

**THE** Reshaping  
Peace  
**BERLIN  
MOOT**

**2024 REPORT**



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# THE BERGHOF FOUNDATION

The Berghof Foundation, headquartered in Berlin, is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation that supports people in conflict to achieve sustainable peace. For more than 50 years, Berghof has brought people together in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Somalia, and Yemen, as well as several other countries and regions. Berghof is also involved in research and peace education initiatives. We create space for conflict transformation by offering advice, techniques and support that enable people and conflict parties to find their own paths away from violence.

# LETTER FROM ANDREW GILMOUR

Judging by participants' reactions, both during and afterwards, The Berlin Moot exceeded even the highest expectations. Called at a time when the world is experiencing more conflicts than at any time since 1945 – and with especially devastating ones in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan – the relevance of improved peacemaking is hardly in doubt. The aim of the Berghof Foundation was to bring together participants from a wide variety of fields to see how disciplines not normally associated with peacemaking can contribute in new ways.

Our aim was to bring our participants together in an informal setting – but also one with great historical significance in the heart of Berlin – in order not to restate the many problems of peacemaking that we see all over the world, but to come up with new ideas for tackling them.

What follows is a summary of our two-day event that contained many highlights and a large number of superb interventions.

The goal of the Berghof Foundation and a number of our key partners is to hold a similar event in 2026. And in the meantime, there were several discussions held both in the Moot itself, and also in the many side meetings that took place in its margins, that we intend to take forward with smaller Moot-type events that focus on particular issues during the course of 2025.

We are immensely grateful to our key supporters: the German Federal Foreign Office, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Stiftung Mercator, LOTTO Stiftung Berlin, Gerda Henkel Stiftung as well as BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt whose help enabled us to put on the event. And to all our participants who travelled from many parts of the world to join us.



*Andrew Gilmour*



Reshaping  
**THE  
BERLIN  
MOOT**

# OPENING PANEL

H.E. Alar Karis (President of the Republic of Estonia)  
Anka Feldhusen (Director for Crisis Prevention and Stabilization, German Federal Foreign Office)  
Christoph Heusgen (Chairman of the Munich Security Conference)  
Miriam Coronel Ferrer (Co-Founder of the Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators)  
Moderated by Femi Oke (Master of Ceremony)





# RESHAPING PEACE

Never in the recent past has the need to reshape peacemaking been so urgent. Violent conflicts are escalating at an alarming rate, with unimaginable human suffering in countless countries and regions, such as Gaza, Cameroon, Sudan and Ukraine, to name only a few.

In the past 15 years, the successful implementation of comprehensive peace agreements has been few and far between, with Colombia and Mozambique being notable exceptions. More often we see wars end because of military victory or exhaustion.

Global powers that have long acted as third-party mediators, as well as the United Nations, have lost some of their previous standing as supporters of conflict resolution. Strongly perceived double standards with respect to the application of humanitarian law and human rights – especially in relation to Gaza and Ukraine – have resulted in a loss of legitimacy for the multilateral system and unprecedented accusations of hypocrisy.

Non-traditional peacemaking actors, such as China, Turkey, and countries from the Gulf region are seen in many ways to be more apt to broker peace. These global powers “do not have false pretenses

regarding democracy and human rights”, emphasised Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, Co-Founder of Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators and the first woman in the world to sign a peace agreement as chief negotiator with a non-state armed group. Huiyao Wang, Founder and President of the Center for China and Globalization, shared his position that “China is well positioned to mediate in contexts like Gaza and Ukraine as it has no historic baggage.”

**“We [the peacemaking actors who have previously dominated the field, editor’s note] missed a few opportunities in the last 10–20 years when it comes to peace diplomacy. We were quite tolerant towards processes which did not work or were ongoing for quite some time without showing results.”**

Günther Bächler  
Ambassador (rtd), Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The emerging multipolar order presents an opportunity to forge new coalitions, but comes with significant challenges. The peacemaking community needs to be open to continuously adapt and engage with new actors and trust the approach they bring to the table. This requires frank exchanges about

diverging and conflicting norms and values, as well as visions, priorities, objectives, interests, and red lines.

