

## ***Resolution of the IPB Council in Ghent***

### **Negotiating Instead of Shooting: Thoughts on Diplomatic and Peaceful Solutions in and around Ukraine**

The war in Ukraine is causing suffering, death, and devastation. With every day that the war drags on, more people are killed, physically injured, or psychologically traumatized. With each passing day, the risk that the war will escalate or the spread to other states increases. Every day the global famine intensifies; about one tenth of the world's population suffered from famine already before the Ukraine war. Every day of war is one too many - the war must end now as soon as possible. A way out of the spiral of military escalation is needed.

The developments of the last weeks (referendum, annexation of the four districts to Russia, partial mobilization, intensified bombardments, attacks on the Nord Stream pipeline and Crimean Bridge) aggravate the confrontation situation and make a diplomatic solution more difficult and complicated. However, this is still possible and necessary; the nuclear threats that could lead to nuclear war - 60 years after the Cuban Missile Crisis - imperatively require the use of diplomacy and negotiations.

**Peace logic instead of war logic is the challenge. For this, a ceasefire and peace negotiations are essential.**

Russia's attack on Ukraine is illegal under international law. The responsibility for the war lies with the Russian government – nonetheless the developments leading up to the war must be properly assessed. At the same time, it requires joint action to end the war and build peace. As South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor put it, "The world has a responsibility to ensure peace." Yet

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despite the immeasurable suffering caused by the war, no direct negotiations are currently taking place between the Russian and Ukrainian governments. The threat of years of a war of attrition looms, with catastrophic humanitarian consequences for the people of Ukraine and around the world.

### **What is needed is a diplomatic solution.**

The following are IPB's proposals and considerations for a ceasefire, as well as ways to resolve the conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, or Russia and NATO. It is considered that the countries of NATO bear a share of responsibility for the increasing tensions between Russia and NATO since the 1990s. It must also be kept in mind that the responsibility for the number of further victims and the danger of nuclear escalation do not fall on one party alone.

The proposals take into account various approaches at the bilateral, multilateral, scientific and civil society levels.

The UN must play a central role throughout the peace process.

The following suggestions are taken into account:

- The Minsk 1 and Minsk2 agreements (Normandy format).
- Istanbul 10-point plan between the Ukraine and Russian governments, dated March 29, 2022
- Peace plan of the Italian government from May 2022
- Vatican international working group led by former PM Prodi and US economist Jeffry Sachs " just and lasting peace in Ukraine" of June 2022
- Russian draft treaty of December 2021

(Summary of documents at [www.ippnw.de/startseite.html](http://www.ippnw.de/startseite.html))

From these considerations, IPB proposes the following considerations for a new regional and European peace order. These suggestions are coming from the international peace movement and should be taken into consideration by international policymakers and politicians:

- First, a balanced ceasefire must be reached; this will require mediators. Possible mediators are the UN, the Pope, neutral states, and others that are announcing plans for a ceasefire and negotiations. Negotiations about fair transitional conditions of a ceasefire suitable for all stakeholders must start immediately.

- The ceasefire could be the starting point for the creation of one or more demilitarized zones in which UN blue helmets could be stationed; special attention should be paid to the regions around the nuclear power plants. Demilitarized zones should include presence by non-partisan civil and unarmed military monitors.
- The withdrawal of Russian troops must be agreed upon gradually and in coordination with other peace policy agreements. The gradual withdrawal could be linked to the gradual lifting of sanctions.
- Comprehensive autonomy under UN monitoring is agreed for the Donbas region (Donetsk/Lugansk). This includes an amendment to the Ukrainian constitution with recognition of basic economic, cultural, and political autonomy for the regions.
- Neutrality of Ukraine and rejection of joining NATO as agreed in the Istanbul negotiations.
- Ukraine needs security guarantees. These could be provided by guarantor powers, preferably by those that are not party to the conflict, such as India, Turkey, or South Africa, but possibly also mixed with partners from both sides;
- For the solution of the "Crimea", a referendum under international/UN control could be held after a few years referendums could be held under international supervision.

The German state Saarland, which was under French administration for ten years after the war, could serve as a model. The de facto control of Crimea by Russia is accepted for a few years before a longer-term political and diplomatic solution is sought.
- As a positive incentive, an international reconstruction program for all regions affected by the war, a multinational fund for reconstruction and development should be established. An immediate fund under UN control for humanitarian aid will be established.
- Economic, political, cultural and social sanctions will be gradually dismantled; in their place, economic relations will be established and expanded according to mutual benefit of both sides.
- As a further incentive for Russia, negotiations on strategic arms control in Europe will be launched. The goal is at least the withdrawal of U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons from Europe, or better, a Europe free of nuclear weapons.
- As a longer-term perspective, a debate begins on a new European security architecture based on the basic ideas of the "common security policy with the goal of a European security and peace conference 2025 Conference on a new pan-European security architecture. We need a European peace architecture, a common house of Europe from Lisbon to Vladivostok.

- The contact between the people will be made possible again immediately; meetings, discourses, and an exchange will be intensified and made possible free of repression.
- All countries should consider giving sanctuary, not necessarily asylum, to all people fleeing conscription and compulsory mobilization into military forces as a positive action to end armed conflict.
- All countries should recognize human right to conscientious objection to military service in all parts of societies (including indigenous populations) according to international human rights standards.
- Language which demonizes any party should be avoided, although acts against the peace must be acknowledged.

All this will not succeed without intensive engagement and actions of the peace movements and other social movements, which create a social atmosphere of cooperation and dialogue. They must actively contribute to ensuring that the logic of peace prevails over the logic of war. Therefore, all steps of peace development should be accompanied by own events/actions of the peace and social movements. Furthermore, these movements must expand and intensify their protests militarization in their own countries and throughout Europe.

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