

Forum:	Special Conference on Pacifism and Injustice (SPECON)
Issue:	Avoiding conflict by Promoting Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation
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Position:	Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Alexandra Proedrou and I have the utmost honor of serving as the Deputy President of this year's Special Conference on Pacifism and Injustice in the 12th PSMUN.

I would like to welcome you all to the first in person PSMUN conference after almost 3 years. Furthermore, I want to congratulate all of you on deciding to join the MUN world. As a person who has been through many positions in the MUN world, admin staff, journalist, delegate, and now chair, I can guarantee you that you are not going to regret this engagement. The friendships and bonds I have made through conferences are unbreakable and the experiences and memories uncountable. Far from that, the skills a person can acquire from participating in such an event are life changing. Gaining the courage to speak in public, expressing and supporting an opinion, and developing your leadership and cooperation skills are some of the aspects that I improved through MUN.

The topic that this study guide will address is a significant issue that affects numerous actors worldwide. "Avoiding conflict by Promoting Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation" has a big social, political, and even economic impact on the world. Due to the perpetual rise of regional, national, and even international disputes the international community has been searching for effective means to subdue such conflicts for decades. It, thus, becomes evident how this topic connects to this year's theme of "Pacifism and Injustice" as it aims at protecting international peace both during the conflicts and their aftermath, as well as eliminating wartime injustices.

This study guide aims at assisting your research. By briefly explaining the topic and its historical background, defining key terms, explaining previous actions, and providing some ostensive resolutions I hope to make your preparation easier.

If there is any inconvenience or you need any clarifications, I am more than happy to help you. You can always contact me at 20181124@student.anatolia.edu.gr.

I look forward to meeting you all,

Alexandra Proedrou

INTRODUCTION

Preventive diplomacy is a progressive security policy that emerged in the middle of the 20th century. Through proactive diplomatic methods, it aims at preventing conflicts from beginning and worsening. Preventive diplomacy has its roots in the United Nations and continues to grow through its peacekeeping operations, according to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. After the Cold War, the United Nations, regional organizations, and sovereign states actively engaged in preventive diplomacy to prevent the outbreak of more world conflicts. This contributed to world peace and security by easing tensions in relevant regions and lowering the likelihood of escalating tensions. The concept of preventive diplomacy, however, still needs to be refined. The international community has acknowledged its positive purposes, but its fundamental principles, implementers, objects, and methods remain contentious.

A dynamic of containment and de-escalation replaces one of volatile and intense conflict through successful preventive diplomacy. This shift is brought about by the choices and actions of the parties in conflict intervening in preventive diplomacy who work to support and influence non-violent decisions made by conflict parties, and additional stakeholders such as international organizations. This means that actors involved in preventive diplomacy must be knowledgeable of the perspectives of the parties and the roots of their dispute, to stir the conflict away from violence and towards nonviolent options. Through such mechanisms, armed conflicts usually result in negotiated settlements.

This year's theme of "Pacifism and Injustice" is deeply connected with the topic of "Avoiding conflict by Promoting Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation". Preventive Diplomacy's ulterior goal is global peace, which has yet to be achieved by Member States. There are many arising conflicts and disputes that already torture our world due to the many deaths, disasters, and system corruptions they cause. Thus, preventive diplomacy is a great tool to achieve pacifism, and stop conflicts that might become dangerous for the safety of the world. As long as this method is used correctly it can benefit many stakeholders by promoting peace and restoring international relations, but it can easily be misunderstood or misused by member states and result in undesirable consequences. Mediation further corresponds to the elimination of injustice by controlling the crime factor of a state. Many vulnerable social groups and minorities are subject to injustice and violence in times of conflict, with the greatest example being the Jewish populations in World War II. When a mediator intervenes, this is less likely to happen since the governments are being supervised and averted from committing crimes and discriminations.