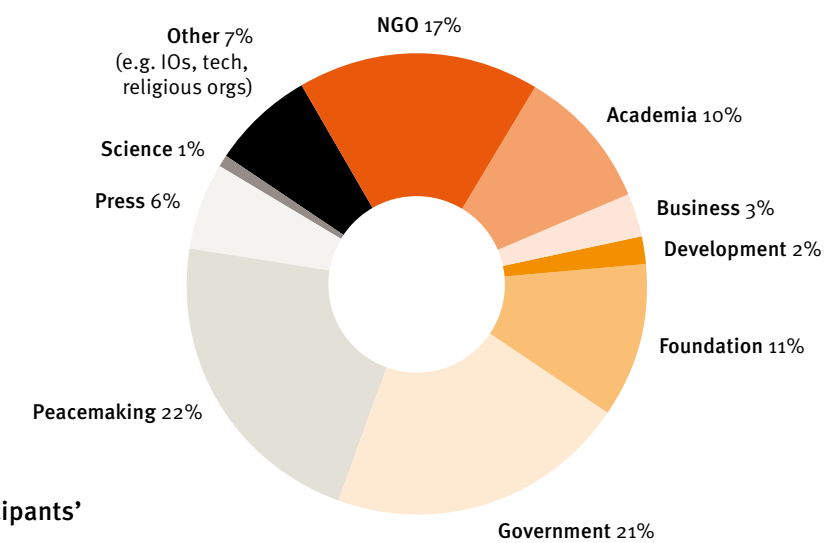
At this opportune time, The Berlin Moot convened established peacemakers and new actors, and sought to advance the field by drawing on relevant research and expertise from other sectors

not previously associated with peacemaking. Through a variety of innovative formats, negotiators and mediators exchanged with businesspeople, neuro- and cognitive scientists, tech experts, political activists, climate experts, and leaders from protest movements.

We were honoured that such a range of impressive players accepted our invitation. This included the Estonian President, Alar Karis, the Minister of Information and Civic Education of Sierra Leone, Chernor Bah, as well as several former prime ministers, and foreign and defence ministers. In addition, we hosted high-ranking representatives from multilateral institutions, as well as frontline negotiators and peacemakers that have worked in a variety of conflict-affected countries, including Cameroon, Mozambique, Syria, Sudan and Yemen.

**“Expanding beyond the usual attendees and the mediators was a specific feature of The Berlin Moot.”**

Jeffrey Feltman  
Former UN Undersecretary General for Political Affairs



Conference participants' area of work

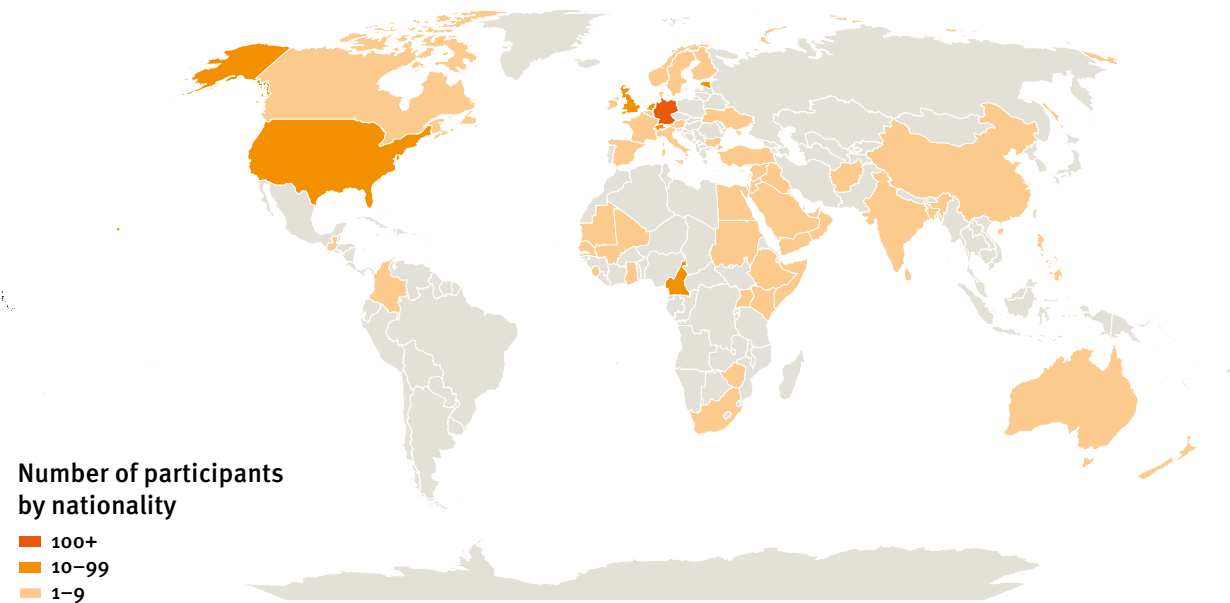


**“We need to provide opportunities to share experiences from elsewhere [...] in the world which might have succeeded. These experiences will be very useful.”**

Abdalla Hamdok  
Former Prime Minister of Sudan

Over the two days, conference participants took part in panel discussions, interactive workshops (or “PeaceLabs”) and discovered new tools at the Innovation Fair. The potential of these tools was demonstrated in relation to specific regions and conflicts, including in the Gulf, Gaza, the Horn of Africa and Mozambique, as well as the war on Europe’s border in Ukraine. Experiences and lessons learned were shared between participants from different affected contexts in organised discussions and behind the scenes. Thematic focal areas, such

as the use of neuroscientific evidence for peace processes, the link between climate change and peacemaking, and the transformative power of women’s peace leadership, were also discussed.



