

25 Years zivik

Funding Programme at ifa

Next Generation Peace

Visions for Crisis Prevention of Tomorrow



Next Generation Peace: Visions for Crisis Prevention of Tomorrow

 12 November 2026

 10:00 – 20:00

 Allianz Forum

 Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin

For 25 years, the zivik Funding Programme at ifa, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, has supported civil society actors working for dialogue, social cohesion and peaceful conflict transformation in crisis and conflict contexts. By connecting Germany's foreign policy with locally rooted expertise and action, zivik strengthens civilian crisis prevention and peacebuilding.

Under the guiding theme “Civil Conflict Transformation, Local Voices, Real Impact,” the anniversary event places local civil society at the heart of the debate. It explores how civilian conflict transformation can remain effective and politically relevant amid shifting global power dynamics, protracted conflicts, shrinking civic space and growing uncertainty. The event also asks what Germany and its international partners can do to strengthen local agency, protect civic space and ensure that peacebuilding strategies are grounded in the realities and priorities of those directly affected by conflict.

The event will be held in English. No interpretation will be provided.



Programme

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Alisa Vogt, Programme Director International Affairs, Körber-Stiftung, Germany

10:00 | **Registration & Welcoming of Participants**

11:00 | **Welcome and Opening**

Philip Küppers, Secretary General, ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Germany

Tobias Grothe, Head of Division GO23 „Stabilisation, Civilian Crisis Engagement and Mediation“, German Federal Foreign Office

11:20 | **Keynote Speeches “Local Voices: Perspectives from Practice”**

Christina Foerch Saab, Co-Founder & Head of Programs and International Relations, Fighters for Peace, Lebanon

Ziad Saab, Co-Founder & President, Fighters for Peace, Lebanon

Sabine Kurtenbach, President (ad interim), German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Germany

11:40 | **Kick-Off Panel: Local Voices, Real Impact**

Bringing together voices from zivik-supported organisations, the panel focuses on the political realities of locally led conflict transformation. It examines how civil society actors navigate power dynamics, restrictions and uncertainty, and how their engagement can influence wider peace and conflict processes.

The discussion will also consider what needs to change in international cooperation and funding to give local actors greater political space, resources and ownership and to turn local knowledge into lasting impact.

Panelists:

Philip Küppers, Secretary General, ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Germany

Nedim Krajisnik, Executive Director, Center for Educational Initiatives

“Step by Step”, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tobique Yandare Kolani, Executive Director, YOUTH AWAKE, Togo

Roula Mikhael, Founder & Executive Director, Maharat Foundation, Lebanon

Moderation:

Janel Galvanek, Head of the Regional Peace Support Department, Berghof Foundation, Germany



12:45

Networking Lunch

13:45

Parallel Deep Dive Sessions - Round 1

DEEP DIVE SESSION 1:

Local Voices, Shared Power: Who Shapes the Agenda?

Localisation is ultimately a question of power. This session examines who sets priorities, controls resources and defines success in international civil society cooperation. Drawing on local perspectives, it asks what needs to change for local actors to have a meaningful say in decision-making, shape political agendas and take ownership of conflict transformation.

Input and Moderation:

Apako Williams, Founder and Executive Director, Tranz Network Uganda

Alexander Mauz, Member of the Advisory Board to the Federal Government for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding, Germany

DEEP DIVE SESSION 2:

Democracy Under Pressure: How Can Civil Society Stay Politically Effective?

Across contexts of autocratisation, polarisation and shrinking civic space, civil society faces growing pressure to adapt, retreat or remain silent. This session explores how organisations navigate repression and political constraints while maintaining their ability to organise, mobilise and influence public and political debate. It asks what forms of support can help sustain civic agency and democratic space.

Input and Moderation:

Levan Natroshvili, Executive Director, The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy, Georgia

Sarah Pagung, Head of International Affairs, Körber-Stiftung, Germany

14:45

Artistic Intervention

NN, CrossCulture Programme / Martin Roth-Initiative



15:00

Parallel Deep Dive Sessions - Round 2

DEEP DIVE SESSION 3:

Arts, Memory & Healing in Peacebuilding

How can art and collective memory challenge dominant narratives of conflict and give space to marginalised voices? The session explores how cultural practices can support dialogue, recognition and social transformation, while asking who controls narratives of the past and how peacebuilding can avoid reproducing existing power structures.

Input and Moderation:

Rana Yazaji, Executive Director, artasfoundation, Switzerland

Barbara Unger, Senior Advisor, Conflict Transformation Research Department, Berghof Foundation, Germany

DEEP DIVE SESSION 4:

What Does Real Impact Look Like?

