
DiEM25 in Ireland Collectives

C/O Rue d'Arlon, 53 1000 Brussels

19 June 2023

**International Security Policy Section,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
80 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2,
D02 VY53**

Please find enclosed the submission we wish to present at the Consultative Forum at Dublin Castle on 26 / 27 June. The estimated reading time for it is 14 minutes.

Please advise the day and time we can speak at the Forum. Also please send us details of the required means through which we can be reimbursed for accommodation and travel expenses.

We note that the lineup of speakers shows that there is a strong bias and a large imbalance in favour of contributors who align themselves with processes and mechanisms, which lean heavily towards a militaristic, belligerent and 'defeat the enemy at all costs' approach to the quest for peace and security in the world. We propose that a way to redress this imbalance is to also include speakers orientated towards peaceful solutions that can be found through mutually beneficial diplomacy, meaningful dialogue, genuine negotiation and honest agreement. We have in mind people such as Jeffrey Sachs, Scott Ritter, Jeremy Corbyn, Clare Daly MEP, Yanis Varoufakis and Professor Glenn Diesen.

Sincerely,

George Hill,
Coordinator Leinster / Laighean Collective DiEM25

Adrian MacFhearraigh,
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SUBMISSION TO CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICY
26 / 27 June 2023 - Dublin Castle

Citizen Assembly v Public 'Consultative Forum'

If the Government is genuine about having a peaceful world, where contradictions and contentions are resolved through mutually beneficial diplomacy and dialogue, the title of the consultation process would be 'Consultative Forum on International Peace Policy' rather than 'Consultative Forum on International Security Policy'. The psychology of 'Security' implies fear and closed mindedness, whereas the psychology of 'Peace' implies courage and open mindedness.

We believe it would be far more favourable for international peace and security for a Citizen's Assembly rather than a public 'Consultative Forum' to be held to enable an adequate people's discussion and democratic decisions to be made on this important topic.

Previous Citizen's Assemblies set up by our Government have shown how effective they can be as a democratic mechanism for resolving questions with complex characteristics in favour of positive and progressive outcomes, and providing pathways to solutions.

Citizen's Assemblies in Ireland are a useful means of connecting people with democratic processes by facilitating the introduction of an Amendment to our Constitution to be put before the people for consideration and decision. In this case this process could be deployed to have an Amendment to enshrine more solidly the principle of active neutrality with international cooperation, and also clearly stating our policy of non-alignment with military blocs, which are dominated and controlled by a nation with a powerful military apparatus and industrial structure.

We call for a Citizen's Assembly to be held as soon as possible to achieve this aim

The 'Triple Lock'

The "Triple Lock", as it is commonly referred to in Ireland, is a legal mechanism known as the Seville Declaration of the Nice Treaty which states that members of the Irish Defence Forces shall not serve in military deployments abroad without the triple agreement of i) the Dáil (Irish Parliament), ii) the Government of Ireland and iii) the approval of the UN Security Council or General Assembly. This declaration was secured to gain the confidence of the citizens of Ireland following their rejection of the Nice Treaty by referendum on 7 June 2001 with a result of

53.87% rejecting the treaty on the concerns that this treaty eroded Ireland's international status as a peaceful non-militaristic nation.

The treaty needed to be passed by all 15 EU member states at the time to facilitate the amendment of the Maastricht Treaty for expanding eastward within Europe, for example expanding the number of EU Parliament seats, expanding appointments of commissioners to the EU Commission, expanding the establishment of EU courts and expanding closer co-operation in spheres such as closer ties between EU member armies to create a Common EU Military Force. For Ireland to pass this treaty required a referendum because it entailed a change to Ireland's Constitution and it was the only EU member to hold a referendum on the Nice Treaty. The rejection of this treaty by Ireland's citizens therefore impacted these EU expansionism plans.

To persuade the citizens of Ireland to pass the Nice Treaty in a second referendum held on 19 October 2002, the Seville Declaration was drafted and signed on 21 June 2002 thus legally binding that Irish Defence Forces shall not be deployed abroad from Ireland without the conditions of the Triple Lock being satisfied. The Triple Lock thus secured Ireland's proud tradition of neutrality that stretched back to Wolfe Tone's pamphlet in 1790 titled 'The Spanish War' opposing Britain's threat to go to war against Spain and that tradition was repeated by the Irish Neutrality League in 1914 in opposition to Irish participation in World War 1. This tradition is strongly and proudly preserved in Article 29 of Ireland's Constitution: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/cons/en/html#part7>. This clearly states Ireland's tradition of neutrality is anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist and anti-oligarchic, and is strongly defended by the peace loving citizens of Ireland.

We reject Taoiseach Varadkar's statement in an tOireachtas which glibly and absurdly dismissed the people's vote for the Triple Lock as being the result of 'a left-wing conspiracy theory' This is no way for anyone, let alone the leader of a nation who has won its right to be free from interference, division and domination by alien imperial states through great toil and sacrifice, to respond such a vital question of our time.

He also referred to concerns about other countries 'having a veto' over whether we as a nation can decide when and where to send our troops on peacekeeping missions. But to really address this type of problem, reform of the UN towards democratising it further needs much more consideration on questions, such as dissolving the Security Council or transforming it into a consultative role within the General Assembly with all UN decisions residing with the General Assembly.

