15

Fogelström

Storytelling: A tool for change**Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa and the Arab Reform Initiative**

Have you ever thought about how storytelling can contribute to building peaceful societies? Join the Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the Arab Reform Initiative, along with experts and speakers from Europe and MENA, for an engaging roundtable discussion on the power of storytelling as a novel tool for change.

Participants will share stories, exchange experiences and best practices and are invited to reflect on how storytelling can help us put aside biases, create stronger mutual understanding including between people from different generations, enhance human connection, develop empathy, and contribute to dialogue processes and thereby to building peaceful societies.

15.15–16.00

Coffee break | Fireside chat | Guided tour of exhibition

15.15–15.45

Milles

Fireside chat with Scott Weber

Scott Weber is President and CEO of Peaceinvest, a global investment firm working to harness finance to build more inclusive economies and a more peaceful world.

During this fireside chat, Scott will discuss why he founded Peaceinvest, the firm's approach to sustainable investment in fragile settings and its impact to date. The discussion will look at what banks and investment institutions can learn from Peaceinvest and what Scott has learned after a year at its helm.

Learn more about Peaceinvest here: peaceinvest.net

15.20–15.40

Mässtorget

World politics and United Nations peace missions: An interactive exhibition**Geneva Graduate Institute**

Join us for a journey through time, power shifts and global impact.

This interactive exhibition explores the evolving role of the UN in maintaining global peace. During the Forum coffee breaks on Monday and Tuesday, there is an opportunity for Forum attendees to delve into the rich UN Peace Mission Mandates dataset spanning 1948–2023 and uncover the intricacies of peace missions—their origins, locations, tasks and objectives. Join this guided tour to experience a visual narrative that merges academic knowledge, peace research and on-the-ground expertise to unravel the facts about UN peace missions.

16.00–17.30

Victoria

Workshop

Climate resilience for peace: Programming in fragile and conflict-affected contexts in Africa**African Development Bank, COP28 UAE, Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), SIPRI and United States Department of State**

Climate action in conflict-affected and fragile settings holds the potential to mitigate conflict escalation risk or prevent relapse of conflict in post-conflict situations. Beyond averting conflict, it presents an opportunity to improve the well-being and livelihoods of communities while limiting harmful

interactions between climate change, conflict and security, thereby contributing to durable peace. However, evidence-informed approaches are needed to identify and tackle climate and security interlinkages in such settings, creating resilience benefits at scale.

This session aims to delve into these issues, which are raised in the COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace (RRP Declaration), particularly emphasizing its second pillar, focusing on understanding and enhancing best practices and programming. Additionally, the session seeks to explore possibilities for enhanced policy & programmatic relevant exchanges and possible ways for continued or new collaboration.

Diverse stakeholders, including representatives from governments, development and climate financing institutions, and civil society members from conflict-affected and fragile regions, will provide insights into challenges and good practices. The contributions serve as inputs for discussions structured in a workshop format.

Recognising the recent progress in supporting climate action in conflict-affected and fragile contexts, this session will provide novel insights on integrated climate security assessments and programming. It will spotlight lessons learned and propose adapted forward-thinking solutions critical for the efficient and effective implementation of the RRP Declaration, with a focus on Africa.

16.00–17.15
Milles

Diverging views: Global North and Global South on Ukraine to Gaza

Arab Center Washington DC, Italian Institute for International Security Studies (ISPI) and SIPRI

The 2020s have commenced with a stark display of hostility and violence: the wars in Ukraine and Gaza are the most magnificent examples, but lesser-scale conflicts are unfolding in many other regions of the world (Sudan, Congo, Ethiopia, etc). Overall, the perception and understanding of these conflicts vary significantly across different parts of the world, shaped by historical, political, and cultural factors, as well as different geopolitical priorities. This session aims to discuss how the “new” wars are seen and dealt with by “two worlds” that seem increasingly at odds: the Global North and the Global South.

What different understanding do the Global North and Global South have of various local conflicts? How are the wars in Ukraine and Gaza perceived in different parts of the world, what differences stand out

What different models of conflict management are taking root out there to address these conflicts? What differentiate western-led/liberal-oriented conflict management models, from paradigms used, for instance, by Russia and China? What is more effective?

What differentiate “traditional” multilateral mechanisms from “minilateral” forums that are emerging within the Global South? And which format is more effective in bringing about peace and development?

Does a double standard within the Global North really exist? If yes, what does drive it? How can the Global North face accusations of double standards that are made by countries of the Global South? What do the wars in Ukraine and Gaza tell us about all this?

The aim of this session is to unpack the complexity that hides behind sometimes simplistic narratives of a world in which different perceptions exist of different challenges, risks and opportunities.

16.00–17.15
Arkaden

Enhancing people-centred recovery strategies: Insights from Iraq and Ukraine

Mercy Corps and XCEPT

Two years on from the full-scale war in Ukraine, the country has suffered significant losses, and the breakdown and displacement of many communities. Whilst the future remains uncertain, efforts are underway to lay the ground for Ukraine’s post-conflict recovery. Meanwhile, in Iraq, communities are still living in the aftershocks of two decades of violence and upheaval, but recovery has begun.

Organised by Mercy Corps in collaboration with the Cross-Border Evidence, Policy and Trends (XCEPT) research programme, this roundtable session will consider how collaborative approaches among local communities, donors, and decision-makers can support post-conflict social restoration and recovery. Looking at both the Iraqi and Ukrainian contexts, and drawing on local knowledge as well as research and practitioner expertise, speakers will consider how Ukraine can learn lessons from the recovery process already underway in Iraq.

