

Glossary

Conflict Prevention: Conflict prevention describes efforts to prevent the localized disputes and conflicts, which are inherent in every society, from escalating into wider confrontations such as poverty, corruption, lack of accountability in government and in the military, and inequality.

Source: *Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada*

<http://www.international.gc.ca/peacekeeping/conflict-en.asp>

Diplomacy: Generally, diplomacy refers to the interaction between two or more nation-states. Traditionally carried out by government officials, who negotiate treaties, trade policies, and other international agreements, the term has been extended to include unofficial exchanges of private citizens.

Source: *University of Colorado*

<http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/glossary.htm>

Disarmament: Action of preventing the spread of nuclear, chemical, biological weapons or small arms and of retrieving weapons after a conflict, including disarming and demobilizing former combatants and helping them to reintegrate into civil society.

Electoral Assistance: Electoral assistance projects and the electoral components of peacekeeping operations include coordinating and supporting the activities of international observers, and helping to develop capabilities for impartial national election observation; maintaining a roster of international electoral experts.

Source: *Department of political Affairs*

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/electoral.html>

General Assembly: The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all Member States, each of which has one vote. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority.

Source: *United Nations General Assembly*

<http://www.un.org/ga/61/background/background.shtml>

Human Rights: Basic observance of human rights refers to the recognition that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms and equal protection of the law without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

International Law: International law is a collection of rules governing relations between states. International is made up of treaties between countries, multi-lateral agreements, some commissions covering particular subjects, procedures and precedents of the International Court of Justice, which only has jurisdiction when countries agree to appear, the United Nations Charter, and custom.

Legitimacy: Legitimacy refers to the perceived fairness of a dispute resolution process.

Source: *University of Colorado*

<http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/glossary.htm>

Mediation: Intervention of an acceptable 3rd party who facilitates the negotiation of a solution by using reasoning, persuasion and suggestions for alternatives.

Source: *UN Conflict Negotiation Skills for Youth Handbook*

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/hds/pubs/2286/s6.pdf>

Non-governmental Organizations: The term “non-governmental organizations” (NGOs) refers to international organizations that are not associated with any government. Examples include many religions that cross borders, international humanitarian aid organizations such as CARE or the International Red Cross etc.

Source: *University of Colorado*

<http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/glossary.htm>

Peacebuilding: Peacebuilding involves a full range of approaches, processes, and stages needed for transformation toward more sustainable, peaceful relationships and governance modes and structures. Peacebuilding includes building legal and human rights institutions as well as fair and effective governance and dispute resolution processes and systems.

Source: <http://www.peacemakers.ca/publications/peacebuildingdefinition.html>

Peacebuilding Commission: The Peacebuilding Commission advises and proposes integrated strategies for post-conflict recovery, focusing attention on reconstruction, institution-building and sustainable development, in countries emerging from conflict.

Peacekeeping: The deployment of international military and civilian personnel to a conflict area with the consent of the parties to the conflict in order to stop or contain hostilities or supervise the carrying out of a peace agreement.

Source: *Department of peacekeeping operations*

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/faq/>

Peacemaking: Peacemaking can occur prior to or during a conflict, and describes efforts to prevent the spread of the conflict, to develop dialogue between the parties, and, ultimately, a peace accord. Peacemakers can use diplomatic techniques, such as facilitation, mediation, arbitration, and other measures to maintain and restore international peace and security.

Source: *Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada*

<http://www.international.gc.ca/peacekeeping/conflict-en.asp>

Peace Process: Refers to a long-term series of negotiations, dialogue and/or other conflict resolution processes involving the parties to the conflict, as well as elements of civil society and the international community, to define and implement a transition from a state of violent conflict to a state of sustainable peace.

Source: *Conciliation resources*

<http://www.c-r.org/our-work/accord/engaging-groups/glossary.php>

Refugees: A refugee is a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country.

Source: *The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*

Rule of Law: Rule of law generally entails equal protection of human rights of individuals and groups, as well as equal punishment under the law. It reigns over government and protects citizens against arbitrary state action, ensuring citizens are subject to the rule of law, not the arbitrary rule of men. It encompasses three institutions: the security or law enforcement institution, the court system and judiciary and the corrections system.

Secretary General: Appointed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, upon the recommendation of the Security Council, the Secretary General is the chief administrative officer of the organization. He reports the work of the United Nations to the General Assembly and can bring matters of importance to the attention of the Security Council. Source: Charter of the United Nations.

Security Council: Most important organ of the United Nations. It is composed of 5 permanent members (USA, France, Great Britain, Russia and China) and 10 non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for 2 years. Its primary responsibility, under the Charter, is the maintenance of international peace and security.

Source: *Security Council*

http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_background.html

Third-Party Intervention: The term “third party” usually refers to a person who gets involved in a dispute in an effort to help the disputing parties resolve the problem and work out a mutually-acceptable resolution.

Source: *University of Colorado*

<http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/glossary.htm>

Veto Power: The UN Charter does not mention the veto power specifically. It only specifies that resolutions are adopted by an affirmative vote (or abstention) from 9 of the 15 members, including the 5 permanent members.

Source: *UN Charter: Chapter 5, Article 27*