

# Multilateral Negotiations, Mediation and Egypt's Role

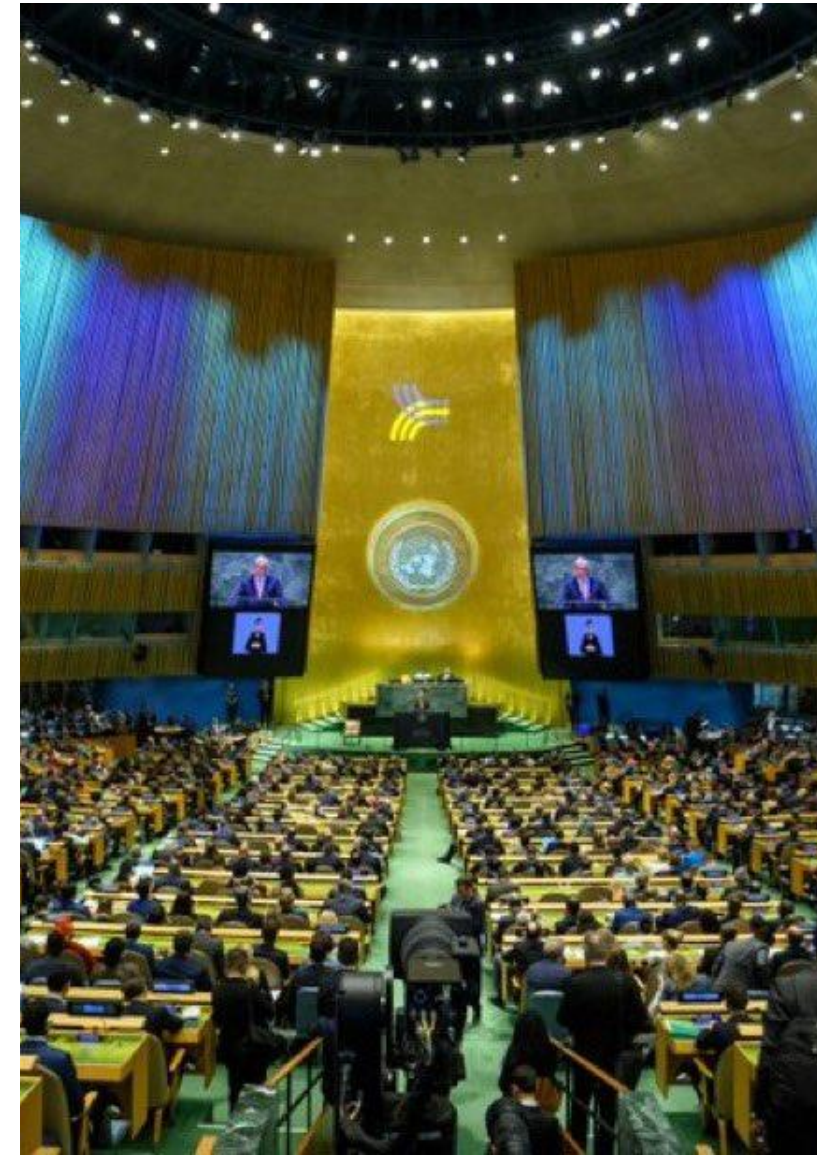
Date; 25 November 2025  
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# Session Overview

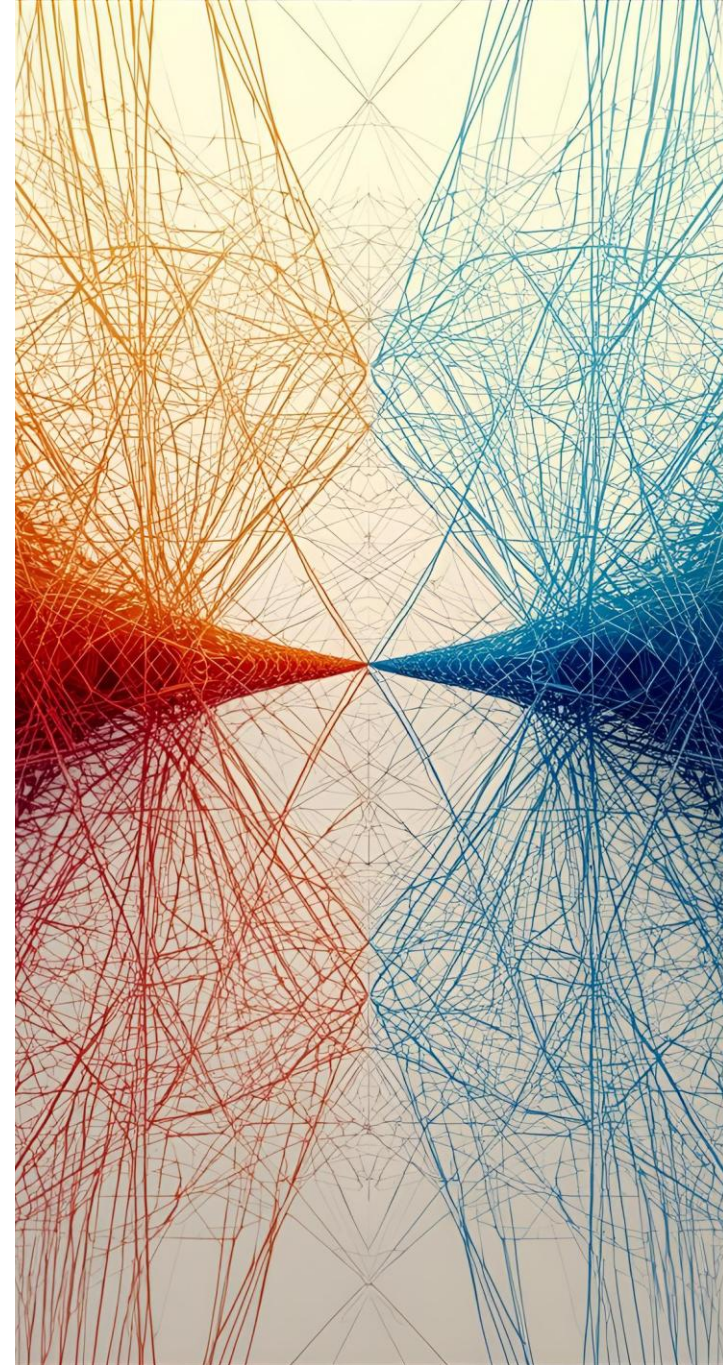
- Today's lecture explores how **multilateral negotiations and function** when multiple actors seek to reach consensus on global issues.
- We will examine the **principles, rules, and techniques** that shape **multilateral diplomacy**, and how complexity affects decision-making.
- We will introduce **mediation as a core method of conflict resolution**, including its **strengths, limits, and strategic value** in managing complex disputes
- **Real-world examples from Egypt** will highlight its role in managing complex multilateral negotiations and in leading mediation efforts in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict
- By the end of the session, you should understand how **states, regional blocs, and institutions influence outcomes and legitimacy** and have a clear, practical sense of how diplomats **utilize mediation to reach sustainable agreements**



