

# 9 Glossary



**Advocacy:** deliberate actions to bring about change in policies and practice, usually by formulating a position and engaging or pressurising those who are in a position to make the changes happen.

**Capacity building:** The process of enhancing, improving and unleashing skills, competencies and abilities.

**Chatham House Rule:** a meeting protocol usually understood to mean that any participant is free to use the information of a meeting, but cannot reveal who said what. This rule is designed to promote the openness of the discussion, allowing everyone to speak freely.

**[Conflict] Early Warning and Early Response:** the attempt to detect the escalation of violence early on, and to prevent further escalation to save lives and prevent violent conflict. An Early Warning **system** is the systematic collection and sorting of early warning information, packaged and communicated to inform early response actions.

**Conflict prevention:** actions and strategies that aim to prevent violence from starting or restarting by addressing factors driving conflict towards violence. **Operational** prevention focuses on short-term crisis response (for example preventive diplomacy), whereas **structural** prevention focuses on long-term efforts to address root causes such as economic, social and political exclusion of some groups

**Conflict resolution:** the process of facilitating a peaceful ending to armed conflict, often through negotiation, diplomacy and other peacebuilding efforts.

**Conflict sensitivity:** an approach to programming and policymaking that aims to minimise unintentional negative impacts of interventions in conflict-affected contexts; also known as the Do No Harm approach (see Box 17).

**Constituency:** a group of people with shared interests or opinions, who are represented by an individual or organisation who speaks on their behalf and advocates for them.

**Convener:** the person who organises and officially calls people together for a meeting, discussion, or in this particular case, an MSP.

**Credibility:** the quality of being trusted and believed in. Organisations and individuals are perceived as credible when seen as trustworthy and knowledgeable.

**Dialogue:** a process that brings together actors from across a conflict divide, using confidence building measures in order to develop a common understanding of the concerns, interests, and needs of each side.

**Deliverables:** the products, or outputs, of an activity or process.

**Engagement processes:** In this manual, we refer to the full spectrum of MSPs as engagement processes, where a particular set of groups interact around joint objectives and rules of engagement, whether formalised or not.

**Feedback loop:** a system of information sharing whereby the people and organisations involved or affected can report on activities undertaken, as well as react and respond to the information/reports received.

**Gatekeeping:** individuals or organisations claiming a space and then exerting influence over which of their peers can participate.

**Gender:** the socially constructed roles and relationships, personality traits, attitudes, behaviours, values, relative power and influence that society ascribes to male and female

identities. While biological sex is determined by genetic and anatomical characteristics, gender is an acquired identity that is learned, changes over time, and varies widely within and across cultures. A **gender sensitive** approach implies an awareness of how different people and groups think about gender, to minimise relying on assumptions and traditions. A **gender analysis** uncover how gender relations affect a conflict situation.

**Human security:** freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom from indignity of individuals, communities and their global environment. The term understands security as ranging from physical security to economic, political and social. It is context-specific and puts local people's perceptions at the heart of defining and measuring human security.

**Impartiality:** not favouring one group, belief system, culture or tradition over another, but looking at all options in a just and unbiased way.

**International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding:** a forum for political dialogue that brings together countries affected by conflict and fragility, development partners, and civil society: see [www.pbsdialogue.org/](http://www.pbsdialogue.org/)

**Infrastructures for peace:** a collective term for the various mechanisms, resources, values, skills and interdependent structures which contribute to conflict prevention and peace-building in a society. For example, this may include dedicated resources allocated by local authorities/government, legal or policy frameworks, institutional networks, educational policies or local peace committees.

**Initiator:** the individual or organisation setting up the meeting, dialogue or MSP. This is not always the same person/organisation as the convener, as the initiator can also be working behind the scenes to bring together a core group of organisers, and can instigate a process by convincing an influential third party to officially convene the MSP.

**Mediation:** a process in which a third party impartially assists in resolving a dispute between two or more parties, based on communication between the parties and assisting the parties to design a solution to address the dispute. Dialogue can be used as a tool for mediation.

**Milestones:** in project management, milestones mark events, achievements or other points of progress along a project's timeline. Milestones can be used to track the progress of an MSP.

**Multi-stakeholder process:** For the purposes of this manual, we define MSPs as processes that convene three or more stakeholder groups, which together seek solutions and develop strategies around specific conflict prevention objectives over a period of time.

**Peacebuilding:** a wide range of efforts by diverse actors in government and civil society to address root causes of violence before, during and after violent conflict. It can refer to the direct work that intentionally focuses on addressing the factors driving and mitigating conflicts, or to efforts to coordinate different strategies that address such factors.

**Preventive:** a proactive approach to violent conflict focussing on prevention, instead of reaction after conflict has already escalated. Within GPPAC it is associated with ensuring that conflict early warning leads to early response actions.

**Rule of law:** the principle that everything within the state, including the state itself, is ruled by, and subject to the law. This law is understood as being represented by a body that speaks on behalf of the people, and should be enforced equally and independently to ensure fairness.

**Security Sector Reform:** the political, institutional, economic and social restructuring of the security sector in order to ensure an accountable and democratically controlled security sector promote peace and stability.

**Sense-making:** the process of giving meaning to experience.

**Stakeholder:** anyone who has a stake or interest in a specific problem or issue is a stakeholder—those who are affected by a particular problem (e.g. conflict), and those who can affect it.

**Structural violence:** systematic violence of social institutions that oppress certain social groups (often condemning them to abject poverty) and the marginalisation that accompanies severe inequality.

**Sustainability:** the capacity of a project or process to endure indefinitely and remain effective, or to produce results that have a lasting impact.

**Sustainable Development Goals:** the global framework and set of goals on sustainable development and poverty eradication which will replace the Millennium Development Goals after 2015 based on the agreement of all UN member states; also referred to as the post-2015 Development Agenda.

**Systems approach:** the attempt to understand the interdependent relationships between different peacebuilding efforts, people, institutions and forces in a conflict-affected context.

**Theory of change:** the ‘rationale’ or logic of how a programme hopes to foster change to produce intended outcomes and impacts. The first part of a theory of change is a belief about what factors are driving or mitigating conflict and need to change. The second part is about the assumptions about how a project, programme or policy will change those factors. See the examples in Section 8.5.

**Tokenism:** the gesture of nominally including members of minority groups in a meeting or process, but only to deflect accusations of not being inclusive in advance.

**Track 2 dialogue process/Track 1,5 dialogue process:** while Track I diplomacy could be defined as official, governmental diplomacy, Track II diplomacy refers to dialogue or other diplomatic activities between non-state actors and in an unofficial capacity. Track 1.5 diplomacy refers to situations in which both official and non-state actors cooperate or engage in dialogue, usually for conflict resolution.

**Transparency:** in social contexts transparency means openness, communication and accountability. It implies policies are in place to allow individuals access to information held by authorities or those in power.

**Umbrella group/organisation:** an association representing a group of institutions or organisations that hold a collective identity or common interests, that work together to achieve common goals.

**UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security:** this resolution recognises the unique impact of violent conflict on women and girls. It calls for gender to be considered in all aspects of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and for consideration for the special needs of women in conflict situations.

**Sources** key resources that informed this glossary include Schirch (2013), the ACCORD Peacebuilding Handbook, and WANEP’s Dialogue and Mediation – A Practitioner’s Guide. Processes and Lessons for Participatory Dialogue and Mediation (2012)