This report offers an overview of the first iteration of The Berlin Moot. It unpacks discussions held with participants from an array of sectors and puts forward recommendations needed to equip the field of peacemaking with tools to tackle current geopolitical realities.

# THE PEACELABS

Our thematically focused PeaceLabs pioneered a participatory and solution-oriented format for the traditional conference landscape. Designed with the support of experts and partners, they offered a cross-sectoral and multi-track space to interrogate existing peacemaking tools with insights from technology, blockchain and neuroscience, among other fields. The PeaceLabs were based on interactive and outcome-oriented methodologies. Formats included simulations, small group exercises, and exchanges inspired by expert input.





# SHIFTING POWERS AND NEW PLAYERS IN PEACEMAKING

China, Turkey and countries from the Gulf are entering the international scene as mediators and slowly gaining trust. At the same time, the inclusion agenda is widening beyond women and youth and targeting stakeholders such as the private sector and grassroots protest movements.

SHIFTING



# BUILDING TRUSTFUL TIES AMONG MEDIATORS

At The Berlin Moot, new mediators exchanged with those looking back at a longer historical tradition. Lack of trust emerged as a core issue for enabling cooperation and effective engagement.

Discussions revealed that trust is not yet established, and that building it among major global players necessitates a readiness to listen to each other and openly address existing differences and find compromises. Speaking about China's approach to

mediation and the role of human rights, Xiaoyu Lu, Professor of International Relations at Beijing University, addressed the widespread perception of China as a "moral vacuum" detached from human rights. However, this perception does not align with China's mediation efforts and approaches, which considers economic, social, and cultural rights as equally relevant human rights.

As an example of a constructive partnerships among mediation actors, Günther Bächler, Ambassador (rtd) for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, referred to the cooperation between Qatar and Switzerland in the Doha peace process for Darfur in 2011. Although the process ultimately failed, the two countries brought different strengths and

weaknesses to the table. Switzerland looks back at a long-standing value-based approach to conflict mediation; while Qatar has carved a space and reputation for a pragmatic and less prescriptive approach. Clear guidelines, priorities, and areas of responsibility made it possible for both mediating parties to trust the process and think strategically.

Since the early 2000s, various countries in the Gulf have continuously professionalised their mediation capacities by training a new generation of mediators and providing resources to host negotiations. They have further commissioned research to analyse and learn from past mediation experience in the

**“Cooperation is important, isolation would not work. But cooperation has to go hand in hand with readiness to compromise, readiness to listen to each other and build up dialogue and trust. And frankly speaking, as of now, we do not trust China in this.”**

Günther Bächler  
Ambassador (rtd), Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Gulf. The Berlin Moot highlighted the critical need for the international community's trust in the expertise of emerging mediation actors like Qatar or the UAE. Building upon the experiences shared, mediators must strive to foster mutual understanding and cooperation with these emerging players and recognise the potential of regional and local movements and stakeholders.

## ZOOMING IN ON YEMEN: THE ROLE OF REGIONAL ACTORS

Gulf actors are employing their growing mediation expertise to hasten the end of the nearly decade-long conflict in Yemen. Developing institutional mediation capacities and making use of regional organisations like the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are important steps in this process. Beyond this, the need for intra-Gulf dialogue on the future of Yemen, potentially in a GGC+ format including Yemen, Iran, Iraq and others, was clearly stated in exchanges at The Berlin Moot.



# ENGAGING WITH GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS, WOMEN, AND LOCAL ACTORS

As our world becomes increasingly connected and de-centralised, formal political institutions are losing legitimacy and informal actors like protest movements and civil society organisations are becoming increasingly important for peacemaking. As Annette Weber, EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, emphasised in the context of Sudan: “We need to switch from the focus on two generals to the focus of the civilians [...] and on inclusivity [...].”



## ENGAGING WITH PROTEST MOVEMENTS

Protest movements have been influential in driving peace efforts around the world, be it in Sudan, Colombia or Liberia. Yet high-level peacemaking actors, including policy makers, diplomats, mediators and negotiators, are often hesitant to fully engage with local movements. When included, these

movements are frequently treated as mere “decoration pieces,” as Shaheen Al Sharif, Executive Director of the NGO Youth in Action, phrased it. Drawing on insights from Sudan and Mali, there was consensus on the importance of these movements. Furthermore, how to include these movements without co-opting them through the political system was explored in the context of Sudan.

