



Centre for
Humanitarian
Dialogue

Mediation for peace



Annual Report

2010



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Opening statement

2010 was a year of severe crisis for the HD Centre, as a major fraud was discovered in June. This could have had very severe consequences for our operations and the very survival of the organisation. The Finance Director was immediately fired and the HD Centre is in litigation to recover the stolen funds. On the discovery of the fraud, emergency measures were taken including conducting an intense review of our financial position and controls following a series of recommendations by an independent auditor. Donors, staff and the HD Centre's voluntary board pulled together to ensure the future of the HD Centre.

Under the leadership of its founder, Martin Griffiths, the HD Centre had evolved during its first decade of operations from a small group of humanitarians to become the pre-eminent organisation in the field of private mediation. Following the profound changes in 2010, Martin Griffiths relinquished his executive responsibilities but remains actively engaged in the work of the HD Centre as a consultant. Angelo Gnaedinger, as interim Executive Director, steered the HD Centre through the events surrounding the fraud with a steady hand, demonstrating the same dedication that won him the respect of all those who worked with him during his previous career at the International Committee of the Red Cross. The search for a new permanent Executive Director was concluded in 2011, with the appointment of David Harland. David comes to the organisation with impressive experience gained at the United Nations in some of the most difficult conflicts of the last two decades. Angelo will now lead the organisation's work in Europe and the Middle East.

In 2010, Dr Javier Solana, the former Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, agreed to become the HD Centre's Honorary President and the HD Centre board also evolved. At the end of the year Karin Jestin, who played a critical role in successfully seeing the HD Centre through the crisis, decided it was time to step down from her position of Chairperson. She stays on the HD Centre's board while Jean-Marie Guéhenno assumed the position of Chairman. Jean-Marie is a Professor in Professional Practice at Columbia University and was formerly Under-Secretary-General of Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations.

Throughout the highs and lows of 2010, the HD Centre felt constantly reassured that there were many people who believed in its mission to improve the global response to armed conflict and were willing to give their support for an alternative to violence for resolving differences. Despite the challenges the organisation faced, the HD Centre managed to continue its valuable operational work and secure several significant successes in the course of 2010. Some of these are highlighted in this report including supporting successful elections in Somaliland and the Philippines, as well as establishing networks of female mediators and negotiators in Africa and Asia.

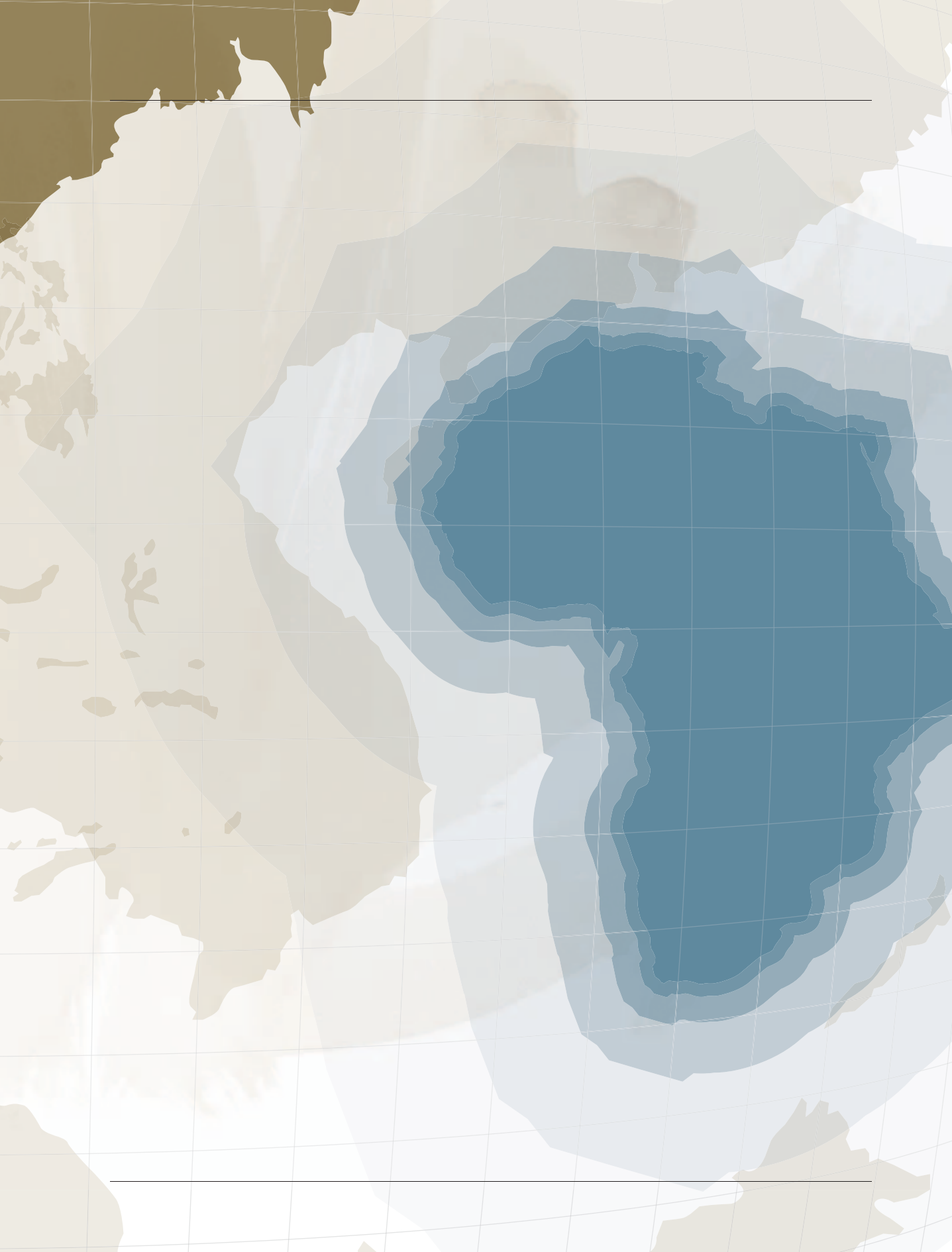
The HD Centre still faces significant challenges but the action it has taken has helped to stabilise the organisation. It has retained its entrepreneurial spirit and remains driven by its focus on operational activities. The HD Centre would like to thank all those who supported the organisation during 2010 and helped to ensure the HD Centre could move positively into 2011 and its next phase as an organisation.

May 2011

Left page: HD Centre Chair of the Board until end of 2010, Ms Karin Jestin, and new Chair of the Board, Mr Jean-Marie Guéhenno.



A unique
organisation



Making Peace

Mediating between conflict parties and fostering the right conditions for sustainable peace is an intensive process. There are many conflict zones around the globe and, as an independent mediation organisation, the HD Centre has to focus its energies where its greatest strengths (independence, impartiality and flexibility) can have the greatest impact.

The HD Centre is currently involved in many conflicts around the world and maintains a watching brief in other areas. Once the HD Centre has identified a conflict where it believes its involvement could increase the potential for sustainable peace, it may carry out a thorough assessment. This may involve a team visiting the area to gather information about the scope of the conflict, the potential for establishing high-level contacts with the conflict parties and a possible focus for the HD Centre's future engagement.

If the assessment indicates that the HD Centre could have a positive impact on the situation, it is approved and a project is established. Depending on the conflict location, the people working on the project may be based in its Geneva headquarters or at one of the HD Centre's regional offices in Africa or Asia. These offices may be closer to the conflict zone and provide a useful place to hold meetings. The project staff work rapidly to develop contacts with the conflict parties and encourage them to engage in dialogue.

Depending on the conflict location, the people working on the project may be based in its Geneva headquarters or at one of the HD Centre's regional offices in Africa and Asia.

Where a peace process is already in place, the HD Centre will often work to support this (sometimes at the request of the Head of State or the peace process mediator). Where there is no formal peace process, the HD Centre will work to develop the right environment for establishing a peaceful resolution to the conflict, either through mediation or through wider peacebuilding activities such as helping to ensure peaceful elections.

The HD Centre project staff may shuttle between the conflict parties for some time before a formal, mediated peace process begins. The HD Centre's Humanitarian Mediation Programme may also be involved in trying to secure humanitarian access and reducing the levels of violence during the conflict and in developing agreements between the parties which address humanitarian concerns before, during and after any political settlement is agreed.

Where appropriate, the HD Centre project team may ultimately become the mediators for the final peace process, brokering a sustainable settlement to stop the conflict and restore peace to a region. Formal talks may be held in the conflict region, the wider continent or at the HD Centre's headquarters on the banks of Lake Geneva.

The signing of a formal peace agreement may not signal the end of the HD Centre's involvement in a

conflict area or be the ultimate objective. Since the HD Centre's ultimate definition of success is sustainable peace, it may stay involved in the implementation of peace agreements in order to ensure that lasting peace is achieved. It will also share the lessons it has learned during the mediation experience with the wider mediation profession in order to inform other peace processes around the world.

*The HD Centre's
ultimate definition
of success is
sustainable peace.*

The work of the HD Centre



As a result of its first big success as an independent mediator in the conflict between the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement, the HD Centre is probably best known for its work as a mediator, at senior levels, of internal armed conflicts. Some of its work in this field, in the Philippines, Nepal and Kenya, is well-documented but many of the national processes the HD Centre is involved in remain sensitive and, therefore, discreet.

The HD Centre also works in conflict-affected areas where there are no peace processes in place to develop the potential for mediation. It does this by:

- Fostering, often confidential, contacts between those in conflict which may ultimately lead to talks – for example, in Nepal.
- Supporting national and regional public dialogue processes – for example, in the Sudanese Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States.
- Offering expertise on the peaceful resolution of electoral disputes – for example, in Somaliland.

The HD Centre also mediates around humanitarian concerns between those in conflict. Ideally it does this as part of a formal, political peace process. However, where that process does not exist (or has broken down, such as in Darfur) humanitarian mediation may be the only available route for alleviating human suffering and keeping the two sides engaged in dialogue.



In working across conflicts, countries and continents, the HD Centre can also take a global perspective on some of the recurrent issues in conflict prevention and resolution – and work to address them. It has, for example, identified the slow implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (which encourages the inclusion of women and gender issues in peace processes) as a stumbling block to achieving sustainable and inclusive peace. As a result it has created a “Women at the Peace Table” programme, with projects in Africa and Asia, which is working to redress this imbalance.

The HD Centre also shares its experience and insights into the recurrent issues in conflict prevention and resolution with the wider mediation profession in order to improve the global response to armed conflict. The HD Centre has a dedicated Mediation Support programme which fosters collaborative links with others across the profession and works with international organisations like the African Union to support their role as institutional mediators. In partnership with the Norwegian Government, the HD Centre has also established the international Oslo forum series of retreats for mediators. With high-level representatives from around the globe, these retreats offer a unique opportunity for international mediators, including those from the HD Centre, to learn from each other.

Working in Geneva

Stine Lehmann-Larsen

What is your nationality?

Danish.

Which languages do you speak?