16.00–17.15

Galleriet

Hybrid

How can we promote social protection systems in conflict settings?

International Labour Organization (ILO), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and UNICEF

How can humanitarian and development actors, but also governments, the private sector and trade unions, foster synergies in social protection to promote social justice, including social health protection? This session will delve into how such collaboration can enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and results of humanitarian interventions (such as immediate cash transfers), while also contributing to sustainable solutions and inclusive national systems for both host communities and refugees.

With examples from contexts such as Jordan, Kenya, the Sahel and Ukraine, speakers will discuss linking humanitarian cash programming and social protection system building. They will also discuss the twin track approach of building and strengthening social protection systems while delivering on the humanitarian mandate. By joining forces, efficiency can be improved, systems can become more inclusive, access can be made better and, ultimately, universal social protection can be realized, even in the most challenging contexts.

16.00–17.15

Riddarsalen

Preventing conflict: Insider perspectives on the value of aid

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and SIPRI

This session will present empirical findings about how official development assistance (ODA) with a focus on peace contributes to conflict prevention. Actors with lived experience of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in their own countries will highlight instances or types of international support that they deem helpful and identify what made them helpful. The session will then unpack state and civil society viewpoints on how the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) donor and diplomatic engagement can enable local and national institutions and actors to deal with the drivers of conflict and sources of peace. In doing so, the session will provide an opportunity for actors from the Global South to share their views on how to constructively address the growing trust deficit between the Global North and Global South. The session will directly inform discussions ahead of the High-Level Political Forum which will review progress on sustainable development goal 16 and the Summit for the Future where UN member states will address national prevention strategies.

16.00–17.15

Fogelström

Putting the New Agenda into practice: Safeguarding norms and fostering political coherence

UN Department of Peace Operations Policy, Evaluation and Training Division (DPET), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), SIPRI and ZIF Berlin - Center for Peace Operations

There is currently a vibrant debate on the future of multilateral peace operations. Several large UN multidimensional missions have recently drawn down or are about to, while regional or subregional organizations or ad hoc coalitions have become increasingly involved in conflict management, including military enforcement action. The implications—from normative-doctrinal to political and concrete—of the evolving partnerships have become an ever more relevant issue. Recent initiatives such as the New Agenda for Peace and UN Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) on UN funding for African-led peace operations provide new impetus to strengthen partnership frameworks that will help shape the future of multilateral peace operations and conflict management, but many of the implications are still unclear.

This roundtable will unpack those implications. It will also ask what future multilateral peace operations can and should look like, how regional and ad-hoc coalitions can be grounded in broader political efforts to resolve conflict and sustain peace, and how normative frameworks and mandates such as human rights, the women, peace and security agenda, child protection, and protection of civilians can be incorporated into these new configurations.

17.15–18.15

Mässhallen

Jazz performance by a Kulturskolan quintet

DAY 2 Tuesday, 7 May

Plenary session

10.45–12.00

Mässhallen

Rethinking conflict prevention

Moderator

Per Olsson Fridh, Director General, Folke Bernadotte Academy

Speakers

Majed Al Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Qatar and Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar

Itonde Kakoma, President, Interpeace

Catriona Laing, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, United Nations

Heela Yoon, Founder/CEO, Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace

Conflicts are escalating. Humanitarian needs are soaring. But at the same time, development funding is being cut, and trust is low in institutions designed to ensure peace and security. Those working on the ground in fragile and conflict-affected settings are openly questioning whether today's humanitarian, development and peacebuilding systems are breaking or may even already be broken.

On day two of the Forum, the high-level panel 'Rethinking conflict prevention' will discuss the ways we need to rethink, reinvent and re-evaluate conflict management to adapt to today's changing security landscape. The speakers will share lessons learned from across the world, including Afghanistan, Somalia and Qatar, as well as reflect on the ability of local, national, regional and international institutions to manage and restrain these conflicts as crises continue to deepen.

The panel will approach these issues by asking questions such as, how do we prevent conflict in today's changing world? What instruments and approaches are being used by the United Nations, regional organization and local actors to do so, and how effective are they? What lessons can be learned for peace and security, and how can those lessons be applied to improve conflict prevention?

Partner-led sessions

9.00–10.15

Poseidon

Building trust: Combating disinformation and safeguarding against hate speech

Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)

Misinformation, disinformation and hate speech (MDH) have always been part of warfare, but greater connectivity and social media as a growing means of information consumption have amplified the reach and impact of MDH.

In Ukraine, disinformation campaigns have endangered civilians by sowing confusion about evacuation routes and access to critical services. Russian actors have tailored disinformation narratives to undermine international support for the Ukrainian war effort, stirring up resentment between the Global North and Global South. In Yemen, misinformation and disinformation have falsely implicated parties to the conflict in incidents of civilian harm and have been used in campaigns against international non-governmental organizations. Disinformation targeted at United Nations peacekeeping missions has affected their ability to operate. MDH has also influenced the outcome of elections across many regions and been used by political actors to influence public opinion.

Trust underlies both the spread of disinformation and the ability to counteract it. Actors working to prevent conflict, protect civilians and build peace must contend with MDH and repair and maintain trust in the face of it. This session will explore the risks MDH presents during conflict and the role various actors can have in preventing and responding to MDH. The session will also identify methods of rebuilding trust and counteracting the negative impact of MDH to improve the protection of civilians in conflict.

9.00–10.30
Victoria
Workshop

Dialogue across the divides: Using theatre for new ways of engaging (Part 1)

Kviss Búmm Bang and SIPRI

How can theatre teach us to be better policymakers, development practitioners, diplomats and negotiators? In an era of growing mistrust and polarization, we need to find new ways of communicating and relating to each other in our different capacities. Theatre is a powerful tool that invites us to question our pre-written professional scripts, roles and costumes and to reinvent the ways that we interact.

