

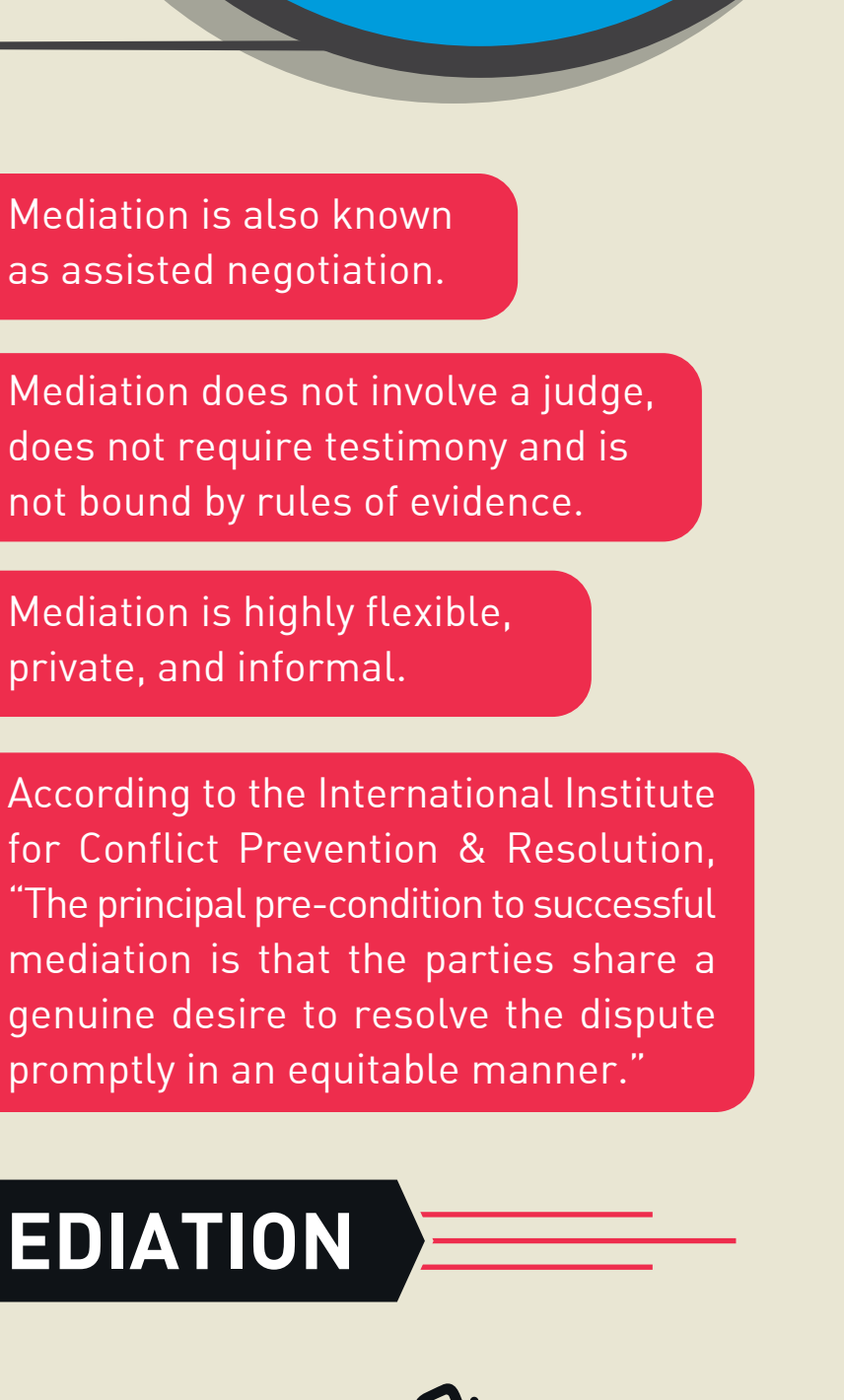
Why

MEDIATION WORKS IN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS



As with any relationship, when two governments are in conflict, they sometimes require the help of a third party to steer the conflict to a peaceful resolution. Mediation has seen greater acceptance and attention among governments and political groups around the globe and can provide greater benefits than going to war.

WHAT IS MEDIATION?



Mediation, as defined by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), is "a mode of negotiation in which a mutually acceptable third party helps the parties to a conflict find a solution that they cannot find by themselves." Mediation consists of three main phases and is useful in situations where tensions are high and emotions volatile.