External actors (donors, diplomats and envoys) should provide direct support and engagement to social and protest movements, including those that do not align with – or even oppose – their position. Engaging includes conducting local research and analysis on the drivers of protests, as well as the constituencies they represent. It is crucial to listen to activists, build (informal) relationships, and develop effective public communication channels. At the same time, external actors need to remain impartial and be cautious of possible

instrumentalisation. Ensuring grassroots movements have access to information on formal processes, military strategies, and international missions’ mandates can help avoid this, stressed Fatima Al Ansar, Director of Tilwate Peace Network in Mali.

“International actors showed a lot of support to [...] how a whole generation stood up for democracy – this was outstanding. [...] However, the international community was engaging with [the youth] as a decoration piece, as something that can fill up their gaps in [...] processes that were happening, forcing a role of political actors on these groups.”

Shaheen Al Sharif  
Executive Director, Youth in Action – Sudan

## STRENGTHENING THE CONTRIBUTION OF BUSINESS ACTORS

Unlike grassroots movements, the private sector has not yet played a significant role in driving peace efforts – and its potential is often overlooked. Since 2000, a mere three per cent of peace agreements have directly included the



## ZOOMING IN ON SUDAN: TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE PEACEMAKING

In forging peace in Sudan, there is a clear dilemma between an ideal long-term vision and short-term imperatives. The immense suffering of the population must be alleviated, but it is also necessary to think of the country's long-term future. In the absence of a clear and common vision of the country's future, there are two shared strategic objectives: negotiating a ceasefire and delivering humanitarian aid. It is necessary to push for multiple tracks of one coordinated peace process or, alternatively, for multiple processes that are well coordinated. While comprehensive peace processes must be nationally owned, inclusive and legitimate civilian-led processes can take a long time. The urgency of the developing situation must be balanced with the time needed to establish such a process. Furthermore, because of the range of ethnic and religious groups in Sudanese civil society, the unity of civilian actors should not be a prerequisite to participate in a peace process. External support actors should, instead, strive for a common agenda among diverse populations. A prerequisite for this is international actors finding a constructive means of engaging with civilians.

There is also limited sustained effort from actors with the leverage and influence to push for peace. There needs to be more engagement with regional actors who have chosen to support the conflict parties militarily. Improved communication with these actors to better understand their interests can help find a way to incentivise peace.

private sector. Yet economic actors can play a pivotal role in ensuring the durability of peace agreements and garnering widespread support. One prominent example is the case of Colombia, where business groups provided critical resources to facilitate dialogue during the negotiations between the Colombian government and the FARC rebel group in the 2000s and early 2010s. Businesses realised that if they wanted to contribute to a pro-business peace deal, they needed to inform parties to the negotiations what the private sector could offer in terms of socio-political benefits and what would be

economically beneficial when articulated in an agreement. These contributions demonstrated the added value of business participation as a critical societal actor (and its latent strength as a potential peace agreement supporter or spoiler) in both the agreement and its subsequent implementation.

In Yemen, private sector actors have access, networks, and relationships spanning the conflict divide which they often use to provide basic services in selected areas. While it may not always be advantageous to leverage these strengths for formal peace processes, mechanisms could be explored to increase exchange between Yemeni businesses and peacemaking actors. The private sector's support for mediation efforts around the aging stationary oil tanker FSO Safer – which successfully averted an environmental catastrophe in the Red Sea by having the oil transferred to a replacement vessel in August 2023 – is an example of the potential of private sector involvement. More opportunities may remain behind the scenes.

Despite clear benefits, several obstacles hinder the operationalisation of business engagement in peacemaking. The lack of established mechanisms for such engagement, coupled with concerns over reputational and operational risks, often deters firms from contributing. Similarly, the peacemaking community is often hesitant to engage with the private sector as it is perceived to have multiple interests and be transactional in nature.

There are at least three key opportunities to expand business activities for peacemaking: first, expanding the business case to make it more attractive for the private sector to engage. Second, peacemakers can more systematically analyse the private sector in their stakeholder analyses and unpack variations between a heterogeneous group of businesses to get a better understanding of who could contribute, how, and when. Third, set up mechanisms to encourage peacemakers to bring businesses into peace processes. For more, read our policy brief [here](#).

