

# Mastering the craft of peace

CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation is an independent Finnish organisation that works to prevent and resolve conflicts through dialogue and mediation. Founded in 2000 by Nobel Peace Laureate and former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari, we have since grown to be a leader in the field of international peacemaking.

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# **KEY NUMBERS 2022**

**132** requests for cooperation and coordination

63% of female direct beneficiaries on average across programmatic activities

24 mediation and dialogue projects globally

established dia-17 established dia logue platforms supported

62 capacity building workshops or trainings convened by CMI

meetings with international actors and 921 peers

1422 meetings with conflict parties and stakeholders

dialogue meetings convened by CMI

16 peace processes in 16 countries or regions supported

15 international, re-gional or national actors provided with technical or advisory support

direct beneficiaries of conflict 8884 resolution activities

83 employees in Helsinki and Brussels

12,3 million euros total funding

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# Peacemaking adapts to a new global context

Janne Taalas Chief Executive Officer, CMI

Photo: Maria Santto / CMI

The war in Ukraine has brought about challenges that have a strong impact on peacemaking. Mediation experts will be at the core of navigating these new developments.

2022 will be known as a watershed year in history. The Russian invasion of Ukraine created a new global political context and reshaped the local dynamics of various conflicts. The change has been most profound in Europe and its adjoining regions. The ripple effect has been felt in further regions a record number of requests for support - 132 in too.

The brutal war in Ukraine has brought issues relat- tion. Unfortunately, we could only act upon a small ed to large scale interstate war back to the forefront. The models and practices of power sharing increase our funding base.

developed over the last twenty years have proven to have limited applicability in a situation where one sovereign state claims authority over all or part of another. Perhaps everything." the most striking development has been

the weaponisation of everything, from food to visas and finance to energy, with information as the main vector of influence. This has a profound impact on peacemaking, as it necessitates expanding the expertise required for mediation work, and more importantly, demonstrates that peacemaking and mediation themselves can also be weaponised.

The war in Ukraine has also rendered relevant multilateral organisations, especially the UN and the OSCE, less capable of maintaining international security. The effect is uneven, but the longer the stagnation lasts, the weaker international responses to further crises become. The war has also brought to the fore arguments about international legal instruments and highlighted the dilemma between justice and peace in mediation efforts. There is an

increasing gap between seeking justice and political expediency in peacemaking, leading to greater regionalisation.

2022 was a historic year for CMI, as we received all, which is indicative that there is an increasing demand for mediation in the unstable world situanumber of these requests, even while continuing to

There has been a

significant change

in CMI's regional

context, as two of

our important state

partners, Finland and

Sweden, applied for

NATO membership

as a response to the

"The war in Ukraine has brought issues related to large scale interstate war back to the forefront and intensified the trend of weaponisation of

> Russian invasion. Finland and Sweden have a long track record of shouldering their global responsibilities and supporting international mediation efforts. The support we have received from our Nordic partners has not diminished, and we believe that CMI can continue adding value to their work in this new context as well.

> This past year we have also refurbished our headquarters in Helsinki, which for the first time gave CMI a space fit for purpose. I warmly welcome all our partners to visit our new office!

# The new decentralised world order



Alexander Stubb Chair of the Board, CMI

Photo: Riku Isohella

The world is moving from a hegemonic order towards a multipolar one. Independent actors will have a crucial role in enabling dialogue and finding solutions to conflicts.

the geopolitical radar and do a great deal in

enabling dialogue and help in finding solu-

tions to mounting political grievances."

show that the ideas of the post-Cold War period, including liberal democracy, the social market economy and globalisation, did not become the global norm after all. Instead, we are now faced with a more divided, inward-looking world and the harsh It is tempting to conclude that the new order will be reality of power politics.

derly with its bipolar structure. Thereafter, there that we will see a development towards flexible alwas a brief, unipolar

moment. This post-Cold War period was driven by the idea that all states would eventually become liberal democracies and advocates of globalisation. Instead, democracy and globalisation are in decline.

mentum with the 2008 financial crisis and the 2016 US presidential election and became evident after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Gradually, the world became more multipolar and less orderly.

The current situation could be described as a multipolar world of disorder. The unipolar world has failed, but the new world order has not yet been fully established. In this interregnum, the foundations of the old order, including its rules and norms, institutions and alliances, are faltering.

In recent years, China has started to seek a role as an ordering power. At the same time, the rest of the world is questioning Western hegemony. The pendulum of power and ideas continues to oscillate.

The world is in transition. It is safe to say that the Perhaps exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, post-Cold War era is over. Recent developments the focus is now more state than market, more national than international, more regional than global, more inward than outward, more division than cooperation.

based on a bipolar power balance between a Western and a Chinese order. However, we do not live in During the Cold War, the world seemed rather or- a binary world of alliances. Instead, it is more likely

liances. Essentially, this means a regionalisation "Independent actors like CMI can fly under and decentralisation of world order. Surely, in the 21st century there will be strong poles of power, but probably none of them will rule over the other.

The shift started already with 9/11, gathered mo- In this uncertain situation, the need for independent peacemakers is strong, as can be seen from the record number of requests CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation received in 2022. Independent actors like CMI can fly under the geopolitical radar and do a great deal in enabling dialogue and help in finding solutions to mounting political grievances.

> In the coming years CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation will continue to strongly support international and regional organisations, as they are key to keeping and enforcing peace. Even though the system is now in flux, we should eventually seek a rules-based world order which reflects commonly agreed values. Without this, disorder will become chaos.

#### OUR WORK

# Safeguarding the space for peacemaking

In 2022, CMI found creative ways to address conflicts in a global situation that was drastically changed by the war in Ukraine. The demand for CMI's services reached an all-time high.

The past year has witnessed significant global events that have had a profound impact on international relations and peacemaking. The most notable has been Russias full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which has led to large-scale human suffering, a compromised role of multilateral institutions and a widened gap between Western countries and Russia and tensions with the Global South.

24 February 2022 will be remembered as a pivotal moment that accentuated geopolitical divides that are here to stay. The newly emerged global security risks stem from tensions between states, and the conflict paradigm has increasingly shifted to include inter-state in addition to intra-state conflicts. At the same time, the invasion of Ukraine has demonstrated how independent peacemakers such as CMI can complement official peacemaking efforts and underlines the need for conflict resolution mechanisms that are able to tackle also other types of conflicts than civil wars. Amid the accelerated multipolarisation, the capability to engage in dialogue with all actors needs to be maintained. Reflecting the diminished capacity of official diplomacy to provide solutions to conflicts, the demand for CMI's services continued to grow, reaching an all-time high in 2022, with 132 requests for support in all.

During 2022, CMI sought to safeguard the space for peacemaking and to find new and creative ways to address conflict in the drastically changed setting. In Ukraine, CMI was able to successfully adapt its work to remain relevant, helping to strengthen the resilience and social cohesion of Ukrainian society in the face of the war. The diverse activities implemented in support of crisis response reached a considerable number of civil society members and local communities, including individuals in particupersons (IDPs). At the same time, CMI maintained its capability to support relevant actors in the wider region affected by the invasion of Ukraine, including in Moldova, the Autonomous Territorial Unit of have partnered with CMI in specific contexts. Gagauzia and among the parties to the Transnistrian Settlement Process.

Despite the tragedy of the war in Ukraine, positive steps towards peace have been seen in other parts of the world. For example, the peace process

in Yemen has made remarkable progress, with the parties creating arrangements for ending the fullscale fighting that have held since April 2022. In recent years, CMI has focused on supporting the inclusivity of the peace process, especially concentrating on working with parties who are not directly involved in the internationally mandated peace process, such as political parties, tribes and Southern Yemeni actors as well as women's groups and civil society.

Another positive development has been the peace agreement signed between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in November 2022, which has brought an end to the fighting that was raging in the region for two years. The peace agreement testifies to the power of dialogue and negotiation in searching for solutions even for the most intractable conflicts and navigating between complex regional and global interests. CMI's efforts in the Horn of Africa region have supported the mediation infrastructure, communications and coordination between key stakeholders in the region and has ensured the availability of technical and advisory support to key actors, including the African Union.