English, Danish, and currently learning French and Arabic.

Why did you join the HD Centre?

The HD Centre gave me the opportunity to combine my two areas of interest, peacemaking and capacity-building.

What do you do for the HD Centre?

I work in the Mediation Support Programme, assisting regional organisations and African governments strengthen their capacity to manage and support mediation and peacemaking processes. Furthermore, I provide process support and advice to our partners in relation to their mediation efforts.

Which geographic regions does your work cover?

Mainly Africa but also South East Asia and Europe.

The HD Centre's raison d'être

The HD Centre's mission reflects its humanitarian motivation; to protect people from the suffering caused by armed conflict. The HD Centre believes conflict, and the suffering it causes, can be prevented, reduced and ultimately stopped by political and humanitarian dialogue. Dialogue literally humanises conflict.

It encourages people to engage as human beings, not as factions, organisations, rebels or governments. Dialogue is the basis for mediation and mediation is potentially the basis for peace.



Centre for
Humanitarian
Dialogue

The HD Centre puts this belief in dialogue into practice in four main ways:

Preventing tensions escalating into armed conflict by developing national and regional dialogue processes and resolving electoral disputes.

Reducing the human consequences of armed conflict by addressing humanitarian concerns with those in conflict.

Reducing the number of armed conflicts by establishing formal political dialogue between those in conflict.

Nurturing dialogue between mediators and mediation supporters including through the Oslo forum series and by contributing to the international debate on mediation practice.



Produced by the HD Centre Podcast

“We are all in this business because we see a political solution often pursued in parallel or in tandem to military pressure – but we see a political solution as the preferred way to bring conflict to an end. And we’re also working from the basic humanitarian imperative to try to stop violence and protect local populations from ongoing violence as much as possible. If it’s possible to do so and to contribute to doing that through engagement with armed groups to help channel their struggle by political rather than military means, then I think we feel it’s been worth it. And that’s the contribution we can try to make.”

Teresa Whitfield, a Senior Adviser at the HD Centre, reflects on what makes the difficult process of engaging with armed groups worthwhile during the HD Centre’s first podcast.

Mediation

Sir Kieran Prendergast

Sir Kieran Prendergast is a Senior Adviser at the HD Centre.

How would you describe the process of mediation?

Mediation is a flexible concept. It can range from facilitation in which you are expected to help the parties negotiate but not make proposals, to something akin to arbitration. What is common is the starting point: a situation in which two parties are not able to settle a conflict without outside help. What is also common is that when they get stuck they need external help to discourage them from thinking that nothing can be done.

What are the biggest challenges associated with mediating between parties in conflict?

The biggest single obstacle is national sovereignty – unwillingness to have outsiders interfering in the internal affairs of a country, unwillingness to accept that external help is needed, sometimes unwillingness to accept there's a serious problem that needs treating if violent conflict is not to erupt. The second major problem

is resources; often funds can be found once an issue has erupted into armed conflict; but it is very hard to raise funds to prevent a problem from erupting in the first place. As Kofi Annan used to say, it's easier to raise funds for a coffin than for medicine. This factor is compounded by the fact that it's difficult to prove a negative – if prevention is successful then conflict by definition doesn't erupt, and you can't show what would have happened but for the successful effort.

How does a mediator move from dialogue to ensuring sustainable peace?

Moving from discussion to negotiation is the essential first step. The aim of those negotiations must be to create an end to conflict – a settlement that's irreversible. It's tragic when “peace settlements” slide back into conflict soon after they've been agreed. Often, that's because negotiators and major powers think they have done enough and lose interest and

impetus once a peace agreement has been signed, whereas the underlying causes of conflict have not been adequately addressed.

What are the most significant factors which determine whether a mediation process is successful?

You have to look at the outcome and the prospects. Is a resumption of conflict unthinkable, or have you just papered over the cracks? Have the underlying causes of the conflict been eradicated, or even been addressed, or is there ‘unfinished business’? I think we should be paying much more attention to the idea of transformative settlements. Transforming society is of course much more challenging a task. It may be something that in a country like Guatemala may take a generation or even several generations. But that should be the ultimate objective – too often we end up negotiating to exchange one elite for another. I think we should be more ambitious than having a revolving door as our objective.



What do you think are the HD Centre's strengths in terms of mediation?

What I like most about the HD Centre is that we are willing to take risks for peace. Very largely thanks to Martin Griffiths, the HD Centre has always been entrepreneurial, quick, nimble and adaptable. Also, because we are a small NGO, we can be sacked easily; paradoxically this can make governments more willing to use our services. They feel less threatened than by powerful mediators such as regional or global powers. The HD Centre understands very well that it is the PARTIES, not outsiders, who make the peace.

What makes a good mediator?

There are a number of requirements: respect is the most important. The ability to build a relationship of

“... mediation is always about individuals, not institutions.”

confidence with the parties – mediation is always about individuals, not institutions. Curiosity is essential, so is a non-judgmental attitude. However, the requirement is to be impartial, not neutral. No equidistance.

How do your previous experiences at the UN and with the British Foreign Office inform your work with the HD Centre?

I am primarily a product of the Foreign Office, and I was formed by the values I was taught there. I enjoyed my 33 years in the Diplomatic Service and I would do it again if I could roll the clock back. I found the UN a more challenging environment. Fascination and frustration are the twin DNA strands of anyone working in the UN Secretariat. I must say that it is enormously liberating at the HD Centre to be free of instructions – whether from a government or from the Security Council or General Assembly. It leaves you free just to try to do the

right thing. The foreign policy of any government is bound to be influenced by domestic considerations. We don't have that constraint at the HD Centre. It can be quite exhilarating to ignore no doubt well intended advice not to engage with groups who are, for one reason or another, considered 'beyond the Pale'.

What do you consider your greatest public success in the field of mediation to date?

I personally was involved in the transition from Rhodesia to Zimbabwe and in the independence process for Namibia. At the UN we worked wonders to administer the referendum that brought East Timor to independence in an impossibly short timescale. Most of the rest have been honourable failures; Cyprus, Israel/Palestine etc. Most of the work of the HD Centre is and must remain confidential. But without the HD Centre's efforts in Aceh over a prolonged period the settlement there simply would not have

happened. Kofi Annan's work in Kenya was strongly supported by the HD Centre. And the Oslo forum that the HD Centre organises jointly with the Norwegian Government (who deserve the world's thanks for their tireless efforts for conflict prevention) is, I believe, the premier annual retreat for international mediators.



Produced by the HD Centre Podcast

“... most mediators I know have learned to be patient, and they’ve learned to be flexible, and they’ve learned to never take anything for granted, and they’ve had to learn to be humble as well. You can never forget that the conflict parties you’re dealing with, and this includes armed groups, are themselves engaged in the high risk activity. They’re in conflict, they’re risking their lives, they’re responsible for communities and supporters and a complex web of things. They are taking risks and we need to be sensitive and aware of their internal dilemmas and calculations that they’re making.”

Teresa Whitfield talks about engaging with armed groups and the second publication in the Mediation Practice Series during the HD Centre’s first podcast.

A day to mark a decade

In 2010, the HD Centre welcomed many distinguished guests to a reception at its headquarters at the beautiful Villa Plantamour and a dinner in Geneva hosted by one of the HD Centre's founders to celebrate the completion of the organisation's tenth year of operations.

The reception offered the HD Centre an opportunity to introduce its new Honorary President, the former Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union and NATO Dr Javier Solana, to the international community. During the event, Dr Solana spoke about the HD Centre's humanitarian approach to ending and mitigating conflict and the significant role of private organisations in international mediation.

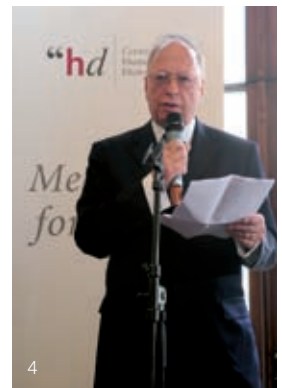
This was also an opportunity for the HD Centre to reflect on the success it has had as an organisation since it was established by its four founders in 1999. Dr Solana expressed his enthusiasm for the work of the HD Centre and outlined some of the HD Centre's many achievements during its first decade of operations.

The event was organised with a significant Genevan institution, the Fondation pour Genève, as well as one of its sections, the Club Diplomatique de Genève. In his speech, Dr Solana also took the opportunity to highlight the important role the City of Geneva has played in

promoting peace and the humane treatment of people during war. He honoured the dedication of the many Genevois who have contributed to Geneva's unique position as a humanitarian centre.

Eminent guests at the event included Kofi Annan and members of the HD Centre's Board, as well as representatives from the city's banking, humanitarian and diplomatic communities.

1. Dr Javier Solana, HD Centre Honorary President, speaks during the HD Centre's 10th anniversary celebration.
2. The HD Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary on 26 April 2010 in Geneva.
3. Dr Javier Solana and Mr Angelo Gnaedinger, HD Centre Interim Executive Director in 2010.
4. Ambassador François Nordmann, President of the Club Diplomatique de Genève, speaks during the 10th anniversary event.
5. Dr Javier Solana & H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General.
6. Reception at the Villa Plantamour, the HD Centre's headquarters.



Diplomacy

Ambassador Reza Alborzi

Ambassador Reza Alborzi is a Senior Adviser at the HD Centre

How would you define the difference between public and private diplomacy?

I would rather use “government diplomacy” instead of public diplomacy. Public diplomacy is used these days to describe the very fashionable diplomatic exposures of people as expressed in the media and by non-political leaders including religious leaders, social movements, artists etc. We have seen the effects of public diplomacy in the war against Iraq where the streets of Europe were full of people demanding their leaders to stop the war. Private diplomacy is what we refer to as a professional – but non-governmental – approach to diplomacy. It is exercised by professional diplomats without affiliation to spheres of national security interests. It is therefore result driven and reliably impartial. Private diplomacy relies on logic and the power to convince. It represents a professional approach to opportunities for solutions.

