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The KOFF
Peacebuilding
Magazine

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The overriding general consensus says that the 2030 Agenda, with its 17 development goals, can be hailed an achievement. It is also pleasing that with SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 16, the topic of “peace, justice and strong institutions” has been explicitly raised.

But how can this vision and huge amount of good will be turned into a reality? KOFF member organizations from different NGOs and from the Swiss Federal Administration have their say in this edition. Some already see weaknesses in the demands of goal 16. According to them, SDG 16 doesn't have enough clear directives about the monitoring of arms and is also generally lacking in specific peace policy postulates. It has also been highlighted a number of times that goal 16 cannot succeed alone, but rather needs to be implemented together with the other goals. An integrated approach is therefore imperative. The overall importance of civil society to the implementation of SDG 16 has also been brought to our attention. The restriction of civil society's freedom to act is therefore even more unsettling. Certain authors also very specifically explain how they are making a contribution to SDG 16 with their projects. That's why, for instance, more justice and concerted responsibility are strived for through working with children and young people, which in turn helps to prevent structural violence. Finally, the question is also raised as to whether goal 16 is measurable or whether a quantitative measurement even makes sense.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Amélie Lustenberger, editor of KOFF Magazine

focus

No sustainability without peace, no peace without sustainability



The use of the Mekong is a famous example of cross-border and very complex sustainability conflicts.

Photo: Creative Commons

If you look at the 2030 Agenda and its 17 goals from a peace perspective, Goal 16 naturally stands out:

“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

At this year’s High-Level Political Forum, the focus is on Goal 16 alongside five other goals. This provides a reason to take a closer look at peace and the 2030 Agenda.

Since January 2019, the office for the Administrative Coordination of the 2030 Agenda Platform and thus my office have been located at swisspeace. From this experience, two very central crossovers between the 2030 Agenda and peace work became clear to me.

Firstly, a holistic approach to peace and a holistic approach to sustainability are mutually dependent. Simply put, the 2030 Agenda does not work without Goal 16 and Goal 16 does not work without the majority of the 2030 Agenda goals.

Secondly, there are conflicting goals in the 2030 Agenda. Peace work can bring methodical added value for solving the inherent conflicting goals in the 2030 Agenda.

A holistic approach

About the first point: Johan Galtung – a great authority in peace studies – has shaped the concept of “positive peace.” He points out that peace is much more than the absence of direct violence. He distinguishes between two definitions of peace: “positive” and “negative peace.” Negative peace focuses on the absence of direct violence, while positive peace also focuses on the absence of structural and cultural violence. He therefore refers to the many social factors that promote and enable peaceful coexistence. Positive peace is considered a holistic approach. Peace cannot be considered in isolation

If you look at it from the perspective of positive peace, the overall importance of the 2030 Agenda is once again made clearer. Goal 16 and its 12 sub-objectives already include a relatively wide spectrum of factors, but we only move towards seeing them as a whole if we look at them in relation to the other goals. Among other things, Goal 16 includes the fight against corruption, as well as dishonest and illegal flows of money and weapons, the fact that a legal identity is needed and the greater inclusion of developing countries in global institutions. A central element of the 2030 Agenda is also the interactions between the goals. Examples of goals that are clearly linked to peace, conflict and violence are Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 10 on inequality as well as Goal 15 on terrestrial ecosystems. Conflict and violence both impede the achievement of these goals.

From a Swiss perspective, Goal 17.14 is particularly noteworthy: policy coherence for sustainable development. Behind this seemingly technical expression is the desire to resolve contradictions in policies for the benefit of sustainable development. An example: From a sustainable development viewpoint, it can hardly be expedient to export weapons to countries that are involved in conflict.

The conflicting goals

The 2030 Agenda is a milestone: 17 goals and 169 negotiated, comparably specific sub-objectives in one document. Although these goals are not binding, they represent successful cooperative work by the UN, which comes in for a lot of criticism these days. Unfortunately, one longstanding point of criticism of sustainable development remains: Conflicting goals in sustainable development have not been addressed (enough) or resolved. This leads us to the second point mentioned: What if goals are contradictory? Which goals or which interests have which priority? This problem is as old as the discussion on sustainable development in the UN.

The first UN environment conference took place in Stockholm in 1972. Maurice Strong, who held the chairmanship, told the BBC in 2011 that the developing countries had considered boycotting the conference. Their concern was that the focus on environmental topics would take attention away from their problems such as the fight against poverty and promoting development. This problem is of course not new.

The International Science Council investigated 316 interactions. It concentrated on Goal 2 –

Zero Hunger, Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-Being, Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy and Goal 14 – Life Below Water. Of the 316 interactions investigated, 238 were positive, 12 neutral and 66 negative. The negative interactions involve “trade-offs.” The word makes it clear that something needs to be weighed up here. An example from the study mentioned:

Goals 14.2 and 14.5 that call for the protection of coastal areas could come into conflict with the economic activities, growth and quantity of jobs promoted in Goals 8.1 and 8.3. Solutions need to be found to this and interests need to be assessed.

A discussion of values

By this we mean a discussion of value across the whole of society. We need to determine what is important and who has which interests. The climate strikes again brought home the urgency of including the interests of the young generation. This creates the challenge of allowing the interests of future generations to be incorporated. In addition, certain parties are posing the question of whether nature has an intrinsic value and therefore rights. One of the guiding principles of the Agenda – leave no one behind – is significant to the present as well. Different communities and stakeholders also have many different opportunities to make their voices heard and to assert themselves. The issue of power is key.

This balancing of interests and these discussions of value must be facilitated in the fairest, best possible way. What value does the global community want to attribute to unspoiled nature? What scope for decision-making should future generations have? What institutions do we need to be able to approach these questions in the long term? Switzerland has now put in place a Directors’ Committee that brings together the relevant federal agencies and is to be administered by two delegates from sustainable development – seemingly without noteworthy additional resources. Can a committee such as this make brave decisions? What kind of resources and skills would be needed, how do these contradict our established administrative structure?

It does little good to close our eyes to trade-offs and the balancing of interests. How will the discussions be conducted? Which elements are important? Who are the interested and conflict parties? And which processes lead to fair and representative solutions?

In attempting to solve these conflicts, the peace perspective and the experiences of peace work bring a major added value far beyond Goal 16. This is also combined with experiences in mapping conflict parties, a conflict-sensitive approach and holistic and long-term approaches to conflict resolution.

