Participants / Experts / Speakers:

Eldridge Adolfo is the Senior Advisor, Dialogue and Mediation at the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Stockholm. He has extensive experience in negotiating with armed conflict parties, mediating inclusive peace processes and process design for mediation. He has worked as an advisor to senior envoys and diplomats, was previously Mediation Advisor at the European External Action Service (EEAS), Mediation Adviser in the United Nations to several Special Envoys and SRSGs, and a Conflict Researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden. Eldridge Adolfo has a range of mediation experiences from various countries across Africa, as well as in Colombia, Venezuela, Georgia, Myanmar, Ukraine, the Balkans and Afghanistan. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Stockholm University.

Marion Akiteng is Gender Focal Person at the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE). She is also Board member of Hands for an African Child (HFAAC) in Uganda.

Dlawer Ala'aldeen is the founding President of the Middle East Research Institute, based in Erbil, Iraq. Formerly, he was Professor of Medicine at Nottingham University, UK. From 2009 to 2012 he was the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Ertuğrul Apakan is an experienced Turkish diplomat in the international field. As Undersecretary of the Turkish MFA, he was part of efforts leading to a rapprochement with Armenia. He also actively took part in the negotiating process on Cyprus. Later, he served as Permanent Representative to the UN and represented Turkey in the Security Council. Most recently, he was head of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine between 2014-2019. He is a member of the ACP advisory board.

Laura Aumeer is Conciliation Resources' Director of the Europe-Asia Department. She leads work on the thematic area of Climate Change, Conflict and Peacebuilding, and oversees work in the South Caucasus and South Asia regions. Before Laura joined CR she set up and managed violence reduction programmes with a focus on learning and innovation. She previously worked in DFID, to support adaptive programming and learning.

Séverine Autesserre is an award-winning author, peacebuilder, and researcher, as well as Professor and Chair of Political Science at Barnard College, Columbia University. She is the author of three books: The Frontlines of Peace, Peaceland, and The Trouble with the Congo.

Sanja Badanjak is a postdoctoral research fellow with the Political Settlements Research Programme, where she is the data manager for the PA-X Peace Agreements Database. Her primary research is on institutionalisation, political parties, party systems, and elections. She is working on problems of electoral politics in settings that are deeply affected by regional integration and globalization. Her research also encompasses problems related to international effects on national politics more broadly and applications of quantitative research methods to the study of political settlements.

Samuel Bahlsen is Project Manager in the EU Training Programmes at the ACP. His academic and professional background is in peacebuilding and conflict transformation, international development, human rights, and European external policy.

Roland Bernhard is Professor for „School improvement & Leadership" at the University of Teacher Education of Christian Churches Vienna/Krems and lecturer at the University of Salzburg, where he habilitated in 2019. For many years he has been researching what distinguishes highly effective schools and educational systems, including as a post-doc research fellow at the University of Oxford, and heads the „School Quality and Teacher Education" project funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). Roland Bernhard research interests are school development, school quality management, leadership, personal development, work with parents, evidence-based teaching development, schools in challenging circumstances and history education, etc.

Fatima Betul Muhktar works at the Department of Plant Biology, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. She was the former Vice-Chancellor, Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State, and Founder of Kano Botanical Garden, established for conservation of indigenous plant species and public enlightenment.

Michael Brenner is a designer and facilitator with over 15 years of experience working with data and design in various contexts globally. Michael has collaborated and led on projects for organisations such as the UN, World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Google, Guggenheim Museum, MOMA, New York Times and more. He has worked for leading design studios in New York City, London and Rotterdam, where he founded and ran his own studio and taught at the Willem de Kooning Academy.

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Jean-Paul Chami is Peace and Conflict Transformation Advisor, Facilitator and Trainer. He directs Peace Labs, a Lebanese peace NGO which he founded in 2011, and through which he advocates for bottom-up approaches to peace through supporting existing mechanisms for peace and conflict conciliators at the local level.

