Dear friends and colleagues,

It is our pleasure to share with you the second edition of the Principles for Peace newsletter. In this edition, we share key highlights and updates on progress concerning the efforts and outputs of the initiative, and engagements by the International Commission on Inclusive Peace (ICIP) with partner organisations.

Hopes for peace between and within states continue to be challenged daily by news of violence, loss of life, humanitarian crises, and mass displacement. Peace builders, policy makers, and people living through conflict situations around the world strive to build peace between and within their communities in the face of extreme challenges.

Our joint efforts have been gathering significant momentum. The Principles for Peace initiative is benefiting from a growing network of supporting Member States and organisations that have invested in the initiative’s lines of engagement. This is a testament to the urgency to act now to bring new vigour into the peace making agenda.

Over the past 6 months we have continued the evidence generation process through wide reaching participation. Driven by your support and engagement, over 100,000 perspectives and insights from 51 countries, and over 300 pieces of research have been analysed, informing the development of the Principles for Peace.

The recent convening of the International Commission on Inclusive Peace (ICIP) in Berlin marked an important milestone for the initiative and its global consultative, iterative process. The ICIP has anchored its findings in a wide ranging process of consultations, supported by evidence applied with academic rigour, and has sustained engagement with high-level decision makers.

The initiative is driven by the conviction that building peace in the 21st century will require a deep and comprehensive shift in approach among all participants in peace-making processes, including governments, the private sector, local community and civil society groups, national elites, security actors, international agencies, and donors. The ICIP is articulating a Peacemakers’ Covenant, which lays out the foundations and philosophy behind the Principles for Peace, and the different approaches, policies, and practices that will accompany them.

We are about to commence the validation phase to test findings through global, regional, and country consultations. These will be convened with and through partners as we continue to expand a broad alliance of advocates.

Hiba and the Secretariat Team
**In the spotlight**

The Principles for Peace has concluded the first phase of the development of the principles, having gathered over 100,000 perspectives and insights from over 50 countries.

Anchored in real society perspectives, research and real politik considerations, the initiative has articulated a first draft of the Peacemakers’ Covenant.

Read more about the global participatory process below.

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**Principles for Peace in Berlin: Fourth ICIP Convening & Incubation Space**

The German Federal Foreign Office hosted the Fourth Convening of the International Commission on Inclusive Peace in Berlin on March 8 and March 9, 2022. The meeting was an important milestone in the development of Principles for Peace as the Commission refined the first articulation of the Covenant and explored options for a follow-up mechanism.

The Commission also briefed the German MFA on the progress of the initiative in a meeting with Ambassador Susanne Fries-Gaier, Director for Humanitarian Assistance, who reiterated Germany’s continued support to the initiative.

On the margins of their fourth convening, the German MFA and P4P co-hosted an incubation space on ‘New Era, New Imperatives’ to discuss the current peace and conflict landscape as well as the policy shifts required to address today’s challenges. The incubation space brought together members of the ICIP alongside leading scholars, heads of P4P partner organisations, policy makers, diplomats and practitioners.

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**ICIP Visit to Bosnia & Herzegovina**

The ICIP concluded a visit in February 2022 to Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH), hosted by the Shared Society and Values Foundation Sarajevo and its founder Zlatko Lagumdžija, former Chairman of the Bosnian Council of Ministers. During the visit, the Commission conducted consultations with a cross section of society. The ICIP met with the Head of State, H.E. Mr. Šefik Džaferović, as well as youth activists, womens’ organisations, parliamentarians, civil society representatives and religious leaders. Discussions revolved around, among others, the Dayton Agreement and the current geopolitical environment and their impact on the current situation and state of peace in BiH.
In November 2021, on the margins of the Third Convening of the ICIP, the ICIP and P4P Secretariat held a high-level briefing of Member States on the Principles for Peace initiative and the work of the ICIP at the United Nations Office in Geneva. The event was co-hosted by supporters of the P4P initiative, Denmark, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland. The ICIP also briefed the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect in an event co-organised with the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the UN and the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. Both events provided the Commission with the opportunity to socialise the initiative and present some of the emerging findings.

P4P is also contributing and informing various policy processes by Member States:

- P4P shared insights and its findings at the Rethinking Stabilisation seminar in Copenhagen organised by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 2022.
- The Secretariat provided input to the Rethinking Mediation workshop organised by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to inform the UK’s approach to mediation and peace process support.
- In a first visit to the EU in Brussels, the Secretariat briefed members of the European External Action Service (EEAS) on the principles. The visit laid the foundation for a high-level engagement of the ICIP with the EU Commission and other EU bodies.