# Multilateral Negotiations

# Beyond Bilateral Negotiations: From Direct Talks to Multilateral Diplomacy

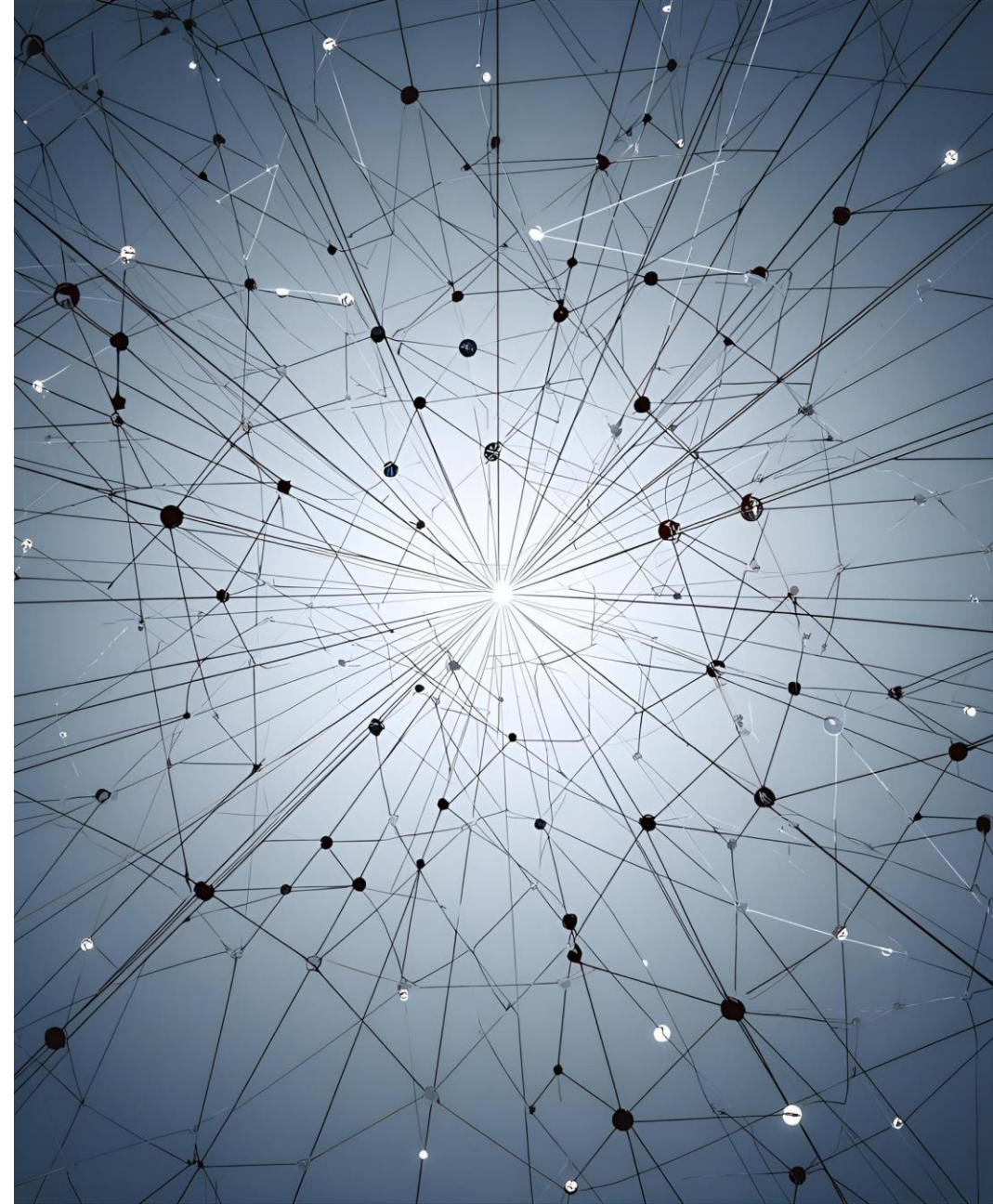
- Most **negotiations start between two parties**
  1. **Direct bilateral negotiations involve face-to-face diplomacy** between two states or entities with defined agendas and reciprocal goals
    - **Example:** The Egypt–U.S. Joint Economic Commission (2nd Session, Sept 2024) renewed structured talks on trade, investment, and energy cooperation, marking a return to high-level economic dialogue
  2. **Indirect or proxied bilateral negotiations** occur when parties cannot meet directly and rely on **third-party mediation or facilitation**
    - **Example:** Israeli–Palestinian talks mediated by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States, with UN coordination on humanitarian access.
- **Beyond bilateralism**, today's global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, migration, nuclear proliferation, and regional conflicts involve multiple stakeholders and demand shared legitimacy and coordinated action through **multilateral negotiation**.





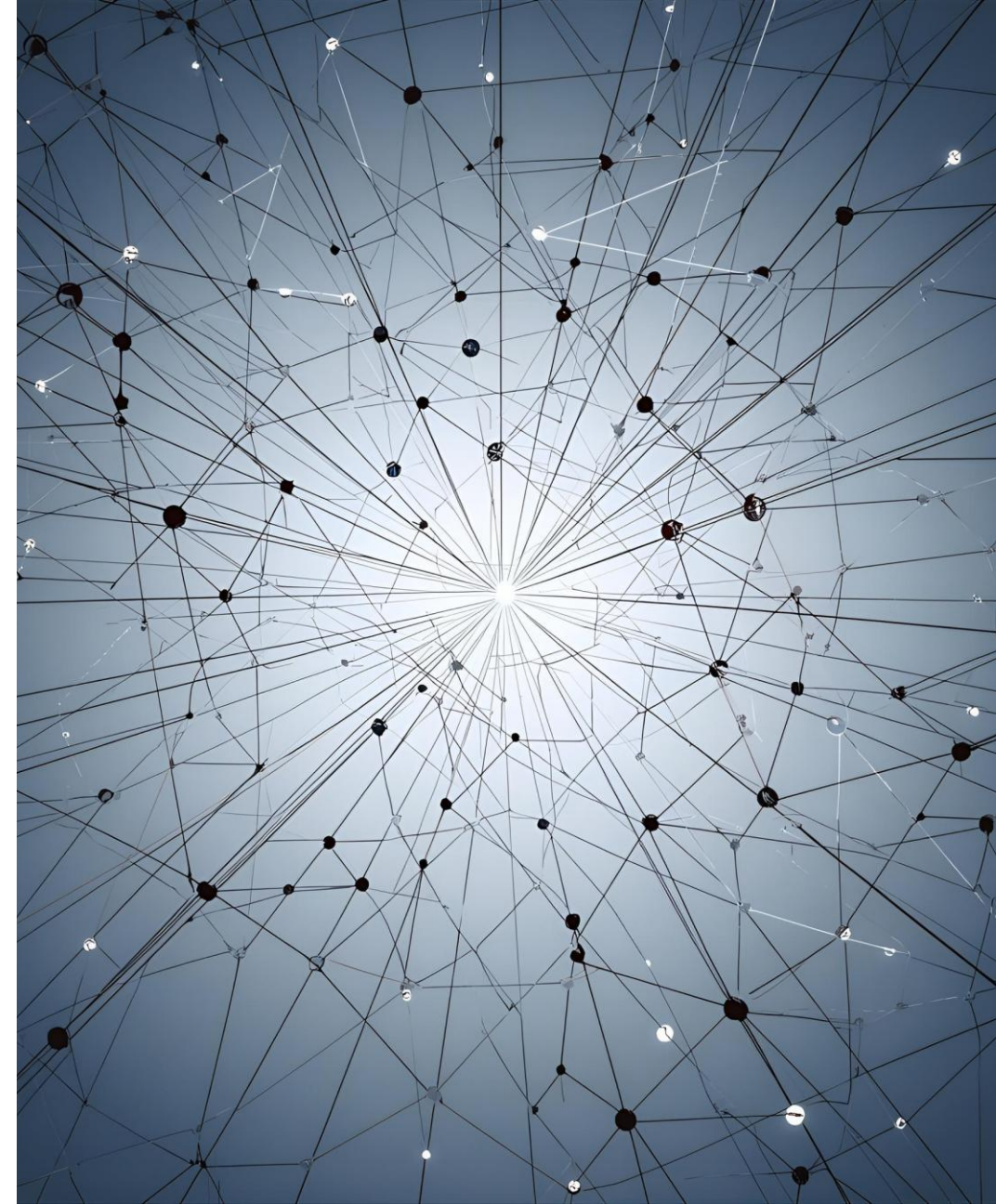
# What Makes a Negotiation Multilateral?

