

Foundation Charter

Swiss Peace Foundation – swisspeace

Preamble

In the knowledge that in Switzerland

- huge swathes of the population are concerned about ensuring peace in view of multifaceted international conflicts and the steadily growing quantity of weapons worldwide;
- it is essential to strive to contribute appropriately to the peaceful settlement of such conflicts as a complement to the policy of armed neutrality and military national defence as part of her comprehensive peace and security policy;
- many political, economic, military, social, cultural, psychological and ethical peace and security policy issues need to be examined comprehensively under an independent Swiss interdisciplinary approach;
- goals, principles and appropriate funding for an active peace and security policy must be worked out and constantly adapted to changed circumstances;
- this peace and security policy must be competently explained, brought to the public's awareness and ultimately realised through behaviour, measures and deeds

a Swiss Peace Foundation – swisspeace – is hereby created in keeping with the provisions hereunder.

Article 1

Name, headquarters, supervision

1. A Foundation is hereby created under the name “Swiss Peace Foundation – swisspeace” (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation), in keeping with Articles 30 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code.
2. The headquarters of the Foundation shall be Berne. The headquarters may be moved to another place in Switzerland by decision of the Board of the Foundation.
3. The Foundation shall be under the supervision of the Confederation, currently exercised by the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs.

Article 2

Purpose

The purpose of the Foundation is to cooperate in shaping and implementing Swiss peace and security policy through research, conception, education, advice and communication. It may participate in cooperative initiatives and set up organisations.

Article 3

Funding and activities

1. In the pursuit of its purpose, the Foundation may:
 - a. carry out practice-oriented research on its own initiative,
 - b. perform advisory tasks,
 - c. provide education and training,
 - d. submit content proposals to the relevant persons or organisations involved,
 - e. promote mutual exchange between research and practice, within Switzerland and abroad,
 - f. exert influence at political and administrative level, as well as amongst the Swiss public.
2. Specifically, it does this through:
 - a. initiating and implementing research projects,
 - b. advising governmental and non-governmental actors on conceptual and operational issues relating to peacebuilding,
 - c. helping to organise basic and advanced training in peace policy matters,
 - d. forming and maintaining networks of governmental and non-governmental actors,
 - e. producing information for specialist and interested public audiences
 - f. evaluating accessible documents, in particular local and foreign research findings,
 - g. discussions within and amongst the Foundation's bodies and members,
 - h. discussions and contacts with researchers, people from the government administration, politicians and other interested local and foreign groups,
 - i. holding expert meetings, symposia, lectures, etc.,
 - j. public relations work, in particular through contacts with representatives of the media.

Article 4

The Foundation's assets

1. At the time of the Foundation's establishment, its assets amounted to CHF 10,000, brought in by donors.
2. The Foundation's assets can be further increased by:
 - a. income from the said assets,
 - b. donations from the Support Association,
 - c. donations by natural persons and legal entities, as well as from institutions under private and public law, whether for the general purposes of the Foundation or for specific projects,
 - d. bequests and gifts.

Article 5

Bodies

1. The Foundation's bodies are:
 - a. the Board of the Foundation
 - b. the Commission of the Board
 - c. the Chair
 - d. the Executive Management
 - e. the Auditor
2. The Board of the Foundation appoints a Scientific Advisory Committee.
3. The Board of the Foundation may also appoint additional advisory committees for important fields of activity.
4. The advisory committees are regarded as consultative bodies. They advise the Board of the Foundation and the Commission on their specialist area, particularly with regard to

fundamental and long-term developments. They are entitled to submit proposals to the Commission within the framework of their obligations.

Article 6

The Board of the Foundation

1. The Board of the Foundation comprises 10 to 25 members. It shall be constituted and expanded in accordance with the election regulations.
2. The term of office of a Board member is four years. This term of office may be renewed.
3. The Board of the Foundation shall meet at least once and normally twice per year.

