

Workshop on “Challenges of a Common Security Policy in Eurasia”

With the support of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, AsienHaus, International Eurasia Press Fund and the European Union

Date: 23rd & 24th of September 2019

Location: Meeting room - Marienstraße 19/20, 10117 Berlin

Registration:

To register for the workshop, send an email to: **info@ipb-office.berlin**

For individuals requesting a VISA invitation letter, please fill out our google form using this link: <https://bit.ly/2LyPuz6>



Introduction and Context:

The "Peace and Security" Circle of the Asia- Europe People Forum (AEPF) is a critical part of the Forum that collectively understands, analyses, interprets and formulates alternative responses and actions on issues of peace, security, conflicts, threats and opportunities in Asia and Europe as envisioned by the people's movements of this region.

Since 2016, the world has experienced major events which are likely to greatly affect the world's order as well as peace and security. These events include: Brexit; Trump becoming the US President; the rise of aggressive xenophobic leaderships in many countries that advocate and overlook violence in order to endorse their agendas; wars, conflicts and tension in regions as diverse as Ukraine, Libya, Syria, Palestine, the Korean Peninsula, South China Sea/West Philippine Sea/East Sea; the non-Resolution of many low intensity and frozen conflicts and the potential rise of ethnic and identity conflicts; etc. Besides, increasing military spending, foreign military bases, terrorism, internal conflicts, territorial disputes, militarization and the nuclear arms race, neo-racism, refugee crisis, oppression of minorities and xenophobic nationalism have been threatening people's lives and peace and security.

A policy of confrontation, especially between NATO and Russia has increasingly prevailed in Europe. The nuclear weapons of all nations are being modernized.

On the other hand we can also observe positive steps towards peace, such as the incidents on the Korean Peninsula both between the US and North Korea as well as between both Korean nations.

But we should not forget: the continuous force and spread of the terror group calling itself the Islamic State (IS) and other terrorist movements have used violence as a way of threatening the world's security.

In such a context, the Peace and Security Circle of the AEPF plans to coordinate with peace movements and people's organizations; research and scholars in academic communities and institutions in Asia and Europe to organize various activities/ campaigns to create effective synergies in the struggle for peace and to find the better way to respond. The emergence of social movements that seek to find alternative solutions to recurring as well as new problems should be encouraged.

Currently, Southeast Asia faces continued difficulties in peace and human security in the effort of the world's super powers to maintain economic and political hegemony over our countries.

Challenges: Reimagining a Common Security

New alternatives for a common security policy and –architecture in Europe and Asia are urgently needed. Those alternatives should take into account the positive experiences of the policy of détente from the 1970s and 80s. A Common Security Policy (also known as Collective Security Policy) should serve as the basis of this new security architecture.

The term originates from the title of the Palme-report “Common Security: A Blueprint for Survival“, which was the conclusion of the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues (“Palme Commission”, 1980-1982) presided by Sweden’s Prime Minister Olof Palme.

The key message of the study reads: “In the present time security cannot be achieved one-sided. We live in a world, which economic, political, cultural and in particular military structures are increasingly dependent of each other. The public safety of a nation cannot be bought at the expense of other nations.”

This security philosophy developed by Willi Brandt, Bruno Kreisky, Olaf Palme and others US based upon the principle: the security of a state can only be guaranteed if the security of the other (the opponent) is guaranteed as well. The key principles that define this term of common security are “interdependence”, “joint responsibility” and “security for” instead of “security against.”

Organizations hosting the conference: IPB and AEPF

The *International Peace Bureau* is dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Our current main programme centres on Disarmament for Sustainable Development and within this, our focus is mainly on the reallocation of military expenditure. We believe that by reducing funding for the military sector, significant amounts of money could be released for social projects, domestically or abroad, which could lead to the fulfillment of real human needs and the protection of the environment. At the same time, we support a range of disarmament campaigns and supply data on the economic dimensions of weapons and conflicts. Our campaigning work on nuclear disarmament began already in the 1980s.

IPB has a membership network of over 300 organizations and a Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council since 1977.

We are a Nobel Peace Laureate (1910); over the years, 13 of our officers have been recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The *Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF)* is an interregional network of progressive civil society organizations across Asia and Europe. Since 1996, the AEPF has remained the only continuing network linking Asian and European NGOs and social movements. It has assumed the unique function of fostering people's solidarity across the two regions and has become a vehicle for advancing the people's voice within Asia-Europe relations.

Since its beginning, AEPF has provided a space for social actors in each region to:

- Strengthen network building at the national and regional levels in order to undertake cross-regional initiatives and campaigns;

- Analyse issues of common interest such as security, development and neo-liberal globalization and their impact on peoples in each region and develop and take forward visions and strategies for alternative futures for a more just, equal and inclusive Asia and Europe;

- Provide people's organizations and networks with a channel for constructive engagement with the institutions and policies of ASEM-member countries.