- Multilateral negotiation involves three or more actors: states, regional bodies, or international organizations. They work to reconcile diverse interests within an institutional framework
- Unlike bilateral talks focused on power balance, multilateral diplomacy depends on **procedural fairness, legitimacy, and coalition** dynamics to secure lasting outcomes
- Delegates operate at two levels, **maintaining consensus** with their domestic or bloc mandates while **bargaining** in the international arena



# What Makes a Negotiation Multilateral?

- Because many interests intersect, **issues are often linked or traded across agendas**, for example: security for trade, environment for finance, to build balanced packages
- The process unfolds through **formal plenaries and informal consultations**, blending technical expertise with political negotiation.
- Ultimately, success in multilateral settings is measured not only by agreement reached but by the **perceived inclusivity and legitimacy** of the process itself







# Core Principles of Multilateral Negotiation

- **Inclusivity and representation** ensure that decisions reflect global legitimacy, not just great-power consensus
- **Rule-based procedure** (agendas, speaking order, and decision thresholds), create predictability and procedural fairness



- **Consensus orientation** emphasizes decisions all can support, even if imperfect, reinforcing legitimacy
- **Institutional mediation** by chairs, secretariats, and facilitators safeguards neutrality and continuity across sessions



# Why Multilateral Negotiations are Harder?

- The diversity of interests among many actors multiplies potential deadlocks and delays
  - Issues are interconnected, requiring package deals that balance concessions across sectors.
  - Delegates operate under tight mandates from capitals, limiting flexibility and innovation
- 
- Consensus-based systems, such as the UNFCCC, can lead to lowest-common-denominator outcomes, trading speed for universality
  - Success thus depends on procedural innovation—breaking complexity into manageable stages while maintaining legitimacy





# Power Asymmetry in the Room

- **Larger states shape agendas** through resources and expertise, while **smaller states amplify influence through coalitions** and moral authority
- Informal formats like **mini-lateral meetings** or “**Green Rooms**” enhance efficiency but risk perceptions of exclusion
- **Skilled chairs** balance transparency and practicality, ensuring marginalized states feel represented
- In multilateral diplomacy, **perception of fairness** often determines durability more than the text itself





# Why do Coalitions Form?

States form coalitions to increase bargaining power, share expertise, and project solidarity on contested issues

- **Defensive coalitions** (e.g., OPEC, African Group) protect shared interests from external pressure
- **Promotional coalitions** (e.g., AOSIS on climate change) advance new norms and agenda items
- **Integrative coalitions** (e.g., the EU) coordinate internally to speak with one voice globally



Coalitions succeed when they **maintain unity at the core** yet **remain flexible enough** to attract external partners





# Coalitions in the UN System

- **Group of 77 (G77) + China**, established in 1964, represents **134 developing countries advocating for equity, South–South cooperation, and development finance**. It coordinates common positions in negotiations on sustainable development, trade, and climate change, and remains the **largest intergovernmental coalition in the UN**.
- **African Group** is composed of **54 African Member States** and operates as a unified negotiating bloc across the UN system, **often aligned with the G77**. The group focuses on **development, peacebuilding, and equitable representation**, and frequently serves as a **moral and political anchor in multilateral fora**
- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** founded in 1961 and includes **120 countries advocating for sovereign equality, neutrality, and global justice**. NAM is a normative coalition promoting multilateralism and opposing great-power dominance.
- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** consists of **10 members** and acts as a **regional coordination bloc, emphasizing consensus, quiet diplomacy, and preventive engagement** in UN and regional decision-making.





# Coalitions in the UN System

- **European Union (EU) and EU-27 Bloc** negotiate as a **single entity** on trade, climate, and human rights issues, leveraging economic weight and institutionalized consensus mechanisms
- Within the UN, the EU often **leads on normative diplomacy**, including humanitarian law and global governance reform
- **Permanent Five (P5) of the Security Council**, comprising China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, the **P5 dominate peace and security decision-making through the veto system**
- Informal sub-groupings (e.g., P3: France, UK, U.S.) coordinate **Western positions on sanctions, conflict mandates, and crisis resolutions**
- **Like-Minded Group of States (LMG)** is a flexible coalition of **mainly middle powers and developing countries** that coordinate on **human rights, climate, and development issues**, emphasising **consensus, non-confrontation**, and procedural fairness
- **Emerging issue-based coalitions**, such as the Alliance for Multilateralism or the Humanitarian Core Group, reflect new diplomatic trends focused on specific thematic agendas rather than geography





# Inside Coalition-Building

- Coalitions coordinate through pre-meetings, joint communiqués, and shared text drafting to ensure message coherence
- Members often trade support across agendas, for instance, environmental concessions for trade benefits are used to build cross-issue leverage

- Informal diplomacy in corridors and “Friends of the Chair” groups often decides outcomes before formal sessions begin
- The most durable coalitions blend strategic coherence with pragmatic inclusivity, avoiding ideological rigidity