What does meaningful political change look like in complex conflict settings? This session examines the limits of civil society action, the structural conditions shaping peacebuilding, and the gap between intended and actual impact. It focuses on learning from setbacks, adapting strategies and understanding change beyond simple measures of success.

Input and Moderation:

Nidal Foqaha, Director General, Palestinian Peace Coalition – Geneva Initiative, Palestinian Territories

Tehila Wenger, Deputy Director, Geneva Initiative, Israel

Ginger Schmitz, Executive Director, Platform Peaceful Conflict Transformation, Germany

16:00

Coffee Break and Local Voices Gallery Walk

The Local Voices Gallery showcases selected zivik-supported projects and highlights how local initiatives respond to social and political challenges. During the Gallery Walk, participants are invited to explore the different stations, engage with project representatives and learn how local actors strengthen participation, democratic engagement, and social cohesion in their communities.

The Gallery offers space to exchange experiences, discuss different approaches, and reflect on the opportunities and challenges of local democratic work.

16:30

Presentation of Key Takeaways from the Deep Dive Sessions



17:00

Closing Panel: Beyond the Present – What Needs to Change for Meaningful Impact?

Building on the experiences, perspectives and debates of the day, the closing discussion broadens the lens, moving from the practical realities of local peacebuilding to the political, structural and financial conditions needed for effective and sustainable civil conflict transformation.

The panel explores questions of political responsibility, civic space, local ownership, resilience and accountability, as well as the role of international actors and partnerships in a changing global environment. It also asks how cultural approaches and locally rooted forms of knowledge can move beyond symbolic recognition and become part of broader processes of social negotiation, dialogue and political transformation. The discussion ultimately asks what needs to change to create more sustainable, inclusive and locally grounded approaches to conflict transformation.

Panelists:

Daniela Schwarzer, President, ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Germany

Tobias Grothe, Head of Division GO23 „Stabilisation, Civilian Crisis Engagement and Mediation“, German Federal Foreign Office

Antonia Potter Prentice, Executive Director, Protection International, Belgium

Abeer Mdanat, Rasheed Transparency International Jordan

Sabine Kurtenbach, President (ad interim), German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Germany

Moderation:

Julia Leininger, Head of the Department ‘Transformation of political (dis)order’, Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Germany

18:15

Closing Remarks

Daniela Schwarzer, President, ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Germany

18:30

Artistic Intervention:

Parham Alizadeh (Martin Roth-Initiative Fellow) & **David Beck** - „Orkéstár“:
Persian poetry in urban acoustic fusion

18:45

Get-Together & Dinner

Music:

Sithara Weeratunga, CrossCulture Programme Fellow, DJ, Germany:
Electronic, Global and Diasporic Music.



Panelists and Moderators

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Alisa Vogt

Alisa Vogt, Programme Director International Affairs, Körber-Stiftung, Germany

Alisa Vogt is Programme Director at Körber-Stiftung's International Affairs Department in Berlin. She focuses on German foreign policy and European issues. Furthermore, she is responsible for the Munich Young Leaders Programme and the Körber Network Foreign Policy. Alisa holds degrees in Latin American Studies and in International Relations and Management with study visits in Brazil and France.



Parham Alizadeh & David Beck („Orkéstar“)

Musicians

The singer/guitar player (Parham Alizadeh) and the arranger/multi instrumentalist (David Beck) shape the music into a wide-ranging musical experience. Orkéstar is a Berlin-based ensemble. They develop a shared musical language, influenced by West Asian aesthetics, Persian classical poetry and archaic melodies in modern arrangements.

Nidal Fqaha

Director General, Palestinian Peace Coalition – Geneva Initiative, Palestinian Territories

Nidal Fqaha is Director General of the Palestinian Peace Coalition–Geneva Initiative and co-chair of the Two-State Coalition, a network of 38 Palestinian and Israeli organizations. He has extensive experience in Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on key issues including security, borders, Jerusalem, and refugees. A former political adviser and communications strategist, he has also worked on governance and reconciliation initiatives. Fqaha holds degrees in Regional Studies and English Literature.



Janel Galvanek

Head of the Regional Peace Support Department,
Berghof Foundation, Germany

Janel Galvanek is the Head of the Regional Peace Support Department of the Berghof Foundation, where she oversees programming in Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Afghanistan/Central Asia. Janel has been at the Berghof Foundation for 17 years and has furthered and supported work in places such as Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, Ukraine, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan. She established their engagement in Somalia in 2015, supporting mediation and dialogue initiatives among local communities across South Central Somalia.