**“Public resources are getting scarcer. We need private capital to support peace. We need to talk to companies and explain what we are doing and why and how they can support peace initiatives.”**

Anka Feldhusen  
Director of Crisis Prevention and Stabilization,  
German Federal Foreign Office



## BEING FEMINIST

Hilde F. Johnson, Senior Advisor of the European Institute of Peace, warned that “women are no angels of peace” and including them in formal peace negotiations will “not automatically lead to more peaceful societies”. Yet, we need women in leadership for peace – “for three main reasons: first, fairness. Women have the right to participate. [...] Second, substance. [...] Women] often know more about the impact of war on the civilian population on the ground and will bring more of this complexity and depth to the negotiating table. Third, peace agreements are more sustainable and durable when they are inclusive.” Diversifying the negotiation table does make a difference, as Itonde Kakoma, the Head of Interpeace, reiterated. In amplifying voices historically limited to the private sphere, broader inclusion is a prerequisite for transforming war-torn societies into just and peaceful ones. A feminist approach to peacemaking would mean to address structural power inequalities and redesign the field to include space for humility, failure, risk-taking, and consistent engagement, as Neha Sanghrajka, Senior Conflict Sensitivity Advisor at UNOPS shared following her involvement in the recent Mozambican peace process. Women are often perceived as actors who mitigate violent conflict at home and in communities. These “peace actors” have the right to be included in formal peace processes, stated Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE, Founder and Executive Director of the International Civil Society Action Network. More urgently, feminist approaches to peace – and a feminist foreign policy – should fundamentally mean “to stop the production and trade of weapons”, stressed Miriam Coronel-Ferrer.

Ultimately, effective engagement with local level actors involves listening to activists, establishing mechanisms for business engagement, and incorporating feminist approaches to address structural inequalities that stretch beyond gender and aim to redistribute power in the peacemaking field. Embracing these actors and approaches can help to fundamentally rethink and reimagine our existing global peace infrastructure.





# RETHINKING INFRASTRUCTURES FOR PEACE

Decreasing trust in the United Nations as a peacemaking actor, the double standards in calling out violations of international law, and shrinking resources available for peace initiatives have all had massive implications on peacemaking as a foreign policy instrument.

RETHINKING



## RESHAPING MULTILATERALISM

Several speakers at The Berlin Moot called for a reform of the multilateral system and stressed the responsibility of all countries to restore trust in the United Nations. One suggestion brought forward by the Estonian president Alar Karis was for all Security Council members to abide by Chapter 5 of the UN Charter which stipulates that “a party to a conflict shall abstain from voting in the Security Council”. This is not reflected in current practice. There were also calls for a reform of the UN Security Council to integrate the voices of emerging powers. To make this possible, Christoph Heusgen, Chairman at the Munich Security Conference, suggested Germany should withdraw its candidacy for a permanent seat. Furthermore, hopes were high that a woman UN Secretary General would better prioritise the needs of civilians and marginalised groups and bring human rights back to the forefront of UN action.



## ESTABLISHING A SHARED FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights are fundamental for establishing universally applicable principles of dignity and justice. However, there is undeniable inconsistency in their application and reinforcement. This heavily undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of human rights and human rights language as a frame of reference for peacemaking. It is imperative to tailor approaches to human rights according to context while looking for universally applicable standards that lay in “human dignity” said Barney Afako, Commissioner in the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and former UN DPPA Senior Mediation Adviser. At The Berlin Moot there was strong consensus that establishing a shared foundation for human rights and ensuring their impartial application is crucial to fostering a global standard of accountability.

**“Universality as a concept is coming under threat. This does not necessarily mean that the rights we all believe are true are not indeed universal in their spirit. But how they have been applied, and their perception, are deeply complex.”**

Meredith Preston McGhie  
Secretary General, Global Centre for Pluralism

## REALIGNING PEACE AND SECURITY

The shift in funding towards security budgets and away from peace initiatives – particularly in Western countries – was a topic that came up in many conversations at The Berlin Moot.

Anka Feldhusen, Commissioner for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Stabilisation at the German Federal Foreign Office, argued: “Hard security and action for peace are not mutually exclusive. Sustainable peace and security need to go hand in hand.”

Too often seen as conflicting approaches, security actors did acknowledge the relevance of non-military approaches in peacemaking, and vice versa for peace actors. Kees Matthijssen, Lieutenant-general (rtd.), former force commander to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINSUMA), shared: “There is never a singular military solution for any conflict, but often we need the military as part of the solution.” Despite the strong consensus that peace and security are interdependent and more important than ever, there was disagreement regarding concrete priorities, sequence and the current focus. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer called



for a revitalisation of the peace movement, whereas Estonian President Karis evoked the old Roman saying: “If you want to have peace, you need to prepare for war”.

## **ZOOMING IN ON THE HORN OF AFRICA: BUILDING TRUST AND COLLABORATION FOR PEACE AND STABILITY**

The Horn of Africa’s peace and security landscape is in a deep crisis with far-reaching impacts on the region’s stability. Despite shared demographic, geographic, and climate factors, the region lacks a cohesive identity, complicating efforts toward economic integration and stability.

Economic crises are pervasive and compounded by post-conflict recovery and the need to service international debt. This has created a “power of the dispossessed” dynamic, as put by one participant at The Berlin Moot, leaving parts of the population economically and politically marginalised. International interventions should be mindful of this and consider the potential of careful sequencing when responding to humanitarian and economic crises.

