

## **Track 1.5 and Track 2 Diplomacy**

Track 1.5 and Track 2 diplomacy are complementary approaches to traditional government-to-government diplomatic efforts. They involve informal and semi-formal channels, often allowing for more creative problem-solving, trust-building, and relationship development outside the constraints of formal state negotiations. These tracks play an increasingly important role in conflict resolution, particularly in complex, multi-stakeholder environments.

### **Track 1 Diplomacy**

Track 1 diplomacy refers to official, government-led diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving conflicts and managing relationships between states. These negotiations are formal, involving heads of state, government officials, professional diplomats, and international organizations such as the United Nations.

#### **Characteristics:**

- Formal negotiations led by state actors.
- High-level, official meetings between governments.
- Treaties, agreements, and official resolutions result from these processes.
- Governed by formal procedures and often mediated by international organizations.

### **Track 1.5 Diplomacy**

Track 1.5 diplomacy involves a mix of both official (Track 1) and non-official (Track 2) actors. It typically features mid-level government officials engaging in informal dialogue with civil society groups, academic experts, or other non-state actors to explore innovative solutions. This format serves as a bridge between formal and informal diplomatic efforts.

#### **Key contributions:**

- Facilitates collaboration between state and non-state actors.
- Allows for the exploration of ideas without the formal constraints that may limit creativity in traditional diplomatic settings.

- Can influence formal negotiations by feeding new solutions into the official dialogue process.

### Track 2 Diplomacy

Track 2 diplomacy is entirely informal and involves non-state actors such as academics, NGOs, religious leaders, and former officials. These individuals engage in dialogue to address the root causes of conflicts, focusing on relationship-building and changing perceptions rather than formal negotiation.

Key contributions:

- Enables creative problem-solving outside rigid governmental frameworks.
- Allows actors to influence public opinion and prepare the ground for official peace talks.
- Focuses on underlying social, cultural, and psychological issues that may not be prioritized in formal diplomacy.

### Complementary Roles of Track 1.5 and Track 2 Diplomacy

- **Building Trust and Relationships:** Informal and semi-official settings allow participants to build trust and foster relationships that can enhance formal negotiations. These efforts often lay the groundwork for successful Track 1 diplomacy.
- **Innovative Problem-Solving:** Both Track 1.5 and Track 2 diplomacy create space for brainstorming creative, politically sensitive solutions that may not be possible in rigid official settings.
- **Addressing Deeper Social Issues:** Track 2 diplomacy, in particular, can delve into identity, historical grievances, and community needs, which are often overlooked in official negotiations.
- **Keeping Channels Open:** Informal diplomatic efforts keep communication open when formal talks face deadlocks, helping prevent the complete breakdown of peace processes.

### Best Practices for Track 1.5 and Track 2 Diplomacy

- **Inclusivity:** Successful Track 1.5 and Track 2 initiatives involve a wide array of stakeholders, including civil society, academia, and mid-level government officials. This ensures that multiple perspectives on the conflict are represented.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Mediators and participants should have deep knowledge of local customs, traditions, and languages to build trust and

navigate sensitive issues effectively.

- **Sustained Engagement:** Long-term commitment is essential, particularly for Track 2 diplomacy, which often addresses deep-rooted societal issues. Continued engagement helps support reconciliation and prevents relapse into conflict after formal agreements are reached.