



AGENDA

Mediators' Retreat 2004 "Conflict Mediation – Building International Capacity"

Objectives for the meeting

The purpose of the 2004 Mediators' Retreat is to lay the foundation for an ongoing process of engagement and discussion among senior conflict mediators. We want to build upon the successful experience of the first Mediators' Retreat, held in 2003, and explore further the usefulness of such an informal network.

We will do so through substantive discussions on a number of difficult problems that are commonly faced by mediators, several of them identified at the 2003 meeting. In relation to each issue, we will aim to conclude the discussion by identifying specific gaps in the capacity of the international community to effectively address the problem.

Identifying capacity gaps

Capacity gaps might exist in relation to

- Knowledge – are we aware of appropriate policy responses, or is additional analysis needed?
- Commitment – where are there gaps in political support, and how might these be addressed?
- Resources – what additional human, financial and/or institutional resources are needed, and where might they be found or developed?

We hope at the end of the meeting to reach some tentative answers and suggestions in regard to these questions.

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Thursday 10th June

15:00 Opening of the meeting

Introductory session – A chance for participants to introduce themselves, and for the co-organisers to explain the purpose and outline of the meeting.

15:30 Conflict trends – the future of mediation

The session will look at conflict trends and suggest some implications for those engaged in conflict resolution efforts. Questions to consider include:

What is the military prognosis for future conflict? How will this affect the peace-makers craft?

Are there regional trends that differ substantially from the general analysis?

Looking ahead, are there areas where it seems clear that the UN and other actors will need to build capacity to respond to these trends?

17:30 Close of session

19:00 Reception and dinner

There will be a short reception, followed by dinner. We are most honoured that **Mr. K.M. Bondevik, Prime Minister of Norway**, will join us for dinner.

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Friday 11 June

09:00 Asymmetric mediation – engaging armed groups in peace processes

The vast majority of armed conflicts today are *intra*-state, involving therefore disparate armed groups. International mediators increasingly find themselves dealing with such groups and the particular problems this presents.

Questions to consider include:

What are the common obstacles to engaging armed groups in peace processes and how might these be overcome?

Should we welcome or be wary of a trend towards the increasing de-legitimisation of resort to armed struggle?

Are there ways to better integrate armed groups in structures of international governance without giving them unwarranted legitimacy?

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Monitoring and verification – identifying best practise

In the absence of effective means for monitoring and verification, ceasefires can rarely be expected to hold. Too often however, international actors scramble to plan and put in place effective ceasefire monitoring.

What key lessons have emerged from recent monitoring experiences?

What are some of the common obstacles?

How could we improve monitoring capacity, both within and outside the UN?

12:30 Lunch

14:00 International criminal jurisdiction – risks and opportunities

The extension of international criminal jurisdiction and the increasing willingness of states to ensure accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, are both welcome trends. The possibility, or even likelihood, however that senior belligerents whom mediators engage may be those indicted before national and international tribunals creates particular challenges.

What are the legal issues mediators need to be aware of?

What are the implications for the confidentiality of their work?

How can any possible negative impacts be mitigated? And how can mediators ensure their work strengthens international accountability mechanisms?

15:15 Break

15:30 Building international capacity – ideas for further reflection

Questions to consider include:

Are there particular policy proposals worth exploring to address problems identified in the discussion?

What might be done to ensure a strengthening of the UN's conflict resolution capacity?

What issues, and in what ways, might an informal network of conflict mediators address?

17:00 Summary and close of the meeting