Global powers all have vested, varying interests in the Horn, while middle powers, particularly in the Gulf, are also increasing their influence. Their approach is perceived to be more transactional, focusing on individual politics rather than overall governance, which is further destabilising the region.

The weakening of the rules-based international order is changing the rules of engagement in the region, enabling powers to act without fear of reproach. Regional dynamics are thus shaped by mutual interference and transient alliances at the expense of multilateral institutions. The African Union’s capacity for action is expected to further diminish with upcoming leadership changes and elections in many member countries. Participants stressed the need for a regional détente process to facilitate trust-building and norm formation in addition to leveraging regional collaboration on economic and humanitarian matters.

## **JOINT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR ENHANCED COORDINATION**

When investments in conflicts and their settlement are instrumentalised for international and regional agendas – as is the case for Sudan – a multitude of opposing interests and approaches come into play. Against the background of her immediate experiences from Sudan, Annette Weber, EU Special Representative to the Horn of Africa, stressed “the two belligerents’ side do not only have the power which they claim for themselves, but international and regional support systems who want one of the two sides to win.” Jointly agreed strategic objectives, for example a ceasefire and humanitarian access in the case of current peace efforts, are crucial to facilitate coordination across different mediation spaces, tracks, and actors.

## **ZOOMING IN ON YEMEN: MEDIATING LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY**

In discussions on Yemen, local insider mediators working to facilitate the opening of roads, the exchange of detainees, and the return of bodies stressed the need for more joint strategic objectives. Their mediation efforts on the ground would ideally be more connected and coordinated to higher level negotiations. Participants suggested these local mediator networks could benefit from increased exchange with each other and with international organisations and that capacity-building and technical training would further increase their effectiveness. Complementary mediation efforts across levels were seen as highly effective for sustainable peace.







# ADAPTING METHODS AND TOOLS IN PEACEMAKING

The Berlin Moot brought together experts from tech, climate, epigenetic biology, and neuro- and cognitive science to identify entry points to enhance peacemaking by integrating insights from different disciplines.



ADAPTING

## BRAIN SCIENCE FOR HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS

Applying the prism of neuro- and cognitive scientific research to high-level peace negotiations, key facets of the human dimension – encompassing a web of values, emotions, trauma, and identity – were explored. More specifically, cognitive and neuroscientists, together with seasoned peacemakers, delved into the neuronal processes and human reactions related to deeply held beliefs (often referred to as “sacred values”). They specifically explored the de-humanisation of enemies and restoration of empathy.



Research findings from brain and cognitive science confirm that deeply held beliefs are processed in specific regions of our brain. A “carrot and stick approach”, therefore, which applies material incentives, can backfire as individuals do not engage in rational cost-benefit analyses in relation to their deeply-held values. Instead, it is important to acknowledge each side’s position and beliefs. A promising avenue is to alter the perception of social norms (for example regarding the use of violence) through peer-to-peer engagement. To learn more see our upcoming policy brief on our website.

## EPIGENETICS FOR TRAUMA AND MENTAL HEALTH

Rana Dajani, Professor of Molecular Biology at the Hashemite University in Jordan, introduced recent research which shows that epigenetic patterns of trauma are inherited. The proven epigenetic changes among three generations of Syrian refugees who fled to Jordan in the 1980s underline the broadly held assumption that trauma is not a single time event. Dealing with trauma, therefore, needs to be integrated into locally and culturally rooted practices. Religion and spirituality seem to be crucial approaches to trauma in certain contexts, for example in Syria and Palestine, but also generally in the

Middle East, as well as many places in Africa and Latin America, where the life of most of the population is strongly influenced by religion and spirituality. For further information, please see [here](#) and [here](#).

## ZOOMING IN ON MOZAMBIQUE: INTERTWINING FORMALITY AND INFORMALITY, IMPLEMENTATION AND NEGOTIATION

The Maputo Accord of 2019 is one of the very few comprehensive peace agreements signed in recent times, ceasing violence in Mozambique until today. At The Berlin Moot, members of the Peace Process Secretariat team reflected on learnings from that process to rethink and adapt methods in peacemaking. “When I look at the experience of Mozambique, something that I believe was capable to make a difference was the fact that [...] the same team was negotiating the agreements and implementing [them]”, explained Mirko Manzoni, former UN Personal Envoy for Mozambique. Through this long-term and consistent engagement, almost 60 per cent of the agreement was already implemented when the parties signed, demonstrating the strong commitment of the parties to the process. “The negotiation was carried out through a back channel. It was a silent negotiation, very discreet [...] The fact of working in a bilateral context between Switzerland and Mozambique allowed us to protect the space for negotiation. [...] We went ahead for almost three years only based on trust. No paper signed, nothing”, Manzoni added.

