

Summary by the Co-chairs

Friends of Mediation Ministerial Meeting in New York

Thursday 26 September 2013 at 8.00-9.45 AM

Turkish Center, New York

The Friends of Mediation met for the fourth time at ministerial level on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly on September 26th, 2013. The meeting was hosted by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs Prof. Ahmet Davutoglu and co-chaired together with the Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Erkki Tuomioja.

The list of the participants is attached herewith.

At the meeting, the discussion mainly focused on two agenda items. First, the issue of improving the funding of mediation activities of the UN was addressed by the participants. The basis for this discussion was provided by the joint non-paper of the co-chairs, Turkey and Finland, which was shared with the participants before the meeting.

The second item discussed by the group was the theme of the UN General Assembly Resolution, which will be sponsored by the Group of Friends to be adopted during the 68th UNGA. There was a general agreement in the room that the next substantial UNGA resolution should focus on strengthening the role and capacity of the regional and sub-regional organizations in mediation activities and enhancing the cooperation with the UN. Many participants expressed their support for the Moroccan-Spanish joint initiative "Mediation in the Mediterranean" as an example of the broadening of the activities of Friends of Mediation at the regional level. Members were encouraged to establish Friends of Mediation groups in their respective regional organizations.

The need to enhance the role of women in mediation, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, was emphasized.

In addition, a proposal was made to discuss a concrete mediation case in the next year's ministerial breakfast.

Improving the funding of mediation of the UN

Several key points were addressed:

- The cost-effectiveness of mediation compared to other forms of conflict management was emphasized. It was stressed that mediation requires proper resourcing, including predictable and stable funding.
- The need for broadening the donor base for the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and mediation in particular, was highlighted.
- Many participants referred to the Secretary-General's report on the "Strengthening the Role of Mediation" (A/66/811, 25 June 2012) which concluded that DPA is still understaffed and under-resourced.

- The non-paper by the Co-chairs on possible option for improving the funding of UN mediation activities was welcomed. Gradual approach was emphasized. It was agreed that an assessment on the funding of DPA mediation activities will be requested in order to receive more information on the present and future needs for further utilization of the issue.
- While some concerns were voiced related to the UN regular budget, there was an agreement on the importance of adequate funding for mediation.
- The Group reiterated its strong support to the efforts of the Secretary General, the UN and the DPA to further advance its mediation capacity, structures and activities. The work done so far was commended.

The theme of the Friends of Mediation sponsored resolution to be adopted by the 68th UN General Assembly

- There was consensus on the need for the Group to prepare and sponsor a substantive resolution, reflecting the significance of certain aspects of mediation, to be adopted by the 68th UN General Assembly.
- As for the theme of this draft resolution, it was proposed by the co-chairs to focus on the strengthening the role and capacity of the regional and sub-regional organizations in mediation activities and enhancing the cooperation with the UN.
- Based on the strong support expressed by the participants for this proposal, it was agreed that preparations of the resolution will start immediately. The aim is to adopt the resolution at the latest by June 2014.
- Pointing to the importance of effective participation of women in all phases of conflict prevention and resolution, many have stressed that the role of women in mediation should also be an integral part of the next substantive resolution to be prepared by the Group.

Attached: List of Participants