Chukwuemeka B. Eze is the Executive Director of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding. Between November 2016 and May 2017, he served as Senior Adviser on Mediation and Political Dialogue to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Guinea Bissau. Eze has 20 years' experience in peacebuilding, political dialogue, early warning and conflict assessment and intelligence analysis. He designed the early warning system of the government of South Sudan and is the WANEP lead interface in the operationalization of the ECOWAS early warning system (ECOWARN) and AU Peace and Security Architecture. He also led the team that developed the concept of the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).

Nathan Coyle recently began advising the ACP on its Peace Tech initiatives. From Kosovo to Palestine, he has worked with international governments to help them make their digital outreach more useful for civil society organisations through hackathons, civic tech, and humancentered design. He is also regarded as an industry expert on changing the narrative surrounding open data to make it more understandable to activists using it for social good, speaking on the subject across Europe, including in a TEDx talk. In addition to writing for The Royal of Arts, for which Nathan is a Fellow, he has also written for The Huffington Post and Vice Media.

Anja Đajić is a researcher in Diplo's AI and Data team. She holds a BA in Signals and Systems from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, and is currently enrolled as an MA student at the same department. Anja is a big enthusiast in the field of artificial intelligence and data processing. In 2021, she participated in a research internship programme organised by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) where she worked on a project in the field of artificial intelligence and image processing.

Norbert Darabos was Austrian Minister of Defence from 2007 to 2013 and Burgenland's State Councillor for Social Affairs and Health from 2015 - 2019. He was a member of the Austrian Parliament for many years and in his function as Secretary of the Austrian social-democratic party (SPÖ) he led several election campaigns. As a historian, he is currently responsible for establishment of the „Museum for the Contemporary History of Burgenland" at Schlaining Castle. Since 2019 Norbert Darabos has been President of the ACP. (c) Ricardo Herrgott

Igor Djundev is the permanent representative of the Republic of North Macedonia to the United Nations in Vienna. (c) OSCE / Micky Kroell

Governor **Hans Peter Doskozil** studied law at the University of Vienna. His professional career was shaped by police activities, where he worked at the Ministry of the Interior, among others, and was appointed Provincial Police Director of Burgenland in 2012. Doskozil held this position until 2016. After holding high-ranking positions in the office of former governor Hans Niessl, Doskozil was appointed Federal Minister of Defence and Sports in 2016, and from 2017 he took on the role of Provincial Councillor for Finance, Culture and Road Construction in Burgenland. Doskozil has been Governor of Burgenland since February 2019. (c) Manfred Weis

Moritz Ehrmann is the Director of the ACP. He brings to the ACP his extensive experience from varied contexts, including Iraq, Colombia, Jordan, Ukraine, and Yemen, and through his previous work with the International Committee of the Red Cross and as an Austrian diplomat. He began his career with the Austrian foreign service, for which he was most recently deployed to the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship Task Force from 2016 to 2017. Since 2018, he has been engaged in informal international peace mediation.

Mohammed El Gammal is Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Director of the Department for Climate, Environment & Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.

Marc Elsberg is a former strategy consultant and creative director in advertising, both in Vienna and Hamburg, as well as columnist for the Austrian daily Der Standard. He currently lives and works in Vienna. With his internationally bestselling novels BLACKOUT, ZERO, and HELIX, he conquered the throne of science thriller writing. GREED is a nail-biting thriller and a fascinating introduction to new concepts for general wealth. THE PRESIDENT'S FALL is an unputdownable political thriller. And °C – Celsius is an original climate thriller. Marc Elsberg has also made his mark as a panel discussion partner for political and economic players. (c) Clemens Lechner

Mohammad Mahmoud Farghal is the Programme Manager for ACP's Iraq activities focused on mediation and the promotion of dialogue between political actors in the country. He has extensive experience in political, international and humanitarian affairs, having served with the League of Arab States, the United Nations, the Government of Egypt, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. He holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Ottawa.

Stephanie Fenkart has been Director of the International Institute for Peace (IIP) since 2016. She is a member of the Advisory Committee for Strategy and Security Policy of the Scientific Commission at the Austrian Armed Forces (BMLV). She is also a board member of the NGO Committee for Peace, Vienna and a Board Member of the Balkan Forum based in Prishtina.