The visit took place under the shadow of the war in Ukraine which further highlighted the challenges of the country and fears of its population. In times of heightening tensions between the three so-called ‘constituent peoples’, the visit of the ICIP provided an opportunity to bring together different parts of the society such as parliamentarians from the three groups to exchange on the success and shortcomings of the peace process and peace agreement as well as on current challenges and ways forward.
Anchoring the principles in real society perspectives

Country Consultations
The initiative has deepened and expanded the global participatory process, to anchor the principles in real society perspectives. Thus far, 120 in-country consultations have been held in 13 countries, gathering perspectives from cross-sections of society and intentionally moving beyond the “usual suspects” to reach marginalised, hard to reach and non-traditional groups.

The findings of a recent consultation in Colombia, reinforced several of the findings of the P4P process, including the importance of considering peace processes as long-term, non-linear and multi-stakeholder processes reaching beyond the parties to the conflict.

Consultations have been held in: Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Colombia, Germany, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

Youth
P4P has consulted youth activists, peacebuilders and networks from over 42 countries. Together with Search for Common Ground inter-generational dialogues were held to shape the next generation of peace processes. Moving beyond the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) community, an effort spearheaded by Commissioner Ilwad Elman, asked young people “what peace means and should deliver”, through social media, surveys and live-streamed events.

With the Kofi Annan Foundation and youth-led organisations 180° Wende and Hive Pakistan, P4P implemented youth-designed, led and targeted consultations in Germany and Pakistan.

P4P findings have been integrated into ongoing YPS policy processes, including the new 5-year Strategic Action Plan on Youth Inclusive Peace Processes. P4P also contributed to the UN High-level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes in January 2022, co-organising an event featuring General Roméo Dallaire.

It is important that we young people, without borders, take the lead to find better ways to establish peace.
- Youth consultation participant

Parliamentarians
In partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), P4P contributed to the adoption of a resolution during the 144th IPU Assembly. The resolution, adopted by 178 member parliaments, “Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace” lays the foundations for parliaments around the world to better engage in peace processes and contribute to sustainable peace.

To support the adoption of the resolution, P4P participated in the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid in 2021. Co-chair of the International Commission Bert Koenders and Research Committee member Niagél Bagayoko participated in an expert hearing during the Assembly, moderated by Head of Secretariat Hiba Qasas.

P4P and IPU also produced a digital dialogue during the Geneva Peace Week 2021 where parliamentarians discussed the role of governing institutions in creating lasting peace.

Humanitarian Actors
Recognising the importance of upholding the humanitarian principles in peace efforts, P4P organised an exchange between senior humanitarian leaders at the ASC-level and the members of the International Commission. Together with the OCHA and the Inter Agency Standing Committee, the discussion explored how new principles can build on and reinforce the humanitarian principles in the shifting peace and security landscape.

Religious & Traditional Leaders
It is important that we young people, without borders, take the lead to find better ways to establish peace.
- Youth consultation participant

P4P has convened a series of consultations gathering traditional & faith leaders from 49 countries, representing five religions. Organised by the Network for Traditional and Religious Peacemakers, the consultations covered five regions and explored different understandings of peace and the role of traditional and faith leaders in pluralism and creating lasting peace.
Stabilisation & Security Actors

P4P held consultations with national and international security actors including UN and military commanders, police forces and intelligence. With ICIP Commissioner General Roméo Dallaire as lead convener of this line of engagement and co-organised with the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS), the latest session was held in March 2022 on the role of political actors in security and stabilisation operations.

The initiative also carried out workshops focused on non-state actors together with the Centre for the Study of Armed Groups at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

Sustainability & Long-Term Solutions

P4P and the United Nation’s Development Programme (UNDP), convened a ministerial level event at the 76th UN General Assembly. The event featured ministers from Denmark, Libya and Sweden, senior level UN representatives and members of the ICIP as speakers. The event discussed the need to move away from a narrow focus on peace as a political process and identified opportunities and solutions to foster sustainability and durability of peace processes.

Tools, Institutionalisation & Norms diffusion

How can we ensure the adoption of the upcoming Principles for Peace in current and future peace processes? Together with the Centre for Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Graduate Institute, the initiative developed the paper “Maximising the Impact of the Principles for Peace,” taking lessons from past initiatives and commissions. Research has also been conducted by the Kroc School’s Institute on Peace and Justice around monitoring and measuring the uptake and institutionalisation of the principles.

Research Committee

To ensure that the initiative is anchored in evidence and research, the P4P Secretariat established a Research Committee consisting of nine eminent scholars. Research Committee members have participated in the Commission Meetings, incubation spaces, workshops and working group meetings and have provided input into the first draft of the Covenant.

Watch the Chair of the Research Committee, Professor Keith Krause, talk about the Fourth ICIP Meeting here.
Get Involved

We aim to continue building the momentum around our initiative, and we welcome new partners to be part of our global participatory process. Interested organisations can contact us directly through secretariat.principles@interpeace.org.

PRINCIPLES for PEACE
A new path to lasting peace

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