Article 7

Obligations of the Board of the Foundation

1. The Board of the Foundation is its highest body. It is responsible for all matters that are essential to the fulfilment of the purpose of the Foundation and do not fall within the scope of responsibility of any other body.
2. The Board of the Foundation shall be responsible for dealing with the following matters, normally at the request of the Commission:
 - a. It is responsible for amending to the Foundation Charter.
 - b. It sets out guidelines for the Foundation's activities and defines the strategic objectives.
 - c. It grants discharge to members of the Commission and the Executive Management.
 - d. It approves the annual budget estimate.
 - e. It approves the annual financial statements.
 - f. It approves the annual report.
 - g. It set outs the principles for accounting, financial controlling and risk management.
 - h. It approves annual and multi-year plans.
3. The Board of the Foundation issues election regulations stating the conditions and procedure for holding elections.
4. It elects the Chair, Treasurer, Commission, Executive Management and the Auditor.
5. Votes on statutory matters require an absolute majority. If the necessary majority is not reached, the confirmation of the majority of the Board of the Foundation is to be obtained in writing or by electronic means to render the resolution valid. For all other resolutions of the Board of the Foundation, a simple majority of the members present is sufficient.
6. The Executive Management attends meetings of the Board of the Foundation in an advisory capacity.

Article 8

The Chair

1. The Chair comprises the President and one or two Vice Presidents.
2. The President shall be a well-known figure with close connections to Switzerland.
3. He/she chairs meetings of the Commission and the Board of the Foundation and is responsible for preparing all matters of business.
4. He/she signs the employment contracts of the members of the Executive Management.
5. In the absence of the President, he/she shall be represented by a Vice President.

Article 9

The Commission of the Board

1. The Commission of the Board comprises the Chair, Treasurer and one to five additional members. The number of Commission members may not exceed half the number of members of the Board of the Foundation.
2. The Commission of the Board performs the following duties in particular:
 - a. It is responsible for providing preliminary advice on matters concerning the Board of the Foundation and submitting proposals accordingly.
 - b. It proposes the election of new Board members or the re-election of existing Board members to the Board of the Foundation.
 - c. It supervises the implementation of the strategic objectives set out by the Board of the Foundation.
 - d. It issues a request to the Board of the Foundation to appoint the Chairman and members of the Executive Management.
 - e. It issues personnel regulations.
 - f. It issues regulations for the advisory committees and appoints the members of such committees.
 - g. It approves the structure of the Foundation's administrative office.
 - h. It supervises the operational management of the Foundation.
 - i. The Executive Management attends meetings of the Commission in an advisory capacity.

Article 10

The Executive Management

1. The Executive Management implements the strategic objectives defined by the Board of the Foundation.
2. It is responsible for managing operational activities. This includes the following duties in particular:
 - a. It prepares business for the Board of the Foundation and the Commission.
 - b. It implements the decisions of the Board of the Foundation and the Commission.
 - c. It manages the administrative office and coordinates the activities of the various areas of the Foundation.
 - d. It is responsible for acquiring and carrying out projects and mandates.
 - e. It is responsible for employing staff
 - f. It prepares the annual report for the Commission and the Board of the Foundation.

Article 11

The Auditor

Every year, the Board of the Foundation shall select an independent Auditor in accordance with statutory requirements. The Auditor submits a report to the Commission and the Board of the Foundation on an annual basis.

Article 12

The business year

The business year coincides with the calendar year.

Article 13
Authority to sign

The President, the Treasurer and a member of the Executive Management are authorised to sign jointly, with one other party, in relation to obligations within the scope of responsibility of the Board of the Foundation and the Commission.

The members of the Executive Management are authorised to sign jointly, with one other party, in relation to matters for which the Executive Management is responsible.

Article 14
Liability

The Foundation shall be liable to the extent of its assets only.

Article 14a Responsibility

All persons involved in the administration, management or auditing of the Foundation shall be liable for any damage or loss caused by an intentional or negligent breach of their duties.

If more than one person is responsible for causing damage or loss, each individual involved shall be held jointly and severally liable with the others insofar as the damage/loss can be attributed to him/her on the basis of personal culpability and circumstances.

Article 15
Dissolution

The Foundation shall operate for an unlimited period.

The Foundation may only be dissolved early on the grounds set out by the law (Article 88 of the Swiss Civil Code) and with the approval of the supervisory authority. The Board of the Foundation shall decide on the dissolution of the Foundation. Its decision shall be made, at the request of the Commission, based on an absolute majority of all members.

In the event that the Foundation is dissolved, the Board of the Foundation shall transfer any residual assets to non-profit legal entities which fulfil the same or a similar function, are exempt from taxation due to their public or charitable purposes, and are based in Switzerland. The Foundation's assets shall not be returned to donors or their legal successors.

Berne, 4 December 2012

Hans-Balz Peter
President of the Board of the Foundation

Barbara Haering
Vice President of the Board of the Foundation