Preventive diplomacy can adopt various forms and methods of execution. However, its versatile nature may lead to further tensions as states may feel threatened by the

scope of such missions in their sovereign jurisdiction. Therefore, it is imperative for the international community to address such concerns and focus on establishing a framework for the carrying out of mediation and preventative diplomacy.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Preventive Diplomacy

Preventive diplomacy encompasses any and all actions taken to avert existing disputes from surging into conflicts, and puts a stop to conflicts, if they already exist, from laying out. From a vantage point that incorporates the three pillars of the United Nations, prevention addresses the underlying causes of conflict rights and inclusive development, security and peace.¹

Mediation Support

Mediation is a flexible and private method for resolving disputes between individuals, businesses, or other organizations. It entails appointing a neutral mediator to assist the parties in resolving their differences through dialogue, negotiation, and a mutually agreeable solution.²

Peacemaking

Peacemaking entails taking steps to resolve ongoing conflicts and employing diplomatic means to persuade antagonistic parties to reach an agreement. Envoys, governments, groups of states, regional organizations, and the United Nations are all examples of peacemakers. Unofficial and non-governmental groups, as well as a prominent individual working independently, may also engage in peacemaking efforts.³

Conflict Prevention

Conflict prevention is a broad term that refers to a variety of activities and strategies within the field of peacebuilding that are deployed to pre-empt and subsequently neutralise potential triggers to widespread violent conflict.⁴

Peacekeeping - Peace Enforcement

Peacekeeping is the use of national or multinational forces to help control and end an actual or potential armed conflict between or within states. Peacekeeping forces are

¹ Preventive Diplomacy : <https://www.exteriores.gob.es/en/PoliticaExterior/Paginas/DiplomaciaPreventiva.aspx>

² Mediation: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-civil-mediation>

³ Peacemaking: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/terminology>

⁴ <https://www.peaceinsight.org/en/themes/conflict-prevention-early-warning/?location&theme=conflict-prevention-early-warning>

rarely or never armed, and when they do use force, it is only in exceptional circumstances.⁵

Disarmament

The penal destruction or reduction of a nation's armament after it has been defeated in a war is referred to as disarmament in international relations in any one of four distinct ways. It consists of bilateral disarmament agreements that apply to specific geographic areas and the complete abolition of all weapons.⁶

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Purpose of Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation

Preventive diplomacy and mediation are two vital facets of international diplomacy that share the ulterior goal of maintaining global peace. Preventive Diplomacy's primary mission is to maintain international peace and security by preventing and eradicating threats as well as suppressing acts of aggression or other peace violations to take collective action to establish peace and resolve any international dispute or situation that could result in a peace turbulence through peaceful means and in accordance with justice and international law, aided in the rediscovery of preventive diplomacy and mediation as alternatives for crisis management that don't require as much financial support.

Historical Background

Preventive diplomacy aims to avoid conflicts through proactive diplomacy, as the United Nations (UN) was the origin of a new security mindset at the start of the Cold War. It continues to change during peacekeeping missions based on relevant UN Charter provisions. The UN's preventive diplomacy has evolved from "crisis response" to "preventive culture" over roughly seven decades thanks to the efforts of former Secretaries General.⁷

Appearance at the beginning of the Cold War

Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary General of the United Nations, introduced the concept of preventive diplomacy in 1960 in his work report⁸. Hammarskjöld believed the core of preventive diplomacy was to localize

⁵ Peacekeeping: <https://pesd.princeton.edu/node/561>

⁶ Disarmament: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/disarmament>

⁷ Secretary General : The head of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSG or SG)—one of the six primary organs of the United Nations—and chief administrative officer of the United Nations is the secretary-general.

⁸ <https://legal.un.org/repertory/art99.shtml>, <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/preventive-diplomacy-united-nations>, http://www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/DHF_DD63_p9-15.pdf

existing disputes to prevent these countries from being enrolled in the struggles between political camps and to fill the void left by major powers in regions of newly independent countries by establishing the United Nations. Additionally, it aims to prevent major powers from engaging in direct, extensive, and extensive wars. Preventive diplomacy was the focus of the UN's peacekeeping efforts in Africa in the 1950s. Preventive diplomacy efforts by the United Nations were rarely carried out during the Cold War because of the conflict between the two camps. As a result, they had very little effect. Preventive diplomacy was primarily studied theoretically by the United Nations during the Cold War, and efforts were made to implement it outside the two camps.

