

Curriculum Vitae

Michael von der Schulenburg

Full name:

Michael Sergius Graf von der Schulenburg

Nationality:

German

Born:

16 October 1948, Munich

Family status:

one wife, four children, two dogs

Languages:

German, English, rusty French, some Spanish and embarrassingly little Dutch

Honors: 2020 **Grand Commander** of the Republic of Sierra Leone (highest honor of SL)

Post retirement activities

- Since May 2012 **Retired** from the UN, various teaching engagements, published various papers on peacebuilding and peacekeeping; including a book *“On Building Peace – Rescuing the Nation-state and Saving the United Nations”* AUP, 2017; (see final section on publications). Many speaking engagements in Geneva, London, Oxford, Wilton Park, Reading, Washington, New York, Beijing, Berlin, Hamburg, Dresden, Krems, Alpbach, Freiburg, Turin, Vienna, Guangzhou, etc.
- October – November 2018 **Visiting fellow at Pembroke College**, Oxford for their programme ‘Changing Character of War’; focus: the role of intra-state armed conflicts and its impact on peace negotiations and peace agreements. Papers: *Era of Armed Non-State Actors (series of three papers)*
- 2017 **Published the book** “On Building Peace – Rescuing the Nation-state and Saving the United Nations” Amsterdam University Press;
- April – May 2017 **Afghanistan:** Participated in a strategic review of the future role of UN mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); prepared a proposal for the SG and Security Council on changing UN mandate from post-conflict peacebuilding to peace-making in conflict, outlined approach for eventual peace negotiations with the Taliban, suggested organizational adjustments for UNAMA. Report: *Brief for SG: A Strategic Review; Seeking an Afghan Peace Solution*
- October 2016 – February 2017 **Sahel:** Mission for the UN into the G-5 Sahel; prepared to proposal for a UN supported strategy to help prevent terrorism and extremism among the youth;
- September – December 2016 **Bundeswehr (German military):** Member of an expert panel formed by German Institute for Politics and Security (Stiftung für Wissenschaft and Politik, SWP),

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Berlin, to review options for future of German foreign political and military interventions. Report: *Deutschland's Neue Kleider*

Work experiences

- May 2008 –
April 2012
Sierra Leone
- Executive Representative of the Secretary General to Sierra Leone (ERSG)**
Served as ERSG while being also the head of the UN political mission, the UN resident coordinator, UN humanitarian coordinator, UNDP resident representative and Designated Official for security in Sierra Leone. This for the UN unusual combination of UN positions was a decision by the Security Council to bring about a single leadership and single strategy for implementing an integrated peacebuilding approach in Sierra Leone. It coincided with the task of ended UN peacekeeping operation to replace it with a civilian fully integrated peacebuilding mission that combined the political mandate with the development and humanitarian mandates of UN agencies into one single strategy, introduced a stronger UN focus with only 21 and later seven integrated programmes; responsible for 2008 local and regional elections, succeeded in calming of the 2009 outbreak of political violence, developed a Joint Communique under which government and opposition parties could work together, prevented the derailing of the 2012 presidential elections, developed an exit strategy based on seven sets of criteria. Interlocutor with the Peacebuilding Commission.
Main report: *A Joint communique for Sierra Leone; October 2009; A Criteria-based UN Transition Strategy for Sierra Leone; October 2011*
- April 2008 –
May 2008
Afghanistan
- Special mission to Afghanistan (ASG), UNAMA**
On behalf of UN-DPA conducted a comprehensive review of the role of the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) and its operational activities throughout the country, and prepared proposals for a better future UN focus of its engagements.
Main report: *Enhancing the Role of the UN in Afghanistan by Reaching out; May 2008*
- January –
May 2008
New York
- Assistant Secretary General (ASG), UNDPA**
Special assignment for working out the lessons from the UN Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI) and preparing a proposal for better managing UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions.
Main report: *Seven Principles for UN Peace Operations; March 2008*
- May 2005 –
December 2007
Iraq
- Principle Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG) for Political Affairs to Iraq**
Support to SRSG to Iraq in his assignment to assist the new Iraqi government during the political transition in accordance with the Security Council mandate; responsible for organizing free and fair elections in 2005, for finalizing the

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drafting of a new constitution and the holding of a constitutional referendum; in charge of maintaining a political dialogue among political parties and stakeholders in Iraq; of trying to seek solutions for the Kirkuk question and efforts to launch a Baghdad Peace Initiative. Conducting regular consultations with Security Council members, in particular the P-5 and with the military leadership of the multinational forces. Responsible for the drafting of six-monthly Security Council reports and prepared regularly papers on political developments and options for UN interventions.