[Plattform Agenda 2030](#)

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Coordination of the Plattform Agenda 2030

[links](#)

- [International Science Council: A Guide to SDG Interactions: from Science to Implementation](#)
- [Johan Galtung, co-founder of the Peace Research Institute Oslo \(PRIO\)](#)

- Interview with Maurice Strong at the first UN environment conference
- A book on the concept of sustainability: "The discovery of sustainability" (in German)
- A classic critical review of the concept of sustainable development: "Sustainable development: A critical review"
- The 2030 Agenda Platform (in German)

reports

The SDC: An integrated and joint approach to achieve SDG 16



Cotton production is an important sector of Kyrgyzstan's economy and one of its key value chains. © SDC

In 2015, world leaders expressed their determination to 'foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence' in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They set ambitious targets under Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) for reducing violence everywhere, ensuring access to justice for all and creating effective, transparent and inclusive institutions.

Going further, Switzerland and a group of selected countries and agencies are co-developing 16+ approaches: an integrated approach recognizing that SDG16 targets alone will not succeed in achieving peaceful, just and inclusive societies, unless it is implemented jointly with targets addressing poverty, education, gender equality, inclusive growth, employment, reducing inequality and sustainable cities. In piloting 16+ approaches, they contribute to accelerating our collective efforts by fostering stronger narratives, interfaces and synergies.

From the beginning, Switzerland joined forces with a coalition of countries and organizations in launching the Pathfinders Initiative for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, an emerging movement bent on accelerating delivery of SDG 16 and 16+. In 2017,

the Pathfinders adopted a Roadmap highlighting areas of critical importance to the success of the Agenda, relevant to all countries and stakeholders, which focuses on solutions and results. The Roadmap stresses key transformative strategies, catalytic actions and enablers that strengthen the foundations for ambitious delivery. This summer, the High Level Political Forum will showcase the efforts of all actors involved in SDG 16 and 16+. Members of the Pathfinders will present their engagement on the justice gap, and some of their reflection on reducing violence

Bilaterally, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is progressively introducing 16+ elements in policy and multistakeholders dialogue as well as in the relevant aspects of its strategies and programming. SDC fosters peaceful societies in countries like Cambodia, Colombia, Mali and Tunisia with programmes that contribute to prevent violence and violent extremism, reform and establish good security sector governance, and campaign against anti-personnel mines. SDC helps foster just societies in Afghanistan, Honduras, Laos, Mozambique and Rwanda by supporting human rights and access to justice while also fighting corruption. SDC also promotes inclusive societies in Egypt, the Great Lakes or Nepal by supporting inclusive politics, gender equality, combating all forms of discrimination, consolidating the space for civil society and strengthening its participation and contribution.

Switzerland intends to strengthen the transformative synergies of 16+ and to leverage intersectionalities around peace, justice and inclusion for the success of the Agenda 2030.

[Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation \(SDC\)](#)

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links

- [Pathfinders roadmap for peaceful, just and inclusive societies](#)
- [SDC Engagement on fragility “Combating poverty, containing fragility and strengthening resilience”](#)
- [SDC Engagement on fragility 16+ “Action in fragile states: sustainable support for governments and populations”](#)

reports

From a global vision into a local reality



Local planning and local open budgeting in Bangladesh. Picture: Jens Engeli, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation

SDG 16 signifies a major breakthrough in recognizing the importance of Governance for inclusive and sustainable development. The emphasis on effective and accountable institutions and inclusive decision making at all levels is a clear indication for this, as well as the targets on rule of law, corruption and access to information. For SDC, these are important thematic priorities.

Important to mention is the notion “*all levels.*” It highlights the important role of the subnational level in turning Agenda 2030 from a global vision into a local reality. Local communities and stakeholders know local needs and capacities best. They can adjust national strategies to the reality of their territories and are thus critical partners in realizing the global agenda. This provides an opportunity to renew commitments towards decentralization and effective, accountable and inclusive local governance.

Today however, in most SDC partner countries local communities still play a marginal role in implementing agenda 2030 and their contributions to the voluntary national reports are low and poorly structured. This is particularly true for the rural and peri-urban localities, which are less prepared, resourced and supported in this regard. Already well-known systemic constraints, such as the lack of clear and comprehensive reassignments of functions and the lacking financial resources persist. Furthermore, local stakeholders are

poorly informed about the SDGs and respective national plans, nor do they know how to translate this into their local contexts.

That is why “*localizing the SDGs*” has to be high on the agenda. A quick survey among SDC offices provided examples of dedicated efforts in supporting subnational stakeholders on this pathway. They include for example awareness raising of local governments, civil society etc. about agenda 2030, municipal strategic planning in view of the SDGs and respective national targets, improving the quality and availability of policy-relevant data, establishing subnational information and monitoring systems or promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue on the SDGs. Involving local government associations, training of trainers and promoting champions are some interesting strategies mentioned to take this further.

Another important challenge is the worldwide trend of “closing space for civil society”. That is why SDC has embarked in a reflection process on how to maintain spaces for public dialogue and inclusive decision-making. This can include a wide range of activities: from supporting civil society initiatives and platforms to identify and discuss concrete, and potentially less sensitive, development priorities, or helping them in exploring the potential of digital communication, to the accompaniment of exposed actors in conducting risk assessments and establishing security plans, and Switzerland engaging in concerted high-level policy dialogue. Learning and exchange with other development actors is still ongoing.

[Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation \(SDC\)](#)

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Policy Advisor Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance

links

- [SDC website on decentralisation and local governance with explanation Video](#)
- [Sharewebs DDLGN, SDC Policy on Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance](#)
- [Agenda 2030 Localising the SDGs, development partners network on decentralisation and local governance \(DeLoG\)](#)

reports

Supporting community dynamics in Haiti to strengthen democracy



Demonstrations in Port-au-Prince, February 2019. Photo: Hector Retamal (AFP)

Duvalier's downfall in 1986 and the adoption of the Constitution in 1987 marked the advent of a new political era in Haiti: democracy. But although the Constitution incorporates the key concepts of democracy, its implementation has been hampered by corruption and lack of consideration of the population's needs. So, it is no exaggeration to say that the transition begun in 1986 has still not produced robust democratic institutions in Haiti.

Today, the country is floundering in a fragile political situation, marked by social breakdown and unprecedented economic deterioration. The delay in implementing the basic requirements for democracy is a serious handicap to economic, social and human development.

The UN, in its description of SDG 16, says that: "The rule of law and development have a significant interrelation and are mutually reinforcing, making them essential for sustainable development at the national and international level."

