



DRAFT PROGRAMME (as of June 27)
(Venue: Conrad Hotel)

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:30 *Opening Speech*

H.E. Mr. Ümit Yalçın, Ambassador, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

09:30 – 11:30 *First Session:*

The Assessment of the Field: Successes, Challenges and the Way Forward

The expert community of mediation operates on a dynamic terrain. Mediators face greater challenges in their mediation efforts as the world keeps changing and conflicts get more complicated.

While welcoming the achievements in the field of mediation so far, self-reflection, review and appraisal of experiences including assessment of successes and failures must be done continuously. Furthermore, only through innovative discussions and exchanges can we bring mediation more in line with the realities and necessities on the ground.

Considering the lessons learned from concrete cases, the Fourth Istanbul Conference would review initially what facilitates and hinders success in mediation efforts.

By stimulating exchanges on best practices and experiences, the Conference aims to set the stage for innovation in the field of mediation practice and research.

Moderator: Dr. Meltem Müftüler Baç, Professor, Jean Monnet Chair, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sabancı University.

Rapporteur: Dr. Emre Hatipoğlu, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sabancı University.

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Alvaro de Soto, Former UN Under-Secretary-General

H.E. Dr. Yossi Beilin, Former Minister of Justice of Israel.

Dr. Barnett Rubin, Senior Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, New York University.

Dr. Jose Vericat, Adviser, International Peace Institute.

Q&A

11:45 – 13:20 Buffet Lunch

13:20 – 15:20 *Second Session:*

Mediation and the “Peace Continuum”

Conflicts emerge and are resolved in a continuum. The UN Secretary General has set out a vision for peace which involves: “a comprehensive, modern and effective operational peace architecture, encompassing prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and long-term development—the peace continuum”.

Mediation’s relevance in the full conflict cycle, including in prevention as well as in early stages of conflicts and the post-agreement processes, needs further discussion. A related concern is strengthening the complementarity and continuity among measures taken at different phases of the conflict cycle and what role mediation can play in this regard.

The Fourth Istanbul Conference on Mediation would promote an innovative and ground breaking discussion on these topics with the aim of exploring the potential contributions of mediation to the UN Secretary General’s “Surge in Diplomacy for Peace” agenda.

Moderator: Dr. Ersel Aydınli, Professor, Department of International Relations, Bilkent University

Rapporteur: Dr. Tuba Turan, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, İstanbul Kemerburgaz University.

Panellists:

Mr. Asif Khan, Chief of Mediation Support Unit of the United Nations.

H.E. Mr. Marcel Pesko, Ambassador, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre.

Dr. Gülnur Aybet, Professor, Senior Advisor to the President of the Republic of Turkey, Department of International Relations of Yıldız Technical University.

H.E. Mr. Levent Şahinkaya, Ambassador, Chairman of Independent Decommissioning Body in the South Philippines Peace Process

Q&A

15:20 – 15:40 Coffee Break

Potential of Mediation in A Broader Spectrum of Tensions

The drivers of contemporary conflicts proliferate and prevention as well as the role of mediation needs to be explored within a broad spectrum of contemporary tensions.

Various kinds of political, social and religious animosities, including xenophobia and racism, etc., are in ascendancy all around the world, creating problems for healthy national and international order. Hardly any country or society seems totally immune to these tensions.

Despite the rising salience of this issue, the role of mediation in dealing with the tensions based on such animosities is a less researched topic in the study of mediation so far. Closer scrutiny and enhanced discussions are needed on how mediation can be utilized, especially at the community level, in addressing such tensions for the sake of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Facilitating an interactive dialogue on this topic, the Fourth Istanbul Conference aims to contribute to the use of mediation in a much broader spectrum of contemporary tensions. As such, it also seeks to draw policy-relevant findings by exploring the potential contributions of various forms of domestic mediation, such as community and peer mediation, to conflicts or tensions based on political, social and religious animosities. Such findings may also support national ownership, which is one of the preconditions of success in peace processes and as important as local efforts in mediation.

Furthermore, elaborating the possible areas of action at different levels, the Conference will also address the complementarity between the work of the “Mediation for Peace” and “Alliance of Civilizations” initiatives within the UN as well as the role of regional organizations. An idea, for instance, would be, in addition to the already existing work on including women more in the mediation processes, to develop at UN and regional or trans-regional organizations guidelines for culturally sensitive mediation training and training for peer and youth mediators as well as building regional and local capacity to address youth inclusion and culturally sensitive mediation.

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Rauf Engin Soysal, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Dr. Talha Köse, Associate Professor, Head of Department of International Relations, Ibn Khaldun University.

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

H.E. Mr. Yahaya Lawal, Ambassador, Director in Charge of African Affairs at Political Department, General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Ms. Tuija Talvitie, Executive Director, Crisis Management Initiative.

Mr. Calin Rus, Director, Intercultural Institute of Timisoara.

Dr. Talha Köse, Associate Professor, Head of Department of International Relations, Ibn Khaldun University.

Q&A

17:40 – 18:10 *Closing Remarks*

H.E. Dr. Burak Akçapar, Ambassador, Director General for Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

20:30 – 22:30 Dinner