1 Mediation is also known as assisted negotiation.

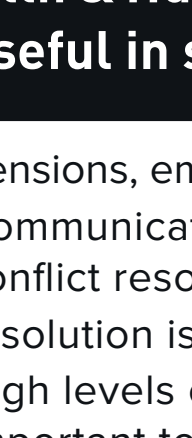
2 Mediation does not involve a judge, does not require testimony and is not bound by rules of evidence.

3 Mediation is highly flexible, private, and informal.

4 According to the International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution, "The principal pre-condition to successful mediation is that the parties share a genuine desire to resolve the dispute promptly in an equitable manner."

THREE PHASES OF MEDIATION

INTRODUCTION



The mediator lays ground rules and suggests a time schedule. In addition, the mediator oversees the meetings, during which opposing sides have the opportunity to state their perspective and desired solutions.

PROBLEM SOLVING



The parties discuss the issues, their interests, and potential solutions. Each party has the opportunity to meet in private with the mediator to discuss their position.

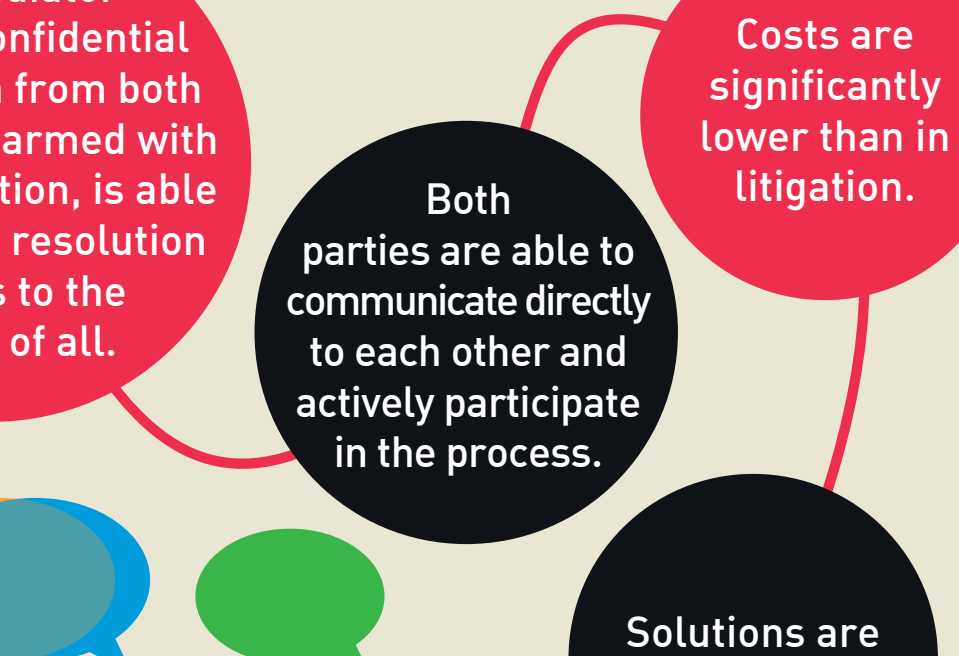
CLOSURE



Both parties state their terms for resolving the conflict and draft a document detailing their commitments.

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, mediation is useful in situations where:

- Tensions, emotions, or costs are increasing
- Communication issues are curtailing conflict resolution
- A solution is needed urgently
- High levels of confidentiality are important to both parties
- The parties would like to or need to maintain an ongoing relationship