It is on this basis that the Centre de Recherche et de Formation Économique et Sociale pour le Développement (CRESFED), a Haitian organization set up in 1986, is contributing to

efforts to achieve a transformation to a just, inclusive and participative society, within a democratic constitutional state.

In pursuit of this goal, CRESFED and Eirene Suisse, an organization working to promote peace and human rights that supports local organizations like CRESFED, have set up a citizenship project for young people in southern Haiti.

This project aims to increase civic awareness among young people aged between 18 and 28 years, and to encourage them to take an interest and participate in their community's public affairs. As an Eirene Suisse volunteer at CRESFED, I am involved in the implementation of this project, contributing my communication and advocacy skills to motivate citizens to achieve lasting change.

This initiative is part of a *bottom-up* approach to development, which essentially aims to involve direct beneficiaries in finding solutions appropriate to their real living environment and the protection of their rights.

CRESFED's activities also apply to local authorities, with which the organization also works closely. The involvement of local authorities in CRESFED's activities is part of a drive to strengthen the decentralization process with the aim of delivering more robust local governance.

This is crucial to the attainment of SDG 16. As CRESFED states in its development plan for the commune of Aquin (2012), "promoting local skills capable of producing self-sustaining development" helps to "substantially improve the conditions of existence and the living environment of the whole community (...) through a policy of local governance that is effective and fair."

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links

- [1987 constitution](#)
- [Concerned European Union calls for a new government \(in French\)](#)
- [The UN's description of SDG 16 \(in French\)](#)
- [CRESFED \(in French\)](#)
- [Projet de citoyenneté \(in French\)](#)
- [CRESFED working with the local authorities \(in French\)](#)

reports

Trustbuilding as key ingredient for Peace and Sustainable Development



Pastoralists shelter under a tree in Chad. Picture: Theo Freundt

Nothing destroys livelihoods or economies like violent conflict – except environmental catastrophe. Development, peace and environment are inextricably linked.

In Baringo County, Kenya, grass is in short supply during the dry season. Pastoralist communities like the Pokot and Ilchamus depend on the same dwindling resource, made more unpredictable by climate change. Fatal conflicts are apparently resolved one year, only to re-erupt the next. As one Kenyan activist put it, ‘You can’t eat peace’. Meanwhile, landscape restoration projects are abandoned due to insecurity.

The “Land, Lives and Peace” and “Creators of Peace” programs of Initiatives of Change recognize that peacebuilding and land restoration are inextricably linked – and have responded in Kenya and elsewhere using trustbuilding tools, like the documentary film *An African Answer*, concurrently with sustainable land management. As Tony Rinaudo, laureate of the 2018 Right Livelihood Award for fostering ‘farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR)’ puts it, ‘Trust is critical to the success of FMNR in a community.’

The interaction between development, peace and environment plays out from grass-roots through to national, regional and international levels. In order to forge holistic solutions to these inter-connected challenges, Initiatives of Change is partnering with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) to run a Summer Academy on Land, Security and Climate Change, which will see its inauguration at GCSP and as part of the Caux Forum this year.

Interest in the Academy from around the world is strong, notably from small island nations vulnerable to climate threats and from north-east India, facing ethnic conflict amplified by climate-induced displacement.

At the heart of the approach of Initiatives of Change is that trustbuilding for enhanced collaboration is key to the future of humanity. While all the SDGs are ultimately linked, SDG 16 is a critical lens through which to look at the entire 2030 agenda. We need peace to achieve the SDGs – and if we don’t achieve them, we won’t have peace.

[Initiative of Change Switzerland](#)

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[links](#)

- [Land, Lives and Peace program](#)
- [Creators of Peace program](#)
- [Geneva Centre for Security Policy \(GCSP\)](#)
- [Summer Academy on Land, Security and Climate Change](#)
- [Caux Forum](#)

reports

Contribution of the media to SDG target 16.10



‘Forum’, a dialog and discussion program produced in Niamey by Studio Kalangou, Fondation Hironnelle’s information program in Niger, broadcast by 38 radio stations across the country. Image: Olivier Girard / Fondation Hironnelle

Journalists, and the media organizations they work for, have a crucial role to play in achieving target 16. Their work should contribute most notably to achieving target 16.10: ‘Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements’.

The achievement of this goal, and that of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which protects freedom of opinion, expression and access to information, assumes the existence of free media that can do their job and report to the public on matters of public interest in an independent and professional way.

The media are key intermediaries between individuals and the rest of society. They play an important role in the formation of opinions and in shaping society. They connect citizens with what is happening around them and with social, economic, cultural and political institutions. They also provide these institutions with channels for interaction with citizens.

By helping to create a more inclusive and deliberative public sphere, the media can contribute to identifying a society's shared interests and identities, and to finding consensual solutions to conflicts. The media can also act as 'watchdog', speaking up for citizens while challenging political authority and calling the powerful to account. They thus directly defend 'public access to information' and help to 'protect fundamental freedoms', particularly the freedom of all citizens to express themselves and to obtain information.

It is this role of the media, and of journalism, that Fondation Hironnelle, like other media organizations across the world, has been defending for nearly 25 years. Originally set up by journalists from Radio Suisse Romande, Fondation Hironnelle provides independent factual information, produced on the ground in local languages, to populations faced with crisis, enabling them to exercise their rights and make their voices heard. Fondation Hironnelle's mission aligns perfectly with SDG target 16.10: it trains and manages teams of journalists in the countries where it works, and supports local media networks to enable them to fulfill their mission of providing information and creating spaces for dialog for the population. This mission is particularly vital today in contexts of major crisis such as the one sweeping the Sahel (where Fondation Hironnelle has set up Studio Tamani in Mali, Studio Kalangou in Niger, and recently Studio Yafa in Burkina Faso), in the Central African Republic (where Fondation Hironnelle set up the country's first media station, Radio Ndeke Luka, 19 years ago and has been supporting it ever since), and in contexts of humanitarian crisis such as the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh, where Fondation Hironnelle has been training and supporting refugees since 2018 to enable them to produce and broadcast essential information to the refugee populations.

