



# 16<sup>th</sup> International Peace Conference Munich

February 16 to 18, 2018

**Creating Peace and Justice – saying NO to war**

## Positions

The International Munich Peace Conference is the substantial alternative to the Munich Security Conference

### Assessment of the Munich Security Conference

The Munich Security Conference – formerly called „Wehrkundetagung“ (army lore meeting) – was founded when the so called security policy was characterized by a clear stand against the socialist countries. Deterrence, military strength, and winning the arm race were the key concepts of military power politics. After the end of the „Cold War“ the priorities of the western industrialized countries – that is mainly the countries of the NATO – are the global access to resources and the protection of trade routes and markets even through military means.

Peace and security for the people and the world is not achieved through this military security concepts! Enduring wars, crisis and military spending are the result and devour vast resources. These resources then lack for civilian crisis and conflict management and for the avoidance of manmade disasters. The world's problem are worsened through this. The Munich Security Conference could become a forum for security dialogue, if the predominant orientation on the military power politics is given up. The rules of International Law need to be respected and the chances of peaceful and civil conflict resolution need to be used.

### A change of direction is necessary

Since 2003 the **International Munich Peace Conference** deals with the overcoming of the outmoded thought model of security through military dominance. We present approaches and ways of how peace and collective security can be achieved by balancing interests and by cooperation.

From the German Federal Government we therefore expect:

- significant steps towards disarmament, with the goal of general and complete disarmament
- reduction in military spending and a substantial increase in funding for civilian conflict management
- Termination of Bundeswehr missions abroad
- strengthening the institutions of collective security, the UN and the OSCE
- dedication to the taxable right of conscientious objection by introducing a civil tax law

### Civil action rather than military intervention

In general, the limitation of conflict by civil methods is hardly noticed in the public – in contrary to armed conflicts. However, there are detailed concepts for civil conflict management in the social sphere, in internal conflicts – and encouraging experiences at international level. The UN, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations already made a considerable contribution in this area in the past through negotiation, mediations and observer missions. Among the most important instruments is the Civilian Peace Service (CPS) which



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works with the parties on the ground to find solutions that are acceptable to all. For the – independent from the military – civil conflict work in crisis regions there is still too little political and financial support. A reallocation of budgetary resources is therefore urgently needed. For us a civil intervention in conflicts by governments is only credible if weaponry export is banned and the legal and illegal arm trade is prevented.

## **Goals and tasks of the International Munich Peace Conference**

- a major goal is, to give access to the perspectives and alternatives presented in its program to the widest possible audience and to – in the sense of developing a culture of peace – to anchor them there in a better way.
- We want to encourage people to get involved in political process.
- With the peace conference we focus on the discussion of peace policy options. We see it as a pillar of public opinion – which is manifested, for example, through street actions, dialog sessions and church services.
- With our acting and through the **International Munich Peace Conference** we stand to ensure that people live in peace and social justice and act responsible towards nature.

## **Organizing institutions / carrying organizations**

The **International Munich Peace Conference** is carried by a bunch of organizations:

- Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen (DFG-VK) (**German Peace Society** – United War Resisters) Bavarian Branch
- **pax christi** / section of the archbishopric of Munich and Freising
- Internationaler Versöhnungsbund Deutscher Zweig e. V. (**International Fellowship of Reconciliation** Germany)
- NaturwissenschaftlerInneninitiative Verantwortung für Friedens- und Zukunftsfähigkeit (**Initiative Of Scientists** for Peace and a good Future) Germany
- Netzwerk Friedenssteuer Region Bayern (**Network for Peace Taxation** / Bavarian Region)
- Münchner Sicherheitskonferenz verändern e. V. (**Project Group** „Change Munich Security Conference“)
- Kreisjugendring München (**Munich Association of Youth Work** / Municipal Office)
- Netzwerk Gewaltfreie Kommunikation München e. V. (**Network Nonviolent Communication Munich**)
- **Internationale Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit** (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom)

## **Structure**

The **International Munich Peace Conference** basically is organized by a central (steering) conference team, which makes decisions on general issues and essential topics (f.e. selection of the key speakers). All carrying organisations are represented within this team. Some parts of the wide range of the program events are organized by separate project teams.

## **Finances**

The **International Munich Peace Conference** is – obviously – financially supported by the carrying organisations. Additionally we get financial support from some foundations as well as from the City of Munich, and we get private donations. At some program events we collect a fair admission charge.

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