ADVANTAGES & BENEFITS OF MEDIATION INCLUDE

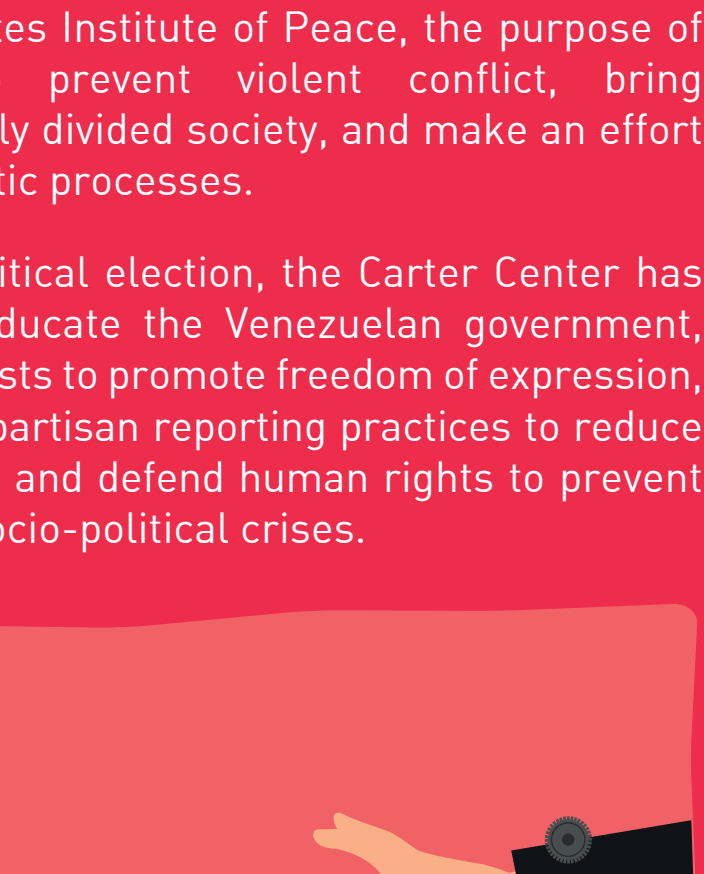


EFFECTIVE MEDIATION STRATEGIES

Mediators can adopt one or more of the following strategies when mediating a conflict:

PROCEDURAL STRATEGIES

According to the Beyond Intractability Knowledge Base Project, the mediator controls the timing, agenda, media publicity, meeting place and arrangements, the release of information, and the degree of formality or flexibility of the meetings. This strategy is effective in minimizing stress and disruption between parties who do not have a history of peacemaking.



AN EXAMPLE OF A PROCEDURAL STRATEGY



INTERVENTION AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION: Between 2002 and 2004, the Organization of American States, Jimmy Carter and the United Nations Development Program facilitated a dialogue between Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Frias, the government and the opposition. According to the United States Institute of Peace, the purpose of the mediation was to prevent violent conflict, bring reconciliation to a deeply divided society, and make an effort to preserve democratic processes.

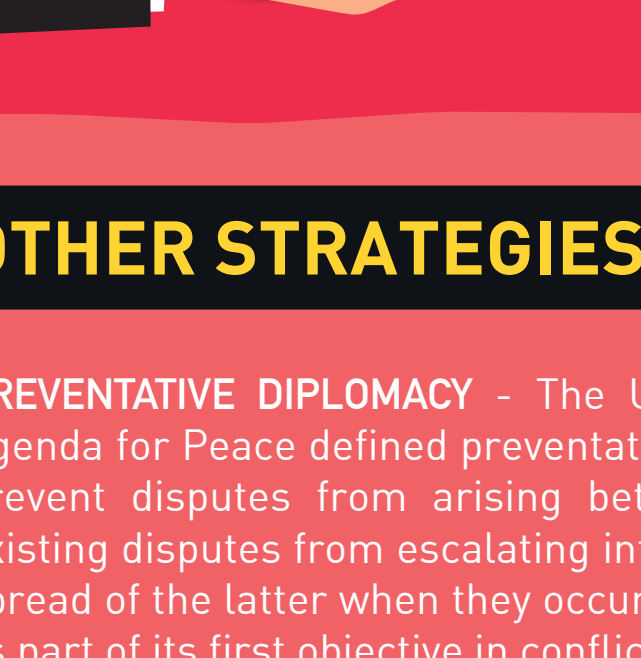
Since the 2002 political election, the Carter Center has made efforts to educate the Venezuelan government, media, and journalists to promote freedom of expression, train media in nonpartisan reporting practices to reduce media polarization, and defend human rights to prevent the escalation of socio-political crises.

COMMUNICATION-FACILITATION STRATEGIES

This strategy calls for the mediator to adopt a more passive role and focus on the facilitation of communication and cooperation.



AN EXAMPLE OF A COMMUNICATION-FACILITATION STRATEGY



RECONCILIATION BY TRUTH COMMISSIONS: According to the International Center for Transitional Justice, following the Kenyan post-election riots of 2007-2008, "a truth commission was established to examine not only the immediate violence but its root causes as well." The Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission were comprised of four Kenyan citizens and three foreigners. ICTJ USIP