International Law v so-called 'rules-based order'

The 'Consultative Forum' being advocated by Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and actively assisted by the Green Party, can be seen as part and parcel of a propaganda exercise with the main aim of foisting a narrative on the people based on the fallacy that the so-called 'rules based international order' is the means to establish and guarantee peace in the world. This 'rules based order' is nothing more than an attempt by self serving interests represented mainly by the rulers of the G7 and some others, to trample in the mud the aim and intentions of the world's people who had defeated facism, and which was articulated in the UN Charter of 1945 'to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war'.

Along with other progressive measures, the UN Charter articulates that they wanted to achieve this by establishing 'conditions under which justice and respect for obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained.' Instead of bringing peace and security the forces advocating a 'rules based international order' have brought death, displacement, starvation, malnutrition, and poverty to millions of people worldwide. To billions of us, this so-called 'rules based order' means that a tiny minority of super rich and powerful individuals make up the rules to suit themselves based on what they alone see as serving their economic, financial and geo-political interests. The list of the misery and hardship this has brought the world during the past couple of decades includes;

Unlawful aggression, interventions and wars devastatingly affecting smaller national communities by bigger nations and blocs with a larger military apparatus and ever more sophisticated weaponry.

Continuing illegal economic and financial sanctions resulting in the deaths and forced displacement of millions from their homelands.

Political interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries, including supporting terrorist and fascistic groups contrary to the UN Charter (Article 2.1).

Locking national communities more into a warmongering military economy where much needed financial and labour resources are diverted away from vital needs such as housing, healthcare, education, pensions and social care.

Small and poorer nations being cajoled and pressured by bigger and richer States into allowing military forces and bases onto their soil for the purposes of transit or as an indefinite presence on the ground, so that wars can be waged by or on behalf of these bigger States.

Illegal occupations by bigger States with military forces so as to take control of the energy, food and other resources of smaller and less powerful nations

Destruction of vital infrastructure by nations who possess the necessary and sophisticated weaponry and means to do so.

Proliferation and supply of weapons to countries and regions to fuel tensions and antagonisms amongst peoples.

Implementing official policies of open and covert assassinations of political and governmental officials of smaller States by the forces of bigger States.

Suppressing freedom of expression and the rule of law as evidenced by the treatment by big States of activists and journalists promoting peace by the use of 'lawfare' to unjustly persecute and imprison them, as in the case of Julian Assange incarcerated in Belmarsh Prison awaiting extradition to the US.

Instigation and perpetuating of a new 'cold war' involving unnecessary geo-political competitive battles and arms races between the larger States. The attendant repercussions of this is posing a far higher risk of a major war, and the potential unleashing of nuclear weapons.

Increased and uncontrollable use of military technologies, which are the greatest polluters of all human activities in both their deployment and manufacture, are contributing to ever more environmental destruction and posing big risks for climate catastrophe.

Expansion of military blocs, although cynically portrayed as in the name of peace and justice are in fact creating more tensions and uncertainties for peaceful security and well being. Calls for disbandment of these blocs should have been heeded a long time ago.

Negating articles of the Universal Declaration of Human rights including Article 28, which states 'Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be realised'.

Advantage of Good Friday Agreement as a 'template' for peace

The Belfast or Good Friday Agreement was not only overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of Ireland but also welcomed by the peoples of the world as an example of how conflicts between and within countries can be addressed, and mechanisms can be put in place to end these conflicts. In situations where there are internal tensions affecting communities who have differing national allegiances, or who feel safer and more protected by the State that they believe their country should be connected to or governed by, the Agreement can be used

as a 'template' to bring about a governance structure to ensure political equality between communities.

Article 102 of the UN Charter allows for 'every treaty and every international agreement entered into by any member of the United Nations' to 'be registered with the Secretariat.' Our Government, as a member of the UN, and currently as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, should be making good use of this within the UN to promote peace and the termination of conflicts. At the UN meetings, instead of talking down to and lecturing other nations about what they should be doing in their own parliaments, our representatives should be making a more positive contribution by holding up our Good Friday Agreement as a good example of how antagonisms can be decreased and fears allayed.

Supporting and signing up to the Athens Declaration

In 2022 a declaration for international peace and justice through policies underpinned by non-alignment with military blocs was presented by Jeremy Corbyn, Ece Temelkuran and Yanis Varoufakis.

We call on all elected politicians and political parties in Ireland to support and endorse this Declaration drafted as follows;

THE ATHENS DECLARATION, May 13, 2022

- *We stand with the people of Ukraine, as we stand with every people suffering invasion, displacement and occupation.*
- *We demand an immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of Russian forces and a comprehensive Peace Treaty guaranteed by the European Union, the United States and Russia in the context of the United Nations.*
- *We urge respect for International Law and all refugees, who must have their rights protected and offered a place of safety regardless of ethnicity, religion etc.*
- *We oppose the division of the world in competing blocs that invest in rampant militarism, hyper-modern weapons of mass destruction and a New Cold War.*
- *We believe that lasting peace can be achieved only by replacing all military blocs with an inclusive international security framework that de-escalates tensions, expands freedoms, fights poverty, limits exploitation, pursues social and environmental justice and terminates the domination of one country by another.*

With these thoughts in mind, we call upon democrats across the world to join forces in a New Non-Aligned Movement. In this context, we view non-aligned, democratic and sovereign nations working together as the route to lasting peace and a world that can avert climate catastrophe and bequeath to the next generation a decent chance at creating the conditions for globally shared prosperity.

Thank you for 'lending an ear' to our submission made to the Consultative' Forum at Dublin Castle.

George Hill,
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Adrian MacFhearraigh,
Coordinator Ulster / Uladh Collective DiEM25

17 June 2023