This 60-minute session introduces a new method of self-reflection and communication aimed to rebuild trust, developed by the internationally acclaimed theatre collective 'Kviss búmm bang'.

In addition, a smaller group of 15 attendants are invited to actively participate in a second session by further exploring their individual roles during the rest of the Forum. Those 15 attendants will be asked to stay in the room for 10–15 minutes after the conclusion of the main 60-minute session.

If you are interested to participate actively, [please fill in this form](#).

Should you become accepted, you will be registered as an active participant and are expected to take part in the follow-up session on Day 3.

9.00–10.15
Fogelström

Geopolitics, climate change and state fragility in the Middle East and North Africa

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and SIPRI

Fragile and conflict-affected states in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) face a multifaceted and complex set of challenges, from domestic and proxy conflicts and contested leadership to dwindling economic resources and polarized societies. These states are also confronting the consequences of climate change, such as higher temperatures, lower precipitation and frequent extreme weather events, which can aggravate existing grievances and threats. The evolving environmental landscape thus has direct and indirect implications for the security and stability of the whole of MENA, encompassing broad political, social and economic dimensions.

The roundtable will bring together climate and security experts to present research, reflect on the complex interconnections between climate change and conflict, and share possible solutions, zooming in on specific cases such as Iraq, Lebanon, Libya and Yemen. The discussion will be an opportunity to critically assess increased vulnerabilities of political systems and socio-economic structures, as well as food, water and energy infrastructures within the region.

9.00–10.15
Arkaden

Minorities, marginalized groups and food security

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Colombia, SIPRI, Mistra Geopolitics and Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI)

Food insecurity across the world is increasing quickly. Almost 41 per cent of the global population is either severely or moderately food insecure, and minorities and marginalized groups are the worst affected. Interventions to improve food security in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have been implemented by international agencies and governments, with varying rates of success.

This session will compare experiences of food security among minorities and marginalized groups in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. It will discuss the merits and drawbacks of the approaches that have been implemented across the three regions. Participants can exchange lessons learned on how food security interventions can and have supported the needs and challenges that minorities and marginalized populations face in securing food for their households.

9.00–10.15
Galleriet

Myanmar: Insights at the intersection of constitution and peace processes

International IDEA, FBA and Berghof Foundation

Following an unconstitutional military coup in Myanmar in 2021, the Spring Revolution's democratic movement in Myanmar is reconfiguring the constitutional and governance framework for a future democratic and federal Myanmar. Civil society, ethnic representatives, elected representatives and others aim to restore peace and stability by rebuilding the state on democratic and federal principles, drawing a clear line under the era of military domination. Efforts for future peace have now merged with the democratic movement to build a genuinely democratic state. As is common during democratic transitions and constitutional beginnings, there are many questions about the legitimacy and sources of authority for the emerging actors and about the balance between continuity and revolutionary change.

This session will explore the intersection between constitution-building, governance and peace processes and how the links between these processes can be strengthened to better address violent conflict and build democracy. To fully explore this new approach, the session will draw lessons from research and practice, as well as identify opportunities and considerations for future practice.

9.00–10.15
Riddarsalen

Security dilemmas for Ukraine and Moldova

DCAF - Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance, Clingendael Institute and Platform of Security and Defence Initiative (PISA)

Good security sector governance (SSG) and security sector reform (SSR) aim to bridge the gap between international and domestic realms of security policy and governance structures. This enables them to durably prevent conflict and contribute to peace within an international system based on multilateralism and multi-level global governance. The Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine has completely challenged this paradigm. There is now a need to rethink how SSG and SSR can still contribute to conflict prevention and peace.

The session will identify and discuss best strategies of external and internal balancing in the security and defence sectors. It will identify strategies that empower states to secure their survival and well-being as open, democratic, and inclusive societies under conditions of war in an increasingly anarchic international system, while, at the same time, safeguard the values of multilateralism and international rules.

Moldova and Ukraine follow external balancing strategies by seeking European Union (EU) membership and, for Ukraine, by seeking accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and developing strategic partnerships with like-minded, supportive states. However, this path is linked to internal political and technical reforms, including SSR. Therefore, this session will ask how Moldova and Ukraine can be integrated more quickly through carefully harmonizing external and internal balancing strategies and policies in the security and defence sectors.

10.15–13.00

Coffee break | Plenary session | Lunch (12–13) | Presentation

12.30–13.00
Milles
Presentation

Cross-border Conflict Evidence, Policy and Trends (XCEPT) research funding opportunities

An informal session with the XCEPT Research Fund team to discuss upcoming calls for research proposals on conflict drivers, dynamics, and more effective policy responses.

13.00–14.15
Fogelström

African–Nordic cooperation: Shared commitments and common interests

NUPI and the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI)

Since the mid-20th century, African and Nordic countries have been developing strong, trusting relationships. In recent decades, they have formed robust partnerships that have increased Africa's capacity for peace and security, as evidenced by mediation, peacekeeping, peacebuilding initiatives, and the establishment of institutions. The legacies of these partnerships and the implications for future relationships in an increasingly fractured world remain unclear.

The roundtable will bring together a diverse group of African and Nordic experts to discuss the convergence of Nordic policies and Africa's conflict management and peacebuilding agenda. Speakers will also address critical cross-cutting priorities at the centre of African–Nordic relations in the arena of peace and security, such as the effects of climate change, the dangers of gender inequality, the threat posed by political crises, and the need for long-term stability in Africa's peace and security architecture. The roundtable will also address pressing questions about the nature of African–Nordic cooperation in a changing geopolitical and multilateral landscape.