Final report: *The UN in Iraq and the Old Man without Teeth*, 2008

April – May 2005

Somalia

Special mission to Somalia

Support the UN resident coordinator and the UN country team coordinating humanitarian and development assistance to Somalia while supporting efforts for the formation of an Interim Somali Government (in exile).

November 2001 –
February 2002

Afghanistan

Special mission in support of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan

At the request of UN Secretary General supported Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, SRSG/ UNAMA, during the first crucial months of setting up a UN support mission in Kabul in following up the Bonn Agreement. This included helping set up the Afghan interim administration, revitalizing the remnants of the Afghan civil service; it also included helping bridge tensions between interim President Karzai in Kabul and the regional warlord Ismail Khan.

Main report: *Afghanistan: Peace in a Glasshouse – Challenges for the UN*; June 2002

2003 – 2005

Vienna

Support to Martti Ahtisaari's ICT initiative

While working for the OSCE, supported Martti Ahtisaari's ICT initiative and developed a proposal for a comprehensive ICT platform that would enable governments in fragile countries to exercise greater national ownership by providing it an IT-based toolkit to integrate and manage all national and internal resources.

Main report: *Government out of the Box (GooB) – a toolkit for peacebuilding*; 2005

Jan. 2001 –
March 2005

Vienna

Director for Management and Finance (OSCE)

Responsible for all operational, budgetary, financial and administrative aspects of OSCE operations at HQ and in its field missions; introduced and completed a major management reform to enable the organization to become more responsive to requests by its participating States for rapid operational interventions. This included a complete revision of OSCE's regulatory framework, and the introduction of an IT-based management system called IRMA – Integrated Resource Management system. An investment of Euro 7.7 million led to a reduction of administrative costs by 32%.

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Final report: *OSCE's Management Reforms: IRMA and the Yellow Laptop*, Jan. 2005

February 1999 –
December 2000

Vienna

Director for Operations and Analysis UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Responsible for UNODC's world-wide operational and technical assistance activities on drugs and crime as well as UNODC's research and technical publications; developed a five-point reform programme to better focus UNODC's operations to respond better to shifts in global illicit drugs and crime activities; introduced ICT-based management system, PROFI to achieve greater transparency; resigned due to disagreements with the Executive Director over his handling of financial resources.

Final report: *UNODC and the Management of its Credibility*, December 2000

October 1998

Afghanistan

Special mission to Taliban-held Kandahar

Accompanied first Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi and went later back alone to Kandahar, Afghanistan, to meet with Taliban leader Mullah Omar, negotiated and obtained the release of 40 Iranian hostages and hence help prevent a military clash between Iranian Pasdaran and Afghan Taliban forces that could easily have exploded into a regional Shite – Sunni armed conflict; investigated the killing of nine Iranian diplomats during the 1998 fall of Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, to Taliban forces.

1995 – 1998

Central Asia

Special missions in support of 6+2 Talks

Accompanied Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, Special UN Envoy for Afghanistan, at the 6+2 Talks to virtually all Central Asian countries as well as to meetings in the region and in Geneva with the aim to derive at a consensus in how to seek a political solution to the on-going armed conflicts within Afghanistan.

April 1992 –
January 1999

Iran

UN Resident Coordinator for Iran

Senior interlocutor at country level with the Iranian Government; maintaining policy dialogue on all UN-related issues and operations; responsible for UNDP's technical assistance programme. Given the special circumstances of Iran, much work was dedicated to supporting missions dealing with human rights, nuclear proliferation and illicit drug control as well on issues related to Afghanistan and Iraq. Organized visits of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director General of IEAE and UNODC as well as visits by SGs Boutros Ghali und SG Kofi Annan to Iran. After the end of the Iran-Iraq war, they were designed to help bring Iran back into the international community.

January 1991 –
February 1992

Syria/ Iran

Special assignments during the first Gulf war to free Kuwait

Under the leadership of Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, UN Special Envoy and Humanitarian Coordinator of the Secretary General for the Gulf War undertook two assignments:

- Senior UN Emergency Coordinator to Syria: Following the outbreak of the first Gulf war, lead an inter-agency team to identify and take measures to mitigate any negative fall-out of the war on Syria, especially to deal with

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humanitarian issues related to all refugee or IDP movements caused by the war.

