

Global Futures Forum and People's Pact for the Future

Introduction to the Peace and Security theme

Prepared by Alyn Ware. *Co-facilitator, Peace and Security theme.*

For further information see [GFF and Peoples Pact for the Future: Peace and Security theme](#).

FOCUS:

Peace and Security can be very broad concepts. Peace relates to the non-violent resolution of conflicts and the maintenance of harmonious relationships at inter-personal, community, national and international levels. Security relates to a confidence that peace, well-being, human rights and social order will be maintained and not threatened by violence or injustice.

In this broadest sense, the Peace and Security theme would encompass all of the other 6 themes being covered in the Global Futures Forum and People's Pact for the Future. So, in our consideration of Peace and Security, we will focus mostly on *International Peace and Security*, while still noting connections with peace and security at other levels, especially through the Human Security framework.

FRAMEWORKS FOR SECURITY:

Peace and security are perceived, developed and implemented through a range of security frameworks, including, inter alia, national security, international security/global governance, military security, common security, human security, environmental security, feminist foreign policy and trans-generational security. These are intersecting frameworks, each of which have some elements/aspects that are common and some elements/aspects that differ from the other frameworks. The GFF consultations on Peace and Security will be inclusive of these security frameworks. We encourage participants in the consultations to offer information and analysis from the perspectives of any of the security frameworks, and to propose recommendations that can fulfil the general objectives of most, if not all, of them.

- **National security:** Focuses primarily on protecting the state, particularly from aggression/attack from another state or from non-state actors.
- **International security/global governance:** Focuses primarily on maintaining global order, preventing war and ensuring maintenance of international commerce, international law and regional/global eco-systems.
- **Military security:** The protection of peace and law through military force and the threat of military force.
- **Common security:** Prevention of war and maintenance of peaceful relations between countries through the use of conflict resolution mechanisms and international law. Based on the notion that one's national security cannot be sustainably maintained by undermining the security of other nations (including ones adversaries) but only by ensuring that all nations are secure.
- **Human security:** Based on the notion that national and international security cannot be maintained if human needs/rights are not adequately met. Focused on full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as the best way to ensure Human Security.
- **Environmental security:** Protection of the environment – in particular the security of eco-systems to ensure that they are sustainable for current and future generations.
- **Feminist Foreign Policy:** A national policy which encompasses gender representation, perspectives and rights in all foreign policy areas.
- **Trans-generational security:** Focuses on peace and security issues that impact on future generations and on the obligations to protect the rights of future generations.

UN PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDAS/MEASURES

The United Nations was established with peace and security as the core of the UN Charter. This includes the:

- Obligation to resolve international conflicts through peaceful means (Article 2.3);
- Prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations (Article 2.4);
- Outline of a range of approaches for resolving conflicts peacefully including by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement and resort to regional agencies or arrangements (Article 33);
- Authority given to the Security Council and General Assembly to maintain peace and security (Articles 34-38);
- Establishment of the International Court of Justice to assist in the resolution of any legal conflict (Articles 92-96);

In a perfect world, this would have provided sufficient basis for the maintenance of peace and security. However, the world is not perfect. Nations states have not lived up to their UN Charter obligations nor made full use of the approaches and mechanisms established by the Charter for the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

In light of this, additional complementary peace and security agendas/measures have been established through the United Nations. These include an *Agenda for Peace: Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping* (1992), [Securing Our Common Future: A Disarmament Agenda](#) (2018), [Our Common Agenda](#) (2021), [UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security](#), [UN Security Council Resolutions on Youth Peace and Security](#), [UN General Assembly Uniting for Peace resolutions](#), and others.

The UN is currently developing a [New Agenda for Peace](#) and undertaking further development of the [Human Security Agenda](#).

The UNGA has tasked the *UN Summit of the Future* to include a strong focus on international peace and security. The full title of the Summit is *Summit of the Future: multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow*, and the preambular paragraphs emphasise “*that the collective well-being, safety, security and prosperity of our nations and peoples are deeply intertwined, which requires us to work urgently and together in accordance with the Charter to address global risks and challenges.*”

DISARMAMENT FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

A special mention is made with regard to the importance of disarmament for peace and security.

The UN Charter places an obligation on the Security Council to prepare a plan for arms control in order to ensure the “*establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources.*” (Article 26). In addition, the very first resolution of the UN General Assembly established the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

This has been followed by numerous UNGA resolutions on disarmament and an International Court of Justice affirmation in 1996 that “*There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith, and bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control*” (re-affirmed by the UN Human Rights Committee in 2018).

The UN Secretary-General's Report [Securing Our Common Future: A Disarmament Agenda](#) identifies the numerous connections between disarmament and peace/security, including the importance of arms control and disarmament for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE *UN75 DECLARATION* AND THE *UN75 PEOPLE'S DECLARATION AND PLAN FOR GLOBAL ACTION*

The [Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations](#) (UN75 Declaration), adopted by the UNGA on the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2020, includes two paragraphs on Peace and Security.

"We will promote peace and prevent conflicts. The ongoing armed conflicts and threats against international peace and security must be urgently resolved through peaceful means. We reiterate the importance of abiding by the Charter, principles of international law and relevant resolutions of the Security Council. International arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agreements and their architectures need to be upheld. The United Nations must better address all forms and domains of threats. Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism are serious threats to international peace and security. The diplomatic toolbox of the Charter needs to be used to its full potential, including preventive diplomacy and mediation. We call upon the Secretary-General to enhance this toolbox to prevent the outbreak, escalation and recurrence of hostilities on land, at sea, in space and in cyberspace. We fully support and promote the Secretary-General's initiative for a global ceasefire. International humanitarian law must be fully respected. To build, keep and sustain peace is now one of the main responsibilities of the United Nations."

"We will abide by international law and ensure justice. The purposes and principles of the Charter and international law remain timeless, universal and an indispensable foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. We will abide by the international agreements we have entered into and the commitments we have made. We will continue to promote respect for democracy and human rights and to enhance democratic governance and the rule of law by strengthening transparent and accountable governance and independent judicial institutions."

The UN75 Declaration provides a good basis for discussing peace and security proposals which might find support from UN member states for advancing and possibly adopting at the UN Summit of the Future.

The [UN75 People's Declaration and Plan for Global Action](#) provides a more ambitious agenda, including some recommendations for implementing the above aspirations as well as others reflecting stronger civil society aspirations.

Together, these documents provide suitable background for the consultations on the Global Futures Forum Peace and Security theme.