13.00–14.15

Galleriet
Hybrid

On the edge: Providing aid in hard-to-reach contexts

SIPRI and World Vision

Humanitarian access to crisis-affected populations was restricted in 41 countries in 2023. Humanitarian actors are finding it increasingly challenging to operate in and respond to growing needs in conflict, post-conflict and fragile contexts. More specifically, non-state and state armed actors significantly constrain access, intentionally or unintentionally, for the delivery of food assistance, weaponizing food in some cases. Furthermore, governments, who are responsible for and expected to provide basic services, often lack the capacity to deliver them, in particular to conflict areas. In this context, national and local actors have a crucial role in bringing stability to enhance access to vulnerable populations. Against this background, research is re-assessing the role and legitimacy of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors in delivering services in more hard-to-reach locations. This session aims to facilitate a discussion among humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors on the challenges and opportunities of securing and maintaining humanitarian access in conflict-affected and polarized settings.

13.00–14.15

Riddarsalen

Red Sea security in a time of disorder

CMI-Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation

The Red Sea bridges the African continent, the Arabian peninsula and the Middle East. It connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean with two strategic chokepoints for global trade: the Suez Canal, and the Bab El-Mandeb. The area has long been the theatre for several overlapping conflict systems, as well as competition and posturing by regional and global powers. Increased geopolitical polarization has intensified these dynamics, as competition has accelerated, alliances have shifted and violence has proliferated throughout the region.

Looking at the interlinkages between increasing global tensions, the deteriorating security of the Red Sea and conflict dynamics in the surrounding region, this panel will shed light on how Red Sea maritime security and a breakdown of trust across the region link to local, regional and global conflict dynamics and what the current risks are. It will also discuss possible avenues for de-escalation, confidence building, and collective security approaches in the face of ineffective formal structures and crumbling multilateralism.

The session will consider questions such as: What should be done to address the security threats and (re)build trust as conflicts in the region escalate? If traditional tools are not working, what else should be tried? If global actors are distracted, can regional actors take more ownership and resolve problems in a way that serves the common good?

13.00–14.15

Poseidon

Still engaging, but differently: Shifting the power to locally led peace initiatives

Knowledge Platform Security and the Rule of Law (KPSRL) and Peace Direct

Despite a challenging international context, new behaviours, mindsets and ways of working are possible. These new ways can enable a renewed sense of solidarity beyond Global North/Global South binaries.

This session will give participants space to build connections, reflect and reimagine donors' and international non-governmental organizations' engagement in supporting locally led peace and security efforts in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The participants will identify concrete recommendations to increase the ownership, effectiveness and sustainability of politically sensitive interventions.

While conversations on power imbalances, global injustice and double standards can be overwhelming and even paralysing, this session aims to emphasize hope and the possibility of doing things differently, while taking into account donors' political and organizational realities.

13.00–14.15

Invitation only

Hybrid

Arkaden

Sustaining peacebuilding support beyond UN peace operations

Challenges Forum International Secretariat (CFIS) and UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

Recent empirical evidence from 16 UN peacekeeping operations shows that state-building gains in security, governance and economic development can often not be sustained after the departure of peacekeeping operations. With both recent (UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali) and upcoming (UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, UN Mission in South Sudan) departures of peacekeeping operations in Africa, the question of enhancing capacities and resources of UN country teams and/or special political missions to assume residual tasks from departing peacekeeping operations is high on the agenda.

Much progress has been made in UN Security Council practice and UN guidance on transitions, yet the UN system continues to struggle to operationalize normative frameworks. Furthermore, deteriorating relations with host countries are increasingly leading to accelerated mission drawdowns, affecting exit planning. Following the recent adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 creating the framework to fund African Union peace support operations, we may also see more residual tasks and responsibilities of departing peacekeeping operations handed over to regional bodies.

As part of the Challenges Forum workstream on transitions, this brainstorm session aims to discuss how, and through which modalities, the UN system can provide more flexible and tailored support to countries in transition and avoid losing the hard-won gains of a country, supported by the efforts of a peacekeeping operation.

Attendance at this session is by invitation only. If you would like to attend, please contact Fanny Wellen at Fanny.Wellen@challengesforum.org.

13.00–14.30

Victoria

Workshop

Who counts? Evidence at the nexus of climate, conflict and governance

Institute of Development Studies-XCEPT, Mercy Corps, SIPRI and International Organization on Migration (IOM)

This workshop will explore how evidence is valued and how it is used in practice at the nexus of climate, conflict and governance. It sets the scene for breakout groups using three real-world examples. The Institute of Development Studies (XCEPT Research Fund awardee) will present community-led research from Kenya's borderlands that helped to deepen insight on the drivers of insecurity and conflict and energize policy engagement. Mercy Corps will present action to strengthen traditional conflict resolution systems in north-east Nigeria, through a systematic early warning and early response mechanism for natural resource-based conflict. SIPRI, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration Somalia, will present collaboration between researchers and practitioners in south-central Somalia in an environmental peacebuilding approach to addressing local conflicts.

Participants should come prepared to share insights on innovative evidence approaches and to collaborate with other researchers, practitioners and policymakers.

14.15–14.30

Coffee break

14.30–15.45

Galleriet

Hybrid

Aiding peace through locally led humanitarian action

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

The humanitarian system's current concentration of power, influence and resources in the Global North excludes and disempowers local and national actors, and organizations deeply rooted in communities affected by crises. These organizations nearly always respond to humanitarian needs before the international response is in place.