The use and re-application following the Cold War and the progress made in the 21st century

In An Agenda for Peace in June 1992, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the sixth Secretary-General of the United Nations, noted that preventive diplomacy aimed to prevent disputes between two parties from arising, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts, and to limit the spread of conflicts⁹. In the 1995 Supplement to an Agenda for Peace, Boutros-Ghali emphasized that preventive diplomacy should adhere to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and that the United Nations should not impose preventive diplomacy on member states that are unwilling to accept it. The United Nations conducted peacekeeping and preventive diplomacy operations in Cambodia, Macedonia, and Somalia in the 1990s, with mixed results¹⁰. For instance, in the spring of 1994, American involvement in Somalia came to an end. At that time, the United States was reevaluating its leadership role in the world after the Cold War, particularly in terms of its various alliances and its relationship to the United Nations. The bewilderingly quick transition from dramatic television images of starving Somali children to grisly images of dead American soldiers in the streets of Mogadishu had exacerbated tensions between the competing claims of internationalism and isolationism regarding Somalia. During the recent famine in Somalia, some have argued that the United States' involvement in humanitarian aid was an excursion into misguided internationalism that is no longer practical in an era when resources for international intervention are decreasing. When there is no immediate

⁹ (Armed) Conflict : An armed conflict is a contested incompatibility involving a government or territory in which the use of armed force by two parties, at least one of which is the state government, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in a calendar year., <https://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/definitions/>

¹⁰ The unjustifiable costs of humanitarian intervention and the kind of foreign involvement the United Nations should avoid in the future have taken on the significance of Somalia. , <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/sr950000.pdf>

compelling national interest, a practical argument should be made against the waste of assets—both financial and human—when this is the case. It was said that the costs of the Somalia adventure show that the United States shouldn't be involved in any foreign conflict. As the new century dawned, UN preventive diplomacy gradually transformed into all-encompassing prevention strategies. The UN began to pay more attention to addressing both the symptoms and the root causes of conflicts, drawing on previous experience, and has changed the tradition of placing a high value on peacekeeping operations while ignoring conflict prevention.

Means of implementation and Methods of execution

The implementation of preventive diplomacy and its execution is an essential component of the United Nations' efforts to maintain global peace and security. In recent years, the nature of conflict has changed, and the majority of contemporary armed conflict occurs within states, rather than between them. This shift in conflict dynamics has led to a renewed emphasis on preventive diplomacy as a means of addressing the root causes of conflict.

The United Nations adopts a comprehensive approach to preventive diplomacy, encompassing a variety of fields, including politics, economics, the armed forces, society, and the construction of institutions. The prevention action now involves a number of UN departments and has been used to address issues such as poverty reduction, economic growth, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, arms control and other emerging fields.

The implementation of preventive diplomacy involves various strategies, including persuasion, dialogue, mediation, and peacekeeping operations. The United Nations closely monitors global developments to identify potential threats to international peace and security, enabling the Security Council and the Secretary-General to take preventative measures. Early warning is a critical component of prevention, and the Secretary-General's envoys and special representatives play a key role in mediation and preventative diplomacy. These envoys often collaborate with regional organizations and are critical in maintaining peace in conflict-prone areas.

In addition to traditional political security diplomacy, the UN also employs disarmament measures, such as disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs, to reduce the number of small arms in conflict-prone areas. These programs have been successful in countries such as El Salvador, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste and have contributed to the long-term peace and stability of these countries.

In conclusion, preventive diplomacy is a critical component of the United Nations' efforts to maintain global peace and security. The implementation of preventive diplomacy involves a comprehensive approach and a variety of strategies, including persuasion, dialogue, mediation, peacekeeping operations, disarmament, and early warning. The Secretary-General's envoys and special representatives play a crucial role in executing preventive diplomacy efforts, working in close collaboration with regional organizations. The goal of preventive diplomacy is to address the root causes of conflict, prevent widespread violence, and promote long-term peace and stability in conflict-prone areas.

Impact on society

Social

Preventive diplomacy plays a crucial role in protecting human lives and preserving human dignity. War and conflict result in loss of life and widespread destruction, leading to displacement and refugee crises. Preventive diplomacy aims to prevent the escalation of conflict and protect civilians from harm. It saves lives, reduces human suffering, and protects the environment from destruction. Moreover, it prevents mental trauma caused by war and other forms of violence, which can last a lifetime and have a lasting impact on individuals and communities.

