

KIRCHBERG DECLARATION FOR PEACE

Peace with Nature - Peace among People

14.07. 2026

Preamble

The climate crisis, the loss of biodiversity, military conflicts, civil wars, drug-related violence, social divisions, hate speech, right-wing extremism and the spread of hatred through social media all demonstrate how increasingly fragile the essential conditions for human life have become, and how vulnerable peaceful coexistence is. Rethinking peace therefore places the practice of mindful, everyday peacebuilding at its heart. It is a committed search for ways in which peace can be nurtured in the daily lives of people everywhere. Schools, families, civil society organisations, political leaders and businesses all share responsibility for promoting values such as tolerance, justice and solidarity, while safeguarding the natural foundations of life. This requires an education system that nurtures an awareness of our shared global identity in everyday life – an approach known as Global Citizenship Education.

Rethinking peace also means making peace with nature. Peace with nature requires us to regenerate our shared natural resources for present and future generations. Biodiversity, a stable climate, healthy soils, clean water and sustainable food systems form the basis of human health, economic prosperity and lasting social peace. Protecting these foundations is therefore not merely an environmental responsibility but a central pillar of preventive peace policy. Lasting solutions emerge where ecological responsibility, economic opportunity and the active participation of local communities come together.

Industrialised, agrochemical farming systems, extensive land-use change, globally interconnected agricultural structures, exploitative economic practices, excessive energy consumption, human-induced biodiversity loss, climate change together with its far-reaching consequences and wars are among the greatest threats to the natural foundations of life on Earth. Making peace with nature therefore requires a far stronger global commitment to protecting and restoring the natural foundations of life through an approach grounded in Education for Ecological Literacy.



1. Our Vision

We envision a world that is ecologically healthy, peaceful, socially just and founded on solidarity. To achieve this vision, we must strengthen cooperation across movements and sectors: environmental and peace organisations, women's and climate movements, faith communities, trade unions, foundations and educational institutions. Together, we can gradually halt the prevailing politics of destruction and despair and build a more peaceful future. Promoting agroecology and, above all, organic agriculture worldwide is a practical and effective contribution to peacebuilding.

2. Our Calls to Action

We call for: **Peace with Nature!**

- Support for organic farming, agroecology, agroforestry and permaculture must be prioritized. These approaches are fundamental to global food security and have proven potential to reduce conflicts between pastoralists and settled farming communities while significantly reducing pressure on soils, water resources and landscapes. This also includes developing regional value chains that meet people's essential needs through localised, sustainable economies.
- No irreversible interventions in the genetic makeup of plants, animals, soil organisms and human beings. Industrial control over the genetic heritage of any form of life must not be permitted.
- A significant reduction in livestock numbers in order to reduce competition for land and food resources between humans and animals. Livestock production must adhere to high standards of animal welfare.

We call for: **Peace Among People!**

- The consistent observance of international law and its fundamental principles, including respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and equality of all states. We urge the strengthening of the United Nations and its institutions to address ecocide, genocide and resource-driven conflicts through effective international cooperation.
- Solidarity that transcends national and historical boundaries, alongside the elimination of prejudice against people of different cultural and social backgrounds. Sustainable food systems must be recognised as an essential component of preventive peacebuilding.



- Political decision-making that places food security, public health, climate resilience and social stability at its core. The right to food includes protecting regionally distinctive foods from patenting. Women must participate equally and actively in decision-making, as they are often the first to experience the impacts of climate change, land degradation and water scarcity.
- **A coherent global approach to peacebuilding** that combines poverty reduction, food security and peace education within families and schools. Fair access to scarce natural and technological resources must be guaranteed.
- **Stronger support for family farming and sustainable agriculture** worldwide through fair market conditions, protection of natural resources and investment in education, research and resilient regional value chains.
- Protection for all those who work to build peace. People committed to dialogue, reconciliation and justice must never become targets of violence or intimidation. Effective **protection mechanisms** and political responsibility for their safety are essential. Refugees are particularly vulnerable and must always be treated with dignity and humanity.

We call for an end to the accelerating global militarisation and arms race. We support non-violent approaches to conflict resolution, which have consistently proven to be more successful than military interventions. Our vision embraces both peace with nature and peace among people.

Responsible under German Press Law (V.i.S.d.P.)/ Issued by:

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Note:

The Kirchberg Declaration is the outcome of the IX. World Organic Forum from 12th-15th of July 2026 held at the Farmers Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst. It sets out the shared views and calls to action by the international Forum's speakers and participants for a renewed and expanded approach to peacebuilding.