[Fondation Hironnelle](#)

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links

- [Fondation Hironnelle](#)
- [Studio Tamani \(in French\)](#)
- [Studio Kalangou \(in French\)](#)
- [Studio Yafa \(in French\)](#)
- [Radio Ndeke Luka \(in French\)](#)
- [Refugee and Host Community RadioPro Unlimited](#)
- [Twitter: @FondHironnelle](#)
- [Facebook : @FondationHironnelle](#)

reports

With Clean & Green for sustainability and peaceful co-existence



Green School Myanmar. Photo: Pestalozzi Children's Foundation

An increase in extreme weather due to climate change is causing unimaginable damage globally. In Myanmar, one of the countries most often and most severely affected by natural disasters, thousands of people are dying from disease and hunger as a result of the bad weather. Besides the overexploitation of natural resources, in particular rampant deforestation, the country is fighting inadequate waste disposal. As a result of many years of political and economic isolation in the country, increasing poverty has split society along social and ethnic lines. The Kinderdorf Pestalozzi foundation is also promoting the SDG 2030 with its projects in this region. It promotes sustainable livelihoods and supports uprooted groups of people. Its focus is on future generations, justice, concerted responsibility and is seen as a means to prevent structural violence.

With the introduction of positive peace concepts by the Norwegian peace researcher, Johan Galtung, it is clear that sustainable development constitutes a necessary part of peacebuilding. The concept of positive peace also includes more than an analysis of complex structural reasons and reciprocal effects. Peace only has a deeper meaning, and therefore wider significance, through guiding relevance when negotiations take effect through the well-functioning collaborative work of motivated actors working beyond social

and generational boundaries. Early awareness-raising and support of children and young people is an essential prerequisite. A sustainable society includes several generations in its thinking and can only exist within the context of environmental borders, which is why these two factors form the basis of sustainable development in our work.

To get back to Myanmar... The foundation is putting environmental measures into practice in the regions of Irrawaddy, Mandalay, Magway, Shan and Kayah using three convent schools, numerous pupils, teachers and neighboring communities. Environmental and nutritional education are part and parcel of child-centered lessons. Pupils take responsibility independently for the execution of environmental tasks in working groups. Children, teaching personnel and entire municipalities are developing a teaching and learning community. Health issues and plant-based and traditional medicines are also included in the program, as are the careful use of natural resources and adequate disposal of waste. A handbook on child-centered environmental education is being developed in cooperation with the environmental protection department and forestry sector of the Myanmar government. In the long term, recognition of the handbook from this Clean & Green model is an aim of the Ministry of Education and the plan is to be copied in public schools countrywide.

Far from Myanmar, children and young people in the children's village in Trogen are laying the foundations for peace with shared children's rights across cultural and national borders. Intercultural and sustainable relationships are experienced and rooted as a matter of course in everyday life. Awareness of peaceful co-existence goes beyond the village. The world has long been shrunk to a village by globalization. Saying "We are all equal" does not guarantee peace. The foundation is involving its partner countries in strategic processes to bring about trans- and inter-institutional as well as transnational framework conditions for a fair social, environmental and economic development of the relevant areas as "one organization". Environmental and peacebuilding approaches should be multiplied in the control structures. At the negotiation venue and social events, children are encouraged to act as future citizens and ambassadors for a green world, locally as well as globally. Inclusive education with environmental consciousness on all levels represents one of the most promising long-term stabilizing initiatives for peace and sustainability.

[Pestalozzi Children's Foundation](#)

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links

- [Dominique Rinderknecht and Marco Fritsche help children in Myanmar \(in German\)](#)
- [Video: Dominique Rinderknecht and Marco Fritsche help children in Myanmar \(in German\)](#)

Libraries worldwide make a contribution to peace



Small exhibition on the topic of “The 2030 Agenda and the role played by libraries” in the library entrance area. Image: Mission 21

If the UN 2030 Agenda were to be implemented successfully, then people all around the world would have unimpeded access to knowledge and information. Libraries worldwide play a key role in this. The Mission 21 specialist library is championing Goal 16.

Target 16.10

With over two million members, the International Federation of Library Associations was able to establish an important approach towards achieving Target 16.10 during preparatory negotiations for the 2030 Agenda: “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms [...]”.

Libraries impart knowledge and profound insights into complex interactions and thus contribute to quality of life for the individual and to a peaceful society. They make information technology available to all, provide trained personnel to help people to capitalize on the information received and create a trustworthy network of local branches in towns, cities and the countryside worldwide. They have a unique ability like virtually no

other institution to reach all levels of society and to shut no one out.

Books for South Sudan

South Sudan is an area of focus in our small specialist library. It is remarkable how many new publications have recently appeared about the world's newest state. In June 2018, I showed them to Peter Gai Lual Marrow, the chairman of the South Sudan Council of Churches (a Mission 21 partner church) and an architect of the action plan for peace in South Sudan. We got talking about the importance of education in shaping the future of the country and about access to good study literature for students, for example, for those at the Nile Theological College NTC in Juba, which is educating leaders for the South Sudanese churches as well as teachers. There is a great responsibility on future guarantors of sustainable peace in the country. Peter Gai thinks that it is extremely important to be able to deal with your own history thoroughly. He says that corresponding study literature is needed in well-organized libraries for a new course in social ethics that discusses the country's problems and provides solution strategies and action plans.

On the ground, unfortunately, the reality is different – however, the seminar library in Malakal that was destroyed during the civil war in 2013 was rebuilt in Juba in 2016.

In the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, the South Sudanese students at the Giffen Institute have similar problems – good books are in short supply and they can only dream about a stable Internet connection.

We could provide some relief by acquiring here in Basel the books selected by Peter Gai for both seminar libraries and then arranging for intermediaries to bring them to their destinations.

A drop in the ocean? Yes, of course, but it's also true that constant (peaceful) dripping fills the ocean (the action)!

[Mission 21](#)

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[links](#)

- [For more about the 2030 Agenda and the role played by libraries](#)
- [Mission 21 specialist library](#)

reports

Agenda 2030 creates a chance for a peace rather than a security policy



Human Peace Signs on the Peace Trail 2019 Kreuzlingen. Photo: Swiss Peace Council

In relation to SDG 16 on the theme of peace, it has become strikingly clear that the 2030 Agenda has been negotiated between governments with a ‘toothless’ approach regarding peace policy demands. Security policy, army, and arms policy are an expression of state sovereignty, even in the context of the UNO. As yet there are no demands for arms limitations, disarmament, or even simply the monitoring of arms. Not once has universal observance of the treaties to ban proscribed weapons, or of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), been called for. In point 16.4, the sole requirement is that “by 2020, illegal financing of and flows of weapons should be substantially reduced” (but not, it seems, eliminated).

