



The Peace of Westphalia in 1648 was a turning point. Dialogue despite war, arguments despite weapons and the willingness to resolve a military conflict through negotiation are a memorial and model for the 21st century. 375 years ago, the Peace of Westphalia was both a European and a global peace. Even if the Peace of Westphalia is and remains an everlasting dream, it is an incentive for a new era.

In 1648, the Peace of Westphalia established the first international peace order. It is the foundation of today's international law, in which rules come before interests and justice comes before might.

The geopolitical balance has shifted and is still in flux. While numerous representatives of European states and estates consolidated the world order at the historic Peace of Westphalia, 375 years later numerous nations are responsible for regional and global peace and a rules-based order.

In view of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, it is still important today to defend the principles of Münster, the sovereignty and inviolability of states, and to make efforts for a lasting peace order in Europe and worldwide.

In the Westphalia of the 21st century, however, it is no longer just about the security of states. Today, it is about overcoming existential and global challenges that no state can solve alone.

The Westphalian Peace Conference has set itself the task of naming global conflicts, discussing their impact on society, the economy and coexistence and listening to all parties to the conflicts. Lasting peace is only possible through dialog. Only through a willingness to talk can conflicts be resolved in the long term.

The Westphalian Peace Conference stands for the willingness to engage in dialog between religions and cultures, which must be renewed time and again.

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