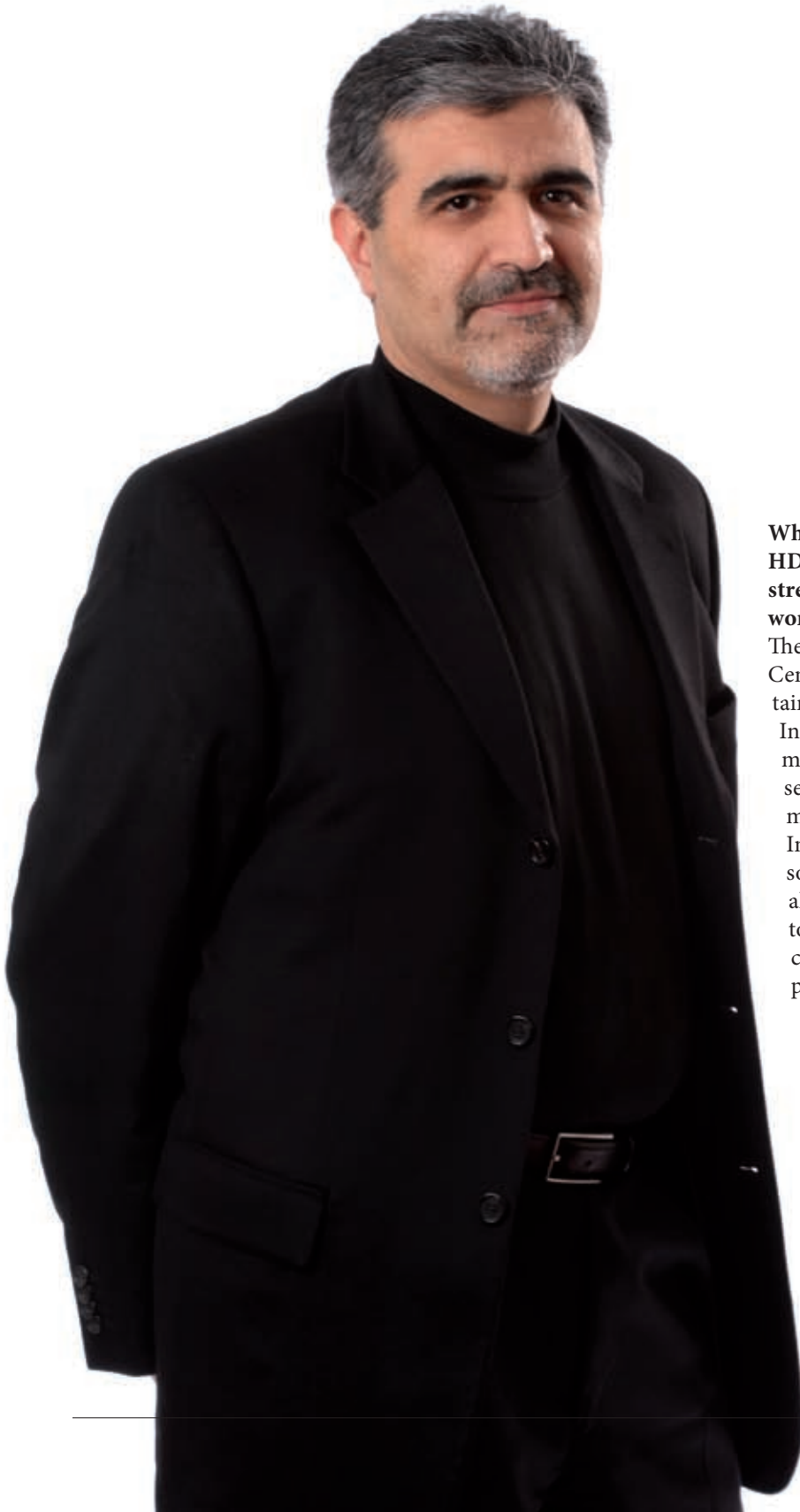
As a former diplomat and current Senior Adviser to the HD Centre, how do you assess the relative merits of public and private diplomacy?

The world is still dominated by the diplomatic activities of states. In my view, the trend is to see more private actors in mediation and on the diplomatic scene. The post-Wiki Leaks era would make it difficult for governments to exercise their traditional diplomatic activities without the fear that sooner or later they will be revealed to the public and misused by opponents. Discretion is a necessary tool of diplomacy. It has been decisive in the past, it will always be in the future. The reason is that any diplomatic effort needs to develop a critical mass to attain its goals. This critical mass cannot be achieved without discretion. If exposed transparently in its infancy it will have to compromise under pressure. In mediation, deniability is a useful tool which makes the

belligerents maintain their confidence in the process while playing their defiance. This tool will be less and less available in government diplomacy in the future. The field vacated by governments will be increasingly filled by private diplomatic actors.

How does the HD Centre use private diplomacy to pursue its mission to improve the global response to armed conflict?

The HD Centre represents an efficient private approach which tries to complement state diplomacy including the United Nations activities in reducing armed conflicts. It has proven to be a nimble organisation, utilising its niche and exclusive advantages to respond to armed conflicts. Its role will be defined more and more by its complementarities. Its limits are humanitarian barriers, in contrast to the political and ideological barriers of government diplomacy.



What do you think are the HD Centre's most significant strengths in the diplomatic world?

The biggest strength of the HD Centre is its people and its sustained qualitative human growth. In government diplomacy what makes people take an actor seriously is the political and military power behind him. In private diplomacy it is your sophistication and professionalism which creates a power to deliver. Experienced and accomplished mediators are important assets.

What are the biggest challenges facing an organisation like the HD Centre in the diplomatic world?

The HD Centre is a knowledge based organisation. It needs to invest more in this know-how while remaining independent and neutral.

The View from Geneva



The Villa Plantamour, the HD Centre's headquarters.

The HD Centre's headquarters in Geneva benefits from a unique location: Villa Plantamour, a historic building with an unequalled and beautiful outlook on Lake Geneva and the Alps, lent by the City of Geneva as a support to our activities. It offers the HD Centre a discreet environment for holding meetings and the picturesque, yet calming, view has allowed us to make a success of many events held at the HD Centre.

On 26th April, the HD Centre held a reception to celebrate its 10th anniversary, which gathered many personalities from Geneva, as well as our Honorary President Dr Javier Solana, former Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union and

some of our Board members including Karin Jestin, Chair of the Board. We seized this opportunity to offer our invitees an insight into the HD Centre's work – of course within the limits of confidentiality.

Villa Plantamour also welcomes outside meetings; the rooms and their equipment are lent for free to not-for-profit organisations when we do not use them. With this activity, we support Non-Governmental Organisations by providing them with a venue that does not impact their often limited budgets. We also allow UN agencies, for example, to hold brainstorming sessions in a neutral environment. All of them really appreciate our location, where, as they

say, they feel free of any constraint and can fully concentrate on the contents of their workshops.

Alexis de Siebenthal is the General Services Officer in the HD Centre's Geneva headquarters.

A year at the HD Centre

At the start of the year, the HD Centre organised a study tour to Kenya for Sudanese officials as part of early preparations for Popular Consultations in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States in Sudan. The HD Centre also published the first Mediation Practice Series publication entitled “External actors in mediation: Dilemmas & options for mediators”.

Later in the spring, the HD Centre continued to develop its “Women at the Peace Table” programmes in Africa and Asia when it convened senior female mediators and negotiators at roundtable meetings in Nairobi and Jakarta. In Sudan, a workshop was held with Arab groups involved in the Darfur conflict to discuss humanitarian issues in the region. The HD Centre also established a group of ‘Preventing Election Related Violence’ volunteers to monitor the build up to elections in Mindanao in the Philippines. In Geneva, the HD Centre brought together leading figures from the humanitarian, diplomatic and financial communities to celebrate the completion of its first decade as an organisation.

As summer started, the HD Centre’s headquarters in Geneva was honoured to receive a visit from the Liberian President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. In the Philippines, the HD Centre arranged for some high profile international negotiators to meet the President and representatives from the opposition movement



The Villa Plantamour.



Oslo forum opening plenary with Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, Prince Turki Al-Faisal and Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, moderated by Ms Lyse Doucet, 15 June 2010.

INTERNATIONAL SNAPSHOT

Mediators meet

In June 2010, over 90 senior mediators, decision makers and peace process actors met in Norway to discuss issues ranging from violent transitions of power to the situation in Sudan and how to talk to the Taliban.

Since the HD Centre and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs established the Oslo forum series of mediation retreats in 2003, senior representatives working at a high level have been provided with a rare, discreet opportunity to exchange views and ideas as well as relate their experiences of international conflict mediation.

The event was notable for the broad range of participants who attended from across the globe including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Brazil, the USA, Indonesia and China. There were also a number of both state and non-state mediators at the retreat.

The 2010 retreat also included innovative, new 'reality check' sessions. These used provocative statements to successfully stimulate debates among participants including whether mediators should focus on ending violence or transforming societies. In fact, the tension between getting agreements signed and ensuring the quality of a peace process emerged as one of the most significant issues for mediators during the event.

The Oslo forum was followed in November by the biennial Asian Mediation Retreat. This took place in Hanoi with the co-operation of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. Participants attended from across Asia as well as the UN and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Issues discussed included the role of regional organisations in conflict resolution and the management of territorial disputes.

To find a summary of the debates and the full meeting reports, visit the HD Centre website, www.hdcentre.org or www.osloforum.org

involved in the national peace process. A second workshop was held with Arab groups in Sudan and the HD Centre also supported the establishment of an election dispute resolution process which contributed to the successful elections in Somaliland (an unrecognised autonomous region of Somalia).

The summer was dominated by the discovery of a serious fraud at the HD Centre and the subsequent review and overhaul of the organisation's administration and internal controls. There was also a change of leadership for the HD Centre with Angelo Gnaedinger becoming an interim replacement for Martin Griffiths who remains with the organisation as Senior Adviser to the Executive Director.

The prestigious eighth annual Oslo forum retreat for mediators, which the HD Centre jointly hosts with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also took place over the summer. This brought together senior international representatives to discuss the latest issues in mediation.

As autumn approached, the HD Centre convened a regional roundtable for female mediators and negotiators from across the Asia-Pacific region. The HD Centre's office in Sulu in the Philippines also convened a clan conference to address the issue of clan-related violence in the area. In addition, the second publication in the Mediation Practice Series "Engaging with armed groups: Dilemmas & options for mediators" was published.

Finally, winter brought round the biennial Asian Mediators Retreat, this time organised with the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and held in Hanoi. The end of the year also saw a change in Chairman for the HD Centre when Karin Jestin stood down to be replaced by Jean-Marie Guéhenno who became the new Chair of the organisation as it moved into 2011.

The View from **New York**



New York City

The HD Centre is present in New York with the lightest of footprints: a part time Senior Adviser, Teresa Whitfield, who also holds a position at New York University's Center on International Cooperation. The arrangement proves both cost- and substantively effective. Teresa conducts liaison for the HD Centre with the United Nations on operational projects as well as for the Mediation Support and Oslo forum teams. She is also called on for advice on individual projects or HD Centre-wide priorities such as gender issues or the impact of counter-terrorist legislation on conflict mediation. She briefs UN officials on the HD Centre's work, keeps the HD Centre abreast of critical developments within the UN,

and represents the HD Centre within the broader New York community of UN member states, NGOs, policy and academic think tanks. She also keeps the HD Centre aware of wider trends in mediation and peacemaking which emerge from the international community in New York.

During 2010 the HD Centre's presence was boosted by regular visits to New York by senior staff, including Interim Executive Director Angelo Gnaedinger, Africa Regional Director Hiruy Amanuel and other staff from Geneva, Nairobi and Manila. In June two senior advisers, Priscilla Hayner and David Petrasek, travelled to New York to take part in a meeting the HD

Centre hosted between the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno Ocampo, UN officials and a small group of other individuals in order to exchange views on the challenges of interaction between conflict mediators and the ICC.

In short, this modest New York presence represents a resource that can be drawn upon by all of the HD Centre's staff and a valued contribution to many aspects of its work.

