



Peace as common good

A context driven approach

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Why start with the context?

- ▶ The news these days. Every day...
- ▶ The context is not the background, but the framework in which everything happens. It shapes opportunities and constraints.
- ▶ We have no roads or motorways, only paths that climb, sometimes disappear and then reappear. Behind every bend, behind every hill, a different scenario, a new panorama
- ▶ What will we find? We think we can guess by looking back... but we find surprise, discouragement, an opening onto another perspective
- ▶ What is the role of Christians? Of those who find themselves 'on the margins'? And does it represent a bridge between different cultures, perspectives and realities?

What is the biggest risk that humanity will have to face in the next two-years?



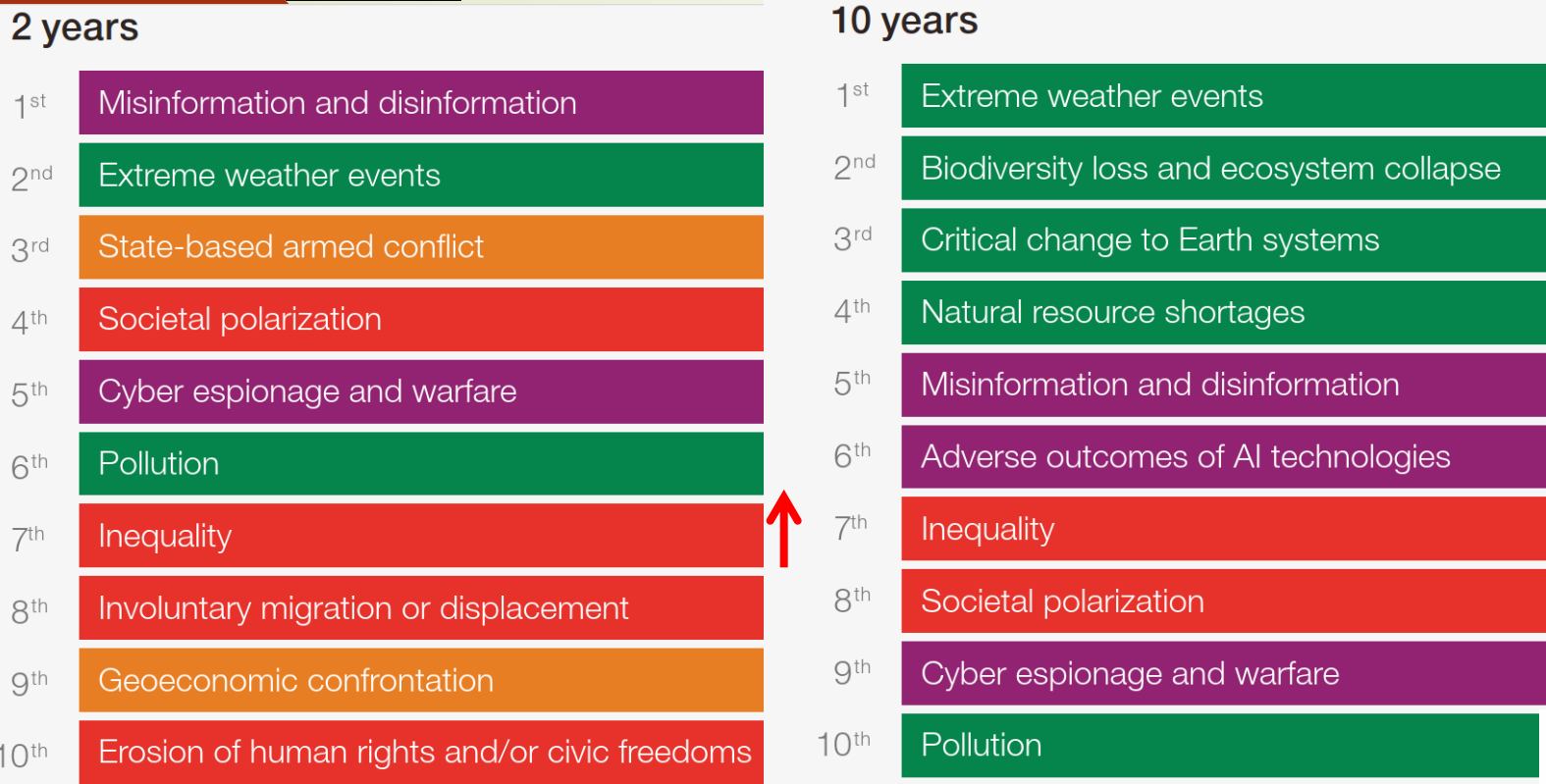


Global trends: the normalisation of conflict

- ▶ Identity conflicts and religious radicalism
- ▶ Systemic financial crises
- ▶ Pandemic and its consequences
- ▶ Wars in Europe, the Middle East, Sudan, Myanmar...
- ▶ Are we in an era of change or undergoing a change of era?

Ten Principles of War Propaganda