Is the 2030 Agenda therefore ineffective from a peace policy perspective and can be simply put aside? This would be – spoken in military terms – a capitulation in advance and, at the same time, an acceptance of the sanctity of the military in international politics. Amidst the current debate around the climate catastrophe, it’s crucial to remember that war is always the worst form of environmental destruction, even if “the civilian world” has long lost its “innocence” and has caught up considerably in its potential for destruction.

Restricting ourselves to demanding “civil solutions” therefore falls short. This is currently being proved by the 2030 Agenda, which convincingly shows how great the need for action is in different areas.

We should use the “weaknesses” of SDG 16 regarding specific peace policy postulates as an opportunity. The fact that the unformulated postulates do not require monitoring of their implementation leaves room for interpretation regarding what exactly should be changed within the area of security policy so that the goals of the 2030 Agenda can be achieved overall. This begins with the levels of military spending, the savings potential of which needs to be explored in order to free up urgently needed resources in other areas. In Switzerland, we are particularly presented with the beneficial opportunity to question the current design of the security policy, which even twenty years after the end of the bloc confrontation, is still unable to break away from a cold war mindset. In the article “Conceiving and shaping Swiss policy from the standpoint of peace” in the NGO report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda “How sustainable is Switzerland?”, Anna Leissing and I explored what such a reorientation could look like, with a move away from outdated, autonomous defense as the cornerstone of security policy, towards involvement in the UNO (and OSZE) system of collective security as the main task of the army which would also finally enable the categorical renouncement of war materials exportations. At the same time, this strengthens the position of Switzerland within the UNO and gives additional legitimacy to its candidacy for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council for 2023. Will our defense minister, who has introduced unconventional thinking into the DDPS with great courage, also be ready and capable to initiate such a rethinking in security policy? We are happy to help her with this Herculean task.

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links

- [NGO report on the implementation of Agenda 2030 “How sustainable is Switzerland?”](#)
- [Swiss Peace Council \(in German\)](#)

reports

The impact of changing space for civil society on SDG 16



Cover picture of the report. Photo: Paul Jeffrey, Cox's Bazaar

For years, we had to observe a worldwide decline in fundamental civil rights: Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press are being increasingly restricted in many countries. As a response HEKS, together with Dan Church Aid and Bread for the World as Act Alliance community of practice commissioned a study examining the role of civil society in achieving the SDGs.

Drawing on case studies carried out in Brazil, Cambodia, Nepal, and Zimbabwe, and on 12 desk-based country studies, the report analyzes the pivotal role civil society has played in achieving the SDGs. The resulting report shows how restrictions on civic space have already affected and are likely to further impact adversely on a number of SDGs.

Civic space is changing in terms of who participates and how. Dwindling civic space limits liberal human rights actors while widening the influence of right-wing, extremist and conservative groups. The growth of digital space has reshaped civic space for all actors and helped unruly protest movements to take up more space.

Political elites close civic space as part of national struggles over political and economic

power. Conflicts over the use of natural resources and land have been found to be key reasons why civic space is restricted.

Without a fully engaged civil society, the SDGs are bound to fail. This is the main conclusion of the research and case studies. Shrinking civic space is likely to halt or reverse progress towards reducing inequality, insuring inclusion, and improving sustainability, because it is often precisely those marginalized who are at great risk of being 'left behind by development'. The study therefore concludes that for development to be sustainable over time and for the benefit of all, a strong civic space is not optional but a must.

SDG 16 plays a double role in the development impact of closing civic space. Firstly, shrinking space results in worsening development outcomes as measured by SDG 16, with respect to violence, human rights violations, abuses of the rule of law, social and political exclusion, and the wider prospects for peaceful, stable, and just institutions. In cases compared, half of the SDG 16 targets showed clear and measurable signs of deterioration as a result of specific restrictions on civic space. Government efforts to restrict civic space have an immediate and measurable impact on the role of civil society to build trust where societies are polarized. Secondly, SDG 16 outcomes are also related to the capacities of civil society actors to safeguard public institutions, which are guided by SDGs on poverty and hunger, work, livelihoods, and the environment, among others. Actions against civil society activists undermine the fundamental freedoms of association, expression, assembly and protection as well as the capacity of civil society actors and human rights defenders to scrutinize government policies. Building and safeguarding effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels is therefore also a precondition for realizing the SDG agenda.

Key findings:

- The shrinking space of civil society hinders social and -economic development and hinders achievement of the SDGs.
- Restrictions on civic space prevent Civil Society Organizations from engaging in policy formulation, monitoring rights, raising awareness, championing the voices of vulnerable populations, and from building partnerships.
- When civic space is limited, development risks excluding voices and increasing social distrust. Ultimately, this increases inequalities and makes development less sustainable.
- Civic space is essential to provide transparent and verifiable information. If objective data is absent due to shrinking civic space, trust in official data and political performance is likely to decrease.
- Weakening of civil society may increase a permissive culture of corruption among elite groups without sufficient checks and balances. Not only could this erode trust in governance, but it could also trigger significant economic, food and political crises.

– Overemphasis on huge infrastructure projects and economic growth increasingly competes with the discourse of inclusion and thereby puts the key SDG principle of “leaving no one behind” at risk.

HEKS

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links

- [Read the whole report](#)

reports

Gender equality goes hand in hand with peace, justice and inclusion



A mother mourns her daughter, who was the victim of an honor killing. Performance as part of an art exhibition to raise awareness about gender-specific violence, Haifa, Israel. Photo: Anne Paq/activestills

The 2030 Agenda is an important reference framework for cfd's domestic and foreign programs. Its message embodies cfd's 80-year vision: "Leave no one behind."

For cfd, gender equality is the key to achieving a positive peace. It is both the prerequisite and the goal: Without peace there is no gender equality, and without gender equality there is no peace. Therefore cfd focuses on both SDG 16 *peace, justice, inclusive institutions* as well as SDG 5 *gender equality*. For cfd, both are closely linked, as peace, justice and inclusion are only possible with gender equality.

According to cfd, the sub-objectives that are important to achieve from SDG 16 and SDG 5 include the following:

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere (16.1)

- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (16.7)
- End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere (5.1)
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (5.2)

Cfd projects always contribute to both SDG 16 and 5. What does this mean exactly? Here are two examples from international collaboration:

In Israel, the project *Kifaya – Enough!* is helping to reduce gender-based violence. Women and girls affected by violence receive information, advice about how to protect themselves and legal aid. Young people, women’s groups and other social groups are made aware of violence using means such as an art exhibition.