This conversation will bring together practitioners and academics to talk about the consequences for a conflict setting, and for potential peace, when local civil society organizations that have had a political reform agenda also take on humanitarian response.

14.30–15.45

Fogelström

Healing wounds: Exploring trauma's impact on sustainable peace and development

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Humanity United

How can peace, security and development practitioners, mediators and decision makers incorporate a basic understanding of trauma into their work? This session looks at how such an understanding of trauma—including how it informs emotional and mental processes and influences behaviour—can be integrated to create better strategies for dialogue; durable solutions to recurring problems; increased understanding between opposing groups; and adaptable plans for future scenarios that may emerge.

Participants will learn how a trauma-informed lens impacts every sector of security, development and peacebuilding and how it can help inform and strengthen long-term strategies and approaches. The session will provide practical takeaways that can be applied in all fields to make work more impactful and durable in the future.

14.30–15.45

Riddarsalen

Hidden in plain sight: Women, peace and security solutions for today's multi-crisis

Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

This session will initiate a discussion between distinguished high-level women, peace and security (WPS) experts, representing different perspectives and experiences. Topics will include women's inclusion in peace negotiations, support to women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders, the protection and participation of women in the anti-gender backlash, and how these issues are connected to the central challenges in today's security landscape.

This session will present and critically discuss the solutions that the WPS agenda and the inclusion of women in all their diversity offer to address the current multi-crisis and challenges in conflict prevention, mistrust in multilateralism and failing peace efforts.

Participants will take away insights on how inclusive and gender responsive approaches to the peace and security crisis offer effective and sustainable solutions and on good practices that could be adapted and systematized. Those less familiar with the WPS agenda will learn about innovations in conflict prevention and peacemaking and the importance of a gendered sensitive conflict analysis and a gendered lens when not only preventing but also responding to emerging crisis and conflicts.

14.30–16.00

Victoria
Workshop

How to better protect civilians? Rethinking the role of humanitarians in violence reduction

Humanitarian Policy Group/ODI, Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) and NORCAP (Norwegian Capacity)—part of Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Humanitarian actors do not have enough capacity to protect the millions of people threatened by armed or violent conflict, and the existing mechanisms are insufficient to improve the safety of affected populations. Against this background, to what extent can humanitarian actors be more proactive in preventing or reducing violence against civilians? How can peacebuilders and humanitarians better complement each other's work to prevent conflict and protect civilians?

This interactive session aims to challenge participants' understanding of the role(s) of humanitarian and peacebuilding actors in reducing violence and preventing conflict—including through, but not limited to, dialogue and mediation at community level, and unarmed civilian protection. It will discuss opportunities, challenges and risks when strengthening complementary approaches between peacebuilding and humanitarian action in situations of high intensity conflict/emergency settings.

14.30–15.45

Arkaden

Private military companies: Consequences for peace?

SIPRI and UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

Private military companies (PMCs) are increasingly prominent in conflict zones worldwide. Their activities often blur the lines between traditional military operations and criminality, raising key questions about their impact on international peace and security.

The session is anchored in ongoing research by SIPRI and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The research seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the increasing role of PMCs in conflicts, their connections with criminal organizations, and their involvement in activities often linked with terrorism.

The expert panel will delve into how PMCs contribute to human rights abuses, war crimes and regional destabilization, addressing critical questions about their legality, ethics and oversight. The experts will explore actionable strategies and policy recommendations for more effectively regulating and monitoring PMCs, with the goal of mitigating their negative impacts on global peace and security. Participants will gain an understanding of the role of PMCs in shaping the future of global conflict, conflict management and peace operation efforts.

15.45–16.30

Coffee break | Conversation | Guided tour of exhibition

15.50–16.10

Mässtorget

World politics and United Nations peace missions: An interactive exhibition

Another chance to join a guided tour of this exhibition. For full description, see Day 1, 15.20.

16.00–16.30

Riddarsalen

In conversation with Inger Andersen

SIPRI Director Dan Smith and Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, reflect on growing environmental and ecological security risks.

They discuss how environmental crises are affecting security, the role of environmental action in building peace and what further research and policy steps are needed in this space.

16.30–17.45
Fogelström

Beyond the numbers: Implications of military expenditure

SIPRI

Global military spending has reached unprecedented levels, and it is not set to slow down in the foreseeable future. One explanation is that the world is becoming increasingly armed in response to escalating insecurities. This is certainly true, but as more resources are allocated to the military, there are fewer resources to be allocated to other areas, and that is not the only implication of higher military expenditure.

This session will deliver an overview of the developments and trends in global military spending against the context of discussions of military expenditure at the United Nations. It will use cross-country and country-case perspectives to offer tangible examples of the consequences of military spending.

One of the main goals of this session is to set out the vital need for a new and updated comprehensive report that explores the four thematic consequences of military spending: economic, environment, political and social. The session serves as the starting point for SIPRI to undertake the role to lead this project. By drawing on an interdisciplinary group of representatives from civil society, member states and the research community, as well as practitioners and policymakers from across the world, this roundtable will seek to expand the discussion from the disarmament field into the development and peacebuilding fields.

16.30–17.45
Galleriet
Hybrid

Coordinated climate–conflict responses: Case studies of leveraging prevention policies in coastal West Africa

Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP), Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and XCEPT

Climate change, violent conflict, and fragility are compounding crises that pose severe risks to state, regional, and global peace and security. Coastal West Africa faces acute security risks from climate change, such as destructive coastal flooding and tensions over natural and agricultural resources, amplified by poor governance—all while the region grapples with increasing violent extremism. State and multilateral strategies and policies are beginning to highlight the need for coordinated responses to these compounding crises. But what does this look like in practice, and what lessons can we learn from efforts that are already in motion?