1. We do not want war; we are only defending ourselves.
2. The enemy alone is responsible for this war.
3. The enemy embodies absolute evil (even if we did business with them until recently).
4. We are defending a noble cause, not our own interests.
5. The enemy deliberately commits atrocities; our mistakes are unintentional collateral damage.
6. The enemy uses illegal weapons; we respect the rules of war.
7. Our losses are minimal; the enemy's losses are enormous.
8. Intellectuals and the press support our cause.
9. Our cause is sacred (literally or metaphorically).
10. Those who question our propaganda are traitors.



- Decline in optimism
- The intensification of geopolitical and geoeconomic tensions
- (but no economic risks among the top ten?)
- A growing sense of social fragmentation
- Environmental risks: from long-term concern to urgent reality.
- Technological risks - still 'under the radar'.
- The time to act is now - is consensus possible in a fragmenting world?

Your point of view



What is the biggest risk that humanity will have to face in the next two-years?



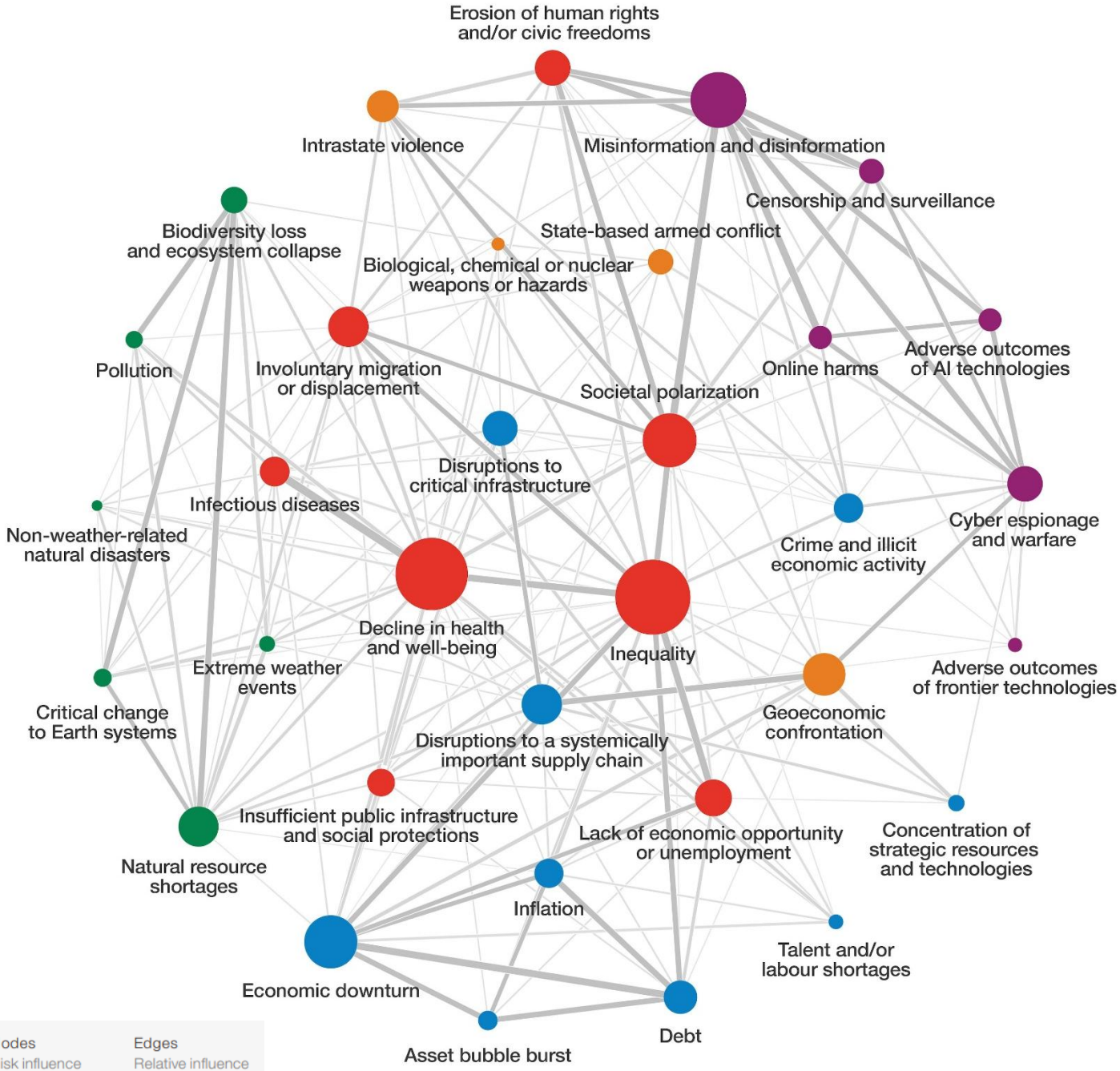
Risk categories: Economic (blue), Environmental (green), Geopolitical (orange), Societal (red), Technological (purple)