In addition to having supported the quality and effectiveness of diverse peace processes, as well as the agency of key national, regional and international actors to engage in those processes, CMI has actively continued its work to improve peacemaking practices.

The developments in Yemen and Ethiopia underscore the potential for improving situations even in the most challenging circumstances. As an organisation dedicated to peacemaking, CMI remains resolute in its efforts to prevent and resolve politilarly vulnerable positions, such internally displaced cal conflict. This work is enabled by indispensable support of CMI's key partners and donors, including Finland, Sweden and Ireland as programmatic donors, as well as other governments and the EU that

# **EURASIA**

- Advancing conflict settlement and prevention efforts in the Moldova context
- Advancing dialogue in and around Ukraine
- Building resilience to conflict through dialogue (Ukraine)
- Supporting dialogue in the Western Balkans
- Supporting efforts for stability and peace in the South Caucasus
- Supporting institutionalized and sustainable dialogue on the Gagauz autonomy
- Eurasia supporting regional mediation efforts

### MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- Fostering regional dialogue in the MENA region
- Supporting an inclusive peace process and enhanced agency among key stakeholders in Yemen
- Supporting dialogue for unity (Palestine)
- Supporting inclusive dialogue and conflict resolution in Libya

# ASIA

- Supporting inclusive and regional peace efforts (Afghanistan)
- Supporting Regional Peace Structures and Inclusive Peacemaking in Asia
- Exploring Context-Specific Approaches to Peace in Myanmar

# **SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

- Advancing constructive political and societal dialogue . in Burundi
- African Union conflict prevention and mediation ca-• pacities support project
- Fostering regional dialogue around the Red Sea .
- Mitigating regional conflict dynamics and advancing . inclusive dialogue in the wider Sahel region
- Supporting the transition in Sudan
- Enhancing constructive dialogue and cooperation on peace and security in the Horn of Africa

# **THEMATIC PROJECTS**

- Strengthening women's political agency in conflict resolution
- Policy and praxis of gender sensitive mediation
- Digital Peacemaking
- . Enhancing international peacemaking practice

**OTHER PROJECTS** 

Global Education – Ahtisaari Days

# The path towards sustainable peace in Ukraine

Over a year after Russia launched its full-scale attack on Ukraine, CMI has been able to successfully adjust its work in the country. Strengthening resilience and social cohesion helps Ukrainians withstand the impacts of the war.

Ukraine's unity in the face of Russian aggression has taken the world by surprise. But what is this unity made of and how it can lay the groundwork for sustainable peace?

The answer lies in the resilience and social cohesion that enable Ukrainians withstand the impacts of the war. After more than a year since Russia's invasion, CMI's efforts now largely focus on addressing the immediate needs of Ukrainians. Through them, CMI has been able to successfully adjust its work to provide meaningful support to a new situation.

Throughout 2022, CMI helped strengthen the resilience and social cohesion of Ukrainian society

locally, regionally and nationally. The diverse range of activities reached considerable numbers of civil society members and local communities, including individuals in particularly vulnerable positions, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs).

"For us to have peace, we also need to look at the concept of peace as the elimination of the consequences of occupation. These consequences - humanitarian, economic and social - are really crucial for Ukraine and the entire region." - Yulia Tyshchenko

CMI supports the National Platform for Resilience and Social Cohesion. founded in 2018 as a civic and non-partisan initiative by Ukrainian civil society activists. Following the start of the full-scale invasion and in response to the ensuing crisis, the central role of the National Platform is to mobilise, support and advocate initiatives aimed at enhancing the resilience and social cohesion of Ukrainians.

Building Ukraine's ability to bear the burden of ongoing war is a crucial element of sustainable peace, explains Yulia Tyshchenko, co-founder of the National Platform for Resilience and Social Cohesion. "For us to have peace, we also need to look at the concept of peace as the elimination of the conseguences of occupation. These consequences - humanitarian, economic and social - are really crucial for Ukraine and the entire region. I think that we Twelve regional coordinators were recruited in sedon't acknowledge all these consequences yet and that there's a lot of work ahead in terms of under-situation in order to prevent social polarisation. The standing what has happened and what to do next." work of regional coordinators contributed to en-

### Preventing local conflicts with mobile teams of mediators

Locally, the work has focused on identifying and sharing information about best practices that can support resilience and social cohesion during the war. This was done through public physical or online events reaching especially non-institutionalised communities, such as journalists, psychologists, urban planners, architects, entrepreneurs, volunteers and youth. A total of 18 communities were engaged in 2022, expanding the Platform's network.

Volodymyr Lupatsiy, co-founder of the National Platform for Resilience and Social Cohesion, says that the war has widely

> mobilised Ukrainians to work for a lasting peace

"We have really had a boom of solidarity, volunteering and different civil society initiatives. This is the formula of Ukrainian resilience, which is based on some of the

distinctive features of Ukrainian culture, such as self-organisation, a readiness to protect yourself and to protect European values related to freedom and human dignity. It is important for these practices, approaches and models to be institutionalised and for them to have international recognition."

The Platform has also helped prevent conflicts in communities in western Ukraine receiving large numbers of IDPs with mediation and psycho-social support. Mobile teams of mediators and psychologists were deployed in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi and Ternopil. In 2022, the mobile groups alone had more than 1000 activities in these communities. The work was done in cooperation with the Community of Practice of Ukrainian mediators and Dialogue Facilitators.

lected regions to monitor and analyse closely the



Buildings bombed near the town of Vyshgorod, Ukraine / Croce Rossa Italiana-Italian Red Cross

hanced policymaking on resilience and social cohesion at regional and national level and the sharing of best practices on related issues.

Nationally, through active engagement with authorities and political decision-makers, the National Platform was able to develop concrete policy proposals to address different needs related to resilience and social cohesion. They include the need to to ensure social cohesion in communities affected by internal displacement, the protection of rights of Ukrainian citizens that have moved to EU countries, and the need to plan for the integration of veterans and members of voluntary defence forces of territorial communities to a peaceful way of life.

"We need to get ready for this reintegration now, before the war ends", notes Yulia Tyshchenko.

#### Exploration of potential entry points for peace negotiations

At international level, around Ukraine, CMI has maintained links with key actors around the conflict to explore scenarios, lessons learned and potential entry points for peace negotiations with relevant actors.

Even though the likelihood of negotiations is currently small, it is important to envision a future peace process. CMI is analysing what the future framework for negotiations could be, including what topics would be on the table, who would provide the negotiating platform, who would participate in the discussions and what would constitute the phasing of the war, negotiations and the wider security debate.

CMI has worked in Ukraine since 2009. Its main assets there include a profound knowledge of the history of the armed conflict, the actors involved and what their expectations are regarding the situation. CMI's ability as an independent organisation to work with all parties to the conflict is particularly valuable in a situation where official mediation structures around Ukraine have collapsed.

Ensuring local ownership for Ukrainians on conflict resolution efforts is the main priority of CMI's work.

- ..... CMI has worked in Ukraine since 2009 as a
  - partner to Ukrainian groups and organisations.
  - CMI's main assets in Ukraine are a profound knowledge of the history of the conflict, the actors involved and what their expectations are.
- CMI is analysing what the future framework for peace negotiations could be.

# CMI Insight: War in Ukraine – A pivotal moment

# The war in Ukraine will re-shape international relations. Peacemakers are being challenged to find ways to resolve intrastate conflicts.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022 marked a crucial moment in global security and international relations, comparable in impact to the 9/11 attacks. Unlike the post-Cold War era, where This new reality requires manifold and new types of non-state actors and terrorism were seen as the expertise, ranging from the financial sector to enprimary threats to global security, the war in Ukraine accentuated geopolitical divides and shifted the ticipating in acts of warfare demands the inclusion conflict paradigm from intra-state to inter-state of these actors in peacemaking efforts. However, conflicts, often through proxies.