Economic

Preventive diplomacy also has a big impact on the economic factor since Preventive diplomacy can have a significant impact on the economic stability of nations and regions. Armed conflict requires extensive financial resources to support military operations, and the costs associated with war can undermine economic growth and stability. Furthermore, war and conflict often result in large-scale displacement, putting pressure on the economies of receiving countries as they must provide for refugees and support their integration. Conversely, preventive diplomacy can promote stability and peace, allowing for sustainable economic development and reducing the need for humanitarian aid and support.

Political

Preventive diplomacy has a positive impact on politics by promoting peace and stability. It is a tool of smart power and mostly soft power, and its application can prevent misunderstandings and confrontations between nations that could otherwise lead to conflict. The peaceful resolution of conflicts through preventive diplomacy can preserve international peace and security and maintain stability in regions. Additionally, the implementation of preventive diplomacy helps to reinforce the rule of law and uphold human rights and democracy, contributing to the development of strong and inclusive political systems.

However, there are challenges to the implementation of preventive diplomacy in the political arena. The anarchic world and state interest pose challenges as every state wants to gain power and advance its own interests, often leading to conflicts. Conflicts between states often result from claims and counterclaims about facts, laws, or policies and are an inherent component of international relations. There is also the question of non-state and interstate actors who could implement preventive measures, as well as the need to address the root causes of conflict and address the underlying issues that contribute to instability.

Advantages of preventive diplomacy

Preventive diplomacy is a proactive approach to conflict resolution that aims to prevent the escalation of tensions and the outbreak of violence by promoting dialogue and cooperation among states. It is an important tool used by the United Nations (UN) in its goal of maintaining global peace and stability.

The advantages of preventive diplomacy are numerous and can be grouped into several categories. Firstly, it is an effective means of preventing conflicts and disputes from escalating into armed confrontations. By promoting dialogue and cooperation among states, preventive diplomacy can help to de-escalate tensions and find peaceful resolution to disputes. This not only helps to maintain regional peace and stability, but also reduces the risk of violence and human suffering.

Another advantage of preventive diplomacy is that it promotes cooperation and collaboration among states. By working together, states can effectively address the root causes of conflict and address the underlying political, economic, and social issues that lead to tension and instability. Preventive diplomacy can also help to build trust and confidence among states, which is essential for promoting peace and stability.

Preventive diplomacy also increases political and financial stability. Armed conflict often requires significant military and equipment support, as well as financial support from the states involved. By preventing conflicts from escalating into armed confrontation, preventive diplomacy can reduce the need for military action and the associated financial costs, thereby contributing to political and financial stability.

Moreover, preventive diplomacy can contribute to the creation of a more stable and secure international environment. By resolving conflicts peacefully, states can avoid destabilizing the region and creating spillover effects that could threaten the stability of other states. Preventive diplomacy can also help to build confidence and trust among states, which is essential for promoting peace and stability.

In conclusion, preventive diplomacy is an important tool for promoting peace and stability and preventing the escalation of tensions and conflicts. Its advantages include preventing conflicts from escalating into armed confrontation, promoting cooperation and collaboration among states, increasing political and financial stability, and contributing to the creation of a more stable and secure international environment. To be effective, preventive diplomacy must be implemented in a comprehensive and inclusive manner, taking into account the perspectives and interests of all parties involved.

Drawbacks of preventive diplomacy

Preventive diplomacy is not a perfect solution, and it has its own limitations and drawbacks. One of the main limitations is that it may exacerbate the conflict instead of resolving it. When the parties involved in a conflict are not willing to admit their wrongdoing and instead try to blame each other, this can make the conflict worse. The defensive posture of the parties may only serve to escalate the situation and make it more difficult to find a peaceful resolution.

Another drawback is that the parties involved in the conflict may feel that their privacy is being invaded if the preventive diplomacy process involves extensive questioning. In such cases, the parties may be compelled to disclose sensitive or personal information that they would prefer to keep private. This can lead to a lack of trust between the parties and the mediator if the information is used to provide an unfavorable resolution.

Preventive diplomacy can also have only short-term effects. Even if a conflict is resolved in the short-term, it is possible that the conflict may resurface at a later time. This can happen when a compromise strategy is used, where each party receives something of value, but none of the parties are truly satisfied with the outcome. The conflict may re-emerge if the slightest provocation occurs, even if the outcome is only a temporary truce.