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Risks Perception Survey 2024-2025

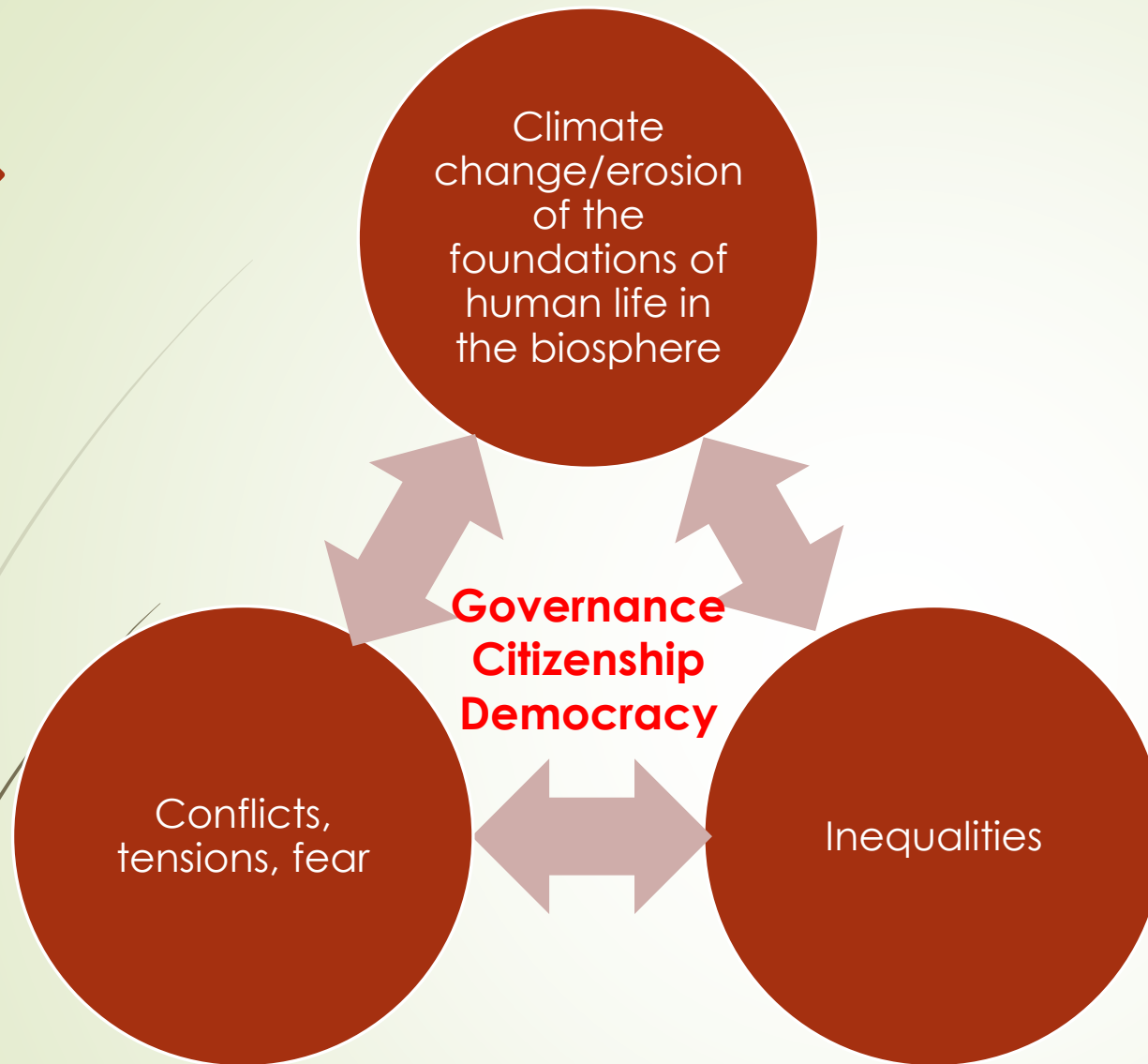
Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2023-2024.