The West has responded to Russia's aggression by re-finding a common purpose in resisting it and increasing military spending, with the EU member states unifying and Finland and Sweden applying to acknowledge the changing nature of contemporary join NATO. The UN General Assembly reprimanded Russia in two resolutions. The war raises concerns that the threshold for "unplugging" a major state from the international system might be lower in the future.

In Africa and the Middle East, many states want to have good relations with both the West and Russia. In the post-Soviet space, most economies remain highly dependent on Russia, and in Asia, states Advocates for upholding norms argue that failure have taken different positions based on their history, economic setup, and bilateral relations with big powers. It is still uncertain how the war in Ukraine will impact the current trajectory of US-China relations, as it is the most significant concern regarding great powers. The war has also created uncertainty for key multilateral organisations like the UN and OSCE, which have been unable to make significant progress in ending the conflict.

The international peace mediation community must find ways to support peacemaking in addition to managing societal fragmentation and political tensions. Conflict resolution mechanisms must address different dimensions of conflict and consider how inclusivity and local ownership apply. New approaches are needed to understand mediation between states and resolve post-modern conflicts

#### Dealing with the weaponization of everything

For the past two decades, the predominant military context for peace mediation has been asymmetric warfare. The war in Ukraine has intensified this trend, shifting the focus to the weaponization of inter-state relations. The conflict has seen the use of unforeseen economic and technological sanctions,

weaponization of energy delivery and trade, and leveraging food and commodity markets.

ergy infrastructure. The expansion of groups parpeacemaking itself can also be weaponized, which calls for a better understanding of the peacemakers' role in the conflict dynamics. The peacemaking community faces a challenge in dealing with this, necessitating a shift towards new approaches that warfare.

### Shifting balance of justice and political expediency

The debate surrounding the relationship between peace and justice has become increasingly important considering the war in Ukraine, and has raised questions about broader global dynamics.

to support Ukraine's territorial integrity would be a significant blow to the rules-based international order. This view is particularly prevalent in the West. On a global scale, there is a fear that a lack of consensus around the interpretation of international norms may lead to acts of isolation and "unplugging" in the future, thus calling for the prioritization of political expediency. The outcome of this debate will have a significant impact on the future of peacemaking.

Peacemaking actors must consider that in the absence of strong, unified institutions to make political interpretations of international norms, conflict resolution efforts may be interpreted as precedents for future peacemaking efforts and touchstones for an emerging global order. It is likely that there will be different correspondences between justice and political expediency in different regions, leading to a shift towards more regionalized peacemaking practices. Private peacemaking actors may play a helpful role in this context by paving the way for creative solutions and setting patterns for future peacemaking practice.

This is an excerpt from CMI Insight-publications. For the full paper, go to the website: www.cmi.fi/latest/publications

# Advancing cooperation in Moldova

Despite the challenges brought by the war in neighbouring Ukraine, the Gagauzia dialogue process was fruitful in 2022, with the advancement of cooperation between the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and People's Assembly of Gagauzia, laying a solid basis for systemic change in Moldova.

Since 2015, with funding from Sweden, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation has been working to facilitate the informal dialogue process between the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and People's Assembly of Gagauzia, while providing "good offices" for the official political dialogue platform intended to improve institutional mechanisms of centre-autonomy relations.

During 2022, CMI continued to contribute to improved processes, the stronger agency of key stakeholders, and better practices in the context of the Gagauzia dialogue process. The project contributed to the institutionalisation and sustainability of the dialogue between the centre and the autonomy by strengthening institutions, improving capacities and building ownership in the parliamentary dialogue process.

At the same time, the year in review was a challenging time for Moldova. The escalation of the war in neighbouring Ukraine had a major impact on the overall political climate in Moldova, and particularly the Gagauzian autonomy. Alongside security issues, the war had several spill-over effects, such as refugee flows, and energy and economic crises, including inflation rising to 37%. This put significant pressure on the government and brought with it a further deterioration of the economic and social wellbeing of the most vulnerable people in Moldova.

On the other hand, Moldova's EU candidacy status, along with international financial and political support, had a positive impetus on internal reforms that could in the medium and long term improve centre-autonomy cooperation and the integration of the autonomy into the decision-making process.

Despite the challenging environment, a strong commitment was expressed by key stakeholders to continue the dialogue process facilitated by CMI, which resulted in the relaunch of the parliamentary dialogue process between the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and the People's Assembly of Gagauzia following the 2021 elections.

The dialogue process has had tangible results. The Moldovan Parliament adopted two laws providing for improved consultations between the Parliament and the People's Assembly of Gagauzia during the law-making process. Together with improved cooperation between the central authorities and the autonomy, if efficiently implemented it will serve as a conflict prevention mechanism between both parties

The adopted laws were developed under the auspices of the dialogue platform and endorsed by the members of the Parliamentary Working Group on Gagauzia at a formal meeting held on 25 October. According to the provisions of the laws, Parliament will consult with the legislative body of Gagauzia on all issues related to the status of autonomy and its competences during the law-making process. Similarly, Gagauzia can consult the central authorities on different issues related to proposed autonomy laws

CMI's efforts to facilitate access to all the necessary information and tools enabled stakeholders to come together to find joint solutions to common concerns. The dialogue process has successfully resulted in systemic change.

- Since 2015 CMI as been working to facilitate the informal dialogue process between the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and People's Assembly of Gagauzia
  - CMI's efforts to facilitate access to all the necessary knowledge and tools enabled stakeholders to come together to find joint solutions to common issues.

Escalation of the armed conflict in the neighbouring Ukraine had a strong impact on the political climate in Moldova in general, and the Gagauzian autonomy in particular.

# Young women are redefining activism across the world

A new generation is transforming women's traditional forms of involvement in politics - including peace processes. We asked Libvan Asma Khalifa. Palestinian Dalia Hamayel and Afghan Nilofar Ayoubi how they view their activism.



From left to right: Dalia Hamayel, Asma Khalifa and Nilofar Ayoubi. Photos: Anni Lindgren/CMI

#### What made you an activist?

Asma Khalifa: There are many things that make an activist - conditions, the environment, upbringing, I was already conditioned to join in 2011 [Libya's revolution] because of how I was brought up. My dad has a very clear sense of injustice. Had I had a different upbringing, maybe I would not have participated. I have a very straightforward idea of what is morally acceptable and what isn't, and I'm willing to is so important. I could not be an activist without stand by my beliefs. It's actually a very hard thing the group. to discuss, to try to convince other women to participate in women's movements if they are so comfortable in their lives. They might have never had to face a violent male family member or witness it. When I have these conversations they cannot relate to me.

Dalia Hamavel: When you act against occupation, is that activism or is it wanting to see social change that makes you an activist? I remember that as a child we were only allowed on the streets at a certain time. So, then what I considered a revolutionary act was just me taking my bicycle and being able to go down to the supermarket and buying groceries for many families on my street. We supported each other and there I learned that the collective

Nilofar Ayoubi: As a small child, I lived as my brother did – enjoying all the everyday things other girls living under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan were denied. I took karate classes, attended school, rode bicycles and played contact sports until I reached puberty, when because of biology it could no longer

be hidden from the Taliban that I was a girl. It was during this time that the seeds of rebellion, planted by my father, would take root. That's when my activism really started.

#### What do you do as activists? Tell us about your work.

Asma Khalifa: My work has varied from being on the streets to building the capacity of civil society in Libya, especially on conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation skills. I have also influenced different policies in Libya. I have volunteered with Amazigh Supreme Council, politically raising awareness, and doing advocacy for the Amazigh's [an ethnic group indigenous to the Maghreb region of North Africa] tions that you hope the situations in your countries demands for recognition in the official constitution, and doing documentation on their cultural heritage Dalia Hamayel: I have been part of non-official work when it comes to social movements and justice in is a hard feeling. It is very emotional in many ways, Palestine. I was working with a coalition of different organisations that are specialised in those subjects and my role was to coordinate the work.

were emerging at the time. I was active in different protests and movements. I was not in the leadership but just took part like any other person. Participated in whatever I can do, which usually meant joining protests on the streets and raising our demands.