Join the Alliance for Peacebuilding, the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and XCEPT to discuss the opportunity to create norms and standards for conflict prevention and its integration across sectors to advance climate action and resilience in Coastal West Africa through the Global Fragility Act and other prevention-focused policies, including the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act and the Women, Peace, and Security Act. Featuring policymakers, researchers, and civil society leaders, this roundtable discussion will explore how the US, in partnership with other bilateral and multilateral stakeholders, is working to leverage prevention policies to address climate change in Coastal West Africa through a regionally-coordinated, locally-led, multisectoral, and evidence-based approach. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the opportunities and challenges in efforts to utilize conflict prevention as a means of building climate resilience.

16.30–17.45
Riddarsalen

Engaging with all security actors: Overlapping formal and non-formal governance systems

FBA and UNDP

When international actors support security provision, they primarily focus on the formal arrangements of the state, and often fail to consider informal or hybrid actors and mechanisms. These informal actors and mechanisms can not only include insurgent actors contesting the legitimacy of the state but also informal armed and non-armed actors working alongside or in co-operation with the state to provide services to local populations. Although there is a growing recognition of the role of non-state actors in service delivery, policy approaches and frameworks have not kept pace. Many international actors struggle to include non-state actors in their analysis and engagement in fragile and conflict-affected situations, particularly in the security sector, not least because of the implications it may have in legitimizing armed groups, or in relation to state authorities.

Against this backdrop, this session seeks to explore the feasibility of a 'hybrid security governance' approach in contexts where formal and informal security governance systems tend to overlap, interrelate and interpenetrate at complex levels. It also highlights the risks of missing the mark if all actors are not included in the equation and the implications for ensuring security is people centred.

16.30–18.00

Invitation only
Workshop

Enhancing aid effectiveness in fragile contexts

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), SIPRI and Swedish Red Cross

Given the overlapping multi-crises the world faces, this workshop will focus on designing and implementing integrated, multisectoral approaches that promote peace more systematically through climate, food security and peace interventions in fragile contexts.

The objective of the session is to foster an open exchange on ways to: (a) strengthen the impact of aid interventions in fragile contexts by positively addressing the nexus between food (in)security, climate change and peace/violent conflict; (b) overcome barriers to effectively operationalize and implement integrated approaches; and (c) connect the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding (HDP) communities for more effective interventions in fragile contexts. The workshop will share recent SIPRI research on this topic and facilitate interactive exchanges between experts, HDP stakeholders and policymakers on what works and what needs to change, as well as why and how. The workshop aims to identify priority recommendations that can be further disseminated at policy level to improve programming approaches and to strengthen the argument that aid agencies should stay engaged in fragile settings.

Attendance at this session is by invitation only. If you would like to attend, please contact Liliana Almeida at: liliana.almeida@sipri.org.

16.30–17.45

Invitation only

Pivot to the east: EU crisis management after February 2022

CMC Finland, SIPRI and ZIF Berlin - Center for Peace Operations

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 has had profound implications for the European Union's (EU) civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). In the wake of the February 2022 invasion, EU member states have taken several political and strategic decisions that shifted the focus of civilian CSDP more firmly to the EU's eastern neighbourhood, responding not only to Russia's war on Ukraine but also to other threats to peace and security in the region. First, EU member states decided to maintain the EU Advisory Mission (EUAM) in Ukraine, restore its presence in the country as quickly as possible, and adapt its mandate to better meet Ukrainian needs. Then, EU members decided to establish new civilian crisis management missions in Armenia and Moldova, whose sovereignty and territorial integrity are being threatened by military and non-military means.

The aim of this roundtable is to further understand the political and strategic ramifications of these developments, and the operational requirements that derive from them. This includes the question of what is needed from EU member states to enable the civilian CSDP missions in Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine to deliver on their mandates and effectively support host governments and populations.

Attendance at this session is by invitation only. If you would like to attend, please contact Timo Smit at smit@sipri.org.

16.30–17.45

Arkaden

Rethinking SSR in coup-affected environments: Lessons and experiences from the Sahel

DCAF and Research and Action for Peace Network (REcAP)

While security sector reform (SSR) interventions have constituted a vital component of national, regional and international strategies to stabilize and ensure durable peace in the Sahel over the past decade, the outcomes have fallen short of expectations, as evidenced by the recent military coups in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Nevertheless, continued but revised engagement remains necessary to control damage, avoid further backsliding and maintain the space for further re-engagement if and when constitutional order eventually returns.

This session will share the experiences of SSR and governance (SSR/G) practitioners who navigate post-coup environments in which the normative basis of SSR/G work is questioned. The discussion will start by exploring how countries that have long received SSR support have nonetheless relapsed into military rule, and lessons for the SSR community of practice. Looking forward to adaptation strategies, the session will consider how various actors have adapted and renewed their political and programmatic approaches since the coups to remain engaged in a principled manner. It will delve into the trade-offs involved in staying versus leaving, and the practical challenges and solutions for remaining engaged in a space close to the breaking point generated by coups and military state capture.