# Mandates and Institutional Roles

- A mandate defines the **scope, authority, and objectives of a negotiation** or process **authorized by an intergovernmental body**, usually through a **UN General Assembly or Security Council resolution**
- It answers three key questions:
  - 1. What is being negotiated?*
  - 2. Who has the authority to negotiate it?*
  - 3. Within what boundaries or principles must it occur?*
- Narrow mandates restrict initiative; broad mandates empower innovation and trust-building





# How are Mandates Created?

- A **Member State or group of states** (often a regional bloc like the G77, NAM, or EU) proposes a draft resolution outlining the issue to be addressed.
- The **resolution is negotiated, amended, and adopted by the relevant UN body** (e.g., GA First Committee, Security Council, or Human Rights Council).
- Once adopted, it becomes the **formal negotiating mandate, authorizing a working group, committee, or ad hoc body** to begin intergovernmental negotiations



# Institutional Roles

- The **UN Secretariat or specialized agency** (e.g., UNODA, UNEP, WHO) provides **technical expertise and administrative support**
- **Institutional actors** such as chairs, facilitators, and secretariats act as **process guarantors, guiding tone, sequencing, and agenda management**
- **Regional bodies** such as the EU, AU, and ASEAN **coordinate members' positions**, projecting collective influence on global platforms





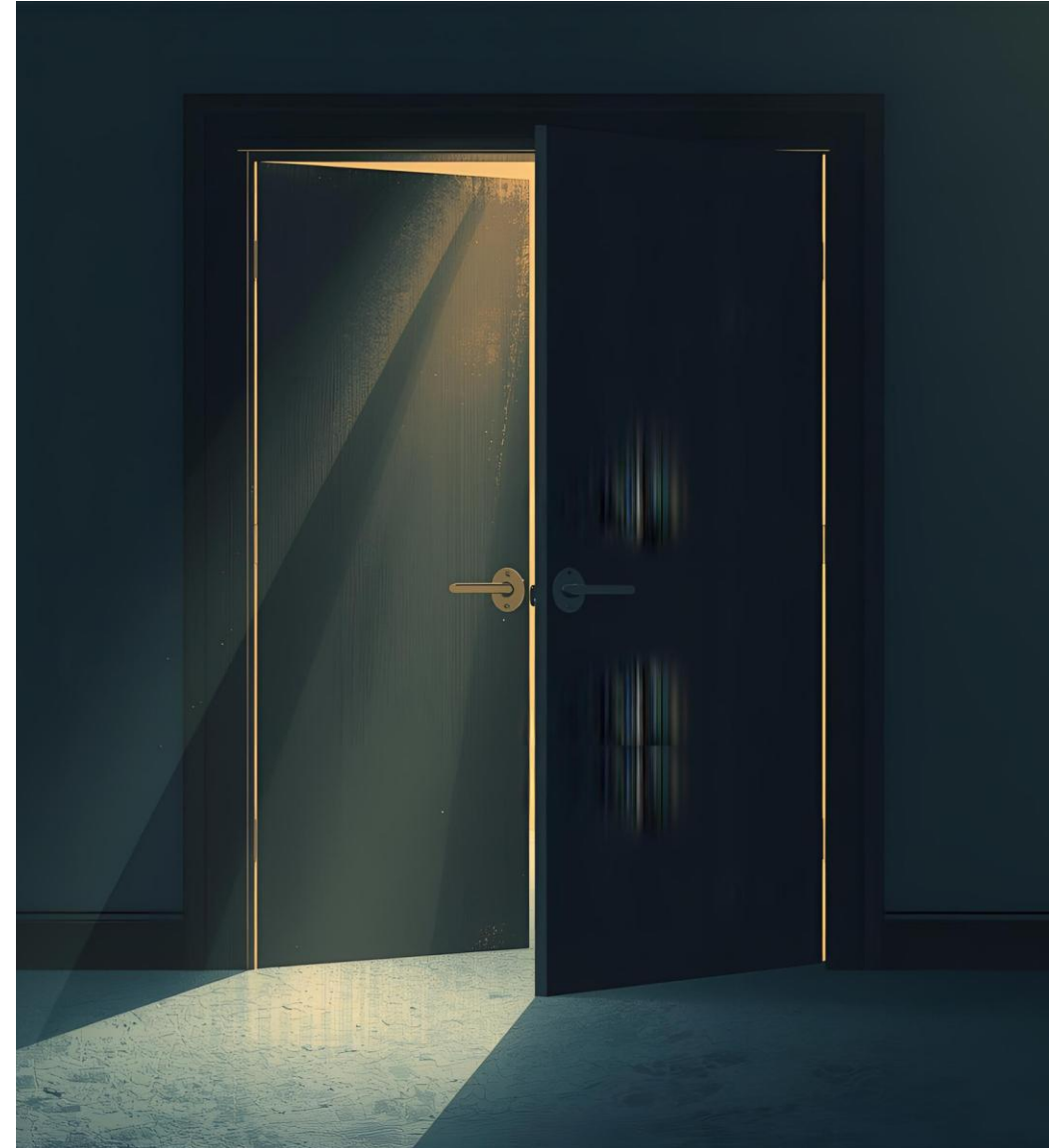
# Example: Chemical Weapons Convention

- The **UNGA resolution of 1980** mandated a negotiating process under the **Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva** to prohibit the development, production, and use of chemical weapons
- States **debated definitions, verification systems, destruction timelines, and compliance mechanisms**, balancing security interests with humanitarian law
- After 12 years of negotiation, the **CWC was adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1997**, establishing the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to oversee implementation
- **Why Mandates Matter?** A clear UN mandate gives legitimacy, focus, and continuity to negotiations , ensuring states work within agreed parameters toward enforceable outcomes.