Nilofar Ayoubi: I and a group of like-minded, resilient Afghan women have established the Women's Political Participation Network (WPPN). The group is open to all Afghan women regardless of religious affiliation, socio economic background and sexual orientation. Earlier, the main focus for WPPN was to lobby for the inclusion of women in discussions and decision-making on peace talks in Afghanistan. Today, the scope for WPPN is wider, encompassing general work toward basic but equal human rights for all girls in the region.

We have teachers, we have tailors, we have housewives, we have mothers in the group. All we have in common is to advocate for basic human rights for women in Afghanistan. We don't ask for much: education and the right to work and to thereby gain financial independence.

#### How important is social media in your activism?

Nilofar Ayoubi: Social media and activism go hand in hand. The same mechanisms that bring people together over the love of a sports team, a book or a hobby can also bring people together over social causes. When used correctly, the impacts of social media movements can be massive.

Social media activism is sometimes criticised as centred around driving a real-world difference. Ac- desire to share it with those around me.

tionable posts compel audiences to do something. like sign a petition, contact a representative, give a donation or show up to a protest. These types of posts illustrate the true power of a social media movement. The connectivity of social media gives movements the ability to organise more quickly and effectively than ever before.

Social media also gives easy access to policymakers. politicians, and government officials. There's a better chance of getting a response or interaction with a policymaker as social platforms can be a more unfiltered, informal way they communicate with constituents.

# Lastly, let's talk about hope. What are the direcwill take?

Asma Khalifa: I get asked about hope a lot and it especially for someone who has been active since 2011. I think we were all fired up by hope back then. That hope has since been killed on several occasions over the years. After that I have started to We would support different social movements that think of hope as something else - I work out of sheer stubbornness, thinking "I have to do this". So, it is not something that is always there but then in some moments, especially when I work with younger activists, or I see new initiatives or projects. Then I feel it. There is a lot of despair. But you work regardless, even if you feel hopeless.

> Dalia Hamayel: I agree. And it is so interesting to keep seeing the same faces in different protests people are so persistent. They do not stop coming to the streets. And especially seeing women in Palestine, they are very strong. You feel inspired every day when you see them. Something in Palestinian history has shown the women how strong they can be and how they can lead. And it is not just in Palestine. I think seeing this gives me so much strength.

> It is a disgrace to say "I do not have hope anymore". If I compare myself to others, who do not have anything, and they still have hope. And comparing your experiences to theirs - that makes you responsible to have hope.

> Nilofar Ayoubi: We live in turbulent times, and sometimes it feels like peace is a distant concept that will only occur when we are no longer around to experience it. But when you look at the big picture, it becomes clear that peace has been achieved in the past and can be achieved again. To work toward peace, we (alone) have more power than we would like to believe.

By influencing others around me, I can change the way people think about war and how they can help keep the peace. I do not have to be famous or rich being more talk than action, but many posts are to influence others; all I need is an idea and a strong

#### **ASMA KHALIFA**

Researcher and activist from Libya

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Co-founder of Tamazight Women Movement and Khalifa Ihler Institute.

Works on human rights, women's rights and youth empowerment with a strong focus on peacebuilding in Libya. Has had multiple roles as a consultant, researcher and advisor on these topics.

#### NILOFAR AYOUBI

Activist, journalist and entrepreneur from Afghanistan.

Master's degree in Management and Governance from Islamic Azad University.

CEO of Asia Times Afghanistan and Editor of Akhbar Afghan. Founder of Women's Political Participation Network (WPPN).

Currently runs and owns an international health and beauty brand "forever living" in Kabul through which she supports widows and orphan children.

### DALIA HAMAYEL

Activist and community organiser from Palestine.

Works for social and economic justice in Palestine

Holds a degree in Sociology from Birzeit University.







### CMI supports political women's agency in conflict-affected countries to shape peace and transition processes.

- This includes protest movements where younger women in particular have an active role.
- In 2022, CMI contributed to enhanced dialogue and coordinated action among different women groups in Libva, Palestine, Afghanistan, Yemen and Sudan.
- Through CMI-facilitated dialogue efforts, women leaders from various segments of the society engaged with each other and identified issues that need to be addressed and engaged with various relevant actors and policymakers.

# Afghan women leaders demand to be equal partners

CMI has been supporting the EU-led Afghan Women Leaders Forum (AWLF) since its establishment in March 2022. The aim is to ensure a structured and continuous platform for Afghan women to express their views to relevant political stakeholders inside and outside of Afghanistan.



Since its establishment, the Forum has met reqularly both online and in person. Through the Forum. the members have contributed to policy discussions regarding Afghanistan on various topics including political participation, women's rights, as well as education and employment. As one of the AWLF members noted: "We need the international community to give us the floor. In these difficult the importance of working with women inside the times for Afghanistan,

Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell as well as the FU Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen. These meetings discussed the importance of an intra-Afghan dialogue, prospects for inclusive political processes as well as the role of private sector. In the exchanges with various EU interlocutors, the Forum members emphasized

we need solidarity and collective efforts to move forward".

# The Forum started with the participation of 45 Afghan women leaders and reached over

In September 2022 a small group of AWLF members travelled to

Human Rights Council (HRC) where the UN Special Rapporteur Richard Bennett presented his first report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan. The Forum members met with EU representatives. EU Member States and the UN Special Rapporteur to share detailed recommendations regarding human rights and women rights situation in Afghanistan. The urgent need for a mechanism to systematically monitor, record and analyze human rights violations in the country was highlighted.

In the margins of the AWLF Third Forum Meeting in Brussels in November, members were received by both High Representative of the EU for Foreign country to change the narrative of women's role in Afghanistan. In their view, it is crucial to move away from viewing women merely as instruments with little value in

100 members by the beginning of 2023. society, but instead rec-Geneva on the occasion of the 51st session of the ognize them as valuable stakeholders in all discussions concerning the future of their country.

> Meetings of the AWLF have highlighted that women are currently the most organized group inside and outside of Afghanistan. Forum members have stressed that despite their differences, women have the potential to unite around shared concerns and common goals. What is needed are spaces for Afghan women to convene, discuss and jointly identify concerns and goals. CMI is continuing its support to AWLF in 2023. The initiative has been implemented with the support of the EU and in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) of Sweden.

OUR WORK

# Working for peace across borders in a volatile region

The Tigray peace deal is a major positive development for the Horn of Africa and the broader Red Sea region. CMI's work focuses on helping key actors to work for peace across borders.

The Horn of Africa and the broader Red Sea region are characterised by unpredictability and interconnectedness. Both peace and conflict therefore often have broader implications for the region. Recent events confirm this.

In November 2022, the peace agreement signed between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) ended a devastating war, bringing long-awaited stability to a country that has traditionally been the linchpin of security in the region. On the negative side, the recent fighting between Sudan's military factions could lead to a civil war and a wider conflict extending beyond the country's borders.

The volatility and transboundary character of conflicts underlines the need for continued investments in dialogue and diplomacy. In 2022, to this end, CMI brought together participants from key countries and regional and international organisations so that they can more effectively work together for peace. The work strengthened the engagement of these key actors to prevent and resolve conflicts. The stakeholders now have a better understanding of conflict dynamics and policy options due to the briefings and meetings organised by CMI.

Lisa Boström, CMI's Project Manager, stresses the importance of having a shared understanding of the regional dimension of conflicts, something that is vital but also a neglected approach for peacemaking in a part of the world where everything is intertwined with different power holders who are actively involved also in neighbouring countries.

"If you touch one piece in the puzzle, other pieces also start to move. So, to effectively address these interlinked conflicts, one needs to understand the full picture. What are the root causes, who is involved, and what are the interests and motivations of these actors? It is not possible to work in the same direction without this shared understanding." For instance, addressing the violence of the Islamist insurgency Al-Shabaab requires coordinated efforts. The violence has spilled over from Somalia to the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia and Kenya. "While Al-Shabaab is first and foremost a Somali issue, it must be supported within a regional security engagement", explains CMI's Horn of Africa Team in a recent CMI Insight paper.