Victoria Fontan is Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and Provost at the American University of Afghanistan. Her research focuses on higher education in emergencies and open recognition networks to build sustainable peace.

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Michele Giovanardi is Coordinator of the Global PeaceTech Hub and the Algorand Centre of Excellence for Blockchain Regulation and Innovation (ACE BRAIN) at the European University Institute's School of Transnational Governance. Previously, he worked in the field of communication, digital education and learning technologies at the European University Institute and as a researcher at the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security at the University of Birmingham. A graduate in Strategic Studies from the University of Bologna, he studied International Relations at the University of Antwerp, Political Psychology of International Relations at the University of Birmingham, and E-Learning Instructional Design and Development at Oregon State University. As a student, he designed and managed a wide range of projects as a member of the national board of the 'Student Movement of Catholic Action' and as a founding member of 'Pensare Politico', a non-profit organisation in the field of citizenship education.

Susanne Glass, who holds a doctorate in political science, is editorial director for foreign affairs and political background at Bayerischer Rundfunk in Munich. From January 2016 to December 2021, she headed the ARD Middle East studio in Tel Aviv as Chief Correspondent. Before that, she was responsible for reporting on Austria and Southeast Europe for 16 years as ARD correspondent / studio director. (c) ARD TLV

Ameyu Godesso Roro is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Jimma University, Oromiya, Ethiopia, where he teaches anthropology and sociology courses. Ameyu is also a Cooperation Partner at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle (Saale), Germany, where he completed his PhD in 2017. Currently, he is the Managing Editor of the Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Language Studies, one of the nationally accredited journals in Ethiopia. His research interests include peace and conflict studies, displacement and migration. He has co-authored a number of publications.

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Susanne J. Györög is the Programme Manager of the training section of the cooperation programme with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and is in charge of managing the the specialisation courses in the framework of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC). She brings 30 years of experience to the ACP, including some 20 years of field experience in humanitarian aid, post-conflict recovery, security sector reform in complex emergencies as well as peace missions with additional 10 years experience in development and conduct of specialised trainings in the framework of UN and EU peace missions.

Dida Habiba Lelo is Program Coordinator on water, climate change and Gender projects for Spring of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SASAL) and the president and founder of the World youth parliament Kenyan chapter. Dida has a background in International Relations and Diplomacy and five years of diverse work experience in advocacy, policy analysis, and program operations in sectors such as youth and women, peace and security, climate resilience, and capacity building.

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Jan Hanrath studied political science, European law and psychology (focus on intercultural communication) at the University Duisburg-Essen. From 2008 to 2014 he was researcher at the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) at the University Duisburg-Essen and focused inter alia on the transport of conflicts in migrations processes as well as on German Middle East policies. As co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of CARPO he is involved in various projects and coordinates the day-to-day operations of the organization. In recent years he has worked as a researcher and coordinator in projects on, among other things, Iran-Saudi dialogue, economic development in Yemen, migration and conflict, political transformation in the Middle East, and academic exchange.

Niamh Henry is with the Political Settlements Research Programme, where she is a Data Engineer for the PA-X Peace Agreements Database. She is working on organisation and extension of the database to facilitate qualitative and quantitative research methods to study political settlements.

Anna Hess is an international affairs professional with extensive experience in peace and conflict studies and peace mediation. Over the course of her career, Anna has designed and supported a number of formal and informal peace processes, as well as developed and led educational programs in the field of peace and conflict studies. Parallel to her practical work, Anna has authored a number of publications. Her research focuses on the impact of geopolitical tensions on the settlement of protracted conflicts, particularly in the OSCE area. In her capacity as the Head of Conflict Resolution, Anna is responsible for leading the team`s work in dialogue and mediation across the Middle East, Africa and Eurasia.

Annick Hiensch has 15 years of experience in the United Nations and serves as the Team Leader for Partnerships as well as Climate, Peace and Security in the Department of Peace Operations, which provides political and executive direction to UN peacekeeping operations around the world. Prior to her appointment, Annick Hiensch worked for the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Counter-Terrorism as well as Peacebuilding and Political Affairs. Previously, she supported the establishment of the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security in Brussels and worked for the European Commission's Development Directorate and the World Food Program.