17.45–18.30

Forum mingle

DAY 3 Wednesday, 8 May

Plenary session

12.10–13.40

Mässhallen

Intersecting crises, joined-up solutions

Moderator

Nathalie Chuard, Director, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance

Speakers

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, Founder and CEO, International Civil Society Action Network

Mely Caballero-Anthony, Professor of International Relations; Associate Dean (International Engagement); Head of Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University

Yero Baldeh, Director of the Transition States Coordination Office, African Development Bank

Juliana Uribe Villegas, CEO and Founder, Movilizadorio

Closing remarks

Dan Smith, Director, SIPRI

The scale of today's peace and security challenges can feel deeply overwhelming. Wars are raging in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. International relations are marked by distrust. Military spending is rising. Global hunger is increasing. In 2023, 110 million people were forcibly displaced. A set of spiralling environmental crises, from climate change to biodiversity loss, is destabilizing the natural world on which human life depends.

The closing high-level plenary, 'Intersecting crises, joined-up solutions', will unpack how these converging crises challenge existing policy approaches. The speakers will discuss how to move from talking about joined-up solutions to delivering them on the ground. It will explore what incentives and innovations are needed to foster better cooperation across organizations, disciplines and borders. As they bring the Forum to a close, the speakers will share promising examples of what is working to inform and inspire more effective programming in the future.

Partner-led sessions

9.00–10.30

Invitation only
Workshop

Dialogue across the divides: Using theatre for new ways of engaging (Part 2)

Kviss Búmm Bang and SIPRI

Registrations for this session will be confirmed by email from desire.raagart@sipri.org

This is a follow-up 60 minute session exclusively for the smaller group of pre-registered participants. Participants are expected to reflect and debrief on their experiences. The focus is on how we as individuals can change the roles, scripts, scenes and interactions to effectively rebuild trust and cooperation as professionals.

The conversation will be guided by Kviss búmm bang director Vilborg Ólafsdóttir.

9.00–10.15
Arkaden

Don't stop now: Staying and delivering aid after unconstitutional changes of government

NRC and UNDP

Development aid is being suspended in more and more contexts following an unconstitutional change of government (UCG), as in the case of Afghanistan, Myanmar and across sub-Saharan Africa in recent years. It is being suspended despite policy discussions to advance the humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach and calls to increase investments in development and prevention in fragile settings.

This roundtable will present the initial findings of ongoing research, by the Norwegian Refugee Council and the United Nations Development Programme, on the humanitarian and development impact and consequences of suspending aid after a UCG. It will advocate for international actors and donors to proactively engage in supporting 'stay and deliver' approaches and applying a people-centred approach to development interventions rather than a state-building approach, even under exceptional or politically complex circumstances. The roundtable will explore joined-up approaches and share alternative delivery modalities, such as area-based solutions, community-level interventions, and adapted development modalities when working in contexts with de facto authorities.

9.00–10.15
Riddarsalen

Enhancing partnerships for financing peace

Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and Interpeace

This panel discussion aims to raise global awareness, understanding and advocacy of new approaches by and partnerships between development finance actors, the international community, and peacebuilding actors, and how they can work together to develop sustainable financing models for consolidating peace in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Panellists will discuss how private and public investments can support peacebuilding and reflect on the role that development finance institutions, private sector actors, the United Nations, peacebuilding actors and civil society can play in designing integrated solution that de-risk investments for investors and communities. Country-level examples, and the practical case of the partnership between the African Development Bank and Finance for Peace/Interpeace, will illustrate how better partnerships can catalyse peace-positive impacts in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

9.00–10.15
Fogelström

In the crossfire: Leveraging data on civilian exposure to conflict

Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), CIVIC, European Union Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Save the Children, and UNDP Crisis Bureau

This session will host a roundtable discussion delving into different approaches to harnessing data on civilian exposure to conflict in conflict analysis. The objective is to foster a nuanced understanding of how political violence impacts different civilian populations, which would facilitate integrating this data into evidence-based decision-making processes.

The session will introduce a variety of novel approaches to conflict analysis from humanitarian, academic and data-focused backgrounds. It seeks to empower individuals by equipping them with actionable insights into measuring civilian exposure to violence and its impacts, catalysing a collective commitment to effectively mitigate the impact of conflict on vulnerable populations.

9.00–10.15
Milles

Innovative peacemaking: Blending international norms and Islamic principles

FBA and Hamad Bin Khalifa University

This session will launch the 'Guide to Peacemaking Using Islamic Principles', which outlines an innovative approach to identifying and using commonalities between international norms and Islamic principles during peacemaking in Muslim majority societies. This guide adds a new and important dimension to improve contemporary peacemaking.

The guide emerges from a four-year research project between the London School of Economics, Uppsala University and the Folke Bernadotte Academy that engaged over 100 Islamic and contemporary western scholars, transitional leaders and peace practitioners from across the globe. The research was further stress-tested when the principles were implemented in real-life conflict situations such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and Syria.

This innovative project has generated lively debate on the topic among peace practitioners and policymakers engaged in peacemaking in Muslim majority contexts. The project is novel in that researchers and practitioners, and Islamic and contemporary peace practitioners, worked together to develop the guide. These two worlds will merge in this session.

9.00–10.15

Galleriet
Hybrid

Statebuilding in contexts of invisible and multilevel governance

International IDEA and the University of Edinburgh

Most countries that have experienced conflict have been through some form of peace or transition process. However, to prevent conflict recurring, peace and transition processes need greater capacity. The processes of the past and increasingly fragmented conflicts make it harder to reach new peace and transition agreements, and to translate them into constitutions. One key problem is that the fragmented nature of conflict, and the underlying reality of complex conflict systems, means that it is almost impossible to conceive of the type of state structure that could even theoretically gain buy-in from all the key groups. Yet, within the fragmented landscapes of Myanmar, Somalia and Yemen, there are forms of effective governance, including pockets of good governance. The session will explore ways in which these fragmented forms of authority could help build new forms of incremental and bottom-up state-building.