Yemen and Horn of Africa

#### The Tigray peace deal brings stability

The Tigray peace deal was a major positive development in the region in 2022, bringing hope in a grim year that was in many ways characterised by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its global implications. The peace agreement is a testament to the power of negotiation in finding solutions even for the most intractable conflicts.

The Ethiopian government and the forces from Tigray signed a ceasefire agreement in November, ending a two-year war that killed tens of thousands of people, left hundreds of thousands facing hunger and displaced millions. Humanitarian aid has started to arrive in the region and basic services have resumed to some extent, but the needs are massive.

The agreement was mediated by the African Union, with some support from CMI. The parties have been committed in implementing the deal since November 2022.

"The agreement has held and will likely do so also in the future. The peace in Tigray has a major impact

on the whole region. The stability of Ethiopia is extremely important for the whole region because it is such a giant as a country", Boström says.

However, there is still a long way to go before there is lasting peace in Tigray. The November agreement leaves several questions open as Ethiopia continues to suffer from other conflicts.

Recently, tensions have risen in the country's southern Oromia region where the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) has been fighting the Ethiopian government. "A lot of dialogue is still needed between Ethiopians. But I remain cautiously optimistic about the country's future", Boström says. The Ethiopian government announced talks with OLA on sibilities of the countries of the region to come 23 April.

#### Keeping channels open to ease tensions

The impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine is also felt in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea region. For the Horn, the most direct consequences of the war are economic, as the prices of food, fertilisers and fuel have increased, adding to the impact of the most severe drought on record.

rity can trigger social discontent and unrest, with independent peacemakers such as CMI.

grave consequences for fragile governments in the region". Boström and CMI's Project Officer Frika Paakkinen write in their recent CMI Insight paper. According to Boström and Paakkinen, there is also the risk that increased global tensions, accentuated by the war in Ukraine, are spreading and will lead to more instability in the Horn and Red Sea region. Traditionally, regional and global powers have battled for influence in the region.

The war has already focused increased attention on the Red Sea as it is a vital waterway for energy imports.

Mounting tensions raise guestions about the postogether to strengthen political, economic and security cooperation. "Those who want peace, development and stability must cooperate", says Boström

It is important to somehow keep channels open between those who do not want to talk to each other due to tensions. "This way you can avoid needless misunderstandings that can escalate. If there is a lot of tension, a small thing can ignite the whole powder keg." Boström sees an increasingly impor-"Increasing economic challenges and food insecu- tant role in preventive diplomacy in the region for

# Peace in Yemen would ease tensions in the Red Sea region

The negotiations between the Houthi movement and the Saudi government create new hope for the peace process in Yemen. A peace agreement would contribute to broader de-escalation of tensions in the Red Sea region, but major challenges lie ahead.

Yemen has recently witnessed promising developments, including the creation of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) and its advisory bodies, military de-escalation, the continued negotiations between Ansar Allah, better known as the Houthis, and Saudi Arabia, coinciding with a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, resolving the protracted conflict in Yemen remains a daunting challenge, and any lasting settlement would need to be inclusive of all Yemeni stakeholders. In fact, Yemen is witnessing an increased securitisation of its politics, the internal cohesion challenges of the PLC continue and the demands from within Yemen's south for greater autonomy with some groups calling for cession remain unaddressed. Meanwhile, women and youth continue to witness political marginalisation and are hindered by societal norms and expectations.

The Red Sea region constitutes a shared geopolitical space between the Arab world and Africa, where regional rivalry has consequences on national level stability. Yemen is an arena where these regional rivalries are manifesting themselves, thus an eventual peace agreement in Yemen, would signify a tors.

broader regional de-escalation of tensions.

It is therefore imperative to ensure that Yemenis have a say in regional negotiations, and this can materialize only through a cohesive Yemeni political agency. In order to support the formal UN peace process as well as the involvement of Yemeni stakeholders in shaping the future of their country in an inclusive manner, CMI continues to act as an honest and independent broker and by creating safe and conducive spaces for dialogue. In June 2022, CMI and the Åland Islands Peace Institute hosted a group of Southern Yemenis to discuss the form of the state and the potential for a southern dialogue in Yemen by exploring lessons learned from the examples of Åland and Aceh. CMI also continues to support and facilitate dialogue between and within political parties with a special focus on women's meaningful participation and inclusive decision-making. By mapping and identifying existing gaps and challenges, CMI seeks to strengthen existing mechanisms for inclusion in Yemen, and enhance women's agency and capacities through vision building and joint action among political acIn November 2022 the Lake Chad Basin Youth Network met in Chad. We interviewed some of the young leaders on how they see the role of youth in peacebuilding in the conflict-affected region of the Lake Chad Basin.

Kauna Hamman, 33, is from Northern Nigeria. In 2018 she co-founded The Strategy for Peace and Humanitarian Development Initiative. It is an organization that envisions peaceful coexistence through communal peacebuilding, women and youth empowerment. Starting her own initiative with friends has been a healthy learning curve. Where there was will, there might not have been knowledge. Mending the gap has been an essential step. The importance of networks such as the Youth Network for the Lake Chad Region is not lost on Hamman. In her native Nigeria, youth are often not taken seriously and there are no platforms for them to develop into leadership positions.

"This network does not only welcome us but also gives us a voice. It is a great initiative that will bring out the best in the region as a whole," thinks Hamman.

"Peace is a gradual process and it will take a lot of time because there is a lot of bitterness between people," says Hamman. She speaks from experience, as she has seen with her own eyes what tribal violence has done in her own extended family.

"We need a change in narrative. Revenge is not the way forward, dialogue is," thinks Hamman.

- CMI recognises that inclusive peace processes make better agreements and have a higher probability of successful implementation.
- To enable young people's full agency for conflict prevention, CMI has been working with youth in several projects.
- This cross-border network encompassing young activists from Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon advances the Youth, Peace and Security agenda through capacity-building and economic empowerment.

Fatima Ibrahim Musa, 28, is from Borno State, Nige- and girls' rights. According to Musa, since the arria. Borno State has been deeply affected by Boko rival of Boko Haram in Borno State, Nigeria, sexual Haram ever since 2009. Attacks on schools and and gender-based violence as well as domestic vi-Musa's university in 2014 affected her deeply and olence have risen significantly. worked as a catalyst for her passion for women's

"We women really are at the receiving end of the crisis. I think we are often seen only as victims, but a lot of the solutions come from us as well," says Musa.



Alfa Abdel-Aziz, 32, from Cameroon works for an organization that specializes in development, peace consolidation and capacity-building of the youth through various activities and trainings. One of the aims is to train youth peace ambassadors who can go to schools and universities to create dialogue.

"One important part of our work is to bring old and young people together around the table for a dialogue, for a deeper intergenerational understanding," tells Abdel-Aziz.

Abdel-Aziz reflects on the Network meeting as being essential for dialogue between the countries and for establishing common ground for the future of the Network.

For a peaceful future, Abdel-Aziz wants to enhance the understanding of conflict resolution as a part of daily life. "Conflicts are normal in the everyday life. What we need is to build understanding that conflicts can be resolved and they do not need to escalate," says Abdel-Aziz. In the communities, conflict de-escalation is essential and a lot can be prevented by creating work for youth and supporting entrepreneurship.

"Peace is built every day" believes Abdel-Aziz.

Her work with the British Council now centers around gender-based violence and women's rights. as well as peacebuilding. Projects and activities around empowering women through financial independence are vital for the future of the women.

"A lot of the violence women face is also connected to the financial dependency on men," thinks Musa.

Peacebuilding is a new concept and a word that is unknown to people. Part of Musa's personal efforts evolves around an initiative that she is currently developing, that aims to mend the gap between mentorship and capacity-building as well as creating awareness on peacebuilding and what that concretely means.

Musa says that the Youth Network feels personal for everyone. It has taken a lot of courage to get it to the point where it is now. Next steps from her perspective are commitment and sustainability, as well as mentorship, in order for the leaders to see that the Network is a group that deserves to be taken seriously.

"If you talk about peace, you have to talk about livelihoods, security, climate, sanitation, water. Peace is an interconnected matter. What is needed for peace is collaboration," says Musa.