In Algeria, the project *Nashat – Action* is helping to build a more inclusive society. It is encouraging young people to play a part in society. The aim of this is to strengthen their self-confidence and to teach them how to work on a joint project. They acquire knowledge about children’s and women’s rights, protection against violence and migration. It is about exchanging ideas. But it is also about taking responsibility and seeing yourself as an active and important member of society who can bring about change. The young people share this knowledge with their families and friendship groups and initiate a rethink among the members of their generation.

In the 2030 Agenda, all countries are requested to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals nationally and thus to overcome the major global challenges. The SDGs are therefore also part of domestic policy objectives. Cfd also contributes to SDG 16 and 5 with its projects in Switzerland. For example:

- Cfd is contributing to an inclusive society and to the end of discrimination against women and girls with the project “Career mentoring – female migrants networking in the world of work.” The mentoring project gives well-qualified female migrants better access to information and networking in the world of work. When searching for a job that suits their qualifications, they are closely guided and supported.
- The project “Civil society contribution to the implementation of the Swiss NAP 1325” aims to take into account the experiences and expertise of civil society in the official implementation of the Swiss NAP 1325. The main goal is the strengthening of gender-sensitive peace politics in Swiss domestic and foreign policy.

As a rich, globally connected country, Switzerland has a major responsibility towards implementing the 2030 Agenda. Cfd welcomes the coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the government. We believe that it is essential that civil society participates in a way that is based on partnership. This is because NGOs already make a major and important contribution and can continue to do so. We also consider the inclusion of the gender category as critical to achieving peace, justice and inclusion.

[cfd](#)

Virginie Poyetton

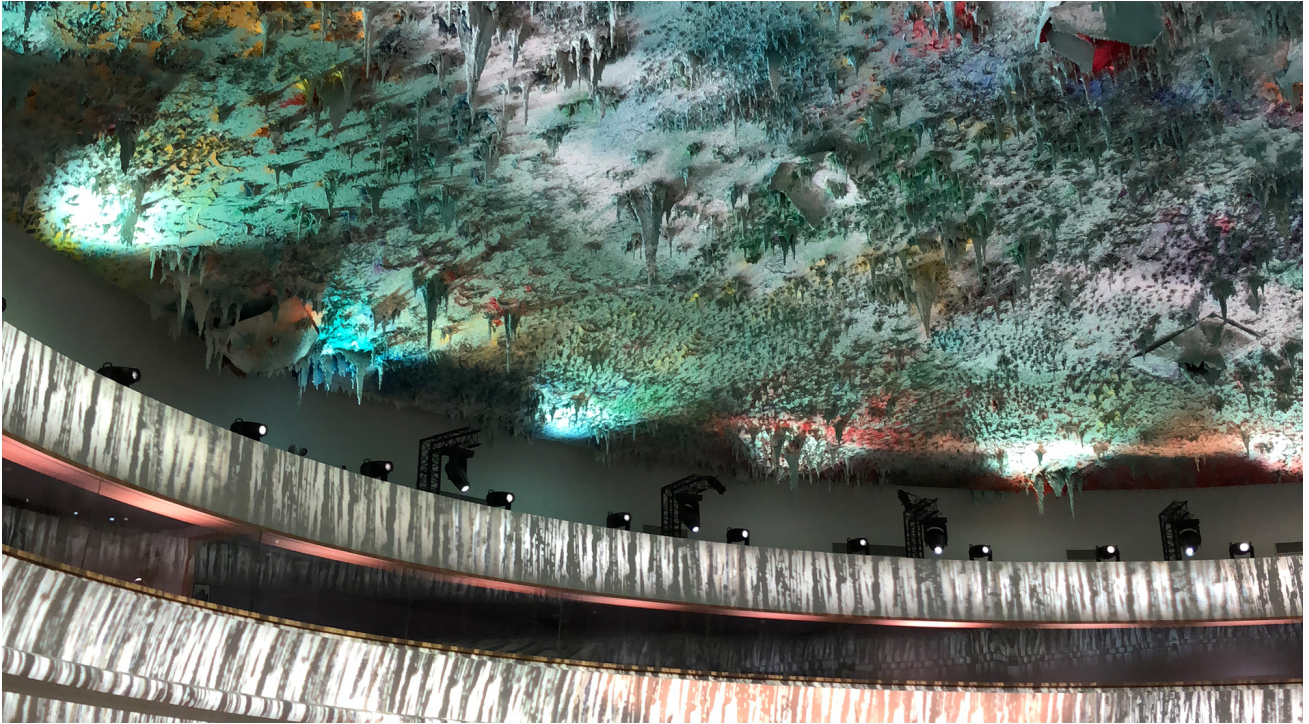
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Peace Policy Program Manager

links

- [Project description Kifaya – Enough! \(in German\)](#)
- [Project description Nashat – Action \(in German\)](#)
- [Project: Women, peace and security \(in German\)](#)

reports

The SDGs: the first development project for all humanity



Ceiling of the Human Rights and Dialogue among Civilizations Room. United Nations Palais des Nations, Geneva. Image: Christophe Barbey

For the first time in its history, humanity has a universal development project applicable to all states and institutions, to all people: its motto is “Leave no one behind”. Although it is non-binding, it is made of objectives and accompanied by indicators measuring progresses. Peace is fully integrated in it.

In recent years, at the United Nations and with the Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK), APRED is heading work on SDG’s Goal 16.1: “[to] Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”. To reduce violence, we encourage a more systematic use of mediation and peaceful settlements of disputes. Mandatory in international law, it is important that people also benefit from it, nevertheless to create a national habit upholding the State duty to comply. We care to see a right of access to mediation established. It will leave persons and institutions free to appeal to meditation, but it will guarantee this possibility and the needed means to solve conflicts peacefully.

APRED also supports the building of long-term peace infrastructure: inclusion of peace goals and tools in constitutions, activation of the human right to peace, creation of peace

ministries in governments, and of an economy and funds dedicated to peace, and of course, regularly reporting on the progresses of peace.

The right to life and its happy dimensions are essential for the stability of peace. The global rate of homicides has unfortunately been rising for the two last years. More actions to protect and value life are therefore needed. Using the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights of all countries, CGNK draws attention of States on the progresses needed for the respect of life and the achievements of the SDGs, but also highlights their shortcomings in the legal protection of life and peace, of dignity.