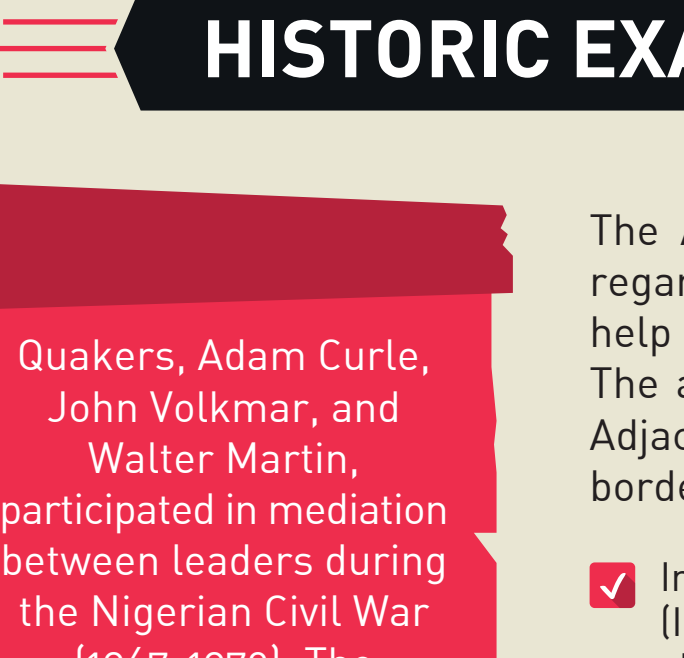
In addition, power mediation can be an effective method of facilitation communication. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has historically been a powerful player and its reputation & position on the global political scene enables the organization to influence political conflict resolution.

DIRECTIVE STRATEGIES

In this strategy, the mediator works hard to influence the content of the discussion and final solution. The mediator may threaten with diplomatic sanctions or provide incentives and support, such as financial or human resources in the form of humanitarian aid.



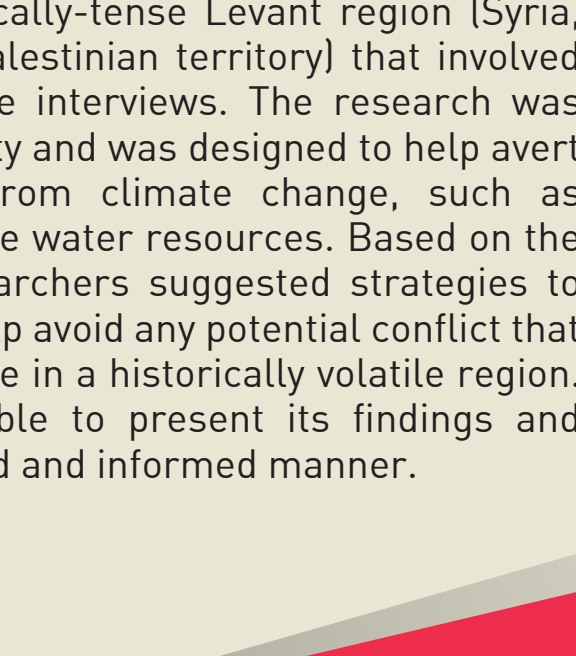
AN EXAMPLE OF A DIRECTIVE STRATEGY



The Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka in June 2003 was attended by representatives from Japan, Norway, the European Union (EU), and United States to demonstrate their support for the reconstruction and development of Sri Lanka by offering financial assistance in the form of US\$ 4.5 billion.

OTHER STRATEGIES & METHODS

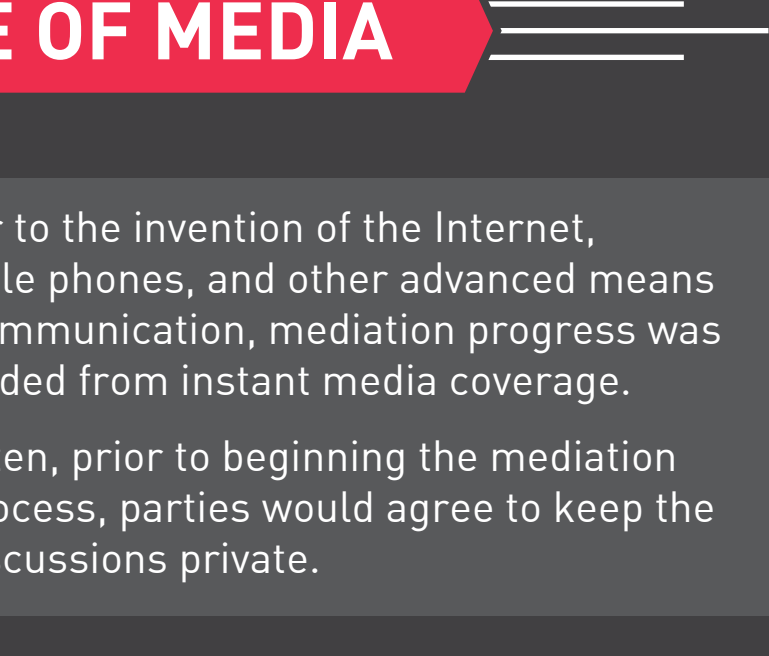
PREVENTATIVE DIPLOMACY - The United Nations' (UN) 1992 Agenda for Peace defined preventative diplomacy as "action to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of the latter when they occur," and identified mediation as part of its first objective in conflict prevention.



APOLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS - Non-profit & private voluntary organizations (PVOs) have been involved in mediating international conflicts in informal mediation. For example, the International Crisis Group is committed to researching, analyzing, and advocating for conflict resolution.

FAMOUS EXAMPLES IN HISTORY

Historically, international relations have been salvaged through the involvement of a third party mediating a conflict. Nigeria, Peru, and Britain have all benefited from mediation.



According to a 2006 "Mediation Style, and Crisis Outcomes" study published by the Journal of Conflict Resolution, "... of the 434 international crises that occurred between 1918 and 2001, 128 experienced some form of mediation. While this is only a 30 percent rate of incidence during the entire period, when we narrow our focus to the post-Cold War era, we find that 46 percent of all crises were mediated."

HISTORIC EXAMPLES OF MEDIATION

Quakers, Adam Curle, John Volkmar, and Walter Martin, participated in mediation between leaders during the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970). The mediators worked as message carriers to help reduce tensions between the parties. This helped to create a feeling of resolution at the end of the war.

The Acta de Brasilia was signed in 1998 to resolve a dispute regarding a shared border between Peru and Ecuador. Third party help came from Brazil, Chile, Argentina, and the United States. The agreement called for the establishment of peace parks, or Adjacent Zones of Ecological Protection on both sides of the border in the Cordillera del Cóndor.

✓ In 2009, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) developed a neutral analysis of the security threat of climate change in the historically politically-tense Levant region (Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, and Palestinian territory) that involved two research trips and multiple interviews. The research was conducted by a neutral third party and was designed to help avert any conflict that may arise from climate change, such as increasing competition for scarce water resources. Based on the information collected, the researchers suggested strategies to deal with climate change and help avoid any potential conflict that may result due to climate change in a historically volatile region. The neutral third party was able to present its findings and recommendations in an unbiased and informed manner.

CHARTING THE COURSE OF MEDIATION

With technology and digital communication methods rapidly developing, governments are turning to the latest technologies to aid their conflict prevention tactics. For example, the nearly instantaneous media coverage of political debates has drawn greater attention and involvement from concerned citizens. The resulting increased transparency has encouraged governments to focus on preventing various types of political conflict using digital means.



THE OMNIPRESENCE OF MEDIA

A more cautious involvement of media during mediation can be facilitated by hosting press conferences. This helps ensure greater control of the flow of information.

Prior to the invention of the Internet, mobile phones, and other advanced means of communication, mediation progress was shielded from instant media coverage.

- Often, prior to beginning the mediation process, parties would agree to keep the discussions private.

The ISN report also states that "a non-biased media can enhance public participation and information, and therefore help to discuss and reflect key issues under negotiation."

However, according to Mediation and Facilitation In Peace Processes, a report published by the International Relations and Security Network (ISN), information can be deliberately leaked to the media for various reasons. According to the report, these reasons can include:

- To cast the opposing party in a negative light and
- To test an idea before committing to it.

In addition, social media can be used by the general public and the opposing parties in a conflict to discuss developments in real-time.

DIGITAL MAPPING

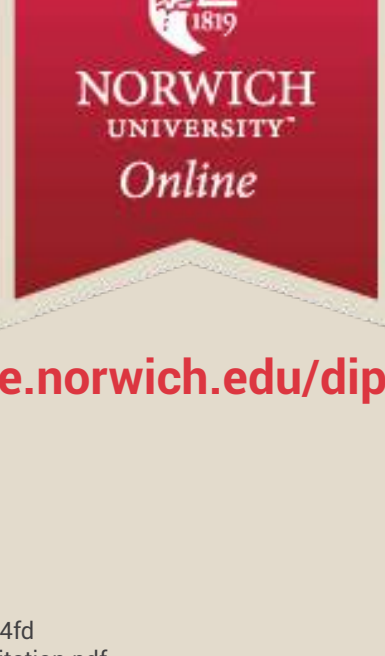
✓ An interactive digital map effectively organizes and visualizes large volumes of historical data for both politicians and the general public. This can increase impact and push respective governments to come to a resolution.

✓ The Refugee Project, for example, presents the refugee story on an interactive map as part of a transparency effort to urge governments to engage in diplomacy.

As mediation becomes more heavily reported on, especially on social media, governments are increasingly engaging in preventative diplomacy. Therefore, a firm grasp of modern mediation techniques, including the use of the latest technologies, is a crucial skill for government officials, as effective mediators can help to avert conflict and war by facilitating communication and peaceful discussion.

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