

# Foundation Charter

## swisspeace Swiss Peace Foundation

### 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 is hereby created in keeping with the provisions hereunder.

### Article 1 Name, headquarters, supervision

1. A Foundation is hereby created under the name „swisspeace Swiss Peace 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**

In accordance with the Preamble, the purpose of the Foundation is to cooperate in shaping and implementing Swiss peace and security policy through research, conception and communication.

## **Article 3 Funding and activities**

1. In the pursuit of its purpose, the Foundation may:
  - exert influence at all policy levels and in particular amongst the public;
  - submit proposals to researchers and to government authorities;
  - conduct and support action-oriented expert work and the preparation of background documentation.
2. Specifically, it does this through:
  - Making use of all accessible documents, in particular local and foreign research findings;
  - discussions within and amongst the Foundation's authorities and members;
  - discussions and contacts with researchers, people from the government administration, politicians and other interested local and foreign groups;
  - expert meetings, symposia, lectures etc.;
  - public relations work, in particular through contacts with representatives of the media;
  - collaboration in basic and advanced training in peace policy matters.

## **Article 4 The Foundation's assets and working funds**

1. The Foundation's assets total CHF 10,000, brought in by the donors.
2. The Foundation's assets are further increased by:
  - income from the said assets;
  - donations by natural and legal persons, as well as from institutions under private and public law, whether for the general purposes of the Foundation or for specific individual projects;
  - bequests and gifts.

## **Article 5 Bodies**

1. The Foundation's bodies are:
  - a) the Board of the Foundation
  - b) the Chair
  - c) the Commission of the Board
  - d) the Donors' Meeting
  - e) the Auditors
2. The Board of the Foundation may additionally appoint a Patronage Committee as well as a Scientific Advisory Committee. They would be regarded as consultative bodies and be entitled to submit proposals within the framework of their obligations.

## **Article 6** The Board of the Foundation

1. The Board of the Foundation is initially designated by the donors at the time of its establishment.
2. The term of office of a Board member is four years. The term of office may be renewed if the incumbent has not yet turned 70 years of age.
3. By a two-thirds majority of its members, the Board shall adopt regulations governing the prerequisites for and conduct of elections (re-election, new election, determining the number of Board members, electing the Chair and the Commission, etc.) (see Article 8.4).

## **Article 7** Constitution

1. The Board of the Foundation shall be constituted and expanded in accordance with the regulations.
2. The Board of the Foundation shall meet at least once per year.

## **Article 8** 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.
2. In all cases it shall be responsible for:
  - preparing the annual budget estimate;
  - accepting the annual financial statements;
  - establishing a one-year and multi-year work programme;
  - laying out the principles that must guide the work, in particular within the meaning of Article 3.
3. It elects the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Commission, and the Auditors.
4. By a two-thirds majority of its members, the Board of the Foundation shall approve regulations organising the duties and powers as well as the type of reporting and the supervision of the Chair, Commission and, if applicable, the Patronage Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee (see Article 6.3).

## **Article 9** The Chair

1. The Chair comprises one to three eminent persons recognised in Switzerland.
2. The Chair is responsible for carefully preparing all business matters, and exercises administrative supervision over the Secretary, Treasurer, Commission and any other bodies.

#### **Article 10** The Commission of the Board

1. The Commission of the Board shall be composed of the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and between one and seven additional members. The number of Commission members may by no means exceed half that of the Board members.
2. It conducts the affairs of the Foundation in keeping with its obligations under the regulations and in compliance of general or special instructions from the Board of the Foundation.

#### **Article 11** The Donors' Meeting

1. The Donors' Meeting shall comprise the Board of the Foundation and all persons who have made single or repeated contributions to the Foundation and are specially invited by the Board of the Foundation to attend.
2. As a rule, the Board of the Foundation shall convene a meeting of donors every two years, these persons being themselves responsible for communicating their exact address to the secretariat of the Foundation.
3. The Donors' Meeting shall receive a report on the Foundation's activities, discuss the best possible ways of pursuing the aims of the Foundation and make an in-depth examination of a topic pertaining to the purpose of the Foundation.

#### **Article 12** The Auditors

1. Every year, the Board of the Foundation shall select the Auditors, generally a competent and independent trust company.
2. It shall be responsible for written reporting to the Board of the Foundation, including any supplementary comments intended for the Chair, in particular concerning the activities of the Treasurer.

#### **Article 13** The business year

The business year coincides with the calendar year.

#### **Article 14** Authority to sign

The members of the Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer are each authorised to sign jointly with one other party.

#### **Article 15** Liability

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

## **Article 16** Dissolution

Should the Foundation be dissolved, its assets shall accrue to one or several institutions pursuing the same or similar goals, to be designated by the Board of the Foundation in agreement with the supervisory authority.

Berne, 21 June 2002

Fritz R. Staehelin  
Chairman

Hans-Balz Peter  
Vice-Chairman