Tobias Grothe

Tobias Grothe has served as Head of Division GO23 “Stabilisation, Civilian Crisis Engagement and Mediation” at the Federal Foreign Office since September 2025. He joined the higher foreign service in 2007 and has since held a range of positions in Berlin and abroad. His previous assignments include serving as country desk officer for Pakistan, at the German Embassy in Ankara, and at the NATO Desk in Berlin. From 2017 to 2020, he was posted to the German Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels. Between 2020 and 2025, he worked on stabilisation policy and security sector reform.

Tobigue Yandare Kolani

Executive Director, YOUTH AWAKE, Togo

Tobigue Yandare Kolani is a Togolese professional specializing in peace, security, youth, governance, and community development. Executive Director of YOUTH AWAKE, he is also a consultant, trainer, and researcher. He coordinates social cohesion and resilience programs and serves as a member and focal point of WARNOC, with certifications in NGO and public governance.



Nedim Krajisnik

Executive Director, Center for Educational Initiatives
„Step by Step“, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nedim Krajisnik holds a PhD in peace and security studies and leads the Center for Educational Initiatives Step by Step in Sarajevo, where he has spent over a decade developing peace education programmes, teacher training and publications. His work centres on the teaching profession, critical thinking and inclusive education in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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Sabine Kurtenbach

President (ad interim), German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Germany



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Prof Dr Sabine Kurtenbach is President of the GIGA (ad interim), a political scientist, and peace researcher with many years of experience at the Institute. Her research focuses on peace and conflict studies, with a particular emphasis on violence and post-war societies, especially Latin America from a comparative perspective as well as interdisciplinary analyses. Since 2018, she has been an Honorary Professor at Philipps University Marburg.

Philip Küppers

Secretary General, ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Germany

Philip Küppers has been Secretary General of ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen since 1 September 2026. He studied Musicology and Ethnomusicology in Berlin followed by International Relations and Affairs in Bath, Prague and Paris. His professional career has taken him to Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia and Tanzania, among other countries. From 2011 to 2015, he worked at the Chair of Transcultural Music Studies at the FRANZ LISZT University of Music Weimar. Over the past ten years, he has served as Director of the Goethe-Institutes in Bangladesh, Senegal and Morocco.



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Julia Leininger

Head of the Research Department „Transformation of political (dis-)order“, IDOS, Germany

Julia Leininger, PhD University of Heidelberg, is head of the research department „Transformation of political (dis-)order“ at IDOS (German Institute of Development and Sustainability). She co-chairs The Advisory Board to the Federal Government for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding. Her policy-oriented, transformative research focuses on international democracy support and protection from autocratization, social cohesion, and scenarios projecting political futures.



Alexander Mauz

Member of the Advisory Board for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding, Germany

Alexander Mauz is an experienced peacebuilding and conflict transformation professional. Over the last two decades he has worked in peacebuilding, development cooperation and humanitarian aid, including Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, Central America and the Caribbean. His expertise focuses on civil society-led conflict transformation, localization of international cooperation, addressing power asymmetries and understanding peace as impact.



Abeer Mdanat

Executive Director, Rasheed Transparency International Jordan

Abeer Mdanat is an Elected member of the Global Board of Directors at Transparency International and member of its Accreditation and Ethics Committees. She is Executive Director of Rasheed Transparency International Jordan. She worked in German donor institutions, civil society, and the public sector at national, regional, and international levels..



Roula Mikhael

Founder and Executive Director, Maharat Foundation, Lebanon

Roula Mikhael is a media development expert and Founder and Executive Director of Maharat Foundation. She works to advance freedom of expression, media reform, information integrity and independent journalism in Lebanon and the MENA region. Her work draws on mediation principles to promote dialogue, trust and peacebuilding in polarized and conflict-affected contexts.



Levan Natroshvili

Executive Director, International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy, Georgia

Levan Natroshvili is the Executive Director of the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), a leading Georgian election-monitoring NGO. Specializing in political finance and anti-corruption, he previously led programs at Transparency International Georgia. He also lectures at Ilia State University and holds a Master's degree from the University of Kentucky.



Sarah Pagung

Head of International Affairs, Körber-Stiftung, Germany

Sarah Pagung holds a PhD in political science. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS) as well as of the Advisory Board to the Federal Government for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding and serves on the Council of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR).



Antonia Potter Prentice

Executive Director, Protection International, Belgium

Antonia Potter Prentice is Executive Director of Protection International. She has 29 years of experience in the not-for-profit sector, including as Director of Alliance2015, a network of European NGOs operating across 92 countries. She co-founded the Athena Consortium, a gender, peace and security consultancy, and has held country director roles in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.



