SOVEREIGNTY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS:

DIALOGUES ON PERPETUAL PEACE

A WORKSHOP CO-ORGANIZED BY THE

EUROPEAN UNION NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF CULTURE,

INTERNATIONAL PEACE INSTITUTE (IPI),

SLOUGH FOUNDATION,

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY HUMANITIES CENTER,

AND UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

with the support of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

International Peace Institute’s

Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security & Development

777 UN Plaza, 12th Floor
(corner of 44th Street & 1st Avenue)

New York

16 November 2010

AGENDA
The Perpetual Peace Project is a partnership among the European Union National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC), the International Peace Institute (IPI), the United Nations University, Slought Foundation, and Syracuse University Humanities Center. It joins theorists and practitioners in revisiting 21st century prospects for international peace. The project finds its public form in symposia, exhibitions, lectures, as well as a feature film organized around Immanuel Kant’s foundational essay “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” (1795), which itself takes the form of an international treaty exploring the possibility of permanent peace. Positing peace as an unnatural state that must be enforced by international laws and governing bodies, Kant effectively anticipates multilateral institutions like the United Nations and the European Union. Though the essay’s ironic tone suggests the impossibility of this vision, one of its ultimate goals is to nevertheless challenge the politicians who mock the concept as "a childish and pedantic idea," and to create in their place a newly discursive space for discussing peace and international law.

This project aspires, as Kant himself proposed, to facilitate a conversation with those philosophers who engage with the idea of peace, with those practitioners who participate directly in the world of international relations, and with those governing bodies who have the power to truly make peace a sustainable reality.

The workshop is the capstone event of the Perpetual Peace Project. It hopes to build on the active participation of all attendees and will be organized as roundtable discussion among all participants around three key elements of Kant’s essay:

1) collective security and the implications for sovereignty;

2) democracy, governance, and rule of law; and

3) human rights and cosmopolitan citizenship.

What the workshop aspires to do is to stimulate a conversation on current obstacles to international peace and security, ways to overcome them, and the implications for sovereign states. This conversation will include practitioners who work directly on the prevention and solution of violent conflicts, diplomats who have the power to truly make peace a sustainable reality, and scholars who engage with the idea of peace. The workshop will also present an original film, featuring conversations with renowned philosophers and practitioners reflecting on Perpetual Peace with reference to current international priorities and conflicts.
8:30-9:00  Breakfast

9:00-9:20  Welcome and Introduction
          Warren Hoge, Vice President for External Relations, International Peace Institute
          Aaron Levy, Executive Director and Chief Curator, Slought Foundation
          Horia-Roman Patapievici, President of the EU Institutes for Culture Global Network (EUNIC) and President of Romanian Cultural Institute Network

9:20-9:30  Keynote Remarks
          Norbert Darabos, Minister of Defence and Sports, Government of Austria

9:30-9:45  Brief Comments on Immanuel Kant’s "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch"
          Michael Doyle, Harold Brown Professor of U.S. Foreign and Security Policy, Columbia University

9:45-11:15  Session 1: Sovereignty and Collective Security
          At the heart of Kant’s essay lies the idea that the natural state between nations is war, not peace. Peace, therefore, must be established by securing the right of all nations through the foundation of a federation of free states. “This league does not seek any power of the sort possessed by nations, but only the maintenance and security of each nation’s own freedom.” This session will focus on the key challenges of collective security and the implications for sovereignty. What is the current condition and future potential of global collective security? What reasonable constraints on sovereignty must states accept to exit their natural state of conflict in favor of establishing a global legal order with the goal of preventing war forever? Non-state actors also have a growing influence on global collective security. How should sovereign states engage with them?

Opening Comments:  Robert Jervis, Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Affairs, Columbia University
          Pedro Serrano, Acting Head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations, New York

Roundtable Discussion
          Moderator:  Edward C. Luck, Senior Vice President for Research and Programs, International Peace Institute

11:15-11:30  Coffee Break

11:30-1:00  Session 2: Democracy, Governance, and the Rule of Law
          The first Definitive Article of Kant’s Perpetual Peace states that every nation must have a republican constitution, which for Kant meant that it must have a government characterized by the rule of law and a separation of powers rather than “despotism.” This session will focus on the relationship between international security and domestic governance. To what extent is collective security dependent upon the spread of democracy and the rule of law? What is the proper role of the international community in promoting good governance and the rule of law or in strengthening weak and fragile states? How should “illiberal” regimes be addressed by the international community? Are they necessarily an impediment to the establishment of lasting peace and security?
Opening Comments: Pablo de Greiff, Director, Research Unit, International Center for Transitional Justice

Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

Roundtable Discussion
Moderator: William C. Banks, Board of Advisors Distinguished Professor, Syracuse University

1:00-2:00
Lunch
Screening of a documentary film, featuring conversations with renowned philosophers and practitioners reflecting on Immanuel Kant's essay Perpetual Peace with reference to their own fields of practice.

2:00-3:30
Session 3: Human Rights and Cosmopolitan Citizenship
The Third Definitive Article of Kant's Perpetual Peace relates to the establishment of a "cosmopolitan right" to hospitality based upon a sense of common ownership over the earth's surface. In simple terms, this relates to the right to travel to a foreign country and not be treated like a spy or enemy. But, significantly, this also relates to the legal establishment of individual rights that transcend any single nation-state. This session will focus on the complex relation between individual rights and state-based international law. In a time of heightened population movements, what obligations does a right to hospitality create for the care and protection of refugees and immigrants? Who must satisfy these obligations? Currently, to what extent do human rights and international humanitarian law establish a layer of cosmopolitan or global citizenship above and beyond—or in complement to—national citizenship?

Opening Comments: Elazar Barkan, Professor of International and Public Affairs, Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University

Iain Levine, Deputy Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Roundtable Discussion
Moderator: Gudrun Harrer, Senior Editor, Der Standard, and lecturer at Vienna University and at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna

3:30-4:00
Wrap Up Discussion
Moderator: Andreas Stadler, Director, Austrian Cultural Forum, New York