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Eva Huber is ACP's Deputy Director and in this capacity responsible, among other things, for the ACP's cooperation portfolio with the Austrian Ministry of Defence as well as other individual projects. She has a background in political science, African studies, and public international law and more than 10 years of experience working for UN peace operations and agencies as well as NGOs. She has supported peace processes through political liaison, strategic planning, capacity-building, community engagement, and programme coordination. In addition to having headed the ACP´s project portfolio in Sudan and South Sudan, the peace process in Colombia is currently her area of expertise. (c) Andi Bruckner

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Pa Musa Jobarteh is Gambia's Ambassador to Belgium and EU Communities. He holds an MSc in International Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. He has over 25 years of professional experience in criminal justice and international relations. Ambassador Jobarteh assumed duties in Brussels on 8 February 2023, following the presentation of his letter of credence as new ambassador to the King of Belgium.

Angela Kane worked for over 35 years for the United Nations and held posts at the Assistant- and Under-Secretary-General levels. She is the Vice President of the International Institute for Peace in Vienna and serves as Senior Advisor to the Nuclear Threat Initiative in Washington. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Vienna Center for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. She is a Professor at Tsinghua University/Schwarzman Scholars in Beijing and serves on Boards in Europe, North America, and Asia, focusing on political affairs, conflict resolution and artificial intelligence. (c) Andi Bruckner

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Kholood Khair is the founding director of Confluence Advisory, a „think and do" tank in Khartoum that works on policy research. Kholood also hosts and coproduces Spotlight 249, Sudan's first English language political discussion and debate show aimed at young Sudanese. Kholood has over a decade's experience in research, aid programming and policy in Sudan and across the Horn of Africa. She has also written analysis pieces for several international publications and has provided analyses for different research and policy institutions. Kholood holds an MSc from Oxford University and an MSc from the School of Oriental and African Studies.

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Christina Kokinakis is Deputy Managing Director and Director for Values and Multilateral Relations at the European External Action Service with 28 years of experience in foreign policy and multilateral diplomacy with the European Union and the United Nations at its centre; Human rights enthusiast. She is a strong believer in an effective and efficient global multilateral system based on the UN Charter and the Rule of Law. She has excellent negotiation and proved leadership skills. Prior to that assignment Ambassador Kokkinakis served as the permanent Representative of Austria to the Political and Security Committee (PSC) of the European Union.

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Lukas Mandl is a Member of the European Parliament. He is Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) and a member of the committees on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) as well as substitute member in the committee of Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL). Prior to becoming MEP, Mandl was a Member of the State Parliament of Lower Austria, where he was Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs. In addition, Mandl served as Vice Mayor of his hometown Gerasdorf.

Robert Mardini is Director General at the International Committee of the Red Cross – ICRC. Prior to this, Robert Mardini served as ICRC's Deputy Director-General, Regional Director for the Near & Middle East, Permanent Observer and Head of Delegation to the United Nations in New York, and Head of the ICRC Water & Habitat Unit.

Claudia Meier is the Europe Lead at Build Up, which transforms conflict in the digital age. She applies international (digital) conflict transformation methods to our polarizing European contexts, in order to promote inclusive belonging, social cohesion, and more participatory politics. Claudia is an artist at heart and draws on 15 years of global peacebuilding, humanitarian and think tank management experience with the Global Public Policy Institute, the United Nations and NGOs.

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Edvard Mitevski is a career diplomat currently serving as head of political and regional issues for 2023 OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia. Previously, he held several different positions and responsibilities at the Secretariat for European Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, most recently as head of the MFA's OSCE Task Force (October 2021 - 2022). He holds a B.A in Law (Iustinianus Primus Law Faculty, MK, 2003) as well as graduate degrees in European studies and peace and conflict resolution from Karl Franzens University of Graz, Austria, 2006 and University of Notre Dame, US, 2010, and most recently an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School, US, 2019.

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Kurt Nekula is an Austrian politician (SPÖ) and former member of the Austrian National Council. From 2010 to 2018 he was head of the section for General Education, Pedagogic Highschools, Quality Management and the Federal institute for educational research, innovation and development of the Austrian school System in the federal ministry for Education, Research and Science. He was active in the Kinderfreunde, the Associations of Austrian Children's Villages, Compulsory School Parents and LICHT INS DUNKEL.

