

CONCEPT PAPER
UNGA FOLLOW-UP RESOLUTION ON MEDIATION
“Strengthening the role of mediation in conflict prevention and resolution”
June 26, 2012

Background

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/283 entitled “Strengthening the role of mediation in conflict prevention and resolution” was adopted unanimously on June 22, 2011. This resolution has, since its adoption, assumed an important normative role, contributing to the promotion of the use of mediation, efforts to improve coordination and cooperation between different actors and to mediation related capacity-building.

In the resolution 65/283 and its Operative Paragraph 18, the General Assembly decided “*to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled “Prevention of armed conflict”, a sub-item entitled “Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution”*”. Additionally, the General Assembly requested in Operative Paragraph 17 of resolution 65/283 “*the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by Member States at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly and to include the views of Member States and other relevant actors, as well as guidance for more effective mediation, as an annex to the report*”. The Group of Friends of Mediation¹ has decided to table a short and procedural draft follow-up resolution to acknowledge the report as well as the guidance for effective mediation and would like to seek the support of all UN Member States to have this resolution adopted during the 66th session of the General Assembly.

Rationale

The Friends of Mediation decided, reflecting the spirit of the revitalization of the General Assembly, to build the Follow-up Resolution on the previous Resolution on Mediation, A/RES/65/283. Hence, the Follow-up Resolution recalls the previous Resolution, without repeating its content.

The Secretary-General’s Report on the implementation of resolution A/65/283 and the milestone Guidance of Effective Mediation deserves due recognition. The inclusive, comprehensive and transparent consultation process that led to the development of the Guidance for Effective Mediation is well appreciated. Even though there is no one-size-fits all formula in successful mediation, the Guidance is a much needed reference document which will be useful for mediators and mediation support teams across the world. Therefore this document should be endorsed and disseminated as widely as possible to all relevant actors.

¹ The Group of the Friends of Mediation was founded in September 2010 to promote and advance the use of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, as well as to generate support for the development of mediation. The group is co-chaired by Finland and Turkey and consists currently of 28 UN Member States, the United Nations and 7 regional organizations (Finland, Turkey, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, African Union, Arab League, ASEAN, European Union, OAS, OIC, OSCE, UN).

With the renewed commitment to promote mediation, there have been important efforts during the past year to raise awareness and highlight the increasing importance of mediation in conflict prevention and resolution. In this context, both the President of the 66th General Assembly, in his four priorities, and the Secretary General, in his five year action agenda, have prioritized the promotion of mediation. Additionally, many Member States, the UN, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant actors, have taken significant steps to promote the use of mediation and to enhance coordination and cooperation. The Follow-up resolution aims to express appreciation for these efforts and to encourage further positive steps. More awareness-raising, capacity-building and use of mediation are needed in the future in order prevent conflicts more effectively and to resolve existing and future conflicts more expeditiously.

The Friends of Mediation view the issue as being important enough to be considered regularly by the General Assembly. In order to maintain the discussions rich and relevant, the Friends of Mediation advocate for its bi-annual consideration.

Convinced of the benefits of mediation, the Friends of Mediation stand ready to work with other UN Member States to adopt with consensus the attached Follow-up Resolution.