Balancing the discreet nature of the negotiations with the need for public support of the process and its outcomes can be a challenge, emphasised Neha Sanghrajka. The Peace Process Secretariat made sure to follow the priorities of the parties and include the perspectives of important societal actors like businesses and local communities as well as donors in the design of the implementation process.



## TECHNOLOGY FOR MEDIATION

Technologies like remote sensing, blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI) promise to be gamechangers for conflict resolution. The peacemaking community needs to better understand technological innovations and how to make use of them.

“Mediators will not be replaced by computers, but mediators without AI-support will eventually be replaced by mediators with AI-support” stated Claude Bruderlein, Faculty Instructor at the Harvard School of Public Health. Frontline Associates showcased the application of AI-driven tools in negotiation scenarios. AI offers significant value in planning and conducting complex negotiations by providing advanced analytical capabilities, predictive modelling and decision-making support. More specifically, AI can enhance negotiations in three ways: it can sort complex data, make strategic recommendations, and act as a trainer (or sparring partner) for negotiators. There was widespread agreement that more learning opportunities are needed to fully grasp the potential and risks this technology entails.

“How to make peace agreements work (and last)?” was also interrogated. For example, there was an exploratory exchange on the potential of smart contracts, a blockchain-based technology, for increasing the commitment of parties to negotiated peace agreements. Follow-up workshops will be facilitated to deepen mutual understanding. For a deep dive on the challenges of implementation, read Jeff Feltman’s [article here](#).



## CLIMATE KNOW-HOW FOR PEACE AGREEMENTS

So far only about four per cent of peace agreements take climate change and climate adaptation measures actively into account as new data by the research consortium PeaceRep shows. However, there is a promising shift towards further inclusion.

Exchanges at The Berlin Moot identified ways to make peace processes more climate-informed. From the comprehensive peace agreement in Colombia in 2016, the more recent Northern Ireland New Decade New Approach Agreement (2020), to the joint statement between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (2021), mediators are increasingly addressing the link between climate change and conflict. Integrating climate-related issues into peace processes requires both the expertise and capacity to navigate a range of inherent risks, including concerns around de-politicisation and an overwhelmed negotiation agenda.

Building on existing insights, discussions focused on formulating concrete advice for mediators to deal with common challenges and identified ways to advance climate-smart mediation. These include assigning responsibility to appropriate layers of governance (for example local flood protection vs. national land use policies) and facilitating community testimonies during a mediation process. To learn more, check out our [Climate Compass](#) guide on navigating mediation challenges in a warming world.



# LOOKING AHEAD

The Berlin Moot offered a truly international space that shone a light on the plurality and diversity of actors working towards peace around the world – on every continent, and at every level. It encouraged practitioners to ask what is at stake if they do not listen to new voices, adapt to new realities or acknowledge how science and research can improve practise.

The first iteration of The Berlin Moot revealed the necessity of engaging with emerging mediation actors like China and the UAE. It called for peacemakers to listen to climate scientists, human rights activists, and business actors, among others, and to realise the potential of integrating new ideas into a field that is widely considered conservative. In PeaceLabs and at the Innovation Fair, the value of cross-sectoral collaboration was demonstrated, proving transformative to navigating the complex landscape of conflict resolution. Addressing trauma and applying AI in negotiations, for example, stood out as strategies that can significantly enhance peacemaking efforts. Finally, The Berlin Moot called not solely for the inclusion of women and grassroots actors – but also for the field to be fundamentally reshaped by them.