Teresa Whitfield is the HD Centre's Liaison in New York.

Transitional Justice

Ms Priscilla Hayner

Ms Priscilla Hayner is a Senior Adviser at the HD Centre

How would you describe transitional justice and its role in conflict resolution?

Transitional justice refers to a range of policies or mechanisms that may advance accountability and reconciliation for serious rights abuses in a country's past. Following an armed conflict, there may be a great number of victims, as well as accused perpetrators, that need some form of attention, accountability, or redress. While prosecution of wrongdoers in the courts may be desired, it is usually not possible for all cases, given weak judicial systems and the large number of persons who may be complicit in serious crimes. Thus, accountability and redress may also be pursued through a broad truth-seeking process, such as a truth commission, or through providing reparations to individual victims or affected communities. Finally, reform of the judiciary, police, and military may be needed. All of these topics might be broached in the process of mediating a peace agreement, and may

feature in a final agreement either in specific or general terms.

Ideally, broad principles and commitments will be reached, allowing a longer term process of consulting victim communities and the public on exactly what kind of mechanisms would be ideal. There is no one model to follow; each initiative must be uniquely crafted for each society.

How receptive are conflict parties to advice about transitional justice?

In many cases, the warring parties themselves prioritise “justice” as they set out the agenda for the talks, as each side may feel they, or their supporters, have been wronged. There is often an interest in a truth commission, based on familiarity with the better-known processes such as the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. There is also usually no argument with the idea of reparations, and indeed this may be an attractive element for all sides. The negotiating parties often quickly understand that a blanket amnesty

for serious crimes is no longer acceptable, given developments in international law, and the parties to talks often appreciate, or require, further information in this area. In those few cases where the International Criminal Court is active, the parties have indeed insisted on much greater clarity on what the ICC will mean for them. In all of these areas pertaining to transitional justice, therefore, the negotiating parties are often keen to receive information, clarifications, and options.

Where has a focus on transitional justice helped to support sustainable peace?

There can be a delicate balance between the need to push for accountability – so that those in power in the future might expect to be held to account for their actions, with the hope that this will deter further abuses – versus expediting a peace agreement with powerful leaders who will have no interest in being put on trial. But it is not uncommon for the local population to see justice as a



central part of any stable peace plan. For example, one of the most contentious issues in Darfur has been that of reparations, and the inability to sufficiently resolve this issue was a major impediment to the Darfur talks three years ago. In Kenya, despite possible risks, the public strongly supports the engagement of the International Criminal Court, and also continues to hope for a strong truth commission: a typical taxi driver in Nairobi will tell you that violence may be repeated after the next election if there is not some means to hold to account those responsible for the past violence. Elsewhere, as in Peru, a creative strategy of mapping out the impact of the violence through a truth commission, and then implementing a robust community-based reparations program, has helped to address the extreme inequalities that helped to fuel, and were worsened by, that country's war.

“... we may see a deepening in the understanding of peace mediation and peace processes more generally, including a sober look at ‘peace and justice’ issues, when questions of accountability emerge at the peace table.”

Much of transitional justice is based on the idea of listening to victims and survivors; recognising their needs and suffering can directly enhance the sustainability of a peace plan.

What is your role at the HD Centre and how does your expertise in transitional justice inform your work?

As a Senior Adviser, I assist the HD Centre mediation experts in specific contexts where questions of justice and accountability emerge. This may be early or late in the process, but it is common for the question to feature eventually. It is important for the parties to be informed about the options before them, including how other countries have addressed similar challenges, and ultimately understanding that justice must be understood more broadly than criminal justice.

How did you get involved in the issue of transitional justice and what drew you to it?

After working as an intern for the truth commission in El Salvador in 1992, I was fascinated with the dynamics of the process, and

I began comparative research on truth commissions. After publishing a book comparing truth commissions globally (Unspeakable Truths), I joined two colleagues to co-found the International Center for Transitional Justice in 2001. Admittedly, my engagement in the subject has been driven in part by sheer interest, as well as the chance to assist important processes at the national level.

What has been your greatest success in the field of transitional justice so far?

The most difficult by far has been completing a book – twice (the second edition of Unspeakable Truths was released in 2010, now covering 40 truth commissions). Having a chance to relay the experiences and perspectives of commissioners, victims, policymakers, and others – who have absolutely fascinating experiences and stories to share – has been very rewarding. It was also an honour to serve as human rights adviser to the Kenyan peace talks in 2008, with Kofi Annan. More generally, I am happy that the field of transitional justice as a whole has incorporated the fundamental principle of

consultation and national ownership, prioritising the need to provide comparative information so that the best decisions can be taken by local actors.

Where do you see the field of transitional justice focussing in the future?

It has been broadening in the last years, incorporating issues of economic development, peace-building, ‘identity’ and conflict, and other areas. All of these are relevant and useful, but it may now be the time for the field to consolidate, and to strengthen some of its core areas. Second, I believe that justice experts might perhaps be more self-critical of the impact of justice initiatives, and more regularly undertake an honest assessment of outcomes. Finally, and most importantly for HD, we may see a deepening in the understanding of peace mediation and peace processes more generally, including a sober look at ‘peace and justice’ issues, when questions of accountability emerge at the peace table.



Produced by the HD Centre

Publication

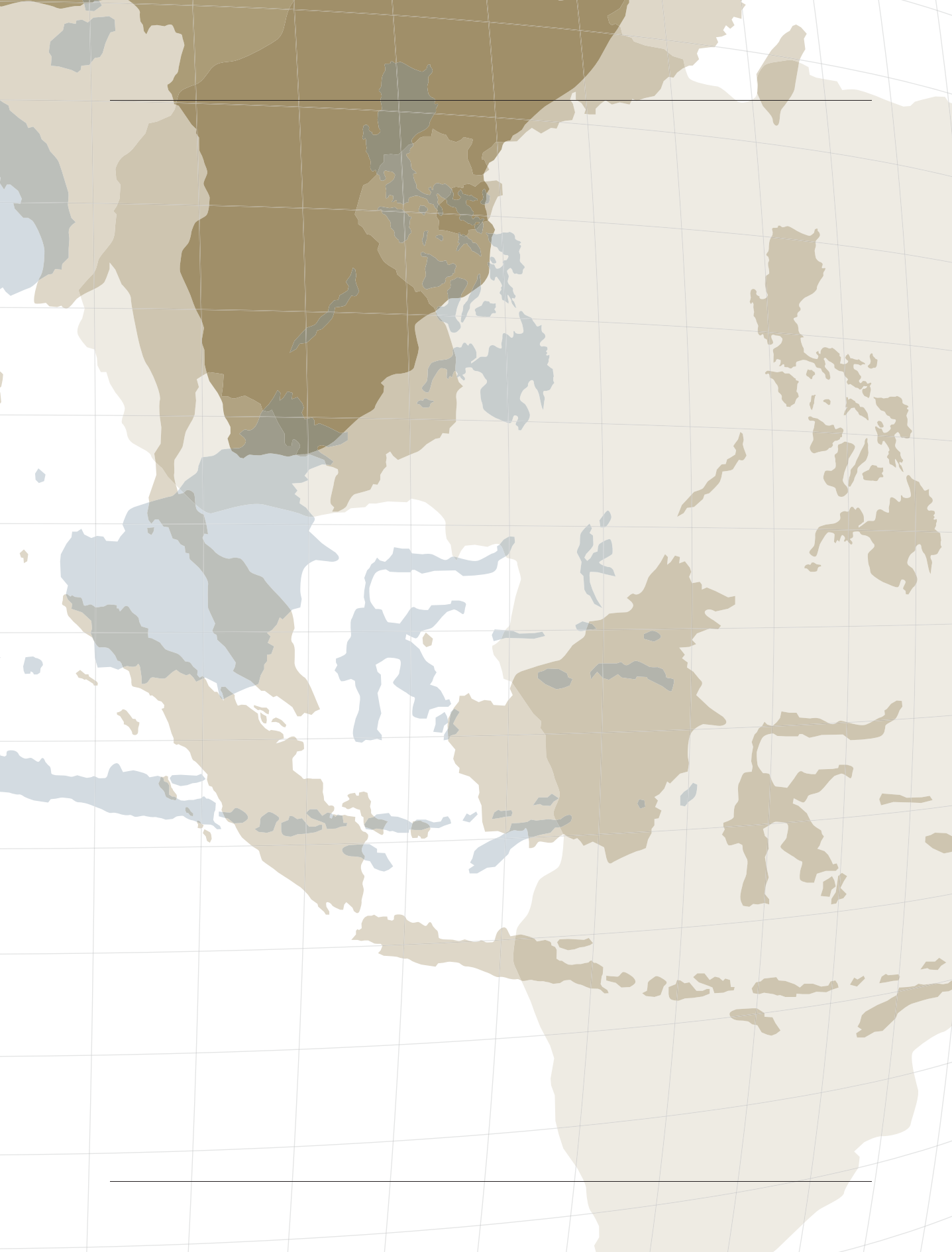
Mediation Practice Series 1
External actors in mediation

“Mediators seek to encourage unity of effort, maximise the influence on and assistance to conflict parties and build support that will be sustained through the implementation and peacebuilding that will follow any negotiated settlement. Most eschew the idea of collective mediation, but look for external actors prepared to follow their lead, open to the possibility of developing complementary initiatives, and/or ready and able to make a substantial contribution to the peacemaking effort. What this involves will vary in accordance with the capacities and resources of the external actors, as well as the characteristics and requirements of the specific mediation. But it is likely to include some combination of logistical, substantive and financial support to the mediation itself, assistance to, encouragement of and/or pressure on one or more of the conflict parties, public support of the process and any resulting agreement in order to build credibility and enhance legitimacy and economic and perhaps even security guarantees for the implementation process.”

An extract from Mediation Practice Series 1 “External actors in mediation : Dilemmas & options for mediators” by Teresa Whitfield. Teresa Whitfield is a Senior Adviser and the HD Centre’s liaison in New York. This publication is available in print and via a download on the HD Centre’s website www.hdcentre.org



Working
to reduce conflict
in the world





Africa in 2010

Working in Nairobi
Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel

What is your nationality?

Ethiopian.

Which languages do you speak?

Amharic, English, intermediate French and Tirgrinya.

Why did you join the HD Centre?

I wanted to expand my experience by contributing to peacemaking initiatives across the continent. After years of working in government and in inter-governmental organisations, I was curious to enter the world of private diplomacy. The HD Centre is engaged in that area of work and, as such, appealed to me.

What do you do for the HD Centre?

I am the Regional Director for Africa, which means that I partake in and oversee the activities of the HD Centre that focus on Africa. With the staff at the Nairobi Office, I identify the conflicts where the HD Centre could play a constructive role in conflict resolution. I also interact with governments, regional organisations and non-state actors with the objective of supporting mediation and building mediation capacity.

Which geographic regions does your work cover?

Africa.

