Non-state actors – such as civil society organizations, businesses and violent actors – play an increasingly important role in conflicts. They are involved in violent conflicts on the international, national and local levels and participate in discussions (disputes) about security-related topics such as freedom of expression and cyber security. Non-state actors can cause conflicts or struggle for recognition and acceptance, or they can get involved in global governance initiatives to address conflicts.

The 2015 PRIF Annual Conference taking place on 8 and 9 October will discuss the benefits and risks resulting from the involvement of non-state actors in violent and non-violent conflicts. Questions to be addressed include the following: Is the inclusion of non-state actors beneficial or detrimental to achieve peace and justice? Does the involvement of non-state actors contribute to finding and implementing effective solutions for security concerns? How does their involvement affect democracy and the legitimacy of political processes?

The 2015 PRIF Annual Conference aims to bring together researchers and practitioners from civil society and the private and public sectors to discuss these questions.

**Preliminary Programme**

**Thursday, 8 October 2015**

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
Public Forum:  
Freedom of Expression vs. Protection of Religion: From Conflict to Convergence

**Friday, 9 October 2015**

9:00 am - 9:30 am  
Introduction  
Prof. Dr. Klaus Dieter Wolf, PRIF

9:30 am - 11:00 am  
Panel 1: Non-State Actors and the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law – Potential and Risks of their Inclusion

11:00 am - 11:30 am  
Coffee break

11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Panel 2: Just and Inclusive Resource Governance – An (Im)possible Task?

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
Lunch

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Panel 3: Non-State Actors and the Securitization of the Internet

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Coffee break

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Closing remarks