Objectives:

- To analyze the current situation in the two continents and its impact on peace and security, as well as people's lives.
- To analyze the current security situation in Asia and Europe and draw conclusions for a new security architecture
- To develop items of a security architecture based upon the concept of a Common Security Policy
- To address inhibiting as well as stimulating factors of the concept
- To name actors and implementation strategies for a Eurasian Common Security concept

Programme

First preliminary programme: 05.07.2019



First Day - September 23rd

Core Components of a New Security Architecture

10:00 - 14:00: Introductory Speeches

Opening and Moderation by Lisa Clark (IPB, *Germany*) and Dong Huy Coung (Peace and Development Foundation/AEPF, *Vietnam*)

Formal welcome: *Introduction of AEPF, IPB, and the thematic cluster of Peace & Security; Background and Rationale of this workshop on Common Security*

1) *What are the basic elements of a Common Security Policy?*

Wolfgang Biermann (Political Scientist, Initiator of “Détente Now”, *Germany*); Joseph Gerson (IPB, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament & Common Security, *USA*); Ingar Solty (Speaker Peace & Security Policy, Rosa-Luxemburg Stiftung, *Germany*); Anuradha Chenoy (Jawaharlal University, *India*)

2) *How is the current security situation in Europe?*

Claudia Haydt (Board of the European Left, *Germany*)

3) *How is the current Security Situation in Asia?*

Walden Bello (Focus on the Global South and Senior research fellow for Southeast Asian Studies of Kyoto University in Japan)

4) *What are the current mechanisms to deal with peace and security?*

Meredith Joyce (International Coordinator of *Peace Boat* and Steering Committee, Women Cross DMZ, *Australia/Japan*)

14:00 - 15:00: Lunch break

15:00 - 18:00: *Is the Common Security Policy a realistic/useful basis for the security architecture in Eurasia?*

Commentaries from *different* continents:

Europe: Claudia Haydt (Board of the European Left, *Germany*); Erhard Crome (WeltTrends Institute for International Politics, *Germany*)

Asia: Moon Ah-Young (Peace Educ. Policy, Peace MOMO, *Korea*); Amaar Ali Jan (Forman Christian College and Haqooq-e-Khalq Movement, *Pakistan*); Phan Anh Son (Institute for Public Diplomacy and International Relations, *Vietnam*); Suvrat Raju (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament & Peace, *India*); Yayoi Tsuchida (Japan Council Against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs, *Japan*); Rabindra Adhikari (Nepal Peace & Security Council, *Nepal*); Da Costa Fernando Antonio (Centro Nacional Chega, *Timor Leste*)

Central-Asia: Eldor Aripov (Director of the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President, *Uzbekistan*)

USA: Joseph Gerson

18:00 - 18:30: Break

18:30 - 20:00: Discussion - Policy of Détente: 1970s, 80s & today

Moderation: Amela Skiljan (IPB, *Germany*)

Discussion with Wolfgang Gehrcke (Former MP die Linke, *Germany*) and Katja Keul (MP for die Grünen, *Germany*)

20:00 onwards: Dinner on a boat & evening program

Second Day - September 24th

How do we achieve a Eurasian Common Security Policy?

Facilitators: Amar Ali Jan & Theresa Kresse (IPB, *Germany*)

10:00 - 12:00: Introduction - *What could be the core components of a common security policy for Eurasia?*

Asian perspective: Lee Junkyu (Center for Peace Research, *Korea*), Au Loong (Borderless HK, *China*) & Mu Sochoa (Member of Parliament, *Cambodia*)

European perspective: Reiner Braun (IPB, *Germany*)

12:00 - 12:15: Break

12:15 - 15:45: WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

12:15-13:45: Working Group Session I

Question/issues to be discussed (3 separate groups):

- What could be the core components of a Common Security Policy for Eurasia?
- How does the process toward achieving a Common Security Policy look like?
- What is the role and responsibility of big and small countries?

13:45 - 14:45: Lunch break

14:45-15:45: Working Group Session II

Question/issues to be discussed (2 separate groups):

- Implementation and reaching of agreements
- Case Studies (Conflict India/Pakistan and China/Vietnam) - *Developing Conflict Solutions*

Report back of working group sessions (Presented by one facilitator and one moderator per group)

15:45 - 16:00: Coffee Break

16:00 - 18:00: PANEL DISCUSSION

- *How does the process towards achieving a Common Security Policy look like?*

Next steps and controversies

Europe: Kathrin Vogler (MP die Linke, *Germany*), Joseph Gerson, Michael Müller (Former state secretary of the ministry of environment, SPD, *Germany*)

Asia: Walden Bello, Anuradha Chenoy, Au Loong & Meredith Joyce

- Implementation and reaching of agreements: Corazon Fabrios (AEPF, IPB, *Philippines*); Reiner Braun; Lisa Clark; Dong Huy Coung

18:00 onwards: Dinner and evening program

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