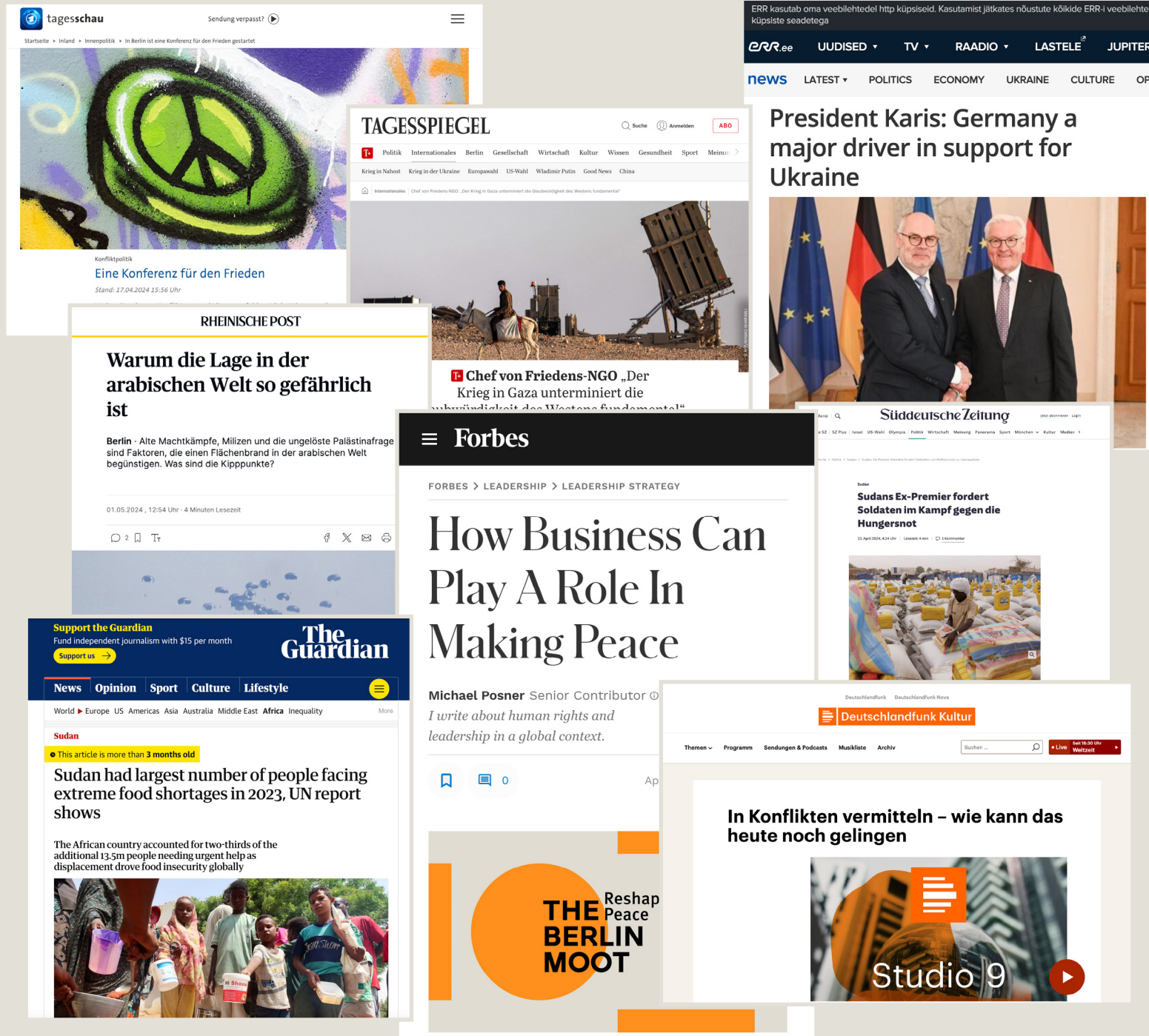
To continue our joint efforts in reshaping peace, we would love to welcome you to a second iteration of The Berlin Moot in 2026 that builds on the existing discussions and continues to develop actionable recommendations for the field. However, this vision will require financial support, input, and ideas from both new and existing partners. Keeping the interdisciplinary nature of the conference alive, we are looking for organisations from different sectors to showcase their commitment to peace. Reach out to the Berghof Foundation if you are interested in collaborating.

In the meantime, we will be hosting smaller Moot-type events, including labs, talks, and panels, during the course of 2025. These events will ensure the ongoing momentum of The Berlin Moot and its important interventions for the field. For upcoming information, please visit our website, [berlinmoot.org](https://berlinmoot.org).

We very much look forward to seeing you at the next edition of The Berlin Moot.



# THE BERLIN MOOT IN THE MEDIA



## Selected media coverage

<a href="#">Chef von Friedens-NGO: „Der Krieg in Gaza unterminiert die Glaubwürdigkeit des Westens fundamental“ (Head of peace NGO: „The war in Gaza fundamentally undermines the credibility of the West“)</a>	Tagesspiegel	15.04.2024
<a href="#">President Karis visiting Germany accompanied by business and cultural delegation</a>	Baltic Times	16.04.2024
<a href="#">Eine Konferenz für den Frieden (A conference for peace)</a>	Tagesschau	17.04.2024
<a href="#">In Konflikten vermitteln – wie kann das heute noch gelingen (Mediating in conflicts - how can this still succeed today)</a>	Deutschlandfunk Kultur	17.04.2024
<a href="#">President Karis: Germany a major driver in support for Ukraine</a>	ERR News	17.04.2024
<a href="#">Konferenz weckt vorsichtige Hoffnung auf ein „Helsinki II“ (Conference raises cautious hopes for a „Helsinki II“)</a>	Frankfurter Rundschau	17.04.2024
<a href="#">Frauen sollen Frieden schaffen (Women should create peace)</a>	Frankfurter Rundschau	18.04.2024
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