# Ensuring CMI's political and strategic relevance for the EU

Presence in Brussels has helped to raise CMI's profile and generate substantial interest within the EU and EU Member States, as well as to enhance strategic collaborations.

Reinforcing the presence in Brussels has allowed CMI to raise also had the organising lead of the annual EU Peace Mediaingly proactive role in Brussels has contributed to further mediation trends, challenges and solutions. Concrete targetand processes, as well as generated significant interest in the revision of the existing EEAS Mediation Guidelines. Overthe foundation's work.

Through its presence in Brussels, CMI has been able to secure a role in supporting the establishing of the EU initiative approached by other EU structures, and peers, with inquiries Afghan Women Leaders' Forum, including the consultative, facilitation and digital aspects. In addition to working directly with the Forum, through its Brussels presence, CMI organised public outreach meetings with members in the margins of Forums in Brussels (and Geneva), which helped to amplify their voices also outside of the EU channels, and generate Brussels. Among other things CMI was the first civil society significant interest for the work from other key partners.

CMI has proven itself a solid partner in a Consortium implementing an EEAS Framework Contract on Conflict Prevention and Mediation, taking on a high proportion of assignments to provide the EU with strategic analysis on issues of particular political importance. Within this contract, CMI Brussels Office

its profile across the EU, EU Member States, and other in- tion Community of Practice meeting which had nearly 800 ternational actors. This has resulted in a rise of requests for registered EU peace mediators, including key EU actors such meetings, speaking invitations and new collaborations, af- as EUSRs and Managing Directors, and took place in a hybrid firming CMI's political and strategic relevance. CMI's increas- format. Based on two days of focused panel discussions on linking CMI's work to relevant EU, and international structures ed recommendations were made for the EU, in the wake of all, this work allowed CMI to provide strategic analysis and contribute directly to the European Union's work with conflict prevention and conflict resolution. It has also led to CMI being about possible future collaborations.

> Coordination and cooperation with and on the UN, multilateralism and peer organisations in Brussels and elsewhere in Europe has also been strengthened through CMI's work in organisation to be invited to moderate the 2nd (internal) EU-UN Annual Dialogue on Prevention, Stabilisation and Peacebuilding, gathering more than 400 EU and UN staff in headquarters and the field.

EU COP 2022 report: https://www.eupeacemediation.info

Opening seminar of EU CoP 2022 / Photo: Maria Santto / CMI



# The Nordic commitment to peace remains strong

The Nordic countries have a long history of peacemaking and mediation. Within the changing geopolitical context, including NATO expansion, the demand for this expertise is greater than ever.

The Nordic countries are strongly committed to advancing peace globally. Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland also have a legacy of mutual peaceful relations, having managed to resolve internal disputes peacefully for more than 200 years. For CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, the stress on Nordic cooperation derives from the visionary work of our founder, President Martti Ahtisaari. For President Ahtisaari, the most important part of the Nordic mindset is understanding the value of trust. All Nordic societies are characterised by high levels of

social trust. According to Martti Ahtisaari. having faith in fair and equal societies is the key to successful peace mediation.

Each Nordic country has its own way of approaching peacebuilding and peace

mediation. Whether or not an actual Nordic Peace brand exists is open to discussion, but the Nordic reputation in conflict resolution remains solid.

CMI's unique mission complements the Nordic ecosystem for peace. Driven by shared values and objectives, CMI cooperates with several Nordic actors across government, academia and non-governmental sectors. With Finland, Sweden and Norway, CMI has forged strategic partnerships that go beyond mere funding.

All Nordic countries are committed to strengthening the role of women in peacemaking and there is ing are undeniable. It is important to uphold these much collaboration in this particular field. For instance, CMI works with the Folke Bernadotte Academy, a Swedish agency for peace, security and development, in an EU-led initiative to ensure the inclusion of Afghan women in political dialogue on

the future of Afghanistan. Together with the Norwegian research institute PRIO, CMI collaborates with the UN to offer practical tools for senior mediators to enhance women's role in peace processes.

Although the Nordic countries differ in some areas of mediation and dialogue, all of them share a pragmatic like-mindedness. Instead of having a strong ideological bias or imposing ready-made solutions. Nordic actors look for pragmatic solutions based on local needs. The Nordic countries also work closely alongside internation-

CMI's unique mission complements the Nordic ecosystem for peace. Driven by shared values and objectives, CMI cooperates with several

Nordic actors across government, academia and

non-governmental sector.

al and regional actors. The focus in Europe and in the Nordic region is now on the war in Ukraine and its devastating consequenc-

es as well as on military means. Now, with NATO enlargement, the crucial question

is whether peace mediation will continue to be a priority in Finland's and Sweden's foreign policy. Norway has shown that membership of NATO does not exclude broad engagement in peace and reconciliation efforts. Despite a strong commitment to NATO, Norway continues to have an impressive track-record in peace mediation.

At a time when multilateral institutions are under considerable pressure and the world is seeing the greatest number of violent conflicts since 1945, conflict resolution efforts are in high demand. Nordic strengths in peace mediation and peacebuildhigh standards also in the future.

# **Digital Peacemaking**

In 2022, CMI continued developing digital technology -based methods and approaches for mediation practice.

The year 2022 was shaped by a post-pandemic reality and an increasing visibility of the challenges caused by digital technologies – particularly of their weaponization. While easing of restrictions allowed shifting back to in-person meetings, digital peacemaking practice had to find ways to support the balance between virtual and in-person engagements while identifying new opportunities for digital integration. Simultaneously, increasing tensions in the cyberspace prompted a growing need to raise awareness and build capacities on digital risks and cyber threats. Leveraging its solid knowledge base on digital peacemaking, CMI pursued its mission to master the use of digital tools while preventing and mitigating their negative impact.

### Promoting Digital Inclusion of Women and Marginalised Groups

When it comes to mastering the use of digital technologies for peace mediation, CMI's core principle of inclusivity guides our work. The year started with a presentation of the Yemen feasibility study to the UN Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen. The study assessed the country's digital landscape and identified means to engage remote and marginalised communities using off-the-shelf digital services. The Digital Peacemaking -project also provided continuous support to the Afghan Women Leaders Forum (AWLF) since its launch in March 2022. Through the use of digital technology -based methods and tools, the AWLF has been able to ensure equal participation of all members located both in- and outside of Afghanistan. Digital inclusion garnered a great deal of attention in international policy discussions regarding mediation i.e. at the UN High-Level Seminar on Gender Inclusive Mediation and EU Community of Practice, both of which CMI co-organised.

### Building Capacity within the Peace Mediation Community

When it comes to preventing and mitigating challenges resulting from the ever-increasing use of digital technologies, addressing cyber security is key. The year was kicked-off with the launch of the Digital Risk Management E-Learning Platform for Mediators that CMI co-developed with the Cyber-Peace Institute and United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Mediation Support Unit. The platform was well-received by the audience as it provides a much needed and easy way for peace practitioners to familiarise themselves with digital security risks related to their work. In addition, CMI and its partners were invited to share these contents offline through workshops at the Geneva Peace Week and Build Peace -conferences. As the digital space is constantly evolving and threats are becoming ever more evident, long-lasting relevance can be expected for this line of work.

# Envisioning the Future of Digital Peacemaking at CMI

While navigating the transforming digital landscape, new work concerning the digital peacemaking practice at CMI was developed. Efforts were put particularly on ideating new initiatives on the thematics of digital consultations, foresight, and participatory research, identifying needs within CMI's country engagements and developing relevant partnerships. Time was taken to crystallise CMI's goals on this strategic priority and envision the future for digital peacemaking within the organisation.

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- The Digital Peacemaking project has been ongoing since 2020, although CMI has a long history of developing digital technology-based methods and approaches.
- Digital peacemaking at CMI is about finding ways to utilise digital technologies to benefit peace mediation and to prevent and mitigate new challenges that result from their increasing global use.
- CMI's digital peacemaking work focusses particularly on digital inclusion, participatory analysis and foresight and cyber security.

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# Ahtisaari Days aims to make conflict resolution a civic skill through educational materials and cooperation with Finnish schools. Important part of the Ahtisaari Days' work is the support for CMI's young peace

ambassadors.