# Techniques & Strategies

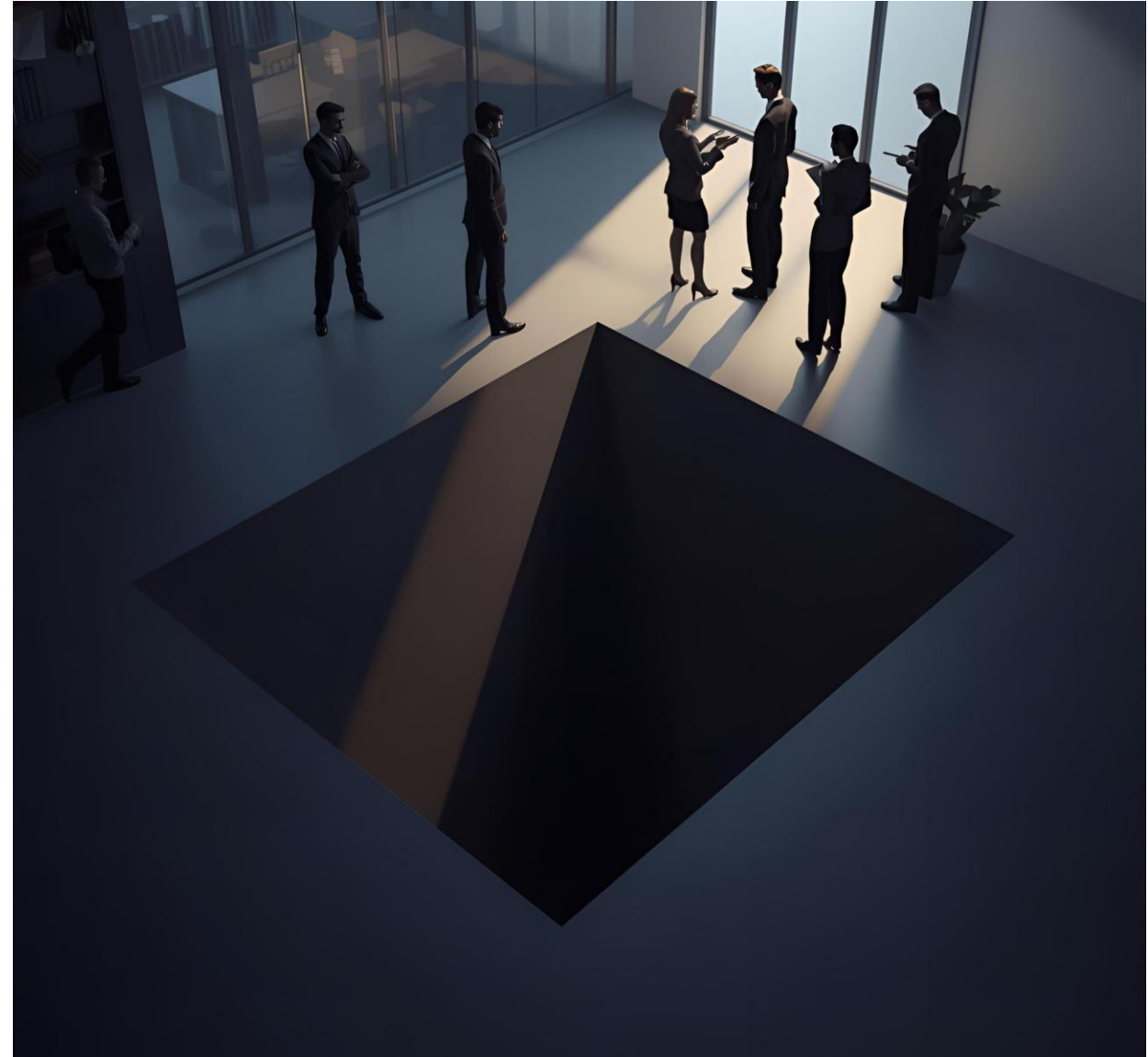
- Negotiators use **sequencing** to address simpler issues first to build trust and early consensus
- Negotiators link diverse issues to create balanced compromises acceptable to all through **package deals**.
- In **constructive ambiguity**, negotiators craft flexible language that accommodates divergent interpretations
- Using **quiet diplomacy**, negotiators resolve impasses through discreet bilateral consultations outside plenary
- Negotiators ensure **procedural transparency** through maintaining open communication to sustain trust in leadership





# Common Pitfalls in Multilateral Negotiation

- **Text fatigue** arises when over-negotiation produces dense, incoherent drafts
- **Fragmented coalitions** weaken negotiating leverage and blur common messaging.
- **Rigid procedures** or over-centralized chairs alienate smaller players
- **Excluding non-state stakeholders** like civil society, experts, and the private sector reduces legitimacy and implementation buy-in
- Sustainable agreements require **balance between openness and manageability**, not maximal participation alone



# Mediation



# Mediation

- The UN and regional organizations professionalized mediation to **address intrastate conflicts** as seen in Mozambique (1992), Guatemala (1996), and Bosnia (1995).
- Mediation now **supports political transitions, peace processes, and humanitarian access**, facing new challenges from fragmented conflicts and digital misinformation.
- As highlighted in the UN Secretary-General's A New Agenda for Peace (2023), mediation must become more **inclusive, adaptive, and innovative** to remain effective.



# Mediation

- **Mediation** is a process whereby a **third party assists two or more parties, with their consent**, to **prevent, manage or resolve a conflict** by helping them to develop mutually acceptable agreements
- Unlike negotiation, mediation involves a neutral third party, and unlike arbitration, the outcome is **not legally binding** unless the parties agree to it.
- Data on mediation indicates that the proportion of armed conflicts that receive mediation attention has not increased, but decreased due to the **changing nature of conflict**. This necessitates use of innovative approaches

