



*IPB Peace Education Webinar Series*

# Neutrality in the 21st Century and Why It Remains Relevant

Description: The topic of neutrality has come back into the spotlight as a result of both immediate security concerns, such as the war in Ukraine, and larger, geopolitical shifts, including the growing political, military, and economic tensions between the West and China. Longstanding neutral countries such as Ireland and Austria are now considering whether to maintain or shed their historic positions while others such as Finland have already abandoned their neutrality because of the war in Ukraine. Still, many countries claim to be neutral – though the meanings may vary – from Costa Rica to Ghana, Mongolia, and the Vatican City. Nonetheless, the multiple crises that the world faces may also create an opening for new discussions on what neutrality means and why it is important.

In this webinar series, we will explore neutrality from various angles:

- What does neutrality really mean?
- What is the international legal perspective on neutrality?
- In what forms is neutrality currently practiced and how has it been practiced in the past?
- What are the geographical dimensions to neutrality?
- What are the current challenges to neutrality and why?
- What is the role of civil society in the conversation on neutrality?
- Is neutrality still relevant? Are there new ways to explore neutrality in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that differ from the past interpretations?

This webinar series is directed to a wide audience of peace activists, academics and students, civil society both in current and aspiring neutral countries, and anyone else interested in discussing the nuance of neutrality.

Participants will receive a **certificate** upon completion of the course.



**Last Update: 17.01**

## ***Neutrality in the 21st Century and Why It Remains Relevant***

### **Overall Objectives:**

This webinar series is directed to students as well as both young and experienced activists who are interested to explore the nuance of neutrality. Overall, it aims to:

- Provide an overview of neutrality and its relevance in the 21st century
- Discuss the importance of neutrality in the current times
- Analyze the cases of neutrality globally and ways to combat the challenges in modern times
- Generate strategies to encourage movements to advocate for a neutral states
- Develop ways for a more neutral, peaceful and safe states for the present and future

**Schedule:** 5 February to 11 March 2024

2 hour session (90 minutes per session, 30 minutes afterwards for optional continued discussion)

**Time:** Berlin 14:00 CET, New Delhi 18:30, San Jose (Costa Rica) 07:00, Japan 22:00

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/NeutralityRegistration>

Session Title	Content	Objectives	Schedule
Session 1: What is neutrality?	a. Opening Preliminary b. Outlining the program of the course Neutrality 101 Introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Definition of neutrality               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Neutrality and Permanent Neutrality</li> <li>➤ Differences between neutrality, non alignment and strategic ambiguity</li> <li>➤ Norms in Neutrality</li> <li>➤ Neutrality in multipolarity</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Why neutrality? Why now?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce the topic and course outline</li> <li>- Define neutrality through the participant's common understanding and technical terms</li> <li>- Discuss the international policies related to neutrality</li> <li>- Differentiate the definition of pacifism and neutrality through case studies</li> </ul>	Monday, 5.02



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Difference between pacifism and neutrality           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>Switzerland</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>d. The Law of Neutrality</li> <li>e. Q&amp;A and reminders for the next session</li> </ul>		
<p>Session 2: Case studies on permanent neutrality – how do states practise permanent neutrality and what are the threats?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Opening Preliminary and review of concepts from first session</li> <li>b. Part 1: How do states practise permanent neutrality and what are the threats?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Case studies:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ireland</li> <li>➤ Austria</li> <li>➤ Finland</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Q&amp;A and reminders for the next session</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate the practices of neutrality in different countries</li> <li>- Examine the advantages and threats in practicing neutrality</li> </ul>	<p>Monday, 12.02</p>
<p>Session 3: Continuation of case studies on permanent neutrality – how do states practise neutrality and what are the threats?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Opening Preliminary and review of concepts from second session</li> <li>b. Part 2: How do states practice neutrality and what are the threats?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Case studies:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Costa Rica</li> <li>➤ Ghana</li> <li>➤ Mongolia</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Q&amp;A and reminders for the next session</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compare the practices of neutrality in different states</li> <li>- Identify the lessons learned from practicing permanent neutrality in each state</li> <li>- Examine the advantages and threats of the different cases of permanent neutrality</li> </ul>	<p>Monday, 19.02</p>
<p>Session 4: What does it mean to be neutral in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Opening Preliminary and review of concepts from third session</li> <li>b. Geopolitical realities           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Global South</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss the geopolitical realities and dynamics of power in global north and global south and their position in neutrality</li> <li>- Demonstrate the effects of super power</li> </ul>	<p>Monday, 26.02</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Caught between superpowers:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Australia</li> <li>ii. Philippines</li> <li>iii. Guam</li> <li>iv. Ukraine</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. How neutral countries can contribute to a more peaceful world in modern times</li> <li>e. Q&amp;A and reminders for the next session</li> </ul>	<p>dynamics in Australia, Philippines, Guam and Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appraise the importance of neutral states in contributing to a more peaceful and safe world</li> <li>- Critique the relevance of neutral states in the modern times</li> </ul>	
Session 5: The role of civil society in neutrality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Opening Preliminary and review of concepts from fourth session</li> <li>b. How to combat threats to neutrality by civil society organizations           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PANA</li> <li>● AbFang</li> <li>● IPAN</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Workshop - How to encourage a movement for more neutral countries</li> <li>d. Q&amp;A and reminders for the next session</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify the ways to resist the threats of neutrality</li> <li>- Enumerate the important roles of international institutions and civil societies including climate/ environmental movements</li> <li>- Generate ways to encourage movements to advocate for more neutral states</li> </ul>	Monday, 4.03
Session 6: Weaving the past, present and future of permanent neutrality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Opening Preliminary and review of concepts from fifth session</li> <li>b. The Non-Aligned movement: past, present and future</li> <li>c. Workshop - Reimagining the world with more permanent neutral states</li> <li>d. Synthesis of lessons learned and Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examine the Non-Aligned movement experiences from the past to the present and future</li> <li>- Synthesize the lessons learned from the whole course</li> <li>- Plan an alternative future if all the states are permanent neutral</li> </ul>	Monday, 11.03