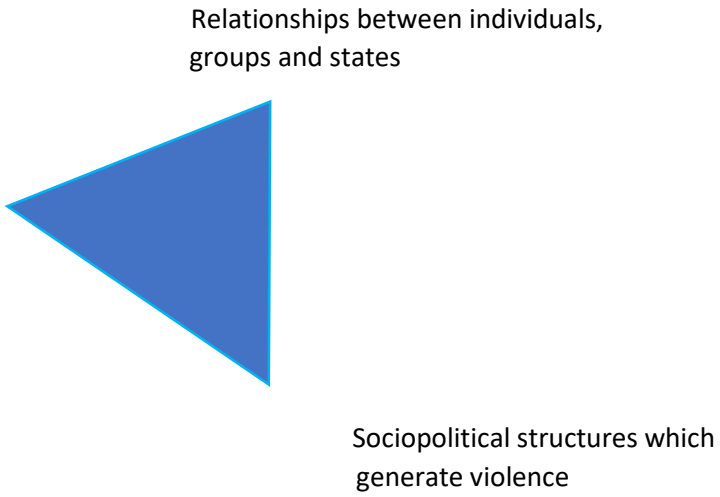
Introduction to the concept logic of peace

The logic of peace concept provides a framework for actions for peace aimed at changing behavior patterns and structures in society, including:



The concept is based on five principles:

Violence prevention
Logic of peace-based policies and actions intend to prevent violence in any form and to act proactively.
They do not wait for conflicts to intensify, for the outbreak of aggression and human rights violations or the denial of basic needs.

Conflict transformation
Logic of peace-based policies and actions pursue the goal of guiding entrenched conflict situations towards peaceful settlement.
Part of the process is to openly declare joint responsibility for the dispute and to reflect on each participant's ability to act, especially on one's own: What can I do to dismantle the conflict, what can we change together?
The concept enhances steps towards de-escalation and prepares the ground for future negotiations and conflict management.

Dialogue and process orientation
Logic of peace-based policies and actions search for an adequate means of conflict prevention and conflict transformation to promote peace. In doing so, dialogues are initiated based on mutual respect. Relevant actors/stakeholders are included in the process. As a process-oriented concept, it also relies on flexibility and perseverance.

From prioritizing self-interest to making interests globally compatible
Logic of peace-based policies and actions are guided by universal norms as well as global agreements, e.g. the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). If necessary, interests will be transformed in a globally compatible manner.

Reflexivity and acceptance of mistakes
Logic of peace-based policies and actions follow the principle of reflexivity. Activities take place in manageable steps which can be revised when necessary. Therefore, they will be constantly monitored. Additionally, open and independent consultations will be conducted in order to identify mistakes and to be able to correct them.

Paradigm change: the logic of peace replaces the logic of security

The differences between a "logic of peace"-based approach and others that are based on a logic of security can be illustrated by answering five key questions when facing a critical situation. The key questions reflect the abovementioned principles of the logic of peace concept and can also serve as an evaluation tool for specific working areas.

Key questions	**Logic of security**	**Logic of peace**
• *What is the problem?* → *Approach:*	Threat, danger, instability → Averting danger and defending oneself	Impending violence, outbreak of violence → Violence prevention and containment
• *What caused the problem?* → *Approach:*	External reasons / Others → Allocation of blame / setting oneself apart, self–affirmation	Complex conflicts →Conflict analysis including taking responsibility
• *How, i.e. with which aims and measures, is the problem addressed?* → *Approach:*	Self protection, turning away → deterrence, threats and rearmament → military action	Cooperative problem solving by including relevant actors → De-escalation and conflict management, ensuring dialogue and process orientation
• *How do the actors justify their actions?* → *Justification leads to:*	One's own (national) interests prevail → Norms are subordinate and adjusted to interests	Application of human rights and international law → Value-oriented review of one's own interests and correction when required
• *What is the reaction to failure?* → *Sequences of action:*	No self – criticsm / No questioning of the strategy approach or adjustment of measures → Increase of efforts/ escalation → or withdrawal and passivity	Open reflection / evaluation of previous activities → Acknowledgement of problems and mistakes Search for nonviolent alternatives

Further information and contact:

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