- Special Envoy to Iran: Following the massive influx of Iraqi refugees, was sent to Iran to find ways with the Iranian government for the safe return of refugees, negotiated with Iraqi Peshmerga; went cross-border into Southern Iraq to investigate the plight of Iraqi Shiites who may have fled into the Marshlands.

August 1989 –
January 1991

Afghanistan

Chief of Mission, Operation Salaam, Kabul Afghanistan

Headed UN Operation Salaam office in Kabul after the withdrawal of Soviet forces. Acted as main interlocutor on reconstruction and rehabilitation issues with the Najibullah government; opened Central, Western and Northern Afghanistan to UN assistance including opening of UN offices in Bamian, Herat, Mazar and Faisabad. Introduced crossline operations for the first time between government and mujahedeen held areas, cross-border operations between the Soviet Union and areas in Afghanistan and the concept of Food-through-Bazar to fight the locust pest and famine in Northern Afghanistan.

October 1988 –
December 1988

Afghanistan

Special mission on horse-back through Afghanistan

Member of a team of four UN officials travelling for 2.5 months through Eastern, Northern and Central Afghanistan on horse-back along Mujahedeen trails. Main aim was to establish contacts with major mujahedeen groups and their commanders inside the country, to agree on ways to work with them after the withdrawal of Soviet Forces and investigate ways of delivering humanitarian and development assistance to areas not controlled by the government.

February 1987 –
August 1989

Iran

Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP

Responsible for the technical assistance programme of UNDP in Iran. Mission coincided with the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Helded organize UN missions to investigate the use of chemical weapons; helped organize ICAO investigation following the downing of an IranAir flight by a US war ship over the Persian Gulf and supported several UN missions to investigate the use of chemical weapons by Iraq. As OiC of the mission supported negotiations to end the Iran-Iraq war, the setting up of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) to help implement the ceasefire and assisted the UN supported exchange of prisoners of war between Iran and Iraq.

Facilitated visit of SG Perez de Cuellar.

Jan. 1983 -
Jan. 1987

Pakistan

Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP

Responsible of a portfolio of UNDP's technical assistance programme in Pakistan. During this assignment come for the first time in contact with the problems related to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the plight of Afghan refugees.

September 1980 –
December 1982

Programme Officer, UNDP

Responsible for some of UNDP's technical assistance programmes in Haiti

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Haiti

August 1978 – **Junior Professional Officer (JPO)**
August 1980
New York
Responsible for HQ support for UNDP in the Caribbean Islands

Education

August 1977 – **Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA)**
May 1978
Paris
Post-graduate studies in public administration, practical work at the Prefecture du Lot, study on impact of a recently introduced rural employment promotion scheme; participated as German exchange student.

September 1975 – **German Institute for Development (DIE)**
May 1976
Berlin
Applied post-graduate studies and field missions to prepare candidates for a career in international development assistance; special assignment: economic impact of Lomé Agreement in Kenia and Kameron.

September 1971 – **London School of Economics (LSE)**
August 1972
London
Exchange student at LSE; specializing on public finance and decision theory.

September 1969 – **Freie Universitaet Berlin (FU)**
August 1975
Berlin
Studied economics and philosophy; became student tutor and later junior research assistant at the FU Institute for Public Finance. 1975 obtained degree as Diplom-Volkswirt (Master of Economics) with a work on the impact of John Rawl's Theory of Justice on public finance decision-making.

June 1969
Escaped East to West Germany over the Baltic Sea

October 1967 - **Military service**
May 1968
East Germany
Compulsory 18-months military service as soldier in an artillery regiment of the NVA (East German 'national defense force') in Orangeburg, East Germany.

June 1967
East Germany
Abitur, Koenigswusterhausen
Completed eight years of compulsory school and four years of extended school with an Abitur (university entry examines).
Carpenter diploma, as is general practice in East Germany, I went through a four-year apprenticeship and obtained a diploma as carpenter.

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Special work experiences

My profession career was somewhat different from those of many of my colleagues in as much that had worked in both the field and headquarters and that I held senior assignments in virtually all relevant areas of UN operational activities from development to humanitarian assistance and from political, global crime issues to managements and administration. Throughout my career, I dealt with weak and fragile nation-states, many of which went through intra-state armed conflicts.

Special life events

I grew up in East Germany, went there to school and through the obligatory military service in Oranienburg (in the former SS barracks for guarding the Sachsenhausen concentration camp). In June of 1969, my twin brother and I managed to escape to the West over the Baltic Sea hiding in the bowls of the Merseburg, an East German Cargo Freighter that transported military equipment to Vietnam.

