

COOPERATIVE SECURITY IN TIMES OF CONFRONTATION?

Wishful thinking or a must?

FES Tiergartenkonferenz 2020: *online event*

Cooperative security in times of confrontation?

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Background:

The Corona pandemic is posing some major challenges for international relations, already reeling as they were under the weight of parochial ways of thinking and polarisation before the outbreak. But this global crisis clearly underscores just how vital effective and trustworthy international cooperation really is for human security. Human lives could have been saved. Instead, a bitter realisation is starting to sink in that the window in international politics for urgently needed cooperative security is becoming ever smaller. Instead of growing cooperative security, humanity is witnessing cooperative security on the wane. The fatal reaffirmation of narrow national interests in the field of security policy is fomenting confrontation and uncertainty in the areas of nuclear and conventional arms, strategic balance, climate policy and migration. We are witnessing a resurgence of global rivalry between the great powers. The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung would like to discuss this and how Europe and the world can once again achieve more cooperative security at this year's Tiergarten Conference. The event is being staged against the backdrop of the *Cooperative Security Initiative* campaign, which is being supported by the Secretary General of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Guiding questions:

- Why is cooperative security becoming ever more elusive even though unilateral national action leads to greater confrontation and hence greater insecurity?
- How can Europe and other regions of the world escape from the vicious circle of confrontation-insecurity-confrontation and return to a system marked by growing cooperative security?
- What benefits are there to cooperative security in times of confrontation and polarisation?
- Which challenges does the policy arena urgently need to address with regard to cooperative security?

What is the Tiergarten Conference?

The Tiergarten Conference is an annual international foreign policy and security conference staged by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Since 2012 international experts and political decision-makers have been getting together on an annual basis in expert discussions and at public venues to analyse strategic issues and develop progressive options for action. With its public events, the Tiergarten Conference makes the results of these discussions accessible to a broader public, thereby contributing to a differentiated debate over foreign and security policy in Germany. Tiergarten - a

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location steeped in international relations and headquarters of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's international work.

Agenda of the Tiergarten Conference 2020

Due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, this year's Tiergarten conference will for the most part be taking place digitally. The panels will start on 16 September and be spread out over several days.

The conference is to begin with the Euro-Atlantic context in which the notion of co-operative security originally took shape in the form of the OSCE. Even if the specific understanding of cooperative security is associated with post-Cold War Europe, however, the underlying logic is by no means new or unknown in other regions of the world. Within the framework of the Tiergarten conference, we therefore want to specifically address the relevance of the concept for and in other regions of the world with additional panels.

The following questions will be at the focus of the regional panels:

- What forms of cooperative security policy are being practiced?
- What challenges does cooperative security policy face and what opportunities are there?
- How compatible is the notion of cooperative security with models such as *collective security, non-traditional security, civil security or common security*, which dominate security policy debates in other regions?

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Wednesday, 16 September 2020

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Cooperative Security in Europe

Opening:

Kurt Beck, Chairman of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and former Prime Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate

Highranking online-discussion with:

Lars Klingbeil, Member of the German Parliament and Secretary General of the SPD (tbc)

Ambassdor Thomas Greminger, Secretary General of the OSCE

Heather A Conley, Senior Vice President for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic, CSIS

Hubert Védrine, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France

Moderator: Christiane Hofmann, Der Spiegel

Thursday, 17 September 2020

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Cooperative security in Asia *online discussion*

Background:

A benevolent observer in a number of regional institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, above all in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), can view the objective of co-operative security as a form of motivation. At the same time, in addition to regional organisations that are more oriented towards cooperative security, military alliance systems similar to those in Europe are also to be found in the wider region. In addition, the region is likely to be most strongly influenced by the new great power competition between the USA and China in the 21st century:

- How much room for cooperative security can there realistically be in Asia, given the confrontation between the US and China?
- How are the states and organisations that are more geared to cooperative security dealing with this difficult environment?

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- Are there realistic possibilities to integrate the US and China more closely into formats of cooperative security cooperation in Asia?

4:00- 5:30 p.m. Cooperative security in the Middle East *online discussion*

Background: Maritime Security in the Persian Gulf – Chances for Cooperation in a Contested Region

Tensions in the Persian Gulf have been rising steadily over the past years, bringing Iran, the U.S., the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and their allies close to the brink of a regional war which would have severe regional and international consequences. The current stalemate of positions, the U.S. maximum pressure campaign on Iran as well as rifts within and in-between the gulf monarchies make the prospects for an inclusive regional security forum rather grim, at least for the near future.

Against this backdrop, this panel will discuss the following questions:

- What would be a more pragmatic approach towards de-escalation and cooperation in this highly contested region?
- Focusing on maritime security: which possibilities for cooperation in less-sensitive policy areas exist and which role could potential regional / or international mediators play in order to ease tensions and to create the needed trust for any further, more institutionalized, form of security cooperation?
- How can European political actors support these pragmatic initiatives?

Friday, 18 September 2020

10:00- 11:30 a.m. Cooperative security in Africa *online discussion*

Background:

The African Peace and Security Architecture is based on the model of collective security. One lesson learnt from the shortcomings of the predecessor organisation, the OAU, manifested itself in much more ambitious peace and security policy objectives for the African Union. Nevertheless, there are also elements within the AU and its sub-regional organisations that can be readily subsumed under the notion of cooperative security.

- What does the current balance look like between elements of collective security and those of cooperative security within the APSA framework?
- Is there any room for less institutionalised approaches to cooperative security in the Middle East?

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4:00- 5:30 p.m. Cooperative security in Latin America and the Caribbean

Background:

Many of the Latin American regional organisations - from the OAS to CELAC to UNASUR, or, since 2019, PROSUR - have at least a point of tangency to security policy in their mandate or in their practical work. Nevertheless, the region seems to be experiencing a crisis of multilateralism. Against this background, the following questions arise:

- How does cooperative security fit in with the model of citizens' security that enjoys wide currency in the region?
- Can forms of cooperative security also function properly in Latin America and the Caribbean despite the crisis of regional multilateralism?
- What role do Brazil and the USA play with regard to regional cooperative security?