2010 was a year during which peacemaking efforts expanded across the continent to deal with conflicts and tensions in a number of locations. While most parts of the continent enjoyed relative stability and the long-standing southern Sudan crisis appeared to be on the verge of resolution, the Sahel region as a whole faced greater instability. The conflict in Somalia continued to inflict suffering, as did the still unresolved pockets of dispute in central Africa aggravated even more by the destructive forays of the Lord's Resistance Army across three borders. Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria also witnessed more violence in 2010.

In Africa heads of state, governments and inter-governmental organisations take the lead in mediating ongoing and new conflicts which makes it a crowded mediation environment. In 2010, this prompted the HD Centre to think deeply about what it could realistically plan to do on the continent and to develop a strategy to guide its activities for the next three years.

During the year, the HD Centre continued its focus on supporting mediation in the Horn of Africa and strengthening its relationship with African institutions



Local market in rebel area in south Darfur.



such as the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) while seeking opportunities for engagement in central and west Africa.

The HD Centre contributed to dispute resolution in the course of the successful elections in Somaliland and played a key role in launching the popular consultations in two Sudanese provinces in accordance with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between Khartoum and Juba.

In addition to the capacity-building efforts aimed at strengthening the peacemaking organs of the AU and ECOWAS, the HD Centre co-organised the African Union High Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability In Africa held in Cairo, Egypt.

In the course of the year, the HD Centre launched three assessments covering Liberia, Guinea and the Central African Republic and plans to contribute to national dialogue in Liberia as the country moves towards elections in 2011.

INTERNATIONAL SNAPSHOT

Humanitarian mediation in Darfur

The HD Centre's humanitarian mediation programme specifically focuses on improving the international response to humanitarian crises in conflict zones. This is part of the HD Centre's determination to reduce global conflict as well as its impact on the people who live in conflict-affected areas. In 2010, the humanitarian mediation programme continued its work to improve conditions for civilians caught up in the Darfur conflict by helping to develop stronger humanitarian co-ordination between the Sudanese Government, humanitarian agencies and opposition movements.

The issue of safe access for humanitarian agencies, workers and vehicles is a widespread concern in the region. Other concerns include the rights of displaced people and the use of child soldiers. These issues formed the focus of discussions and agreements between the HD Centre and representatives from the Government, agencies and opposition movements in 2010.

During the year, the HD Centre also began a new initiative to engage the Arab groups in Darfur in humanitarian discussions. Workshops were held in March and June with representatives from Arabic and Nomadic groups as well as United Nations agencies. As a result of these workshops, the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) agreed to undertake some projects which would have a quick impact on conditions for nomadic people in the area. A Joint Task Force has subsequently been set up to monitor the implementation of these projects.

The View from **Nairobi**



Africa Regional Office, Nairobi, Kenya.

Where we work in Kenya, the approval by the population of a new constitution and the joint commitment to this by the President and Prime Minister has brought hope to an expectant nation. In neighbouring Sudan, preparations for the southern Sudan referendum – an event of historic proportions – were watched closely. At the same time, conflicts continued to linger in some parts of the continent such as in neighbouring Somalia, making progress difficult on improving civilian protection and attaining regional peace.

The staffing situation in Nairobi improved with the appointment of Project Manager Olivier Kambala wa Kambala. The Office developed an Africa Strategy (2010–2012) and we hope to extend our work to the French-speaking areas of central and west Africa in the year ahead.

A number of key events took place in the course of 2010 with the direct involvement of the Nairobi Office. In February, consultations were held with the Minister of National Reconciliation of the Transitional Federal Government – Somalia at the Nairobi Office. A seminar involving Afghans and Somalis on experience-sharing in similar political circumstances was also held at the office.

In March, prominent Kenyan women mediators and negotiators convened at the Nairobi Office for the “Women at the Peace Table” roundtable opened by Mrs Graca Machel, a member of the African Union Panel of Eminent African Personalities for the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation. Later in the spring, the Somaliland national elections took place with training provided by the HD Centre to election officials and civil

society organisations and observers on dispute resolution. The Nairobi Office, and particularly the Senior Adviser for Africa, also organised the visit to the HD Centre in Geneva of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia.

Following its facilitation of a study tour for Sudanese officials from the Blue Nile and South Kordofan States at the start of the year, the HD Centre has continued to play a key role in the development of the Popular Consultations in both states.

Catherine Wambui Gatebi was the Acting Office Manager in the HD Centre's Nairobi Office.

Successful elections in Somaliland



By mid-2010, elections in Somaliland (an unrecognised autonomous region of Somalia) had been re-scheduled several times and tensions were mounting. The three political parties had signed a Memorandum of Understanding and agreed to a re-constituted National Elections Commission to manage the elections. This Commission set a new date for the elections for 26 June, 2010 and requested the HD Centre's assistance in preparing the conflict resolution aspects of the elections.

Drawing on its mediation expertise and working closely with Interpeace, the HD Centre focussed its assistance on the resolution of election disputes. The HD Centre provided technical assistance, policy advice and training for the Commission on election dispute resolution.

It also trained senior delegates from the three political parties and the Supreme Court as well as helping to develop training sessions for the police.

Following the successful use of community mediators by the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA) in other African elections, the HD Centre suggested involving respected members of Somaliland civil society in the process. The Commission agreed and the HD Centre worked with EISA to train 600 local youths, women, professionals and elders in conflict resolution and electoral rules so they could act as civil society mediators. These mediators were deployed to areas where tensions were expected to mount during the elections.

On the 26 June, these efforts contributed to the peaceful transition of power from the incumbent to a new opposition leader in Somaliland. All the parties accepted the result and international observers rated the elections as highly successful.

Picture: Somalis queue in Hargeisa, Somaliland, to cast their vote for presidential elections on 26 June 2010.



Asia in 2010

Working in Singapore Ouseph Tharakan

What is your nationality?

Indian.

Which languages do you speak?

Malayalam, Hindi, English.

Why did you join the HD Centre?

I have always been interested in developing a career in conflict resolution. When I heard about the HD Centre and its work, I was struck by the fact that it was one of the handful of organisations globally that focussed on operational mediation at the highest level. In addition, I was excited about being part of a cutting edge initiative in international relations, since the HD Centre is a private organisation seeking to operate in a domain traditionally reserved for governmental or inter-governmental actors.

What do you do for the HD Centre?

I work as a Project Officer at the Asia Regional Office in Singapore. I track conflict developments, undertake field missions and support HD Centre projects in the region.

Which geographic regions does your work cover?

My work covers South Asia and South East Asia.

The HD Centre has a long track record in Asia. Its first mediation project was in Aceh, Indonesia in 1999. Since then, its mediation work has broadened to include several conflicts in Southeast Asia and South Asia most of which are confidential. Currently, the HD Centre's regional office in Singapore supports a dozen projects (confidential and public) focused on mediation and peacemaking around Asia.

Building on this experience, the HD Centre has expanded its efforts to contribute even more to the region's peacemaking efforts. In line with global trends, interstate conflict is rare in Asia, but the region continues to be afflicted by violent internal conflicts, some protracted and resistant to resolution. The HD Centre's strategy is to address these conflicts, strengthen the broader mediation community and reduce the humanitarian consequences of the violence they generate. The principle thematic project for the HD Centre in Asia has the goal of promoting the role of women in peacemaking.

To build sustainability, local ownership and ensure contextually appropriate initiatives, the HD Centre partners with local organisations and states as well as



HD Centre Project Officer, Alberto Kimpo, leads a consultation on the peace process in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Mindanao, with displaced villagers.



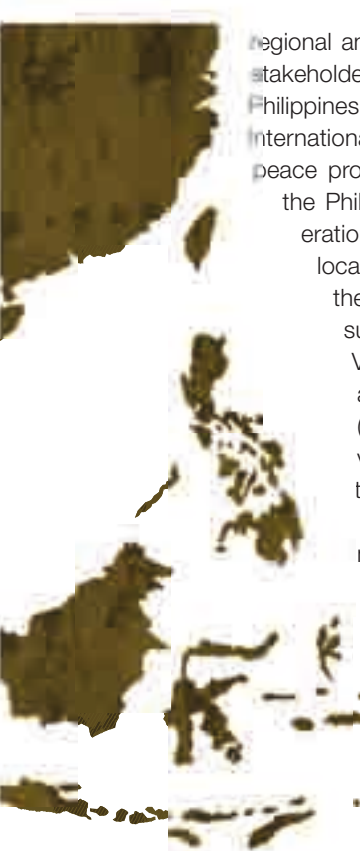
INTERNATIONAL SNAPSHOT

Reducing violence in the southern Philippines

Since 2005, the HD Centre has been working to reduce violence and resolve clan conflicts in Sulu (an island province in the southern Philippines) as they continue to undermine the peace process in Mindanao and de-stabilise the region. The HD Centre's efforts led to the creation of the "Jolo Zone of Peace" in Sulu's capital city in 2008 and to the formation of the Tumikang Sama-Sama (which means "Together we move forward"). This is a group of six respected and eminent people from Sulu who help to resolve local clan conflicts and develop initiatives for dialogue with lawless elements.

Since early 2010, the Tumikung Sama-Sama has been supported by an additional group of 20 volunteers who monitor tensions across the province and refer conflicts to the Tumikung Sama-Sama to be resolved. These volunteers were initially recruited to prevent election-related violence in the run-up to the May 2010 elections and they helped to dramatically reduce the number of violent incidents during that period.

In September 2010, the HD Centre and the Office of the Provincial Mufti in Sulu jointly-hosted a clan conference to offer clan members the opportunity for dialogue. Participants in the conference included representatives from 20 of the most prominent clans and two conflicts were actually resolved during the conference itself. Since then, further clan conflicts have been resolved by the group and many others are currently being mediated.



regional and multi-national bodies and multi-stakeholder organisations. For example, in the Philippines, the HD Centre works through the International Contact Group in assisting in the peace process between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. In Mindanao it supports local mediation efforts through assisting the Mindanao Think Tank in its consultation project and with the Armed Violence Reduction Initiative. It also assists the Tumikang Sama Sama (a group of eminent persons) in their violence reduction and local mediation efforts in Sulu.

In Indonesia, India and the Philippines, the HD Centre has also been supporting local research institutes in an effort to better understand conflict in those countries and contribute to policy-making efforts to reduce it. In line with the HD Centre's principles, efforts are made to highlight and disseminate the lessons learned from the Asia office's work and that of others. A biennial mediation retreat has also been held in Asia since 2006.

The view from **Singapore**



Asia Regional Office, Singapore.

Geographically and culturally straddling South Asia and South East Asia, Singapore is an ideal location for the HD Centre's regional office to be located. With a thriving policy community driven by a multitude of think-tanks and research institutes, Singapore also provides the HD Centre with the opportunity to reach out to eminent analysts and leading experts of relevance to its projects, particularly the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In June 2010, a brainstorming seminar on ASEAN's role in conflict resolution was organised in Singapore, in partnership with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), the Institute of South East Asian Studies

(ISEAS) and the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore. The seminar provided an opportunity to reach out to the key stakeholders including the ASEAN Secretariat and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN of Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar and Vietnam attended.