I held many jobs to finance my studies as lorry driver, as farm help, language tutor, trader of shirts in Portobello market, shop assistant in Kings Road and Jeremy Street, as dealer in antique English silver, student tutor and carpenter for stage productions at the Schaubühne in Berlin. With a refugee from Prague, my brother and I run a small company for cleaning staircases and rubbish sites of Berlin apartment blocks.

During my assignments with the United Nations, I undertook many dangerous missions. I faced a number of attacks including an attack by members of Revolutionary Committees on my residence (1987), remained in Teheran during the war of the cities and the missile attacks (1988), crossed mine fields and high mountain passes during my horse-back travel through Afghanistan (1988), experienced almost daily missile attacks including cluster bombs during my mission in Kabul (1990), crossed into Kurdish Iraq to negotiate with Peshmerga forces and travelled through no-mans-lands into Iraqi marshlands to investigate the plight of Shiite rebels in South Iraq (1992). In a reaction to the Srebrenica Massacre I faced several hostile demonstrations against UN in Teheran including the run-sacking of its office (1995). I dealt with the unexplained killing of police guard at my residence (1996), was injured in a cluster bomb in Kabul (1990), survived a road-side bomb against my convoy in Baghdad (2006) and a hand-grenade attack outside the Green Zone in Baghdad (2006). In 2009, I personally intervened to save 24 young men from the risk of being lynched by a huge, agitated crowd in Freetown, probably the most dangerous action I ever took.

I helped organize and support visits of four Secretary Generals to Iran, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone: Perez de Cuellar, Boutros Boutros Ghali, Kofi Annan and Ban ki-Moon.

Publications

During my career with the United Nations and shortly also with the OSCE, I wrote great many political papers as well as papers on operational and organizational matters. Most political papers were about Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Sierra Leone; most organizational papers are about UN reform issues including on peacebuilding aspects, ICT supported management systems and inter-UN agency coordination. All these papers remain internal UN papers.

Book

- *On Building Peace – Rescuing the Nation State and Saving the United Nations*, AUP, June 2017

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Articles

- *Peacebuilding needs more effective tools*, contribution in Global Europe, Report 3: Rescuing the State, edited by Malcolm Chalmers, The Foreign Policy Center, 2005
- *Can Peacebuilding drive the UN change agenda?* Contribution in Post-2015 UN Development – Making Change happen, edited by Stephen Browne and Thomas Weiss, Routledge, 2014
- *Re-thinking Peacebuilding – Transforming a UN Approach*, International Peace Institute, Sept.2014
- *Keeping or Building Peace – The Challenges of solving Intra-State Armed Conflicts*, Center for International Cooperation, NYU, Dec. 2014
- *The IS, the US and Us – Options for Confronting the ISIS* (im Deutschen: *Lasst die IS doch einfach an sich selbst scheitern*), IPG, Sept. 2014
- *Der Westen das sind jetzt wir?* IPG, Aug. 2017
- *Conflicts inside states demand a new global security regime*, Financial Times, 21 September 2017
- *In Search for Pathways to Peace*, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, New York, April 2018
- *Welt in UN-Ordnung*, IPG, July 2018
- *Global Peace Needs an Up-dated UN Charter*, PeaceLab, September 2018
- *Why Global Peace Needs Nation-States*, IPG, November 2018
- *Why the West Needs the UN*, IPG, June 2019
- *Weak, and not strong, nation-states threaten future peace and security*, 2019 International Conference Papers, Institute Public Policy, Guangzhou, China
- *An Opportunity the UN and its SG must not Miss*, Euronews, 18 Nov. 2019
- *The Era of Armed Non-Stat Actors*, Oxford University, Programme Changing Character of Armed Conflicts:
 - (i) *The Risk of Global Chaos*, 15 Feb. 2020
 - (ii) *The Void in International Law*, 29 Feb. 2020
 - (iii) *The Dilemma of UN Peace Missions*, under preparation
- *Afghanistan – Ein Ende mit Schrecken*, JPG, 25. März 2020
- *Gescheitert am Hindukusch: Jahrzehntelang hat der Westen in Afghanistan «nation building» versucht und zugleich Krieg geführt – nun hinterlässt er ein Chaos*, Neue Züricher Zeitung, 26. Juni 2020
- *Armed Non-State Actors – the New Frontline of War and Peace*, University of Torino, Twait, 2020