Lastly, preventive diplomacy can be used in the wrong way by the mediator if they have hidden intentions, such as personal or financial gain. The mediator may not have peace in mind when they intervene in a conflict, but instead may be using manipulation techniques to influence the states they are implementing preventive diplomacy into. This can undermine the credibility of the preventive diplomacy process and lead to negative outcomes for the parties involved in the conflict.

In conclusion, preventive diplomacy is not without its drawbacks and limitations. However, it is still an important tool for maintaining peace and stability, as it can prevent conflicts from escalating into armed confrontations, promote cooperation among states, and increase political and financial stability. Nevertheless, it is important to be aware of its limitations and to use it in a manner that is consistent with its intended purpose of promoting peace and stability.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

United States of America (USA)

The United States of America has placed a strong emphasis on the importance of preventive diplomacy as a means of resolving issues, easing tensions and preventing conflicts from escalating into larger crises. This sentiment was expressed in the Clinton administration's National Security Strategy for Engagement and Enlargement, released in 1994, which emphasized the need for the United States to not only assist in resolving disputes, but to also actively work towards their prevention.

To support these efforts, the US Congress passed a resolution establishing the US Institute of Peace, a professional international research institute, in 1984. This institute was created under the direction of the US State Department and tasked with evaluating the prospects of UN-proposed preventive diplomacy and developing strategies and policies for US preventive diplomacy. The goal was to provide solutions to international conflicts, as a basis for the US Congress and government to create policies and enhance the country's capacity for peaceful conflict resolution.

In recent times, the US Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability, which outlines lessons learned and best practices for addressing the root causes of conflict and preventing future conflicts, has been implemented by the United States. This strategy aims to help prevent conflicts and promote stability globally, through a more proactive and coordinated approach to conflict prevention and resolution.

Spain

Spain recognizes the significance of preventive diplomacy in ensuring peace and stability in the international community. During its tenure as a member of the United Nations Security Council between 2015 and 2016, Spain made efforts to reinforce the Council's capacity for conflict prevention. The country's foreign policy currently prioritizes conflict prevention in light of the increasing number of conflicts and forced displacement globally.

Spain's commitment to preventive diplomacy is reflected in its support of the "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative, which was sponsored by Spain and Turkey and adopted by the United Nations. This initiative seeks to build bridges across cultural and religious divides by promoting dialogue and cooperation among various communities and civilizations. The goals of the initiative align with Spain's foreign policy principles, which emphasize the importance of conflict prevention, peace, governance, human rights, and rule of law.

European Union (EU)

The European Union (EU) is a staunch advocate of the United Nations Mediation Support Unit, with which it works in close collaboration and provides both training and financial assistance to global organizations for the purpose of developing their capacities for conflict prevention. The EU's Global Strategy endeavors to implement an integrated and comprehensive approach to conflicts and crises at all stages, ranging from prevention to crisis management, with the aim of contributing to sustainable peace. This is achieved through the integration of security, development, and diplomatic actions that support common objectives.

In close coordination with its Member States, the EU endeavors to attain peace and stability through the effective combination of conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding. The EU employs various tools, such as the EU Conflict Early Warning System and Horizon Scanning, to identify nations that are at risk of instability and/or violent conflict and conducts conflict analysis.

To effectively play a critical role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, systematic conflict analyses must be conducted in countries that are at risk of or facing conflict or instability, in which the EU has ongoing or planned significant engagement, in collaboration with external partners such as the United Nations and the African Union.

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is actively engaged in supporting the EU's efforts to maintain and restore peace at any stage of the conflict cycle, through its participation in mediation activities, support for mediation, and dialogue.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation views the utilization of diplomatic opportunities presented by regional disputes as a crucial tool in its strategic arsenal. Historical conflicts, such as those in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and Nagorno-Karabakh, demonstrate Russia's approach to crisis management, which is characterized by a deliberate blend of hard power and diplomacy. In 2011, the Russian Federation officially recognized the significance of preventive diplomacy and mediation by including it in their Federal Law. However, this stance was called into question by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which had a substantial impact on diplomatic negotiations regarding stability, power, and the boundaries of the transatlantic alliance in Europe. Despite the escalation of violence and the provision of an abundance of weaponry by the West, diplomacy and mediation efforts have failed to mitigate the conflict. There is a clear need for a mediation process, but unfortunately, diplomacy and mediation have proven to be insufficient in preventing this crisis.