Georg Neubauer has an academic background in technical physics. He is Senior Scientist at the Centre for Digital Safety & Security of AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and is leading various R&D projects in the area of cooperative digital technologies. He is member of CEN TC 391 and chairman of the Committee 246 Societal Security of the Austrian Standards Institute. Georg NEUBAUER was the coordinator of the European project EPISECC on interoperability in crisis and disaster management (CDM) and is part of the management team of the European project DRIVER+ coping with challenges arising in the CDM domain. He coordinated the two CEN Workshop Agreements CWA 17335 "Terminologies in Crisis and Disaster Management" and CWA 17513 Crisis and Disaster Management – Semantic and Syntactic Interoperability" and ensured therefore the use of the combined research outcomes of both projects in international standardization. In his function as chairman of the Austrian national Committee 246 he initiated the ongoing development of the Austrian national standard S2303 entitled "Integrated Disaster Management – Methodology for the Comparison of Names, Terms and Definitions". The concept of S2303 is based on the methodologies of the CWA 17335. This approach ensures therefore the sustainable use of the outcome of international standardization activities on a national level.

Peter Neumann is Professor of Security Studies at the Department of War Studies at King´s College in London. In 2017, he also served as the OSCE Special Representatives on Countering Violent Extremism.

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Miguel Pantaleon is systems thinking practitioner leading teams to explore and diagnose complex problems and design strategies that enable sustainable positive change. He specialised in applying system mapping and social network analysis to visualise the underlying structures that govern the system, its dynamics, and the power and incentives they create. He is a partner at Ideas Infinitas. They have been working with social organisations in Spain and Latin America since 2015 to make strategic planning and governance structures more accessible and effective, enable transformation processes where people participate and engage, and re-design services and system change initiatives. He is also a partner at Dialectic. They use stakeholders and systems maps in political settlement processes to find opportunities where people can build trust to lever systemic change.

In 2004 **Andreas Papp** started as a humanitarian aid worker for the NGO "Médecins Sans Frontières" (MSF) and served in a dozen countries as a coordinator at project or country level, followed by the Program Director position at MSF-Austria in 2008. From 2015 until 2019, Andreas worked as Director of Emergency Response at SOS Children´s Villages International (SOS-CVI), where he supported and contributed to the development and set-up of SOS-CVI Emergency Preparedness and Relief programs in 28 countries around the globe. Since 2013,

Andreas Papp has been a regular lecturer at Webster University, Vienna Campus, and at the beginning of 2020, Andreas founded his own company, Andreas Papp Consulting e.U., working self-employed with companies, universities, NGO´s and governmental institutions.

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For almost three years, **Aino Piirtola** has been working on digital peacemaking at CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation currently leading on the practical implementation of all efforts. Before joining CMI, Aino worked close to the technology sector supporting startup entrepreneurs both in Helsinki and in Berlin. In addition, she has contributed to various voluntary projects exploring entrepreneurship and development of digital technologies in challenging contexts. Outside of the peace mediation context, Aino is passionate about understanding what the future of food will look like. (c) M. Santto

Verena Plutzar currently works as a university lecturer at the KPH Vienna / Krems, in the area of language education and as a lecturer at the University of Vienna, Institute for German Studies. She has already held teaching positions at several Austrian universities. Her main topics are: language learning in the context of migration, flight and trauma, language policy and Language development in the context of multilingualism.

Jan Pospisil is Associated Professor at the University of Coventry. Until 2022 he was Research Director at the ACP. His work focuses on peace processes and political settlements, donor politics in peacebuilding, resilience, and South Sudanese and Sudanese politics. He is member of the ACP advisory board. (c) Andi Bruckner

Damita Pressl is an award-winning journalist and presenter based in Zurich. She is passionate about current affairs, women's and children's rights and evidence-based policy. Ms. Pressl moderates panels and conferences, she offers media and public speaking training, and her online course, Public Speaking School, supports women in finding their voice.

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