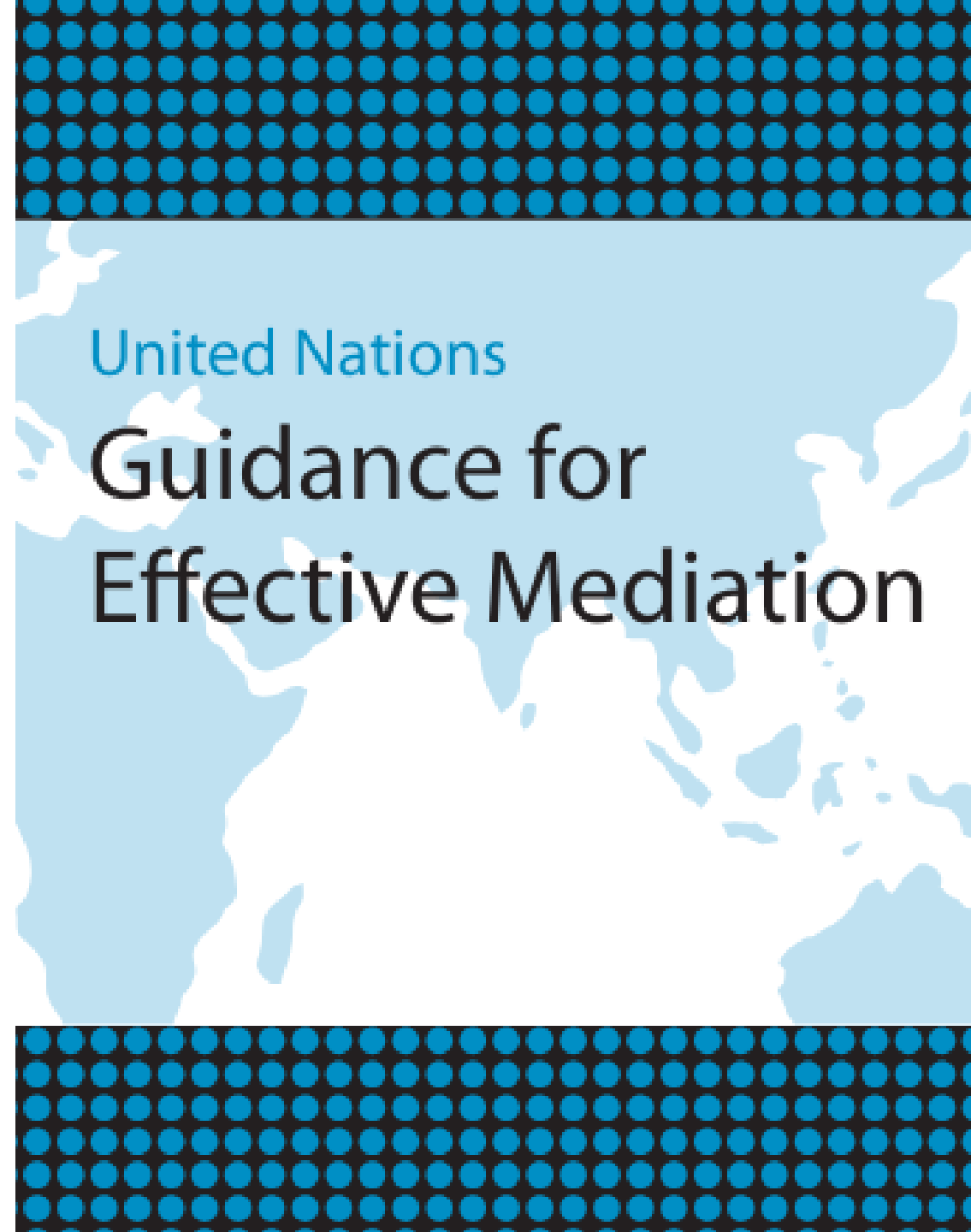




The **United Nations** has developed a comprehensive framework to guide mediation practice which sets out the core principles:

- **Consent of the parties** – buy-in of the parties is crucial for successful mediation
- **Impartiality** – the mediator must be trusted and neutral
- **Inclusivity** – broad participation strengthens legitimacy and durability
- **National ownership** – solutions must reflect local priorities and contexts
- **Respect for international law and human rights** – agreements must comply with established norms

**Question for discussion:** to what extent **are these principles applicable in today's conflicts** characterized by fragmentation, non-state actors, hybrid orders, and conflicts involving one-sided violence or actors less likely to attract mediation?



# Strategies & Approaches to Mediation



- **Facilitative Mediation:** Mediator structures the process so that the parties themselves can reach a mutually acceptable resolution. The mediator does not offer opinions, recommendations, or predictions about outcomes. The focus is on empowering the parties to craft their own agreement
- **Directive Mediation:** The mediator uses incentives and disincentives to press the parties to accept its solutions
- **Formulative Mediation:** The mediator proposes political solutions to the parties
- **Transformative Mediation:** focuses not on resolving the substantive dispute itself, but on transforming the relationship and interaction between the parties.



# Strategies & Approaches to Mediation



- **Bargaining Mediation:** Mediators not only facilitate communication, dialogue and negotiations between the conflict parties but also bargain with them
- **Disaggregated Mediation:** Mediation is not a single event or actor-driven process, but rather fragmented across multiple levels and actors—international envoys, regional organizations, states, local leaders, civil society
- **Inclusive Mediation** Mediators ensure that peace processes reflect the voices of all affected groups including women, youth, displaced populations, minorities

# Strengths of Mediation



- Mediation is **flexible and adaptable**, allowing processes to be tailored to the specific context and needs of the parties
- Because it is **voluntary and based on consent**, agreements reached through mediation are more likely to be accepted and implemented by the parties themselves
- Mediation can **transform relationships**, fostering empowerment, recognition, and reconciliation, not just short-term settlements
- The UN Secretary-General notes that mediation is a **cost-effective tool for conflict prevention** and resolution, often requiring fewer resources than peacekeeping or arbitration





# Limitations of Mediation - Structural & Procedural

- Mediation is often **delayed until violence escalates**, reducing opportunities for prevention and makes trust harder to build
- **Unclear or politically motivated mandates** weaken mediator authority and credibility
- **Absence of a clearly designated lead mediator** results in rivalry among multiple mediation actors creates confusion and undermines coherence