Ahtisaari Days

In 2022, the substantial changes in the European security environment increasingly brought the is-

sue of conflicts and security arrangements to the

forefront of debate in Finland, as elsewhere. This

makes it even more important for school teachers.

to be able to talk about conflicts with their stu-

dents. The aim of CMI's peace education project.

the Ahtisaari Days, is to strengthen the capacity of

young people in Finland to settle disputes in a con-

structive manner by bringing conflict resolution to

every school. This is in line with the UN Resolution

2250 (Youth, Peace and Security) and the recog-

nition that "young people play an important and

positive role in the maintenance and promotion of

In 2022, the Ahtisaari Days launched two new dig-

ital tools for Finnish teachers and strengthened

collaboration with schools to cement the presence

of conflict-related discussion in schools and in the

work of Finnish teachers. One-off visits have been

replaced by collaboration based on multiple visits

involving varied and mutually supportive content.

This development work enables a deeper impact

for students and teachers and makes it possible to

measure change among the target audience. The

enhanced collaboration with schools creates a ba-

Wide-ranging development work has also been

conducted in the work of the young peace ambas-

sadors, the Lennons. The Lennons initiative was es-

tablished in 2017 as part of the Ahtisaari Days. The

age group has been refined and the length of time

of the group extended. The young people selected

to be part of the group come from more diverse

backgrounds than before. The content of the work

sis for real change in a broader future context.

international peace and security".

Strengthening the capacity of young people to settle disputes in a constructive manner.

has also been revised to focus more on increasing the participants know-how of conflict resolution and peace building, and on enhancing the participatory experience. For the first months, the group will focus on learning as much as possible about conflict resolution and peacebuilding under the guidance of CMI experts. The group will then move on to a cooperation and workshop phase, with the aim of finding suitable partners and a context in which the young peace ambassadors feel that they can be useful. The next phase is implementation, where the skills learnt will be put into practice in a joint project.

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The Ahtisaari Days project has increased its visibility among young people by starting its own TikTok Channel. Its content is aimed at young people and the videos had over 32 000 organic impressions in 2022. The videos are commented, shared and liked, and this indicates that the content themes discussed are credible and identifiable among young people.

Youth peace leaders training camp. Photo: Kreeta Koskijoki / CMI



**OUR WORK** 

# Communications

A highlight of 2022 was the Keys for Peace campaign that presented keys and their owners from conflict areas around the world.



Keys for Peace at its last stop in an event at Kallio church, Helsinki. Photo Maria Santto / CMI

In 2022, CMI continued to strengthen its global homes changed from being places of safety to the profile through active communications as a profesamong our target audiences. CMI's communications day of Peace. 21st of September. continued to focus on informing about the impact of our work and to shape the policy and practice of The aim of the exhibition was to highlight that every peacemaking by providing critical insight.

The numbers of our social media followers, newsletter subscribers and people attending our events grew by 13%. The number of media interviews given doubled over the previous year. This was in part the first thing that a person fleeing a conflict no influenced by Russia's war on Ukraine, which increased the number of interview requests for the safe, calm and peaceful place for me and my family. CMI.

A highlight of the year was CMI's Keys for Peace after six years of exile. campaign which was done in collaboration with TBWA Helsinki, who is our new pro bono ad agency. The exhibition that toured in Finland presented keys and their owners from past and current con-Burundi, Afghanistan, Palestine, Libya and ceded ally. Karelia in Finland. The keys' owners include people from different backgrounds, from a serial en- Opposite page: Keys for Peace in Forum shopping center, Helsinki. trepreneur to a radio host and a political dialogue photos: Maria Santto / CMI promoter. What they have in common is that their

complete opposite. The exhibition was launched in sional, international and trusted partner for peace. the presence of more than 7,000 business leaders We were able to significantly increase our visibility at the Nordic Business Forum, on the International

> conflict is human made and involves human loss, not forgetting that humanity can end what it has started.

> House kevs are our most valuable asset - and vet longer needs. "The key to my house symbolises a This is the key to my social stability", said Burundian Pamphile Muderega who was able return home

The campaign attracted extensive media attention and was covered by all main news outlets in Finland. Altogether the campaign reached potentially 26,9 flict areas around the world: Ukraine, Mali, Bosnia, million people via media in Finland and internation-





# Strategic partnerships and funding



CMI housewarming From left former president Tarja Halonen, H.E. Mr Charles Bernardt Josob photos: Maria Santto / CMI

The changes in the European security environment, politics and economy have direct and indirect implications for the funding of our field. In this period of uncertainty, the value of the strategic support of our long-term core donors (Finland, Sweden and Ireland) has been further accentuated. This funding base is complemented with project-based funding from the EU and a number of European governments. Developing and maintaining a diverse funding portfolio is vital for an independent organisation, not only to mitigate risk and to ensure sustainability of its operations, but also to expand its global impact through strategic partnerships.

> Government of Austria Government of Belgium

> Government of Norway

Government of Switzerland

**Government of The Netherlands** 

#### **INSTITUTIONAL DONORS**









**Rockefeller Brothers Fund** Folke Bernadotte Academy Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Eva Ahlström - foundation Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation

#### **OUR PRIVATE PARTNERS AND DONORS**

CMI's private fundraising strategy in Finland is based on three pillars: private individuals, corporate partnerships, and foundations. The network of private supporters, both corporate partners and private individuals, was revitalised through a series of seminars on European security issues.

The Ladies for Peace Network (L4P) continued to be a prominent group, involving nearly 200 women from different fields united by an interest in peace, world politics and global development. The network meets two to three times a year to discuss topical issues with CMI professionals.

The services provided by our pro bono partners are vital in successful running of our operations, both in everyday business and in development of our work.



#### MARTTI AHTISAARI PEACE FUND

As laid out in the CMI strategy 2030, the board of directors established The Martti Ahtisaari Peace Fund in December 2022. The aim is to raise 30MEUR in the coming years from public and private sources to support CMI's work. The proceeds of the Fund will be used to increase our rapid reaction capacity, for bridge-funding and to support organisational development. This will significantly improve our institutional sustainability and resilience.

With the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine, peace and its sustainability have become one of the biggest concerns for Europeans after decades of peace in the continent. The war in Ukraine has made the global effects of conflicts particularly visible, also for companies: higher inflation, rising interest rates and the stagnation of economic growth.

In its 2022 supplementary budget decision, the Finnish Parliament requested a report on the state's possibilities to participate in the capitalisation of CMI. For the private sector the donation has a long-term significance as interest income, instead of capital, is used.

An investment in peace is an investment in stability and security worldwide. Contact: Riikka Kämppi, Senior Advisor in Public Relations: riikka.kamppi@cmi.fi



# **Finance** overview

thousand euro.

Finland, EU and Sweden remain the biggest insti-Finnish MFA was 7.5 million euro representing 61 % of the total funding. Growth in the Finnish funding is partly due to higher funding level in the current Programme period 2022 - 2025. Funding from the The largest cost item was personnel costs at 4.9 European Union was 2,1 million euro (17 % of total), from Sweden 1.5 million euro (12 % of total) and from other governments 0,6 million euro (5 % of total).

Partnership with the Finnish MFA continues strong. 2022 marked the first year of a new programme period 2022 - 2025. CMI continues to strengthen its current partnerships but also to broaden its funding base by entering new partnerships. Programmatic work at CMI is organized around geographic and thematic teams. In financial terms the areas

In 2022, CMI's total income was 12,3 million euro dominating CMI's work are Eurasia and Sub-Sahagrowing 5 % from previous year (11,6 million euro). ran Africa. Use of funding for the projects in Eurasia CMI's income profile is dominated by ordinary in- region was 3.6 million euro in 2022, which is 29 % come of 11.8 million euro (18.8 in 2021). Income of total funding, and for the projects in Sub-Sahafrom fundraising was 235 thousand euro in 2022 ran Africa region 2,9 million euro or 24 % of total (171 thousand euro in 2021) and other income 210 funding. Volumes in other regional teams remained steady for Middle East and North Africa 1.6 million euro (13 % of total funding), Asia 1,4 million euro (11 %) and Thematic projects 0,9 million euro (7%). tutional donors to CMI's work. Funding from the Costs for programme support (1,0 million euro, 8 % of total) and administration (0.9 million euro, 7 % of total) diminished somewhat from the previous year.