A transition in governance

Global risk landscape: map of interconnections



- Different and interconnected levels of complexity and risk
- Different levels needed to manage this complexity
- Need for new answers, but our world today faces new questions that we sometimes do not even recognise.



TRANSITIONS

Current transitions:

- Rapid
 - Pervasive and transversal
 - Global and local
 - From the margins to the centre
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- The lack of peace is caused by the lack of ways to address the challenges of the human family



Multiple aspects of peace

- Safety
 - Dignity
 - Connection
 - Hope
 - Freedom from Fear
 - ...
- 



Framing peace

- ▶ Framing in a **controversy**... Who likes peace?
- ▶ **Negative peace**: absence of war or direct violence
- ▶ **Positive peace**: presence of justice, cooperation, and inclusion (Galtung)
- ▶ **Holistic peace**: ecological, social, spiritual, and cultural dimensions
- ▶ **Performative peace**: peace as a verb — something we do, not just have
- ▶ **Peace as relation**: peace is not static, but relational and dynamic, built through trust, justice, and recognition. It requires social structures that prevent violence, No one can be at peace alone. Vulnerability as the foundation of solidarity



Peace as common good

- ▶ Not linked to **particular** interests, but...
- ▶ Benefits everyone, excludes no one
- ▶ Requires collective action to build and maintain
- ▶ Interdependence: vulnerable to individual and group actions
- ▶ Non 'rival': one person's use of the good does not reduce the amount available for others to use. Really non 'rival'? (pure Vs non pure public goods)
- ▶ Non marketable, not subject to market transactions. (market failures)
- ▶ At global level: redistributinal implications

Clean air, safety, knowledge, peace,

KAUL I. (Ed.), *Global public goods: international cooperation in the 21st century*, Oxford Univ. Press, New York, NY 1999.