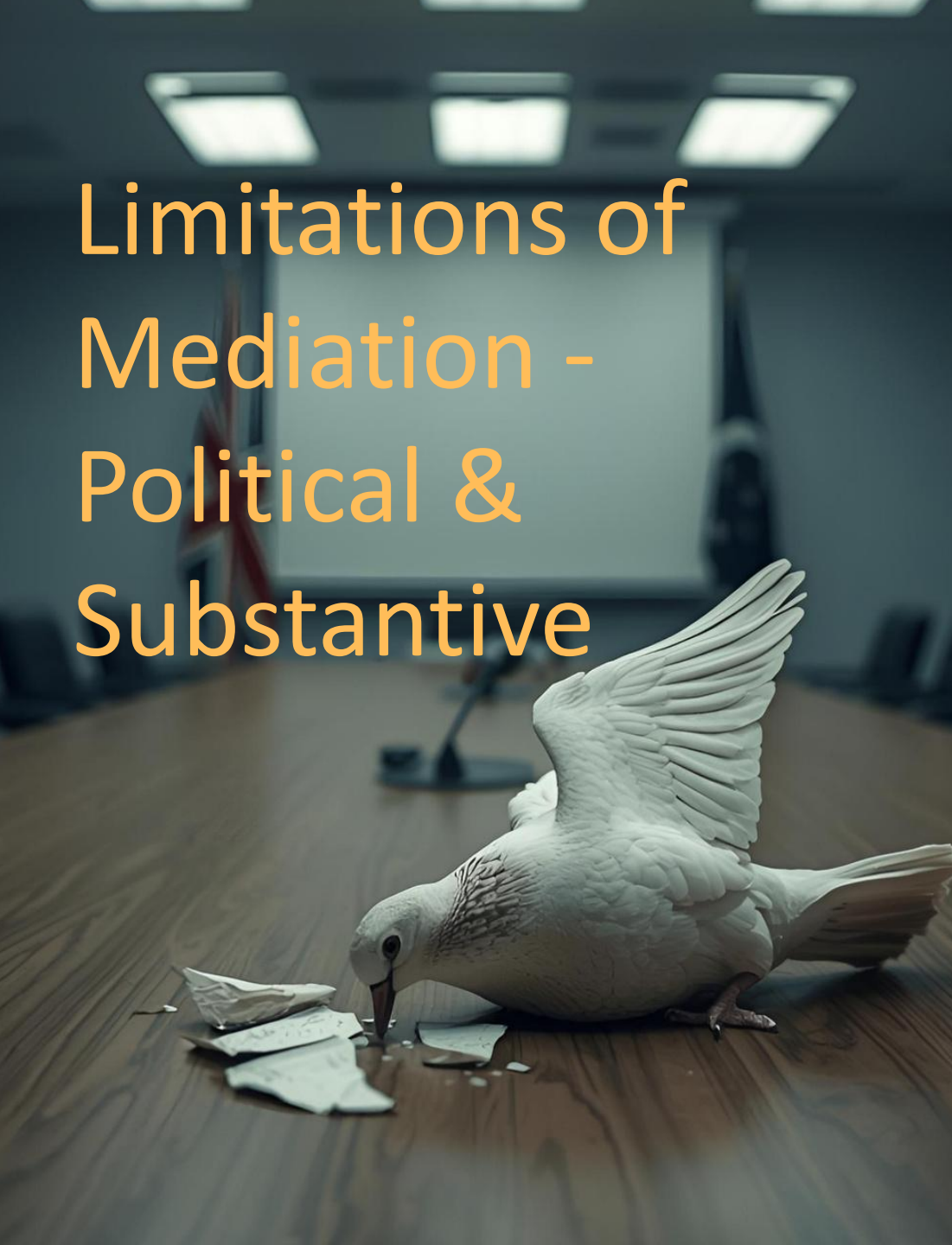


# Limitations of Mediation - Structural & Procedural

- Mediators may **lack specialized expertise** on complex issues such as power-sharing, security, or natural resources
- **Regional and local mediation capacity** remains **underdeveloped**, leading to gaps in legitimacy and sustainability
- Mediation efforts are frequently **underfunded**, undermining continuity and professionalism

# Limitations of Mediation - Political & Substantive

- The **political will of the parties** is **weak** or inconsistent, limiting space for compromise
- The **proliferation of violent actors**, often in the context of protracted insurgencies, terrorism, and extremism, increases the intricacy of conflicts and complicates peace initiatives
- **Power asymmetries distort negotiations** and reduce the likelihood of balanced agreements
- **Spoilers deliberately undermine negotiations** through violence or obstruction





# Limitations of Mediation - Political & Substantive

- **Balancing peace and justice** remains a dilemma; poorly managed trade-offs can delegitimize the process in the eyes of victims and civil society
- Agreements are sometimes **vague or unrealistic** to implement, and **lack robust follow-up mechanisms**
- **Security Council divisions** and inconsistent support weaken mediator authority and limit effectiveness



# Mediation in Practice



## United Nations

plays a leading role through the Secretary-General, Special Envoys, and the Mediation Support Unit, offering global legitimacy and technical expertise



## States & Coalition of States

sometimes act as mediators, particularly when they have strategic interests or influence over the parties



## Regional organizations

such as the AU, EU, OSCE, & LAS as regional actors often have greater legitimacy and leverage in their contexts



## Non-governmental organizations & local actors

play critical roles, providing informal entry points, shuttle diplomacy, & community-based mediation that enhances legitimacy & sustainability



# Case Studies





2025

## Egypt's Role in Regional Non-Proliferation Diplomacy

- At the 2025 IAEA General Conference, **Egypt led a resolution urging that all nuclear facilities in the Middle East be placed under comprehensive IAEA safeguards**, and that every state in the region accede to the NPT without exception
- The move **coincided with renewed P5+1–Iran talks to revive elements of the JCPOA**, prompting Egypt to reposition itself as a **regional stabilizer** and non-proliferation advocate
- Egypt's diplomacy sought to **expand the conversation beyond Iran**, highlighting the need to address Israel's nuclear opacity and prevent selective application of safeguards



2025

## Egypt's Role in Regional Non-Proliferation Diplomacy

- Cairo **framed its initiative** as a step toward a Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (MENWFZ), an Egyptian priority since the 1974 UNGA proposal and the 1995 NPT Review Resolution
- The effort underscored Egypt's **multilateral negotiation strategy**, linking non-proliferation, disarmament, and regional equity to sustain NPT legitimacy amid renewed nuclear diplomacy



2025

## Egypt's Role in Regional Non-Proliferation Diplomacy

- Egypt built broad support for its IAEA safeguards resolution by **framing it as a universal transparency measure**, avoiding polarizing language.
- Through careful wording and quiet diplomacy, Cairo **maintained dialogue** with both Western and Non-Aligned blocs, showing skill in consensus drafting
- Egypt **leveraged its diplomatic credibility, not material power**, to advance equity and universal compliance within the NPT framework.
- Hosting the IAEA–Iran consultations in Cairo earlier in the year strengthened its legitimacy to lead the Vienna initiative, **a critical step in sequenced diplomacy**.
- Combining **technical facilitation with norm-based negotiation** can enhance a state's influence in multilateral arenas.



# Egypt's Role as Mediator in the Palestinian–Israeli Conflict

- Since the **Camp David Accords (1978)**, Egypt has served as a **central mediator between Israel and Palestinian factions**, maintaining open communication with all sides.
- Core Mediation Functions include:
  1. **facilitating ceasefire negotiations** (notably in **2014, 2021, and 2024 Gaza escalations**)
  2. **Hosting intra-Palestinian reconciliation talks** between Fatah and Hamas in Cairo
  3. Serving as a **trusted conduit** between the Palestinian Authority, Israel, and international actors (e.g., UN, U.S., Qatar).
- Mediation approach adopted is **hybrid model combining facilitative and directive mediation**. Egypt listens, proposes frameworks, and exerts diplomatic leverage when needed. Efforts are supported by quiet **shuttle diplomacy, regional intelligence coordination, and sustained engagement**.
- Rooted in Article 33 of the UN Charter (peaceful means), Arab League mandates, and UNGA/UNSC resolutions endorsing mediation and de-escalation



# Egypt's Mediation in the 2014 Gaza Conflict

- After the 2014 escalation between Israel and Hamas caused heavy casualties and damage in Gaza, **Egypt led intensive ceasefire talks in Cairo**, acting as the **primary mediator with backing from the UN and the U.S**
- Mediation Strategy relied on **back-channel diplomacy through Egyptian intelligence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- Applied **directive mediation**, tabling a detailed Egyptian ceasefire proposal that all parties eventually accepted.
- Achieved a **permanent ceasefire on 26 August 2014**, ending 50 days of hostilities
- Egypt's proposal became the **basis for post-conflict reconstruction coordination and humanitarian access via Rafah**
- *Key Lesson:* Legal mandates matter less than trust and logistical control, **Egypt's ability to control border access gave it unique leverage**



# Egypt's Mediation in the 2021 Gaza Escalation

- In **May 2021**, intense **fighting erupted between Israel and Hamas following tensions in East Jerusalem**. The conflict lasted 11 days and caused severe humanitarian damage
- **Egypt acted as the lead mediator**, conducting **shuttle diplomacy between Tel Aviv and Gaza** through the General Intelligence Service in coordination with the UN Special Coordinator (UNSCO), Qatar, and the United States
- Egypt combined **facilitative and power-based mediation**, providing a neutral venue while leveraging political and security influence
- Pushed for an **unconditional ceasefire**, accepted by both parties and declared on 21 May 2021 and **supervised the entry of Egyptian aid convoys through Rafah**
- Emphasized **reconstruction guarantees to sustain the truce**, initiating the Cairo Reconstruction Framework, pledging \$500 million for rebuilding Gaza.
- *Key Lesson:* Egypt's ability to align **national security interests with regional stabilisation**, consolidated its status as a **trusted intermediary**.