> million euro showing 29 % growth, followed by consultancy costs 2.7 million euro with 2 % growth. This partly reflects some consultancy agreements that were transformed into employment contracts in the previous year. Travel costs were 2,4 million euro with 25 % growth, compared to 2021 that was still affected by pandemic restrictions. Subcontracting costs were 0,5 million euro which is less than half of the previous year. Net result is negative 130 000 euro mainly due to unrealised valuation losses on financial assets.

#### **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**BALANCE SHEET** 

INCOME	2022	2021 *)	ASSETS
	11 806 191		
Public funding		11 184 431	Long term assets
Private fundraising	234 818	274 807	Machinery and equipment
Other income	210 115	172 156	Current assets
			Project Income Receivables
TOTAL INCOME	12 251 124	11 631 394	Other current assets
			Financial assets
			Cash and bank receivables
EXPENSES	2022	2021 *)	
Personnel costs	4 884 123	3 377 073	TOTAL ASSETS
Depreciation	11 838	17 015	
Other expensis	7 485 117	8 091 946	LIABILITIES
			Equity
TOTAL EXPENSES	12 381 077	11 486 034	Own capital
			Endowments
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	- 129 954	143 360	Accumulated profits and
			losses
			Profit / Loss
			Short term liabilities

Current assets		
Project Income Receivables	182 038	532 367
Other current assets	101 057	167 897
Financial assets	1 596 617	1 999 000
Cash and bank receivables	2 283 446	2 733 194
TOTAL ASSETS	4 165 401	5 446 542
LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Own capital	50 000	50 000
Endowments	431 405	331 405
Accumulated profits and	191 399	
losses		
Profit / Loss	- 129 953	291 399
Short term liabilities		
Project Income Advances	1769 936	3 036 778
Accounts payable	934 315	758 083
Other short term liabilities	918 300	978 877
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4 165 401	5 446 542

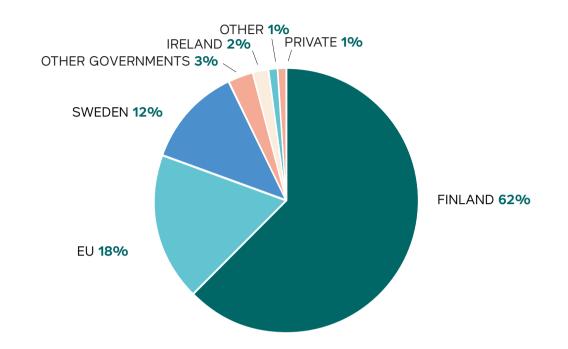
2022

2 243

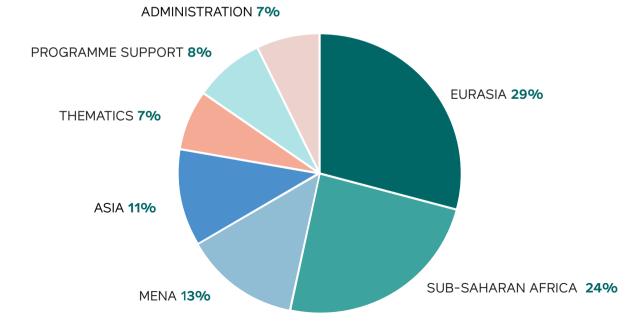
2021

14 084

# **FUNDING SOURCES 2022**



**USES OF FUNDING 2022** 



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1.5.2021 - 31.12.2021

\*)The figures for the year 2021 present the combined income and expenses from the association 1.1.2021 - 30.4.2021 and the foundation

# Our people

#### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation was established on December 4, 2020. The purpose of the foundation is to promote peace and capabilities to prevent and resolve crises globally. The foundation's operations began on May 1, 2021, when the Crisis Management Initiative ry's operations and staff were completely transferred to the established foundation. The goal for establishing a foundation was to secure sustainable structures for expanding operations, continue the legacy of Martti Ahtisaari's work, enable a more reliable and efficient decision-making and administrative structure as well as improve growth and fundraising opportunities.

The foundation's corporate governance structure is based on Finland's Foundations Act according to which CMI's highest decision-making body is the Board of Directors. The board members are selected for a two-vear period. CMI's Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for CMI's long-term strateqy, major financial decisions, the approval of new members and the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). CMI's Board of Directors convened five times in 2022.

Ambassador Janne Taalas was appointed the CEO of the foundation in May 2021. CMI's Executive Director leads CMI's operational work and the implementation of CMI's strategy. The Leadership Team supports the Executive Director in planning and decision-making.

### ONE TEAM - HUMAN RESOURCES AND WELL-BEING

At the end of 2022 CMI had 83 employees. 74 of these employees were based in Helsinki and five were on leaves of absences (study, parental or positioned elsewhere). Nine employees were based in Brussels. In addition, throughout the year 2022, CMI had a variable number of long- and short-term consultants depending on project needs. These consultants total around 100 at any given point throughout the year. In 2023, the number of employees is expected to slightly increase corresponding to the increase of the total volume of CMI's work.

CMI continued to enhance the wellbeing of its employees. This included team workshops and supervisor training on effectiveness and clarity, a lecture on self-compassion during staff retreat and training on secondary trauma. The topics were chosen based on the employee feedback received in wellbeing surveys. In addition, CMI continued close cooperation with the occupational health care pro-

vider Terveystalo in Finland. In Brussels, CMI took several wellbeing actions, for instance, by introducing an organisation-wide health insurance and organising a well-being day focusing on resilience skills. Furthermore, CMI employees elected and appointed an internal whistleblower who acts as a trusted person for anyone who wishes to discuss whistleblowing or specific incidents they wish to report confidentially. In 2023, the work to enhance wellbeing will continue with emphasis on improving resilience, psychosocial support and supervisory and leadership capabilities in the organization.

Late 2022, CMI's headquarter office was renovated with the aim to provide a more multifaceted office space that meets the needs of the new hybrid way of working. New arrangements were planned in close consultation with CMI staff, seeking to ensure continued implementation of necessary and confidential work at the office, promotion of community and well-being at work, and more functional and employee-friendly hybrid working also from the office

SECURITY

CMI's security management model has been continuously developed to address the complex risk environment faced in the new normal. Security management is a full-time activity at CMI, overseen by the Security Manager. Links to peer organisations, safety and security networks and partnerships have been crucial. It is through participation in networks such as the Global Inter-Agency Security Forum (GISF) and Cyber Mediation Network that CMI actively contributes to and guides peer discussions on security and benefits from lessons learned. CMI continues to work with world-class partners in providing security for its staff members.

In 2022 the revised safety and security policy was approved, and crisis management capacity was strengthened through a dedicated simulation exercise for CMI's Crisis Management Team (CMT) and subsequent drafting of accompanying guidance. Outbreak of the war in Ukraine increased CMI's focus on strengthening its planning processes related to high-risk missions. New collaborations were trialed with external security service providers, and all missions to higher risk locations were strengthened with a new security plan. Information security continued to be developed, and an e-training course created together with CMI, UNDDPA and CPI was launched as mandatory. No critical security, safety or information security risks were reported during 2022.



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2022





JANNE TAALAS Chief Executive Officer

HANNA KLINGE Deputy CEO

VILLE BRUMMER Chief Programme Officer

**BOARD 2022** 







**ALEXANDER STUBB** Chair of Board, Director of the School of Transnational Governance

MARKO AHTISAARI Artistic Director, Helsinki Festival

**VEERA HEINONEN** Director Democracy and Participation. Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra



**KARI LAUTJÄRVI** Lagman



**ALEKSI NEUVONEN** Research Director Demos







**KAI SAUER** Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Security Policy, Finnish MFA

**CHRISTOPH VITZTHUM** President and CEO. Fazer Group

# CMI Helsinki

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