



Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Schürer – Chairman of the *Foundation Peace Dialogue of the World Religions and Civil Society*

Since completing his studies, Wolfgang Schürer is living his vision to create impact: developing and pursuing an idea, then approaching people to commit to it. Enabling and encouraging the exchange of views amongst generations has been the hallmark of his professional career. As founder of the St. Gallen Symposium, as former Chairman of the *Foundation Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings*, and as current Chairman of the *Foundation Peace Dialogue of the World Religions and Civil Society* he has carried out this mission.

For centuries, the region around Lake Constance has been a crossroads where different faiths and cultures meet and discuss. The outcome bears much fruit and is deeply rooted. Hence, it is an ideal place for world religions to launch a dialogue for peace.

Vita

Schürer, born in Coburg in 1946, studied economics and social sciences at the University of St. Gallen. Whilst still a student, he founded the St. Gallen Symposium in 1969. From the outset environmental and socio-political topics were high on the agenda. To this day, the Symposium serves as a forum for the next generation to become engaged in economic, scientific and societal issues. In 1999, German Federal President Roman Herzog designated Schürer as Chairman of the *Foundation Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting*, a position held until 2016. By successfully rallying significant philanthropic support, he

directed the establishment of a solid international base for unique interaction between Nobel Laureates and exceptional young researchers, an achievement widely acclaimed. As a visiting professor at both the University of St. Gallen and the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, Schürer has shared his experience with many mentees. From 1989 to 2009, he was a member of the Board of Trustees at *The Hague Academy of International Law*. Between 2000 and 2009, he served as Vice-President of the *Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard*, and today he is on the Board of Carnegie Europe. Since 2018, he has been Chairman of the *Foundation Peace Dialogue of World Religions and Civil Society* and in 2019 was appointed Honorary President of *Religions for Peace*.

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