Christina Foerch Saab

Co-Founder & Head of Programs and International Relations, Fighters for Peace, Lebanon

Christina Foerch Saab is co-founder of the Lebanese NGO Fighters for Peace and serves as Head of Programs and International Relations. A political scientist, filmmaker, journalist, and NGO consultant, she specializes in peacebuilding, former combatants, deradicalization, and arms control. She is a member of the EU Knowledge Hub for the Prevention of Radicalization and has published widely on reintegration and extremism.



Ziad Saab

Co-Founder & President, Fighters for Peace, Lebanon

Ziad Saab is Head of Fighters for Peace, a Lebanese NGO co-founded by former combatants who have become peacebuilders. A former student leader, combatant, and commander during the Lebanese civil war, he renounced violence after the conflict and went on to lead youth reconciliation, memory, and peacebuilding initiatives across Lebanon.



Ginger Schmitz

Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung (Platform Peaceful Conflict Transformation), Executive Director, Germany

Ginger Schmitz has served as Executive Director of the Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung (Platform Peaceful Conflict Transformation) since 2018. She is a member of the Advisory Board to the Federal Government for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding and FriEnt's Steering Committee. Previously, she worked for members of the German Bundestag and the GIZ.



Daniela Schwarzer

President, ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Germany



Prof Dr Daniela Schwarzer has been President of the ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen since June 2025. Daniela Schwarzer is a leading expert on Germany's international policy. Starting November 2026, she will be President of the Hertie School and Professor of European Governance and Geopolitics. From 2023 to June 2026, she served as a full-time member of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Executive Board. Previously, she was Director and CEO of the German Council on Foreign Relations and Executive Director for Europe and Central Asia at the Open Society Foundations. Since 2021, she has been honorary professor of political science at Freie Universität Berlin and visiting professor at Harvard University. Daniela Schwarzer is regularly consulted as an expert and policy advisor. From 2020 to 2022, she served as special advisor to the High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission.

Barbara Unger

Senior Advisor, Conflict Transformation Research Department, Berghof Foundation, Germany

Barbara Unger is a conflict transformation practitioner with 30 years of experience. As senior advisor at the Berghof Foundation, she focuses on dealing with the past and the facilitation of dialogue as well as learning & reflection processes. A political scientist and organizational development advisor by training, she has held various leadership and coordination roles, including coordinating the zivik Funding Programme at ifa from 2002 to 2004.



Tehila Wenger

Deputy Director, Geneva Initiative-Israel

Tehila Wenger is Deputy Director of the Geneva Initiative, where she advances conditions for Israeli-Palestinian peace through dialogue, advocacy, education, and research. She works with decision-makers, young leaders and civil society to maintain and create support for a two-state solution. She holds a BA in Politics from Princeton University and an MA in Diplomatic Studies from Tel Aviv University.



Sithara Weeratunga

Freelance Curator & DJ

Sithara Weeratunga is a Berlin-based freelance curator and DJ working on decolonisation, diversity and translocal cultural perspectives. She develops exhibitions, public programmes and cultural formats and previously worked as a curator and diversity specialist at the Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig. She is an alumna of the ifa CrossCulture Programme (CCP) and DJs across electronic, global and diasporic music contexts.



Apako Williams

Founder and Executive Director, Tranz Network Uganda, Uganda

Apako Williams is Founder and Executive Director of Tranz Network Uganda and a Ugandan leader in human rights, global health and peacebuilding. Williams contributes to national and global policy processes, advancing inclusive healthcare, community safety, movement leadership and locally led solutions that enable transgender and gender-diverse people to live in peace, dignity and harmony.



Rana Yazaji

Executive Director, artasfoundation, Switzerland

Rana Yazaji is Executive Director of artasfoundation, the Swiss Foundation for Art in Regions of Conflict, and a researcher at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). Her work connects artistic practices, institutional building and policy. She co-founded Ettijahat–Independent Culture in 2011 and served as Executive Director of Culture Resource (Al Mawred Al Thaqafy)



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About the zivik Funding Programme

Since 2001, the zivik Funding Programme at ifa has supported civil society organisations working in crisis and conflict settings. Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, zivik combines project funding with expert advice, networking and support for learning and evaluation. By strengthening local initiatives and their capacity to act, the programme contributes to peaceful, resilient and inclusive societies.

About ifa

ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen fosters understanding and trust between people worldwide through its work in art and civil society. It supports democratic societies and advocates for freedom in art and science as well as freedom of expression. ifa contributes its international knowledge and networks in art and culture, politics, and society to debates and broadens perspectives – in Germany and worldwide. The ifa Galleries in Stuttgart and Berlin present contemporary art from multiple perspectives. The exhibitions and educational programs are developed through a collaborative working method in which global interconnections are traced and newly assembled through different narrative approaches. ifa is funded by the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the State of Baden-Württemberg, and the City of Stuttgart www.ifa.de





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