



International Summit for Peace in Ukraine, Vienna 10 and 11.06.2023

A congress of reason, hope, and vision.

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Tens of thousands more dead and wounded, more destruction of nature and cities, more hatred on both sides in Ukraine and Russia, or ceasefire - that is the alternative.

More hunger and poverty all over the world, more social disaster and global injustice or entry into a new period of cooperation and dialogue - this is the alternative.

More confrontation and insanely high armament, more nuclear weapons and militarism or return to arms control and disarmament and the beginning of a discussion about a new security and peace order in Europe - that is the alternative.

All global challenges of war and peace have dramatically escalated not only but especially in the war in Ukraine. The escalation dynamics of war - even to a nuclear war destroying at least Europe - are latent, a major war between NATO and Russia is not outside the realm of possibilities; the military dynamics point in this devastating direction.

I But reason can still win: The International Summit for Peace in Ukraine seeks to contribute to reason and realism, survival, and the shaping of a more peaceful future.

Therefore, the core demand of peace policy is and remains: ceasefire and negotiations.

Ceasefire

Ceasefire does not mean the recognition of existing frontlines as borders, but only an end to the killing and the murder, a stop to the destruction. It is not an excuse for one side to rearm and prepare for further fighting but should serve to generate a climate for a negotiated solution. Out of the trenches and bunkers, towards a new free life!

Negotiations

Negotiations does not mean approval or recognition of Russia's war of aggression against sovereign Ukraine, which is against international law, nor does it mean to lose sight of the prehistory of this war, especially NATO's eastward expansion, but to develop ways for shaping the future together at the negotiating table - likely with the active participation of international moderators or mediators from the Global South.

Proposals for negotiations are on the table of international politics and diplomacy. The proposals from the former government of Italy, from Mexico, the considerations for peace from China and the peace plan of the Vatican, the (almost finished) Istanbul agreement of March/April 2022 as well as the UN resolution of February 2023 have many commonalities that could serve as a basis for negotiations.

Conceivably, agreements could go in the following direction, involving far-reaching willingness to compromise on all sides:

1. Ukraine is a sovereign independent state, which again anchors neutrality in the constitution, i.e. no NATO membership, but membership in the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union can be considered.
2. Comprehensive security guarantees for Ukraine and Russia should be agreed upon and legitimized under international law, including by the UN Security Council. This includes demilitarization of the border regions and a halt to further NATO expansion to the east.
3. For the Lugansk and Donetsk regions, a neutral administration under UN control could be established for a transitional period in preparation for a referendum in 5 years, which may lead to a final solution, autonomy in Ukraine, independence or annexation to Russia.
4. Blue-helmet troops from neutral states of the global south could monitor and control the contractual agreement and the agreed border demarcations.
5. A timetable should be agreed upon for the withdrawal of Russian troops in conjunction with the implementation of the overall peace plan. In the same framework, NATO/EU sanctions against Russia should be scaled back or lifted.
6. For Crimea, the current state would be established for an agreed period. A referendum to be held thereafter under UN control should produce a final solution of national affiliation. Cooperation between Crimea and Ukraine in the areas of water supply, trade and environmental security will be contractually agreed.
7. The start of discussions and negotiations within the OSCE on a new security architecture in Europe based on a policy of "common security" with the aim of achieving a new European charter by 2025 at the latest (50th anniversary of the Helsinki Accords).
8. In the context of the agreement, the U.S. and Russia should agree to resume nuclear arms control talks and the suspended New Start Treaty is reinstated and extended until a new arms control agreement is reached.
9. Comprehensive reconstruction aid is agreed, which is also materially co-financed by Russia. The principle of "help for self-help" is agreed upon and a sellout to international (agricultural) corporations is ruled out.

A final comment on the complexity of negotiations: without the political will of all those involved in this war or proxy war, a political peace solution is hardly conceivable.

We must refrain from a "commander's mentality" and "victorious peace". This applies to both direct warring parties and NATO. Committed atrocities and massacres - from whatever side - are not an argument against but for negotiations, as only an end to the war opens the way to the end of inhumanities and their reappraisal.

The peace movement does not sit at the negotiating table!

Nevertheless, it has an important role to play in initiating and accompanying the negotiation process.

Its educational and public relations work, its many small and large actions help to develop a social climate and a corresponding constellation of forces in which negotiations are possible at all. The peace movement's policy of alliances with parliamentarians and parliaments, and

even with governments willing to negotiate, helps to create the coalition of those willing to make peace, the peace coalition, which is necessary to develop the international pressure that makes negotiations appear realistic and overcomes resistance.

Peace must again become the *ultima ratio* and war must stand as the *ultima irratio*: this can only be done by unmasking militarism through the work of the peace movement.

The solution to the global challenges, especially climate change, can only succeed in peace. To present this again and again and to substantiate it argumentatively is the peace task of the social movements; t It is our task to put humanism against violence and oppression and to win majorities for it,. even and especially if it is a difficult, long-term and often frustrating challenge against the bellicose mainstream and the associated media.

It remains our task to promote non-violent peace solutions, to make clear that conflicts can and must be solved peacefully.

A more indispensable part of these peace activities is to make clear that there is a political alternative to confrontation, war and violence, and that this is the policy of common security, which has had a beneficial effect on Europe for years and even decades. The philosophy of common security means that the security of one side is indispensably linked to the security of the other side, and peace can only be achieved through negotiations, dialogue, cooperation, arms control and disarmament.

The first step to this is trust instead of confrontational rhetoric and hatred. The peace movements live this trust, this common ground with the "enemy", through "diplomacy from below" (second hand track), through manifold contacts, especially with "political opponents"; We have everything in common with the peace activists in Ukraine and Russia and nothing in common with the warmongers and the arms industry, whose profits are all the higher the more people die. We stand by the side of the conscientious objectors and support the refugees.

To campaign for this vision - a world without wars - but also for the end of all wars through negotiations and especially to demand a ceasefire and negotiated solution for the war in Ukraine, this is what the International Summit for Peace in Ukraine is meant to serve - as a prelude for further actions and as a demand to the political leaders. We know that without disarmament there can be no global justice, and without the abolition of all nuclear weapons the destruction of the blue planet hangs over us.

We never give up hope - also influenced by a long history of international peace movements - that the reason of peace will triumph over the irrationalism of war through enlightenment and argument. Therefore we want to gather all arguments for peace at the Summit and synthesize them in a declaration, which we want to convey to the political leaders in the East and West, in the North and South, to come into a discussion with them, and where possible work together with many political decision makers all over the world.

Wars are prepared and led by people; (many) people together can also achieve peace and can become the "material force" that stops wars - also the one in Ukraine! We hope you will join us.