China

The Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of China, Liu Jinsong, has stated that China is willing to participate in efforts to uphold and implement the idea of cooperative security. This collaboration will aim to give more energy and vitality to confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy. China aims to increase mutual security confidence between all parties by expanding common security interests and deepening cooperation in various fields, such as public health, cyber security, disaster management, counterterrorism, maritime security, and non-proliferation. The focus is on addressing non-traditional security challenges and building a secure regional environment. In line with this, China intends to construct a regional security architecture that takes into consideration the needs and interests of all parties and promotes lasting peace and stability in the region. The country remains committed to the principle of nuclear non-proliferation and will continue to engage in defense security consultations and exchanges. The ultimate goal is to reject bloc confrontation and unilateral bullying, while preserving the centrality of the ASEAN region.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), a special political mission of the United Nations Organization, was established in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in 2007, on the initiative of the five Central Asian states. The purpose of the Center is to address both current and potential threats to regional stability and to facilitate partnerships between Central Asian governments and regional and international organizations. The establishment of the UNRCCA followed several years of consultations between the United Nations and the Central Asian governments. In May 2007, the United Nations Secretary General informed the Security Council of his intention to establish the Center, noting that the five Central Asian state governments had agreed to its establishment in Ashgabat. The favorable perception of the United Nations as an authoritative organization capable of negotiating and reaching agreements that take into account the interests of all nations in the region was the determining factor for the five Central Asian states in this process.

Mediation Support Unit

The United Nations Mediation Support Unit (MSU) was founded in 2006 with the purpose of serving as a central hub for mediating disputes and conducting preventive diplomacy within the UN system. The MSU was established to provide professional and comprehensive support to various stakeholders, such as the UN system, regional organizations, Member States, and relevant peacemaking entities, in their efforts towards peaceful resolution of conflicts.

As a service provider, the MSU works to offer specialized support to the UN system and other actors in their "good offices" activities, which include efforts towards conflict prevention and dispute mediation. The MSU provides support in various forms, including technical assistance, training, and capacity-building programs, aimed at improving the overall effectiveness and success of mediating efforts.

The MSU's presence as a centralized and comprehensive mediating body within the UN system highlights the importance of preventing and resolving conflicts through diplomacy and negotiations. With its focus on providing professional support, the MSU plays a critical role in fostering a peaceful and secure global environment by promoting constructive dialogue and cooperation between nations.

The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) of the United Nations plays a crucial role in preventing and ending conflicts worldwide. It is tasked with focusing on five critical areas of international peace and security, including accurate analysis and early warning, peacemaking and conflict prevention, crisis management, peace maintenance, and partnership building. Through its systematic monitoring and evaluation of global political developments, DPPA is able to anticipate potential crises and respond promptly. The Department provides support to the Secretary-General, his envoys, and UN political missions deployed worldwide, to assist in de-escalating crises and promoting sustainable conflict resolution. By leveraging its expertise in these five areas, DPPA plays a vital role in contributing to global peace and stability.

The Standby Team

The Standby Team of Mediation Experts is an essential component of the United Nations' efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts globally. Comprised of highly skilled and experienced mediators from various backgrounds, the Standby Team is equipped to provide timely and professional guidance on a wide range of complex issues that often arise in the course of mediation and preventive diplomacy.

The Team's expertise encompasses a variety of crucial areas, including gender and inclusion, natural resources, power sharing, security arrangements, constitution-making, and dialogue process design and management. This breadth of knowledge enables the Standby Team to effectively support United Nations envoys, peace operations, Country Teams, regional organizations, and other partners in their conflict resolution efforts.

The Standby Team is an instrumental resource for the United Nations in promoting peace and stability around the world. It provides expert support in conflict mediation, dialogue facilitation, and good offices, allowing the UN to respond to emerging crises and promote long-term conflict resolution. By leveraging the Standby Team's expertise, the United Nations is able to strengthen its efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, promoting a more stable and secure world for all.