# Egypt's Mediation in the 2024 Gaza Crisis

- **October 2024** conflict marked one of the **deadliest Israeli hostilities in Gaza** in a decade, displacing hundreds of thousands and causing a regional diplomatic emergency
- **Egypt**, sharing both a border and security interests with Gaza, emerged as the **primary mediator trusted by multiple sides**
- Egypt hosted the **Cairo Truce Talks**, attended by delegations from **Israel, Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, the U.S., Qatar, and the UN**
- The talks aimed to negotiate **humanitarian pauses, hostage exchanges, and a framework for sustained de-escalation**.
- Egyptian intelligence **facilitated indirect negotiations**, supported by verification from the UN and U.S.
- Egypt blended **facilitative and directive mediation**, combining quiet back-channel communication with structured diplomatic summits
- Egypt's Mediation Approach adopted a **multilevel strategy integrating humanitarian diplomacy (civilian protection, aid delivery), security mediation (deconfliction channels), political facilitation (engagement with all parties)**



# Egypt's Mediation in the 2024 Gaza Crisis

- On **19 January 2025**, Egypt and Qatar brokered a **three-phase ceasefire that launched with a 42-day first phase covering full cessation of hostilities**, Israeli withdrawal from populated zones, hostage exchanges, and sustained aid via Rafah and Al-Arish.
- Egypt's General Intelligence Service led **shuttle diplomacy and monitoring, backed by the UN and U.S.**, ensuring implementation continuity.
- **Al-Arish functioned as a permanent aid-coordination hub, hosting international envoys, high-level delegation visits** and synchronizing UNRWA, WFP, and Egyptian Red Crescent operations
- On 4 March 2025, Cairo convened the **International Conference on Gaza Relief and Reconstruction**, aligning donor pledges with renewed commitment to the two-state track
- Between **March and August 2025**, **Egypt coordinated several humanitarian pauses**, enabling relief convoys, medical evacuations under UN supervision





# Egypt's Mediation in the 2024 Gaza Crisis

- Israel's moves toward **annexation in the West Bank and the displacement of civilians from Gaza, tightened siege and declared famine**, provoked a global diplomatic shift with **mass protests, EU and Global South condemnations, and several states moving toward recognition of Palestine**.
- This shift **prompted the U.S. to draft a phased ceasefire framework in consultation with Arab partners**
- Egypt **engaged directly in this stage as the chief regional mediator**, with the parties negotiating the implementation modalities of the U.S. proposal.
- Last week, **Egypt hosted the final-phase Sharm el-Sheikh talks, co-mediated with the U.S., Qatar, and UN**, culminating in a comprehensive ceasefire and hostage-exchange accord
- The deal mandates a lasting halt to hostilities, phased Israeli pullback from Gaza, and restoration of humanitarian corridors monitored by Egyptian intelligence & UN





# Egypt's Mediation in the 2024 Gaza Crisis

## Challenges

- Parallel efforts often fragmented diplomacy and complicated Egypt's coordination with Western and UN partners.
- Egypt's leverage was rooted in access and credibility, not coercion, constraining its ability to ensure full ceasefire compliance
- Aid through Rafah–Al-Arish faced recurrent bottlenecks, security restrictions, and political sensitivities.
- Rivalries among major powers and regional blocs narrowed Egypt's space for neutral diplomacy.
- Repeated violations and slow reconstruction eroded confidence in mediation outcomes.



# Egypt's Mediation Trajectory in the Palestinian -Israeli Conflict (2014-2025)

- From 2014 to 2025, Egypt's mediation **evolved from tactical ceasefire brokerage to a comprehensive regional diplomacy model.**

Each phase added new layers:

- **2014:** Directive ceasefire mediation, Egypt acted as broker of stability
- **2021:** Hybrid diplomacy blending facilitation with reconstruction
- **2024:** Integrated humanitarian and political mediation and acted as a regional stabilizer
- **2025:** Multilateral diplomacy, integrated mediation and humanitarian coordination, consolidated Egypt's position as indispensable regional stabilizer and convenor
- This trajectory underscores Egypt's rare ability to **bridge political divides, integrate humanitarian imperatives, and retain legitimacy with all actors,** a hallmark of effective state-led mediation in complex, protracted conflicts.





# Egypt's Mediation (2014-2025) in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: Takeaways

- Egypt's success lay in **phased mediation** moving from **ceasefires to reconstruction to political dialogue**, showing that sustained engagement can transform **crisis management into structured diplomacy**
- Egypt's strength lay in **hybrid mediation and blending diplomatic tracks**, combining political negotiation, humanitarian coordination, and security facilitation to maintain trust with all parties
- Egypt's **historical role, geography, and balanced relations** gave it unique legitimacy with both Western and regional actors, a crucial asset no external mediator could replicate
- Long-term mediation depends on **institutional continuity**, notably the Egyptian MFA and General Intelligence Service, which ensured consistency across governments and crises.
- By 2025, **Egypt will have evolved from a reactive broker to a regional architect of conflict resolution**, linking security stabilization with humanitarian and political frameworks.





# Reforming Mediation: Political, Structural & Process Dimensions

- UN mediation is increasingly hampered by great-power rivalries (especially the P5) and fragmented conflicts, which limit impartiality and leverage; this makes **local legitimacy and broader inclusion** more essential than ever
- Sustainable reform requires **strengthening the Mediation Support Unit**, creating reliable funding streams, and supporting regional and sub-regional bodies like the AU to professionalize mediation
- Modern practice emphasizes **sequenced and adaptive processes, hybrid models** such as med-arb, and deliberate design choices that **integrate gender sensitivity, cultural awareness, and inclusivity** to improve durability



# Reforming Mediation: Digital and AI Dimensions

- **Artificial intelligence is being tested** to process vast conflict data, identify actors, and suggest entry points, offering mediators **sharper situational awareness**
- **UN pilots** show online platforms can **expand participation for women, youth, and displaced groups**, widening legitimacy and buy-in
- Experiments with **large language models** demonstrate they can **perform some mediator tasks** such as drafting interventions or framing dialogue—comparable to humans, though always under human oversight
- New professional guidance stresses confidentiality, bias mitigation, and transparency as **essential conditions for safe AI use in mediation**



# Learning Outcomes

- Understand what **distinguishes multilateral negotiation from bilateral or mediation processes**
- Identify the **institutional and procedural rules** that govern negotiations involving multiple states.
- Analyze how **coalitions form**, how mandates limit or empower negotiators, and how **consensus is reached**.
- Critically assess key theories and strategies of **mediation** in international diplomacy.
- **Compare the strengths and limitations** of mediation and decide when to utilize it in conflict resolution.
- Apply theoretical frameworks to **real multilateral negotiation and mediation cases**, connecting practice to theory





# Q&A

## Thank you

Amb. Dr Sameh Aboul-Enein