The Singapore office helped the Oslo forum team to organise the 2010 Asian Mediation Retreat in Hanoi, Vietnam by undertaking preparatory missions, framing the agenda and identifying participants.

The Singapore office was also closely involved in implementing the “Women at the Peace Table – Asia-Pacific”

project. Staff from the Singapore office helped organise a three-day roundtable meeting in Nepal in September 2010 which brought together approximately 40 senior women peacemakers from across Asia and the Pacific. The Singapore office took the lead in convening a roundtable in Jakarta in March 2010 focussing on women mediators from Indonesia.

Singapore office staff also undertook research and field trips as part of a project comparing conflict management perspectives across India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Ouseph Tharakan is a Project Officer in the HD Centre's Singapore Office.



A Partner's Perspective

Tumikang Sama-Sama

Colonel Undug is a member of the Tumikang Sama-Sama, a group of eminent people in Sulu in the Philippines who are working with the HD Centre to resolve conflict in the region.

How are you/have you been involved in the HD Centre's work?

It has always been a great privilege to be involved in HD Centre's work specifically in terms of negotiation. Fortunately, my previous experience as a retired officer both in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police helped in widening my horizon when I got connected with the said organisation. Through the [HD] Centre, I have realised that curbing violence and criminalities cannot be done through firearms and armaments but more essentially by means of harmonious dialogue between people.

What do you think are the HD Centre's strengths?

HD Centre's strengths are composed of reconciliation through dialogue and mediation between warring parties. Multilateral adversities resulting from various confusions are parts of the questions that have been answered by the [HD] Centre. Attitudinal change from the previous encounters has been a great challenge that the [HD] Centre is facing, sobriety, patriotism and the search for peace are just but [a] few strengths that the [HD] Centre possessed.

What impact is the HD Centre having in your area?

The power to reconcile atrocity between warring clans is one of the impacts of having [the] HD Centre in our area. The [HD] Centre has been influential in settling family feuds in the province through its advocacies and mediation. Co-ordination, organisation of intellectual action group in resolving conflict without the use of arms is a great impact that the [HD] Centre has. Partnership with the government and other line agencies in alleviating the lives of Tausug people is also a grand contribution of [the] HD Centre in Sulu.



The view from **Manila**



HD Centre office in Manila, Philippines.

In 2010, the HD Centre continued to play a key role in the GRP-MILF peace process with its involvement both in the International Contact Group, assisting the GRP Peace Panel's consultation process with Local Government Unit chief executives in Mindanao and with the various activities of the Mindanao Think Tank Project.

In March, the HD Centre partnered with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) in organising the Senior International Mediators' Roundtable. The HD Centre brought to the Philippines senior international mediators to share their experiences in mediating efforts to resolve conflict. Among the important outcomes of the conference were the insights on techniques mediators have used in other conflicts to overcome impasses familiar to the Philippines such as constitutional issues.

The HD Centre and the Mindanao Think Tank (MTT) formally launched its four-monograph publication series last September. These contained the results of the MTT consultation

process that lasted from June 2009 to August 2010. OPAPP Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles attended the launch and delivered a message that called for more involvement by stakeholders in the overall peace discourse. The HD Centre, through the MTT, has partnered with the Manila-based academic community and OPAPP to bring the public dialogue on peace in Mindanao to universities and colleges in the National Capital Region.

Finally, the HD Centre continued to support the activities of partners in Manila. These included initiatives on gender by participating in the launching of WE ACT (Women Engaged in Action) 1325 to implement a Philippine National Action Plan for the realisation of United Nations Security Council Resolution Number 1325.

Mila T. Son is the Secretary in the HD Centre's Manila Office.



Produced by the HD Centre

Video

“These conflicts here really need to be solved by the people here, the types of conflicts these are it’s going to be most effectively resolved by them and most sustainably resolved by them. So we need to encourage that and help build up their capacity. The role that we play is as an independent party which has expertise that’s very important.

...

I think being there on the ground, engaging with the parties, going through the thick and the thin with them really develops a relationship of trust and confidence and a seriousness that is very important in the process.”

David Gorman, Project Manager for the HD Centre, speaks about the HD Centre’s work in the Philippines as part of a short video (“Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in the Philippines”) available to view through Vimeo and YouTube

The view from **Sulu**



HD Centre office in Sulu, Mindanao.

The support of the HD Centre to the Tumikang Sama-Sama, to the Armed Violence Reduction Initiative (AVRI) and to Preventing Election Related Violence (PERV) volunteers has paved the way to enriching the lives and security of Tausugs in their undying quest for peace.

For the first time ever, 20 representatives of the most prominent Sulu-based clans came together in September 2010. The two-day conference, jointly organised by the Office of the Mufti of Sulu, the Islamic leadership in the province, and the HD Centre, discussed ways of resolving conflicts peacefully and facilitated deeper understanding of clan conflict and family feuds.

The HD Centre was at the centre of crucial and historic activities in Sulu province in 2010. After the declaration of the Jolo Zone of Peace, the HD Centre facilitated the review, assessment and finalisation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations. A peaceful election was observed through the aid of the HD Centre as it took the lead in facilitating the signing of the covenant for peace. The office also became a focal point for all stakeholders as it served as the rendezvous point for advocacy. The HD Centre deployed 20 volunteers all over Sulu to monitor and help prevent election related violence during the conduct of the May 2010 national and local elections.

In 2010, the HD Centre resolved five major clan conflicts in the province and a series of ongoing clan conflicts are being facilitated through the Tumikang Sama-Sama.

Vandrazel Birowa is the Office Manager in the HD Centre's Sulu Office in the Philippines.

The Middle East in 2010

2010 was dominated by evolving dynamics in areas of crisis and conflict, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. At the same time, political frustration was building up in a number of countries across the region as several electoral processes were flawed and democratic standards kept deteriorating. The changing situation in the region has led the HD Centre to explore new initiatives for mediation.

The HD Centre's approach to the Middle East is based on building contacts and dialogue which may provide the possibility for preventing or resolving conflict in the future. Its high-level local and international network can fill a gap between actors which often face difficulties in maintaining a dialogue due to the sensitivities surrounding international relations and the pressures of public opinion.

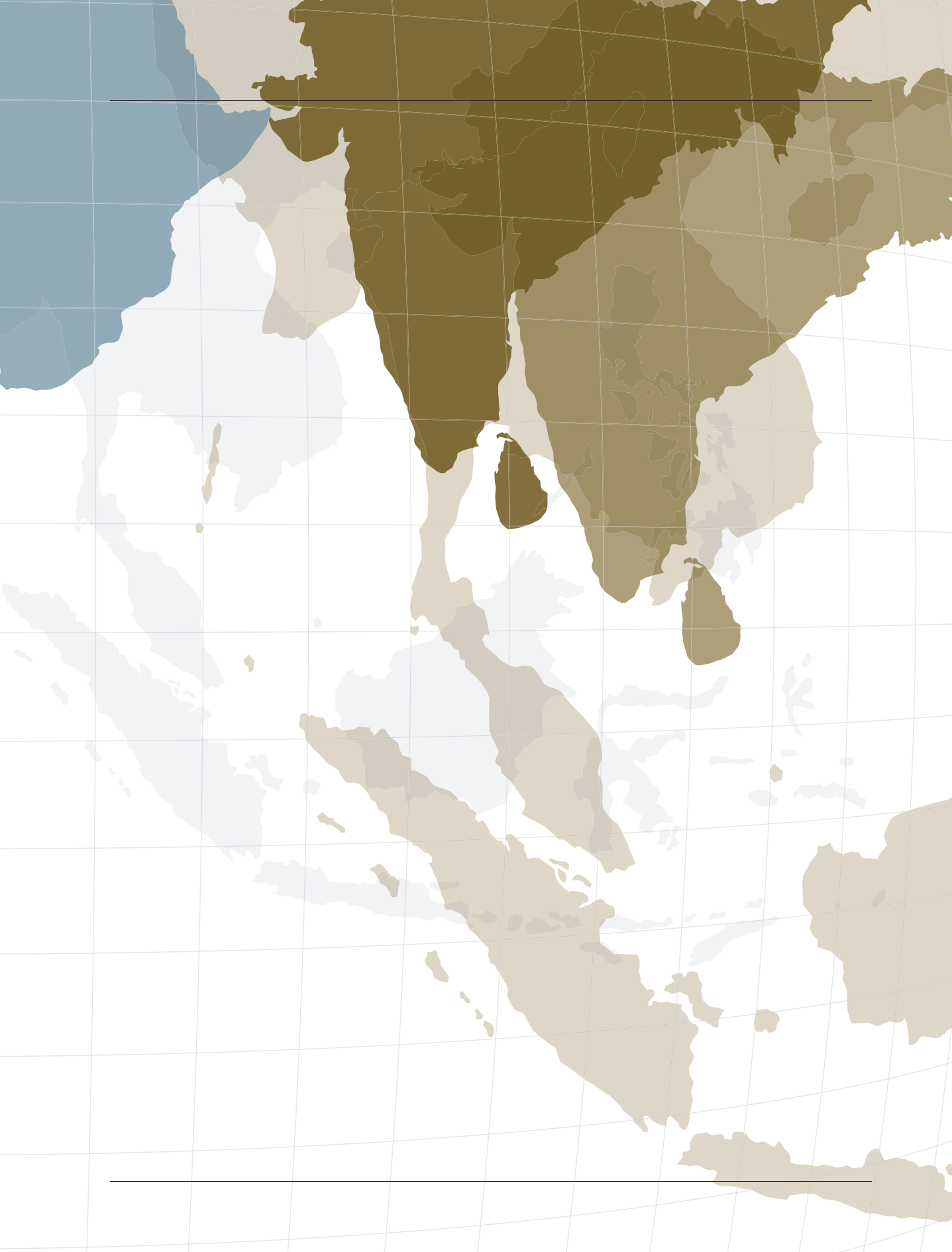


In August, the HD Centre expanded its capacity to engage in the region with the appointment of Angelo Gnaedinger, the former Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as Regional Director for the Middle East.

In 2011, the HD Centre will follow political changes in the region and will continue to explore ways to complement initiatives being undertaken to address critical issues in the Middle East.



Promoting gender issues in peace negotiations



Gender Issues

Ms Bineta Diop

Ms Bineta Diop is Founder and Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and an HD Centre Board Member.

So Ms Diop, how did you become involved in the promotion of gender issues in Africa and then later internationally – and what drew you to that work?

I became involved in the promotion of gender issues in Africa through my family and especially through my mother. My mother was in the women's wing of the Senegalese political party. She was one of the great leaders of women, and she was a great feminist in her way, and I think I learned a lot from being next to her as a child and seeing she was fighting for women's rights. Later, through my work, I got the chance to work on human rights issues and be exposed to the feminist movement. It drew me closer to women's rights as part of human rights.

As a member of the HD Centre Board, how can you encourage consideration of gender issues across the organisation?