APRED

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links

- [On the right of access to mediation](#)
- [On infrastructures for peace](#)
- [Peace infrastructures handbook](#)
- [APRED on Peace Policies and Infrastructures](#)
- [Universal Periodic Review](#)
- [Center for Global Nonkilling at the UN](#)
- [New Small Arms Survey data: significant rise in global violent deaths in 2017](#)

reports

Supporting Civil Society action in countries going for the Voluntary National Review in 2019



Ready for Review Projekt. @Cordaid

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is the global network of civil society actors, experts and academics from the South and the North who work together to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding in fragile situations. CSPPS enjoys the support of the EU Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) to implement its workplan in 2019-2020. On 1 January 2019, CSPPS embarked on a one-year collaboration with the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) to enable CSPPS to sustain and expand its work to amplify the voice of civil society within the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), and to support the operationalisation of the Ministry's holistic approach to addressing crises and fragilities.

For the first time since the advent of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, SDG16 – along with other SDGs – will go for a detailed review at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2019. With the support of the MEAE and DEVCO, this has prompted CSPPS to implement its *Ready for Review* project. The Ready for Review is a CSPPS project to support civil society engagement in

fragile and conflict-affected countries going for 2019 Voluntary National Review (VNR) implemented in partnership with the TAP Network. More specifically, this project is built around political dialogue processes taking place in context of the IDPS-partnership. It entails that CSPPS will seek to ensure – in partnership with the TAP Network and local civil society partners – the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of civil society during Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes. The project focuses on SDG 16+ and includes a group of selected countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Rwanda, Ghana and Nigeria. The group of target countries illustrates CSPPS' willingness to make use of the existing partnership as built up in the context of the IDPS while at the same time also open doors for new connections by providing support to non-g7+ countries (Rwanda, Ghana and Nigeria) in amplifying the voice of civil society in relevant policy processes around the VNR.

At the country level on the ground, the support provided enabled CSPPS to ensure – to the extent possible depending on the political context and with the help of the expert facilitator – the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of national and local Civil Society during the consultation and validation stages of the VNR process. This also thanks through targeted outreach to involve youth- and women-led organisations. Workshop results were to inform the national VNR reports and supported the next steps in the localization and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Undoubtedly, the liaison efforts made by CSPPS all throughout the various steps of in-country VNR consultation processes either directly improved or planted the seeds for better coordination between government-led and civil society-led activities. The qualitative data collected during these in-country consultative workshops laid the foundation for a civil society common positioning around the current state of SDG implementation at the national level. The combination of workshop activities with outreach to IDPS, donor and government partners has helped to garner needed strategic support for VNR processes while at the same time catalysing entry points for follow-up discussion with the same actors by our local partners. Subsequently, both during and after the High-Level Political Forum, CSPPS set to organise a peer-to-peer exchange to reflect upon the VNR experiences of Civil Society Organisation representatives involved.

CSPPS

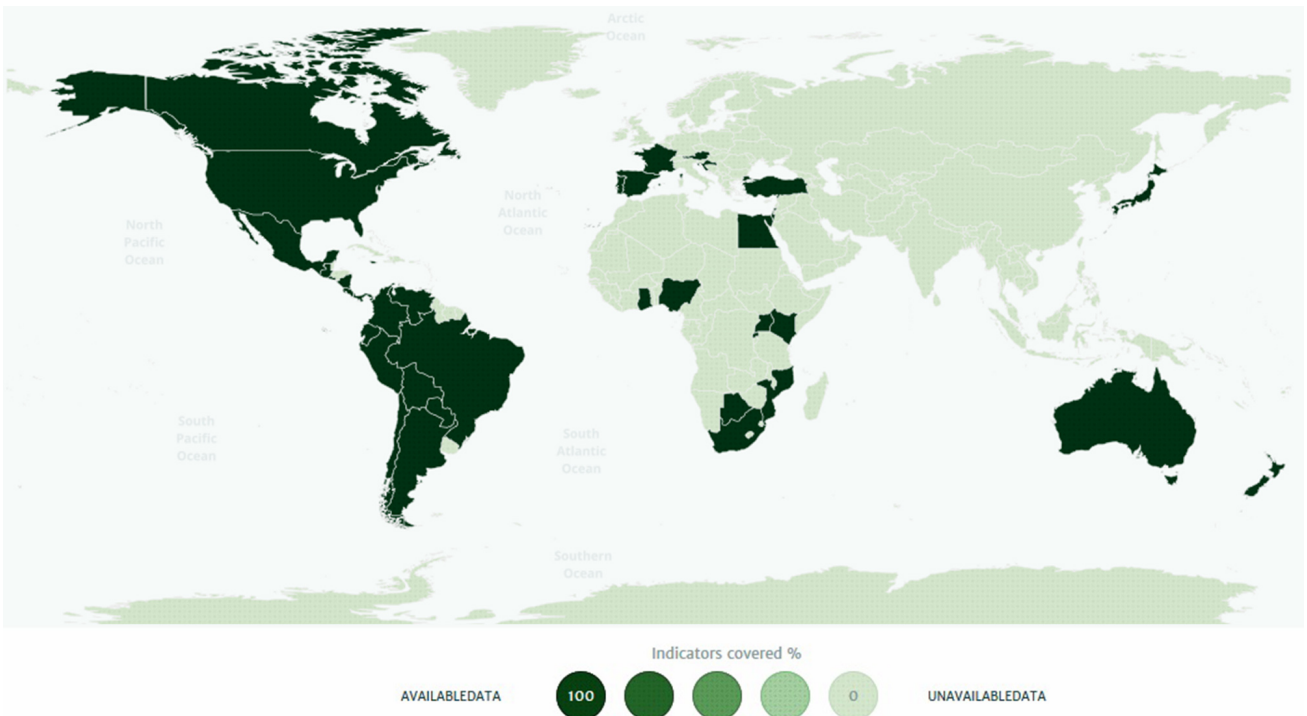
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links

- [CSPPS](#)
- [Read for Review](#)

in depth

Goals, indicators, data – can we measure peace, justice and strong institutions?



Do victims of violence report incidents to the relevant authorities? Data for this indicator (16.3.1) and others often only exists for a few countries. Screenshot of the SDG16 Data Initiative

SDG 16 wants to be more than just a political signpost. The 2030 Agenda aims to implement the goals within fifteen years. This assumes that their implementation can be measured exactly.