9.00–10.15

Poseidon

The city key: Unlocking solutions to identity-based violence

La Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES), Peace in Our Cities, Stanley Center for Peace and Security and the University of San Diego

This roundtable discussion will engage participants in considering peace and violence prevention through a city lens.

The discussion invites participants to explore recent and yet-to-be-released research on identity-based violence and violence reduction strategies in cities, unpacking insights from two research projects on interrelated, comprehensive, balanced and legitimate urban violence prevention strategies. Bringing together the two research projects, this session will disseminate core insights from practitioners and experts, including those with lived experience.

Participants will explore the alignments and the overlaps between atrocity prevention, peacebuilding and urban violence prevention that can make each field stronger and enable communities of practice to respond to conflict and violence in ways that meet current human security challenges. Further, the session will affirm that more is to be gained from bridging communities of practice and engaging locally with experts than from working in siloed approaches and depending heavily on high-level systems.

In sum, this roundtable will unpack how effective city-based strategies have been implemented to reduce violence. It will distil key aspects contributing to their success, including from speakers who will share what is possible when investment in violence prevention is localized and sustained.

10.15–10.45

Coffee break

10.45–12.00

Fogelström

An environment of war? Ecological (in)security in a divided world

SIPRI

The armed conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine are visible reminders of the severe negative impacts conflicts have on the environment, as well as other areas. For instance, the Russian attacks that destroyed the Kakhovka Dam in June 2023 led to a drastic increase in the levels of copper, arsenic and oil contamination in the surrounding bodies of water and soil. In many armed conflicts, the release of heavy metals into soil and water has been linked to severe health consequences, including cancer and increases in antimicrobial resistance. While these effects can often be seen directly, some of the environmental consequences of conflict are not immediately visible; conflicts induce changes in governance systems and people's behaviours, affecting land use and maritime resource exploitation. Conflicts also cause carbon emissions and hinder governments from implementing environmental policies.

These negative effects not only impact countries during armed conflict but also persist for several decades after active combat ends. And yet, the environment often remains a silent casualty and a second order issue in reconstruction.

Building on the findings of the recently published 'An Environmental Compact for Ukraine', this session brings together leading experts and practitioners to reflect on and discuss the wider ecological consequences of armed conflict in their areas of work. It will consider strategies for how we can protect the environment and ecosystems better during and after armed conflict.

10.45–12.00
Riddarsalen

Moldova and EU enlargement: An opportunity for inclusive conflict prevention and settlement?

CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation

Moldova cooperates with the European Union (EU) in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its eastern regional dimension, the Eastern Partnership, with the objective of bringing Moldova closer to the EU. On 14 December 2023, the European Council decided to open accession negotiations with the country. This session will explore how EU enlargement could present opportunities for conflict prevention and conflict settlement in the Republic of Moldova in the contexts of the Gagauzia autonomy and Transdnistria respectively. The panel will identify and consider best practices and lessons learned from EU enlargement and conflict prevention and resolution, notably how priorities intersect and reinforce or undermine one another. The discussants will reflect on the experience of maintaining stability in Moldova for the last three decades, including the roles of external partners.

10.45–12.00
Arkaden

Multidimensional crisis in the Sahel: Working with military-led governments

FES and SIPRI

Since 2020, sub-Saharan Africa has had the highest number of military coups of any region. Here, democracy has been challenged, and regional and international responses have had limited impact. The failures of international military interventions in the Sahel region and the various coups have led to a profound questioning of the relations between the European Union (EU), its member states and African countries.

Tensions in the region as a whole find a particular echo in sub-Saharan Africa, where the growing influence of China, Russia and Turkey and the impact of the war in Ukraine have led to power shifts and global competition for leadership. Political tensions have grown as critical and sovereigntist discourses have spread, resulting in a reconfiguration and diversification of partners and popular support for military-led governments. This multidimensional crisis reshapes the EU–Africa cooperation model and the bilateral and multilateral cooperation systems.

The session will discuss the development model and how Europe should design its future engagement in sub-Saharan Africa. It will also analyse the multi-polarization of the world, the emergence of new partnerships and the consequences of the diversification of alliances.

10.45–12.00
Galleriet

What matters for peace? Enhancing accountability through measurement

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects and Search for Common Ground

Peace matters for the sustainability of almost every important aspect of society, but there is little evidence of what good investments in peace look like. The perspectives considered when measuring peace are often too short-term, too scattered (often project-based), and too disconnected from people's lived realities and how they want to build their societies. Instead, trust could be built with those communities by tracking what really matters for peace and driving the conversation and investment towards that.

This session will present the Peace Impact Framework, created to identify the essential elements of peace and how to measure it. The framework will be explored using examples from Search for Common Ground, Conciliation Resources, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects and West Africa Network for Peacebuilding to demonstrate how it works in practice. The framework's ability to allow comparison results across different conflict contexts—such as Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Israel/Palestine, South Sudan and Sri Lanka—will also be showcased. Throughout the session, the focus will be on improving accountability to and finding strategies for enabling people in conflict settings to evaluate the impact of interventions, while also ensuring the adaptability of peacebuilding efforts to the dynamic contexts of conflict situations.

12.10–15.00

Plenary session | Closing of the Forum | Lunch (13.45–15.00)

15.00–17.30
Invitation only

Unconstitutional changes of government: A new research agenda

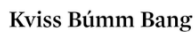
UNDP

This roundtable will identify current knowledge gaps in understanding the drivers of unconstitutional changes of government (UCGs) and response mechanisms to define an emergent research agenda.

This session is by invitation only.

For more information, please contact Fabio Oliva at: fabio.oliva@undp.org.

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