

Agenda

Monday June 26

12.30 – 15.00 Lunch & opening - Mediation Today: Trends, Challenges, Prospects Spisestuen Room

The 2005 Human Security Report trumpeted the decline of civil conflict, including international engagement through mediation as a factor. If conflict mediation is coming of age, what are the challenges it faces in order to ensure future success? Trends in armed conflict, and problems in the practice of mediation, will both need to be addressed.

15.30 – 17.30 Mediating Politics, Religion and Culture Meyersalen

Panel and discussion

The international scene continues to be preoccupied with the tensions between liberal democratic politics, and the political aspects of certain religions. The first stands accused of ignorant secularism, and the latter of abusing religion to mobilize support for attempts to redistribute power and resources. What role does religion play in today's conflicts? How do the religious elements of conflicts affect their nature and their amenability to mediation? Are international mediators too secular in their approach, and if so, what alternatives can religious institutions, actors and models offer for the resolution of conflicts? What broad political and economic trends are shaping the future of conflict?

19.30 Reception & Group Photo with the Norwegian Foreign Minister The Old Manor Terrace

20.15 Dinner hosted by H.E. Foreign Minister of Norway, Jonas Gahr Støre Spisestuen Room

Tuesday June 27

08.00 – 09.30 Breakfast with Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court The Ballroom

09.30 – 10.30 Open time for bilateral meetings

10.30 – 12.30 Creating the Conditions for Transformation from War to Peace: Conflict Party Perspectives Thomas Heftye room

Panel and discussion

What are the most challenging aspects of moving from conflict to peace for an armed group? What factors or aspects external to the group can facilitate the process of moving from conflict to peace (or may hinder it if not handled appropriately)? What can mediators or facilitators do in relation to all parties to a process to help create the most favourable circumstances for that transformation?

08.00 – 10.30 Open time for bilateral meetings

10.30 – 12.30 The Interests of Justice and Peace: a Conversation with the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court
Karl Johan room

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch with Key Note Speaker H.E. Javier Solana

15.00 – 17.00 Peace Process Management: The Challenge of Multiple Constituencies
Thomas Heftye room

Panel and discussion

Most conflicts are multi-dimensional both in terms of issues and actors involved. How can mediators identify critical constituencies – internal and external – that have a legitimate stake in a conflict, and what are the risks of inclusion and exclusion? How can different actors be accessed, tracked and, where necessary, harnessed to ensure a workable solution without neglecting the demands of transparency, confidentiality, or the efficiency of a process?

15.00 – 17.00 Conflict Case Study – Sudan

Karl Johan room

Working Session

An opportunity to debate the process and context of the recently concluded Abuja Agreement, which all hope will bring an end to the war in Dafur.

18.00 – 19.00 Mediator's Studio - Interview with a Mediator

Bibliotek

The BBC's Lyse Doucet talks to a senior mediator

19.30 Barbeque

Restaurant terrace

Wednesday June 28

08.00 – 08.45 Women's Breakfast Caucus

Thomas Heftye room

08.00 – 9.00 Open time for bilateral meetings

09.00 – 10.30 Guidelines and Standards for Mediators: Help or Hindrance?

Andreas Lumholtz room

Working Session

Mediation in armed conflict is often referred to as the art of the possible. However, its supposed glamour is marred by a common perception that it is ethically suspect, forced to forgo principles under the pressures of *realpolitik*. Should mediators in armed conflict follow the example of other professional mediators and produce guidelines for what constitutes responsible and accountable mediation? Or will this render the art of the possible impossible?

09.00 – 10.30 Matching Mediators to Conflicts – Question Time

Karl Johan room

Panel and discussion

Styles and approaches to mediation have been dissected in the analysis of conflict mediation practice. However, how and why mediators are chosen gets less attention. What factors affect the choice of mediation strategy over time and what can be learned from past successes and failures? When is a conflict ripe for mediation by whom? What is the difference between crisis management and conflict resolution and how important is the choice of mediator?

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee Break

11.00 – 13.00 Conflict Resolution Theory: What Use in Practice?

Karl Johan room

Presentation, response and discussion

How well is the “transmission belt” between the growing body of conflict mediation theory, training, and practice working? How could it be improved to better prepare mediators and their staff? What best practices have been distilled from experience, how do they appear in the theory, and how is that knowledge transmitted back into the minds of other practitioners?

11.00 – 13.00 The UN’s Role in Mediation: First among Equals or Last Resort?

Thomas Heftye room

Panel and discussion

Imminent changes to the institutional set up of the UN, such as changes in key personnel, the establishment of the DPA Mediation Support Unit and the Peacebuilding Commission, will certainly have an impact upon the UN’s role in mediating armed conflict. What are the actual and potential strengths and weaknesses of the UN as conflict mediator? How do they compare to those of other multilateral institutions? Does the UN’s capacity differ with regard to specific types of conflicts or specific regions?

13.00 – 14.30 LUNCH – Identifying Women Mediators

The Old Dining room

14.30 – 15.30 Open time for bilateral meetings

15.30 – 17.00 Liberal Peace: A Concept in Crisis or in Transition?

Meyersalen room

Presentation, response and discussion

International experience offers a wide range of peace agreement types, but the most common recipe currently used combines early elections, the introduction of market reforms and the incorporation of international principles in laws and constitutions. However, experience has also shown that the use of this particular recipe is time consuming, expensive, can create tensions of its own, and cannot simply be imposed by external actors. Should it remain the guiding model for mediators, or are there alternative approaches to minimizing the recurrence of conflict while building lasting peace in a way that is acceptable both to the international community and the country in question?

17.30 – 18.00 Concluding Session

Meyersalen

19.00 Excursion – Bus to Oslo Harbour

19.30 – 22.00 Boat Excursion