Development Goal 16 includes 54 indicators in total in its integrated approach 16+. Because the SDGs demand universal implementation, we want to be able to track the attainment of the development goals on a global scale. We need international standards for this which specify how data should be collected and how indicators should be measured. From the current interim report of the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), it is evident that this type of harmonization is lacking:

- No data is currently being collected in any country for ten of the 54 indicators for goal 16+.
- For a further ten indicators, the search for methodologies and internationally viable

standards has only just begun.

– The relevant UNO bodies hold official databases and a harmonized methodology for less than half of the 54 indicators.

– And for those indicators for which the official data is available, it often only exists for a few countries.

– To measure the other indicators, we have to rely on “proxy” data, often from private providers or NGOs. In their definitions, however, these are mostly not identical with the SDG indicators and are not available for all countries.

Data collection is also particularly difficult for fragile countries and those affected by conflict. This leads to the paradox that the countries for which the attainment of goal 16 is least measurable are the ones who depend the most on its successful implementation. For Claire Melamed, CEO of “Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data”, the lack of data from certain regions of the world is a global injustice, which international actors should be obliged to support: “If every life counts, we should count every life.”

Measuring data in this way costs a lot of time and money so it’s even more important that the expense is worth it. In fact, the focus of the SDGs on quantitatively measurable indicators is a matter of dispute. Adedayo Bolaji-Adio, for example, writes in a discussion paper that the indicators of goal 16 only lead to more information and progress to a limited extent: “The international community cannot produce any convincing arguments for governance, peace and security if they predominantly depend on statistical indicators.” Goals such as justice or good governance are always defined in normative terms and are therefore highly political in their implementation and the way they are measured. Context is everything, yet this cannot be considered in internationally harmonized data collections.

The defined indicators can without a doubt help to give us an overview of goals which have already been attained and to highlight where special efforts are still needed. Due to the political nature of goal 16+, however, the focus on quantitative data seems problematic. Qualitative analysis should also be carried out in each country and for each subordinate goal in order to account for the specific context.

[swisspeace](#)

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Communications

[links](#)

- [Global SDG Indicators Database, UN Statistical Commission](#)
- [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#)
- [SDG16 Data Initiative](#)
- [SDG16+ Interim report, Institute for Economics and Peace](#)
- [“The Challenge of Measuring SDG 16: What Role for African Regional Frameworks?”, discussion paper, European Centre for Development Policy Management](#)

news

Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding Course



Man on a motorcycle in Somalia, 2012. Photo: Reto Kuster

“This course offered the opportunity to have a fruitful exchange with a number of experienced and open-minded people in a pleasant environment. Thereby I got the chance to critically deal with my own work area outside the workday.” **Male Thienken, Project Officer Horn of Africa, Care Germany-Luxembourg e.V.**

Fragile states are of major concern to actors spanning from local citizens to global policy makers. Not only are they particularly prone to violent conflict, they are also held responsible for a range of public bads transcending national borders. While ‘fragility’ is pervasive in donor and aid organizations’ thinking, the concept remains unclear and fuels the debate on how the international community should best respond. This course focuses on the conceptual, policy and implementation challenges of statebuilding in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

The **Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding Course** offered by swisspeace takes place from **16 – 18 October 2019** at the University of Basel. The application deadline is **15 August 2019**.

Continuing Education
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news

KOFF Highlights 2018: How do we contribute to peacebuilding?



Hands Up for Peace, Street Art Missouri, USA. Creative Commons

In the KOFF Annual Report 2018, the articles show how KOFF makes a concrete contribution to peacebuilding. We received the answers thanks to interviews with representatives of KOFF member organizations with whom KOFF worked closely in 2018.

One of the texts explains, for example, why KOFF film evenings on peace policy topics help to sensitize a broad audience to the topic. Another article highlights the importance of civil society when women are involved in peacebuilding. Furthermore, the benefit of the KOFF platform's intensive exchange is highlighted several times.

Read the full report [here](#).

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[links](#)

news

Conference: Civil Society Perspectives on Women, Peace and Security and Preventing Violent Extremism

Save the date: 18 September 2019, 08.45 a.m. – 5.00 p.m., Auditorium at Stiftung PROGR – Zentrum für Kulturproduktion, Waisenhausplatz 30, 3011 Bern

This conference intends to raise awareness and prompt discussion regarding the future of WPS (Women, Peace and Security), and Switzerland's role in shaping it. We also want to look closely at the PVE (Preventing Violent Extremism) agenda and its link to WPS and examine where potential risks and challenges, and where possibilities arise.

Further information will soon be available on the [KOFF website](#).

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links

- [Working Group on Women, Peace & Security](#)

calendar

Events & News

KOFF MEMBER NEWS SITE

Upcoming events organised by KOFF member organisations can be found on our [KOFF MEMBER NEWS SITE](#).

SWISSPEACE KURSE

You can now register for the following swisspeace courses:

- [Religion & Conflict Transformation](#)
- [Business, Conflict and Peacebuilding](#)
- [Dealing with the Past Course](#)

Information on the entire swisspeace course offering on peacebuilding and conflicts can be found on [OUR WEBSITE](#).

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KOFF

Die Schweizer Plattform für Friedensförderung
La plateforme suisse de promotion de la paix
La piattaforma svizzera per la promozione della pace
The Swiss platform for peacebuilding

KOFF is a dialogue and exchange platform facilitated by swisspeace. It is jointly supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the following Swiss NGOs which are members of the platform:

ae-Centre	HEKS	Schweizerischer Katholischer
Alliance Sud	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation	Frauenbund
APRED	IAMANEH Schweiz	Society for Threatened Peoples
artasfoundation	Interpeace	Switzerland
Baha'i	Lucerne Initiative for Peace and	Solidar Switzerland
Brücke · Le pont	Security (LIPS)	SOS Children's Villages
Caritas Switzerland	medico international schweiz	Stiftung für Integrale
Caux – Initiatives of Change	MIR Switzerland	Friedensförderung
Foundation	mission 21	Swiss Academy for Development
cfd	miva – transporte l'aide	Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund
DCAF	Peace Brigades International	Swiss Peace Council
Eirene Suisse	Schweiz	Swiss Red Cross
Fondation Hirondelle	Peace Nexus Foundation	Swiss Refugee Council
Grains of Peace	Peace Watch Switzerland	SWISSAID
Green Cross Switzerland	PeaceWomen Across the Globe	Terre des Femmes Switzerland
Group for a Switzerland without an	Pestalozzi Children's Foundation	terre des hommes schweiz
Army	Quaker United Nations Office	Verein Palmyrah
		Women for Peace Switzerland