Since I joined the HD Board,

I have seen much progress made to mainstream gender considerations across the organisation. Joyce Neu, who was an activist hired by HD to engage discussions with HD senior management and with the staff on gender roles in peacemaking and the professionalisation of mediation, developed, for example, a strategy paper that is one of the greatest papers I have read on the subject. Also, when we are looking at HD staff rules and regulations, gender parity and gender equality as principles are very well integrated in the organisational culture. We, as Board Members, are constantly making sure that in the recruitment process and also in HR processes, gender perspectives are taken into consideration. If you look at the governance aspect, women are part of the process like Ms Karin Jestin, outgoing Chair of the Board who is a brilliant woman and in that regard I am commending the work she has been doing – not just for the HD Centre but also at the

international and humanitarian level. This illustrates that the HD Centre and the members of the Board have contributed to having key people but I would encourage having even more people for the promotion of the gender issue.

As you know, October 2010 was the 10th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 which aims to include more women and gender issues in conflict resolution. How would you assess the progress since that time?

Among civil society circles we all agreed on the fact that “we do not have a lot to celebrate” for the 10th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. It was not so much about celebrating but maybe much more about commemorating the reasons why UNSCR 1325 was such a landmark resolution. One of the issues is the gradual shift of considering women from being victims to being actors and



Ms Hilary Clinton's speech at the tenth anniversary was quite powerful in terms of acknowledging that women are not only victims but are agents of change. Despite the fact that women continue to suffer from conflict, there are several examples to illustrate their active role in peace processes. Femmes Africa Solidarité, together with other organisations, is working for women to be seen more and more as partners in peacebuilding by the international community. During the 10th anniversary, the Civil Society Advisory Group led by Mary Robinson and myself, has put in a lot of effort to ensure that this anniversary would be an opportunity to sit down and seriously take stock of what has happened since its adoption. We reviewed the participation of women – have we done well or not? We know that women are not automatically included in formal negotiations. We can

“Maybe at the grassroots level we still have a lot to do even though 1325 has been translated into so many languages but still we should raise concerns about the understanding of ordinary women about UNSCR 1325 in remote areas – what does it mean to them?”

witness it in Côte d’Ivoire or elsewhere where women are not part of the negotiation process or are considered and added at the last moment. When we look into protection we can challenge how women are protected from conflicts. I always quote the Darfur situation, Guinea or other places well known by the international community to question if women were protected during those conflicts and what were the actions taken in that regard? It is true that awareness has been raised; I cannot say that people don’t know what is going on at the global level. Maybe at the grassroots level we still have a lot to do even though 1325 has been translated into so many languages but still we should raise concerns about the understanding of ordinary women, about UNSCR 1325 in remote areas - what does it mean to them? They are still facing rape, they are still suffering, and some of them don’t benefit from post-conflict reconstruction... So what about those people?

On those specific issues, we found a lot of gaps in the implementation of 1325 – but we have also seen that there are some points of light and I think that it is where we need to put more emphasis to work on the way forward in order to actually celebrate achievements for the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325.

Maybe you can outline how the inclusion of women and gender issues in conflict resolution is important to achieving sustainable peace?

We are not saying that women are different from men. Women want power as well but what we are saying is that because of experiences they are facing in their communities and their traditional role in the communities (especially in the African context), they have different responsibilities than men who take guns to fight – running from one place to another – while women are keeping the villages, the communities and taking care of the elders and the

children. With that perspective in mind, Liberian women decided themselves to be included in negotiations; they went to the Aksombo Peace Talks. As an outcome of the talks, an agreement was signed – the first of its kind signed by a woman representing a group of women that was sitting outside the negotiation room and that ended up inside sitting with men and negotiating for peace in their country. Their strategy to be included was instrumental in the sense that mediators used it to reach the agreement. And after the elections, the first female President in Africa, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected.

Another example is the case of Burundi – it’s only after women entered into the negotiation that a lasting peace for development was reached. In Rwanda, women were also instrumental in promoting development. Women’s added value in peace negotiations is their determination and reliability – to stick to their word to protect and build their community and their

country. That is also why they are key actors in the post-conflict phase.

A number of nations have drawn up National Action Plans for implementing the UN SCR 1325, how significant a step do you think that is in the implementation process?

When Member States were thinking about adopting UNSCR 1325 they were pressured by women and it seems that they made promises but without the will to really implement it. Consequently the absence of National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 was a huge gap in terms of implementation. So the feminist movement in Africa, in Europe and in the United States through the Working Group on Peace and the Civil Society Advisory Group – to name some of the actors - decided to advocate for a road map with a set of indicators that would make member states accountable and I think in that process the adoption of National Action Plans (NAPs) was a significant step given that they have been used as tools to measure progress made in implementing UNSCR 1325.

That being said, I think a National Action Plan is a consultation process; it's not an end in itself. That is why FAS has been accompanying countries like Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to develop and build National Action Plans by taking into consideration a region-

al approach. In that process FAS is having a facilitating role to ensure that women are part and parcel of the process, of course with the leadership of the government.

Where do you think the HD Centre should focus its efforts in terms of including women and gender issues in peace processes in the future?

In the future HD should ensure that on each mediation team we should have women's perspectives integrated, women's participation promoted and gender-sensitive training given to mediators. The objective is to ensure at the operations level that in each indicator of success – gender is part and parcel of it.

What do you consider your greatest success in the international promotion of gender issues so far?

I can quote our advocacy work within the African Union to get gender parity. When I see the African Union putting a Gender Adviser into mediation teams, I am proud as it is a great achievement and we are continuously fighting for it.

FAS has greatly contributed to the advocacy of the entire African peace movement, and we are very satisfied to see how our concerns were addressed through the creation of UN Women.

Through FAS advocacy work and empowerment programmes, we have seen women in the Mano

River peace process participating in peace negotiations and more recently we are supporting women going into elections in Côte d'Ivoire, pushing for peace.

When Hilary Clinton commended my work on the ground with Mary Robinson for what we have been doing for ages – to make sure that in Zimbabwe, women would prevent violence against women – to go on a solidarity mission to Guinea to assess women's protection there – to go to Sudan to talk about the impunity – definitely if somebody like Hilary Clinton mentions this work I think it's rewarding and we can assert that we have some milestones. But success is a big word. Ultimately what we critically want to see is impact and how our actions meant something to the life of the ordinary women at the grassroots level. In that process, a lot needs to continue to be done.

Another ten year anniversary

Having celebrated the HD Centre's tenth anniversary as an organisation, 2010 brought round a different ten year anniversary; that of the agreement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325) on women, peace and security.

Signed in 2000, SCR 1325 recognised the specific impact of conflict on women and their vital role in resolving disputes and attaining sustainable peace in conflict zones. The resolution encouraged all those involved in conflict resolution to consider peace negotiations from a gender perspective and increase the participation of women in efforts to resolve conflicts and implement agreements.

In 2005, the HD Centre published an opinion piece entitled “We the Women: Why conflict mediation is not just a job for men” which considered the issue of gender in mediation. The HD Centre has also looked to increase the inclusion of female participants in the Oslo forum series of retreats for mediators which the HD Centre jointly hosts with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a result, the number of women attending and contributing to the retreats has significantly increased since it began in 2003. In 2010 women represented 30 per cent of participants at the event. A background paper for the 2008 retreat entitled “Gender sensitivity: nicety or necessity in peace process management?” set

the scene for a specific session on addressing gender issues during the process of mediation and a similar session, with a more practical focus, was held at the 2010 retreat.

The HD Centre's efforts to integrate women and gender concerns into peace processes intensified in 2009 with the launch of the “Women at the Peace Table” programme. Focussing on Africa and Asia, it aims to increase the representation of women and consideration of gender issues in peace processes on both continents.

One of the primary ways in which the programme works is identifying, convening, and establishing networks between women who have already been involved in conflict resolution processes in both regions. As well as continent-wide roundtable gatherings of female mediators and negotiators in Africa and Asia, the programme has also focussed on Kenya and Indonesia.

To inform the wider mediation profession of the latest thinking on the incorporation of women and gender considerations into peace negotiations, the “Women at the Peace Table” programme also produces and commissions publications, opinion pieces and blog posts on significant aspects of gender and peacemaking.

Internationally progress towards achieving the aims of SCR 1325 is extremely slow and there is still a lot of work to be done to consolidate the gains which have been made since the resolution was agreed.

In addition, in 2010 the HD Centre increased its focus on ensuring that gender considerations are integrated fully into the way in which the organisation carries out its own work. Following the formation of a gender team within the HD Centre, a process has been developed for ensuring every project considers gender representation and concerns.

Internationally, progress towards achieving the aims of SCR 1325 is extremely slow and there is still a lot of work to be done to consolidate the gains which have been made over the decade since the resolution was agreed. The resolutions that have followed it (SCRs 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960) all provide further impetus for action. The HD Centre is committed to supporting the aims of SCR 1325 (and relevant resolutions) by working to consolidate progress both internally and externally.

Networks of female mediators and negotiators

One of the ways in which the HD Centre’s “Women at the Peace Table” programme aims to increase the participation of women and the inclusion of gender issues in peace processes is by forming networks of female mediators and negotiators in Africa and Asia.

To develop these networks, the HD Centre held roundtable meetings in both continents in 2010. These meetings drew together a broad range of women including mediators, government representatives, conflict parties, academics and former combatants. By encouraging the women to share their experiences the HD Centre encouraged the exchange of information and ideas and forged supportive networks across regions, and within countries.

Following the launch of the process with a pan-African roundtable in November 2009, at the start of 2010 the “Women at the Peace Table” programme focussed more specifically on Kenya and Indonesia. In March, the HD Centre convened roundtable meetings in both countries, gathering women in Nairobi and Jakarta to explore specific national issues.

In Kenya, the discussion centred around the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation Process and the

role of women from the political sphere and civil society in peacemaking. Participants included Mrs. Graca Machel, international human rights expert and a member of the African Union Panel of Eminent African Personalities for the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation. The roundtable highlighted the importance of women working both within a mediation process and outside the process to bring about peace agreements that reflect women’s concerns.

At the Indonesian roundtable, which was opened with a keynote speech from the Indonesian Minister for Women, Empowerment and Child Protection, participants identified patriarchal culture as the biggest challenge to the involvement of women in peace processes. In November 2010, the publication, ‘Women at the Indonesian peace table: Enhancing the contributions of women to conflict resolution’, was released and made available in English and Bahasa Indonesia. In September, the HD Centre convened a roundtable in Nepal that drew women together from across the Asia Pacific area. This was held in Kathmandu in conjunction with the India-based organisation Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace, and the Nepal-based Alliance for Social Dialogue. Discussions at this pan-Asian event ranged from the incorporation



1. Kenyan women discuss their participation in the Kenya Mediation Process, Nairobi, Kenya, March 2010.
2. Mrs Graça Machel opens the HD Centre roundtable on 'Women's Participation in The Kenya Mediation Process' with HD Centre Regional Director for Africa, Amb. Hiruy Amanuel, Nairobi, March 2010.
3. Shadia Marhaban, the only woman to be involved in the 2005 Aceh peace talks, speaks during an experts meeting on the contribution of women to peace processes in Asia, Nepal, Sept. 2010.
4. Dr Massouda Jalal, the only woman who stood in the 2002 presidential election in Afghanistan, speaks during the Nepal experts meeting, Sept. 2010.
5. HD Centre Senior Programme Manager, Meredith Preston McGhie, talks during the HD Centre's roundtable in Nairobi, March 2010.

of international norms into peace processes to re-considering the notion of the ‘peace table’ itself and how peace negotiations could be conducted differently. There were also specific sessions on the situation in some Asian nations including Sri Lanka, north-east India and Mindanao in the Philippines.