Building blocks



- ▶ Education: Conflict resolution, critical thinking, empathy
- ▶ Civil Society: Community dialogue, grassroots initiatives
- ▶ Governance: New Transparent institutions, rule of law
- ▶ Economic Justice: Opportunity and fair distribution
- ▶ Environmental Care: Sustainable resource management

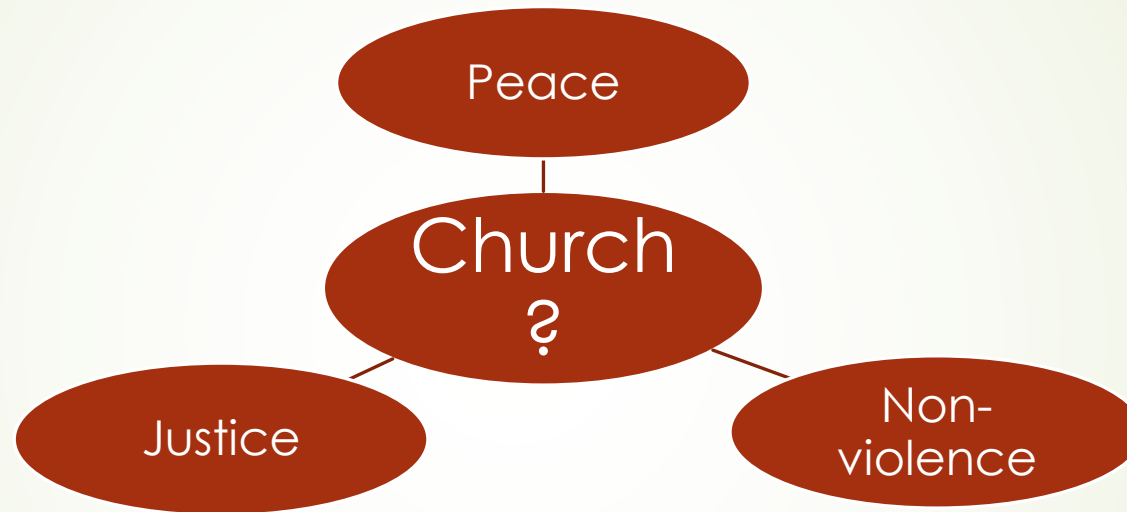


The Church in the world


Magisterium and redefinition of the role of the church

"It's easy to say peace..."

An unarmed and disarming peace



"Pursuing peace requires practising justice. [...] In the changing times we are experiencing, the Holy See cannot refrain from speaking out against the many imbalances and injustices that lead, among other things, to undignified working conditions and increasingly fragmented and conflictual societies. Efforts must also be made to remedy global inequalities, which see opulence and poverty creating deep divides between continents, countries and even within individual societies." (Pope Leo to the Diplomatic Corps, 16/05/2025)



"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:1-5)

- ▶ Today's war as 'madness' (Redipuglia 2014)
- ▶ The increase in military spending: what are we giving up?

"People are increasingly aware of the amount of money that goes into the pockets of merchants of death, money that could be used to build hospitals and schools; instead, those already built are being destroyed" (*Pope Leo, ROACO Assembly 26/06/2025*)



"Justice and peace shall kiss one another" (Psalm 85:11)

- ▶ Justice as a 'theological' requirement "...which for Christians has the face of Jesus Christ, in whom everything was created and redeemed. In a world where the most vulnerable are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation and pollution, care for creation becomes a matter of faith and humanity." (Pope Leo, Message for the Day of Creation, 01/09/2025)
- ▶ The theme of 'positive peace'
- ▶ Nonviolence: from the message for World Peace Day 2017 to Pope Leo:


"I hope that every diocese will promote education in nonviolence, initiatives for mediation in local conflicts, and projects of welcome that transform fear of the other into an opportunity for encounter. May every community become a 'house of peace', where people learn to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practised and forgiveness is cherished" (Pope Leo to the CEI 17/07/2025)



A methodological guideline

"The strong conviction that the true teachings of religions call us to remain anchored to the values of peace; to uphold the values of mutual knowledge, human fraternity and common coexistence [...] For this reason, it is necessary to commit ourselves to establishing the concept of full citizenship in our societies..." (Pope Francis. Message on Human Fraternity, Al Azhar, 2019)

- In the service of the 'common good'
- The role of the laity
- The meaning of diversity and participation



(Some of) our tenets

- Peace is participation
 - Peace through force is questionable and not long-lasting
 - Multilateralism against the jungle law
 - Peace and sustainable development
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