

BOLOGNA PEACE BUILDING FORUM

7th edition

Smart Peace.
Tech. Human. Possible.
7-9 May 2025

Organised by



AGENCY FOR
PEACEBUILDING

PROGRAMME

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DAY ONE

Wednesday 7th May

LEGEND:

- CLOSED-DOOR SESSIONS
- OPEN-DOOR SESSIONS

<p>10:00 -13:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">!</p> <p>Sala Conferenze, Biblioteca Salaborsa, (3rd floor) Piazza del Nettuno 3, Bologna</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Toward an Italian Peace Mediation Support Structure</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Roundtable organised with the Italian Network for International Mediation (RIMI)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Close-doors roundtable</i></p>
<p>15:00-17:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">!</p> <p>Palazzo d'Accursio (Sala Anziani), Piazza Maggiore, 6, Bologna</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Beyond the Present Strategic Foresight and Conflict Prevention in Foreign Policy</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Launch and discussion of the AP Policy Paper on "Strategic Foresight and Conflict Prevention at the Service of Foreign Policy"</i></p> <p>Welcome address: Rita Monticelli, Delegate councillor for human rights, interreligious and intercultural dialogue, Municipality of Bologna</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sabrina Bandera, Head of Research Innovation Strategy Division, SNA - Italian National School of Government • Micheal Leigh, Senior Adjunct Professor at SAIS Europe • Bernardo Venturi, Head of Research and Policy, Agency for Peacebuilding <p>Moderator: Azzurra Meringolo Scarfoglio, Foreign Correspondent, Rai Radio 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Open seminar</i></p>

LEGEND:

- CLOSED-DOOR SESSIONS
- OPEN-DOOR SESSIONS

DAY TWO

Thursday 8th May

<p>08:45 – 09:45</p> <p><i>Closed-door working breakfast</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BPF Early Talks</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Changemakers strategic conversation on peacebuilding trends and opportunities</i></p>
<p>9:45-16:00</p> <p><i>International Conference</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">📍</p> <p>Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe, Via B. Andreatta, 3, Bologna</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Smart Peace. Tech. Human. Possible.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>High-level international conference on challenges and opportunities for peacebuilding in a digital era</i></p> <p>09:45 – 10:15 Arrival of participants and welcome coffee</p> <p>10:15 – 10:30 Welcome address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celina Del Felice, President, Agency for Peacebuilding • Renaud Dehousse, Rector, SAIS Europe, Vice Dean, SAIS <p>10:30 – 11:15 Keynote speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Mac Ginty, Professor, Durham Global Security Institute, Durham University. <p>11:15 – 12:45 Session I – PeaceTech: wishful thinking or reality?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michele Giovanardi, Programme Officer, Digital Peacemaking - CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation • Andrea Locatelli, Professor, Università Cattolica, Milan • Lena Slachmujlder, Senior Advisor, Digital Peacebuilding and Co-Chair, Council on Tech and Social Cohesion <p>Moderator: Evelyn Pauls, Senior Advisor, Agency for Peacebuilding</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lunch break</i></p> <p>14:00-15:30 Session II – Technology for peace: regional perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monicah Marubu Muthoni, Member of the Kenyan Parliament • Ariel Bernstein, Researcher and human rights advocate (formerly: Breaking the Silence, Bellingcat) • Asma Ahmed, Country Manager - Sudan, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue • Mahmoud Bastati, SWANA Lead at Build Up <p>Moderator: Giulia Ferraro, Project Manager, Agency for Peacebuilding</p> <p>15:30 – 16:00 Final remarks: innovative ways forward</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Final aperitif and networking</i></p>

DAY THREE

Friday 9th May


LEGEND:

 STUDENT-ONLY SESSION

Next Generation Forum

FORESIGHT LAB FOR PEACEBUILDING THROUGH THE LIVE ACTION ROLE PLAYING (LARP) METHODOLOGY

8:30 - 13.00

Youth Lab
Laboratorio 41
Training centre, Via
Castiglione 41,
Bologna

The Bologna Peacebuilding Forum 2025 offers the opportunity for selected students to participate in the innovative foresight lab for peacebuilding, made through the Live Action Role Playing (LARP) technique. AP trainers will use immersive experience design to gain firsthand experiences of the moral and practical dilemmas of the future of peace and global security. After the immersive experience, the participants will be invited for a debrief and reflection on their experience. A workshop will be organised to engage them with futures and foresight tools which will assist them in using their reflections and firsthand LARP experience to think of different possible and probably future scenarios for peacebuilding challenges that they are faced with in their work and studies.

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Today's world is increasingly shaped by protracted wars and polarised societies. While political leaders routinely refer to peace as a priority, trust in mediation and peace processes is eroding. Even more worryingly, armed conflicts are more and more perceived as a legitimate way of solving international disputes and exercising power, while international law and human rights are often ignored.

Now at its seventh edition, the Bologna Peacebuilding Forum has become a leading global event for scholars and practitioners to discuss new frontiers of peacebuilding.

This edition will explore innovative ways of building peace, with particular reference to the role of digital and communication technologies.

Technology is an integral part of most aspects of life. It constantly changes and redefines the way we communicate, work and access information and public services. We often focus on the risks associated with technology, while its potential opportunities are frequently overlooked. At the same time, while peacebuilding remains a human-centred endeavour in which personal interactions are crucial, the recent technological changes are transforming the field.

Against this backdrop, the Bologna Peacebuilding Forum will provide a space to analyse and discuss challenges and opportunities for peacebuilding in a digital era. The ambition is to pioneer innovative ways to address violent conflicts and use technology in smart and human-centred ways.