



CONCEPT

The Istanbul Mediation Conference is a traditional gathering of leaders, practitioners, civil society, and academia to discuss current issues and trends in the field of mediation and peaceful resolution of conflicts. As a major forum that contributes to the practice and the study of mediation, the Conference aims to shape the discussions in the field, based on first-hand experience from various mediation processes.

This 8th edition of the Conference, to be organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, will be held as a prelude to the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF). The ADF's theme "Recoding Diplomacy" highlights the need for diplomacy as a preventive and effective measure at a time when competition, discord, and conflict have become salient characteristics of international affairs.

In tandem with the ADF's theme, the participants of the Conference will shed light on some of the widely discussed topics in mediation including the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on mediation, leveraging new technologies for peace, the role of women and youth in mediation processes.



DRAFT PROGRAMME

14.00 – 15.00 **High Level Opening Session**

The opening session, hosted by the Foreign Minister of Türkiye in light of his role as the co-chair of the Groups of Friends of Mediation at the UN, the OSCE and the OIC will be joined by the Foreign Ministers of Qatar, Colombia (tbc), and Kuwait (tbc) with respect to their roles in different mediation/peace processes. The Secretaries-General of the OSCE and the OIC and the Under-Secretary-General of United Nations which represent the largest global and regional organizations with leading roles on peaceful resolution of conflicts will also speak in this session.

H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye

H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

H.E. Ms. Marta Lucía Ramírez, Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia (tbc)

H.E. Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of the State of Kuwait (tbc)

H.E. Ms. Helga Maria Schmid, Secretary-General of the OSCE

H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary-General of the OIC

H.E. Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, UN

H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (videomessage)



15.00 – 15.15 **Coffee Break**

15.15 – 16.15 **Session I: Masters' Stage**

Leading and taking part in mediation is an arduous job. As every conflict is different and mediation is a heavily human-centric endeavor, there is no specific formula to be followed by mediators. Furthermore, more often than not, the valuable experience of mediators goes undocumented. Accumulating experience, transmitting it to future generations, and capturing the state of the art however, is critical to building capacity for peaceful resolution of conflicts. This panel aims to capitalize on the knowledge of a distinguished group of mediation practitioners, and provide them with an opportunity to share their insights.

Moderator:

Michael Keating, Executive Director, the European Institute of Peace

Panelists:

Miroslav Lajčák, EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues, President of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly

Jeffrey Feltman, Former U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Former UN Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs

Ján Kubiš, Former United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Libya, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia

Betty Bigombe, Former Chief Mediator to the conflict in Uganda

16.15 – 16.45 **Q&A**

16.45 – 17.00 **Coffee Break**

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17.00 – 18.00 **Session II: Women and Youth in Peace Mediation**

More than enough time has passed since the adoption of the landmark UN Security Council Resolutions about the role of women and youth in peace and security matters. Despite the overwhelming evidence highlighting the importance of inclusion as a key marker of success and sustainability of mediation, only a few peace processes include women and youth as mediators, negotiators, or signatories. In this session, a panel of distinguished guests will discuss the essential role of women and youth in securing and maintaining peace.

Moderator:

Janne Taalas, CEO of the Crisis Management Initiative

Panelists:

Hind Kabawat, Deputy Head of the Syrian Negotiation Commission's Geneva Office, Director of the Interfaith Peacebuilding at the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy & Conflict Resolution, George Mason University

Esra Çuhadar, Bilkent University, Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, the United States Institute of Peace

Bineta Diop, Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission

Maria Raczynska, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Youth and Security

Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (*videomessage*)

18.00 – 18.30 **Q&A**

18.30 – 18.45 **Wrapping Up:**

A Conversation with **Michael Keating**, Executive Director, the European Institute of Peace and **Janne Taalas**, CEO of the Crisis Management Initiative

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