It is important to note that the services provided by the Standby Team are available at no cost to United Nations envoys, peace operations, Country Teams, regional organizations, and other partners, making it a valuable and accessible resource in the global effort to prevent and resolve conflicts.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1960	The idea of preventive diplomacy is first used by the second UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjöld, in his work report.
1990	The United Nations carries out preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Macedonia and Somalia with both successes and failures.
1991	The Standby Team mechanism begins during the first Iraq War.
1992	The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs is established.
July 1994	The Clinton administration's National Security Strategy for Engagement and Enlargement is released.
24 August 2000	The Crisis Management Initiative is created by Martti Ahtisaari.
2007	The United Nations Department of Political Affairs establishes a special team to support the mediation work.
December 2007	UNRCCA is established.
August 2011	The "Report on Preventive Diplomacy" is submitted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
April 2013	Preventive diplomacy, early warning and response mechanisms, mediation efforts, disarmament measures, and peacebuilding and maintenance strategies are all emphasized in a presidential statement adopted by the UN Security Council.
9 September, 2016	UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/304 is approved.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)

The Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), founded by former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) President Ahtisaari, has been a valuable contributor to the UN's efforts in promoting peace and resolving conflicts globally. Over the years, the relationship between CMI and the UN has grown to include not just policy advice and information exchange but also partnerships in peace initiatives. CMI works closely with several UN entities, including the UN Mediation Support Unit, to provide training and guidance in the areas of mediation and dialogue. As a key partner of the UN Mediation Support Unit, CMI offers training and support to UN high-level officials to enhance their mediation and dialogue skills, with a particular emphasis on promoting gender-sensitive and inclusive practices. In addition, CMI has a close working relationship with the UN Department of Political Affairs and other UN entities, providing concrete support to local UN mediation processes and engaging in regular dialogue with the UN DPA.

UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/304

The resolution 70/304 of the GA concerning United Nations activities in support of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution analyzes five important elements of mediation support: an enabling environment, support for the mediation strategy and process, effective operations, support to implementation as well as capacity-building. In addition, it provides examples of UN activities within the framework of each element and sets out the means through which the entities of the UN system can coordinate their support for mediation initiatives at separate levels.

6946th meeting of the UN Security Council (UNSC)

Alerted by the increasing number of civil wars, violent ethnic conflicts and disputes over geopolitical and ethnic issues occurring in Africa, the UNSC held its 6946th meeting on 15 April 2013. In connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa", not only did the UNSC reaffirm the recognition of the importance of a comprehensive strategy comprising operational and structural measures for preventing armed conflicts, but it also encouraged the proposal of measures for addressing the root-causes of tensions so as to ensure sustainable peace. Most importantly, the Council stressed the valuable contribution of mediation capacities, such as the Council of Elders and the Panel of the Wise, and of regional and sub-regional organizations, to ensure the coherence, synergy and collective effectiveness of their efforts.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Early warning systems

One of the most effective ways of promoting preventive diplomacy and mediation is to implement early warning systems that are capable of detecting and analyzing early signs of conflict. This can be done through a range of activities, including the collection and analysis of data, the development of early warning indicators and the development of early warning mechanisms. This information can be used to inform decision-makers and to trigger appropriate preventive measures, such as diplomatic initiatives, peacekeeping operations or peacebuilding activities.

Fostering inclusivity

Preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts must take into account the perspectives of all relevant stakeholders, including women, youth, and marginalized groups. This can be done through initiatives such as affirmative action, equal representation, and inclusive dialogue processes. Fostering inclusiveness is critical to ensuring that all voices are heard and that conflicts are resolved in a way that is sustainable and equitable.

Strengthening regional and subregional organizations

One of the most effective ways of promoting preventive diplomacy and mediation is to strengthen the role of regional and sub-regional organizations. This can be done by providing resources and support to these organizations, improving their capacity to respond to conflict situations and promoting their role in conflict resolution. This can be done through providing financial, technical and logistical support, capacity building programs, and training for their staff and member states.

Supporting national mediation capacities

National capacities to resolve conflicts peacefully should be strengthened, both through institutional support and through the development of individual skills and capacities. This can involve providing training, technical assistance, and other support to governments, civil society organizations, and other actors at the national level to enhance their ability to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Encouraging dialogue and building trust

Encouraging dialogue and building trust between conflicting parties is an important aspect of preventive diplomacy and mediation. This can be achieved through a variety of means, including track two diplomacy, confidence-building measures, and the creation of formal and informal mechanisms for communication and cooperation.

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