One of the recurring issues at the roundtables is the perception that there are currently not many women with the capacity and experience to act as high-level negotiators and mediators. However, in 2010 alone more than 100 women attended “Women at the Peace Table” roundtables organised by the HD Centre. Simply by bringing women together in Africa and Asia, the HD Centre is demonstrating the depth of interest and experience in peace processes which these women share. In addition, the roundtables not only help to establish a network of women involved in mediation and peacemaking but they also help to identify women who may be able to contribute to further peace processes, in their own countries and continents or elsewhere, in the future.

Publications, Opinion Pieces, blog posts and videos relating to gender and mediation are available on the HD Centre’s website.

In 2010 alone, more than 100 women attended “Women at the Peace Table” roundtables organised by the HD Centre.



A Participant's Perspective

“Women at the Peace Table” Roundtable

Sharada Jnawali is a Peace Building Adviser (Consultant) at the Asian Development Bank.

How useful was the meeting you attended?

Useful in the sense that I was able to learn from many country experiences on [the] role and contributions of women in mediation and peace building. It was very inspiring looking for personal stories and institutional engagements on peace building initiatives. It was also for the first time that I took part in the interaction that was mainly focused on women peacebuilders/makers.

What do you think are the HD Centre's strengths?

So far I understand that [the] HD Centre is a private organisation that specialises on peacebuilding and mediation. HD Centre is perceived as a credible (driven by its neutrality of action and physical location) organisation that has facilitated several dialogues between conflicting parties around the world. As a non political entity, the [HD] Centre conducts research and analysis on mediation and peacebuilding which is widely used by practitioners. The HD Centre also provides a virtual space for the topical experts for exchanging ideas and experiences and documentation of achievements and results. Possessing a wide range of professionals, the [HD] Centre deals in a low key and discreet manner that is a very significant part of the peace mediation activities. In addition to all these strengths, HD Centre is the only space that addresses the women in peace issues, as I know of.

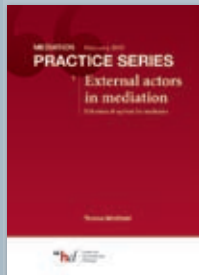
What impact has your attendance at the meeting had on your work?

I believe that measuring impact of any initiative takes time. However, how it helps my work by attending the meeting is a good/relevant question. It was a very suitable forum for me to get to know the people around the world. I find it useful in terms of increasing my ability to locate human resources for technical assistance on the issues/matter. Building [a]network with the group and learning from practices on peacebuilding in other parts of the world also help[s] enrich my knowledge which I can apply in my work place.



Publications, Podcasts & Videos

A selection of 2010 publications



Mediation Practice Series
External actors in mediation
by Teresa Whitfield



Mediation ten years on
Challenges and opportunities
for peacemaking
*by Martin Griffiths &
Teresa Whitfield*



Mediation Practice Series
Engaging with armed
groups
by Teresa Whitfield



Meeting report
Asian Mediation Retreat
2010



Mediation for Peace
1999-2009



Meeting Report
Oslo forum 2010



A mediator's perspective:
Women and the Nepali
peace process
by Günther Baechler



The Mindanao Think Tank
Recommendations of
prominent observers of the
peace process to the new
Philippine President



**Nepali women seize
the new political dawn:**
Resisting marginalisation
after ten years of war
by Rita Manchanda



The Mindanao Think Tank
Review of the
Mindanao Peace Process
consultations



**The importance of
autonomy:**
Women and the Sri Lankan
Peace Negotiations
by Kumudini Samuel



The Mindanao Think Tank
Strengthening the Peace
Process by Facilitating
Dialogue with Stakeholders



Experts Meeting:
Women at the Peace Table
– Asia Pacific
Summary Report



The Mindanao Think Tank
Perspectives, issues, and
concerns on the Mindanao
Peace Process



**Conflict Management
Strategies in Indonesia:**
Learning from the Poso
experience



**Women at the Indonesian
peace table:**
Enhancing the contribu-
tions of women to conflict
resolution

Podcasts



Teresa Whitfield, Senior Adviser at the HD Centre, talking about her Mediation Practice Series publication “Engaging with armed groups: Dilemmas & options for mediators”.

This podcast is available through the HD Centre’s website (www.hdcentre.org/projects/strengthening-practice/issues/tools-mediation) and iTunes.



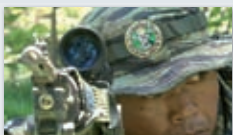
Dennis McNamara, Humanitarian Adviser at the HD Centre, talking about the work of the HD Centre’s Humanitarian Mediation Programme.

This podcast is available through the HD Centre’s website (www.hdcentre.org/projects/humanitarian-mediation?overview) and iTunes.

A selection of 2010 videos



Women at the Peace Table – Nepal Roundtable meeting, Sept 2010



Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in the Philippines



Women in peacemaking – Africa



Humanitarian Mediation

The HD Centre’s videos are available to view online through Vimeo and YouTube.

Measuring our achievements

In 2010, the planning, monitoring and evaluation of HD Centre projects was given new impetus during a review of the organisation's priorities. This review recognised the importance of focussing the HD Centre's strategy on strengthening the organisation's systems and maximising the effectiveness of the HD Centre's activities.

Broader consideration of the HD Centre's project management practice resulted in the development of a planning, reviewing and evaluation process and the strengthening of project monitoring requirements. Some elements of the process have been standardised (for example, using logical frameworks) and a new "Project Life Cycle" has been adopted which lays out the criteria the HD Centre uses to decide whether to establish a project around a particular conflict. These changes are intended to make the organisation more efficient while supporting the HD Centre's significant strengths as an independent mediation organisation including its ability to react rapidly to changing situations.

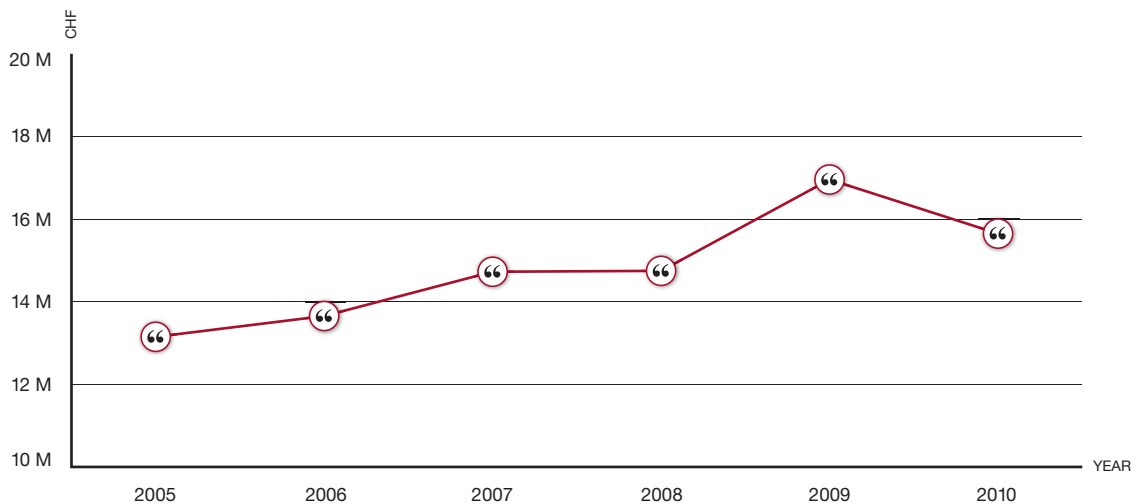
The HD Centre also carried out a review of the organisation's projects in 2010. Each project was assessed in terms of the progress it had made towards its objectives and any potential risks and opportunities inherent in the project. The 2010 review included a particular focus on risk management and how each HD Centre project was contributing to both the wider context of

the conflict-affected area and to the HD Centre's mission to improve the global response to armed conflict.

The HD Centre is committed to sharing the lessons it learns from its operational experience with other mediation professionals. This is co-ordinated through the organisation's Mediation Support Programme which provides advice, resources and publications for mediation professionals. It is also one of the purposes of the Oslo forum series. These activities support the HD Centre's mission to improve the international response to conflict and help to develop the capacity of the wider mediation profession.

Finances

The HD Centre – Income received by year*



The HD Centre received the second highest amount of income in its history in 2010, despite the financial difficulties associated with the discovery of a fraud at the HD Centre during the year.

In 2010, the HD Centre received income from 18 sources of funding including national governments and government departments as well as private organisations. Despite the difficulties the organisation experienced, the Board and staff worked hard to re-establish and retain the confidence of donors. The HD Centre is grateful for all the funding and support it has received from donors in 2010.

*The audited figures will be made available on the HD Centre's website.

Fundraising

Donors who support the HD Centre's work generally either support a specific project with funds dedicated to that project (known as 'earmarked funds') or support the HD Centre's work more broadly with funds which can be used flexibly across the organisation's programme of work (known as 'un-earmarked funds'). Both types of funding are vital for the HD Centre to pursue its mission to improve the global response to armed conflict.

'Earmarked' funding

Donors who provide specific projects with earmarked funding may support the project in other ways too. For example, a partnership may develop in which a donor country may provide expertise to support a specific aspect of a peacemaking process. The HD Centre has developed working partnerships with a number of donors on its operational projects.

'Un-earmarked' funding

Flexible funding is vital to the HD Centre's work, in terms of the central support the organisation provides to its operations in conflict-affected areas, the independence it allows us to have from the interests of others, and our ability to react to fast-changing events.

The diversity of its donors also supports the HD Centre's independence and the organisation has dedicated resources towards developing the range of donors who provide funding to the organisation. In seeking sustainable peace in areas of conflict in the world, the HD Centre's work can offer donors an opportunity to contribute to improving stability, a prerequisite for development.

The HD Centre is dependent on donor support to achieve its mission and is extremely grateful to all its donors and the individuals involved for their support, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Liechtenstein, the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Netherlands, Norway, the Open Society Institute, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, the Foundation for the Third Millennium, the United Kingdom, the United Nations, and the United States. The HD Centre would also like to take this opportunity to thank the City of Geneva for their continued loan of the Villa Plantamour as the HD Centre's headquarters in Geneva.

Picture and video credits

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Page 58 : Women at the Peace Table – Nepal Roundtable meeting,
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