

Turkmenistan: a Roadmap for Germany



12 December is a special day of peace. On 12 December 1995, the United Nations recognised Turkmenistan's decision to declare permanent neutrality. Since then, 12 December has been a national holiday in Turkmenistan. In 2025, the 30th anniversary of permanent neutrality will be celebrated. Turkmenistan followed in the footsteps of Ukraine, which had already solemnly declared in its declaration of state sovereignty on 16 July 1990 that, as a permanently neutral state, it would not participate in military blocs. (The 'Western' influences that destroyed this are well known.) Turkmenistan followed Austria, which declared perpetual neutrality in 1955, and Switzerland, whose neutrality is based on the Hague Convention of 1907.

Since 2017, 12 December has been International Neutrality Day. The United Nations General Assembly declared this day as such in 2017 with its Resolution 71/275 – 'reaffirming also the great importance of upholding the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, self-determination, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered, Underlining that the national policies of neutrality of some States can contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security in relevant regions and at the global level and can play an important role in developing peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relations between the countries of the world, Recognizing that such national policies of neutrality are aimed at promoting the use of preventive diplomacy, including through the prevention of conflict, mediation, good offices, fact-finding missions, negotiation, the use of special envoys, informal consultations, peacebuilding and targeted development activities [...]'. Swiss historian Pascal Lottaz comments: 'The undisputed "champion" of neutrality among the former Soviet states is undoubtedly Turkmenistan... Thanks to Turkmenistan, the UN has officially declared 12 December... "Neutrality Day" – thank you, Turkmenistan.'

The campaign 'For a Neutral Germany' calls for Germany to follow suit and declare in an amendment to the Basic Law: "Inspired by the desire to serve world peace, Germany declares its perpetual neutrality. Accordingly, Germany will not belong to any military alliances in the future, will only deploy its military for national defence, will not export war material, will not finance foreign warring parties and will not allow military bases of foreign states on its territory. Germany uses its perpetual neutrality to prevent and resolve conflicts and is available as an active, peace-promoting mediator." This should be put into practice by the 10th anniversary of Neutrality Day on 12 December 2027 at the latest. Achieving this is a worthy task for the peace movement and all social forces that have not yet fallen prey to the madness of war.

*Cross-camp campaign "Für ein neutrales Deutschland" (For a Neutral Germany)
(initialized by AG Frieden dieBasis Köln)*

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