

Mediation Support Project

Improving Swiss and international mediation practice

A joint venture between swisspeace and the
Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich

swiss
peace

 **CSS**
ETH Zurich

Who we are

The goal of the Mediation Support Project (MSP) is to improve the effectiveness of Swiss and international peace mediation. The MSP was established in 2005 as a joint venture between the Swiss Peace Foundation (swisspeace) and the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at the ETH Zurich. The MSP is a service provider to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), but also to mediators and conflict parties that are strategically important for the FDFA.

swisspeace is a practice-oriented peace research institute that analyzes the causes of violent conflicts and develops strategies for their peaceful transformation.

The CSS is a center of competence for Swiss and international security policy. It offers security and peace policy expertise in research, teaching, and consultancy.

How we work

The MSP values collaboration and partnership with other peacebuilding and mediation support organizations and agencies, e.g. with the Swiss FDFA, the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union (EU).

- _ The MSP promotes a comprehensive view of mediation including the various phases, actors, and topics relevant for sustainable peace processes.
- _ The MSP uses and promotes a culture- and gender-sensitive approach.
- _ The MSP connects research, reflection, and practice.

Learn more

Publications, expert interviews, access to our online courses and a link to subscribe to our newsletters can be found at www.peacemediation.ch/resources.

What we do

The MSP supports mediators and conflict parties in gaining knowledge and skills for effective peace negotiations.

Process support: The MSP provides direct support to actors in conflict contexts and mediators in ongoing peace processes:

- _ In collaboration with the Swiss FDFA and other partner organizations, organizing and conducting workshops focusing on dialogue, negotiation, and mediation in contexts like the Central African Republic, Darfur, Gaza, Guinea, the Horn of Africa, Indonesia, Libya, Myanmar, Nepal, South Caucasus, Syria, and Zimbabwe.

Research and knowledge management: The MSP develops mediation methodology and topical expertise, drawing on the experience of mediators, in particular of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) but also other international mediators:

- _ Carrying out mediation assessments on particular conflicts relevant for the work of the Swiss FDFA.
- _ Publishing guidance notes, policy papers and in-depth studies on issues relevant to mediation, as well as editing a monthly “Mediation Perspectives” blog series.
- _ Developing training tools and providing online training resources, such as e-learning modules, video clips and papers.

Training and retreats: The MSP designs and implements trainings and retreats in mediation. The target group includes diplomats, ambassadors, peace promotion experts, UN staff, mediators and conflict parties:

- _ Organizing the yearly Peace Mediation Course; a specialized two-week training enabling participants to support mediation processes more effectively (www.peacemediation.ch).
- _ Providing inputs to the yearly UN Ceasefire Mediation and Management Course, organized by the UN, Norway and Switzerland.
- _ Tailor-made workshops for organizations engaged in mediation or mediation support, such as the UN, OSCE, OECD, EU, IGAD.

Networking: The MSP provides networking and exchange platforms for mediators and mediation supporters:

- _ Coordinating the Mediation Support Network (MSN), a global network of primarily non-governmental organizations that aims to promote and improve mediation practice, processes and standards to address political tensions and armed conflict (www.mediationsupportnetwork.net).
- _ Organizing expert roundtables on specific issues and debates related to mediation.

Opinions

“The Mediation Support Project provides essential services to the United Nations and its partners in the peace making field, notably through training, expert advice and guidance notes.”

Christopher Coleman

Director, United Nations Department of Political Affairs

“In my work as a peace mediator I have greatly benefited from the professional, reliable, and highly flexible assistance of the Mediation Support Project.”

Günther Baechler

Swiss Ambassador to Georgia, Swiss FDFA

“To be effective, training workshops in negotiation and mediation have to be highly interactive and culturally sensitive. Learning happens by recognizing and building on the experiences and knowledge of the participants. The Mediation Support Project organized such a workshop in partnership with CECORE – highlighting its qualities for this delicate kind of work.”

Stella Sabiiti

Former Executive Director, Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE), Uganda

“The MSP’s Peace Mediation Course was very instructive for me with direct benefit to my current work and professional development.”

Itonde Kakoma

Head for Sub Saharan Africa, Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)

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