

DISCUSSION PAPER

Mediating Conflicts and Türkiye's Role as a Mediator for Peace

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Introduction

International disputes are difficult to resolve due to their multidimensional nature, and reaching a fair solution requires considerable effort, given the conflicting interests of the parties involved. The challenge becomes even greater when trying to achieve this solution through peaceful means. While initiating negotiations and bringing the disputing parties together is a crucial first step, it doesn't always guarantee a resolution. Nevertheless, without such engagement, a peaceful settlement remains unattainable, as these discussions are essential in steering the parties toward a peaceful solution.

Facilitators often play a crucial role in initiating negotiations. Mediators, in particular, help bring conflicting parties together to explore potential

solutions. Türkiye, given its strategic location and active foreign policy, is well-acquainted with the concept of mediation.

Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Türkiye has long been a key player in both regional and international politics. Its unique geographical position and historical ties with various cultures and nations have given Türkiye a significant role in mediating conflicts and fostering peace. This discussion paper explores Türkiye's role as a mediator on the international stage, reviewing past mediation efforts and highlighting the importance of mediation in conflict resolution.

This discussion paper focuses on mediation and examines Türkiye's efforts in the past and at present.



(Murat Kula - Anadolu Agency)

The Important Role of Mediator in the Conflict Resolution

In a conflict, the parties involved are expected to address and resolve the issue. However, they cannot always resolve their problems on their own. Conflict resolution often demands difficult and labour-intensive processes. Communication barriers, delays, or misdirection can hinder progress (Yılmaz, 2006, p. 125), or the process may even reach a costly deadlock for both parties (Bercovitch et al., 1991, p. 8). In such cases, third-party intervention becomes necessary, with mediation being one of the most common and effective forms, albeit one of the most challenging (Armengol, 2013, p. 1).

Mediation plays a crucial role in building regional and international order, especially in resolving deep-rooted, intractable problems (Bercovitch, 2002, p. 4). The involvement of a third party can facilitate solutions and open communication channels between disputing parties (Zartman, 2001, p. 452). Resolving disputes through mediation is easier and less costly than armed conflict.

A mediator enables negotiations between the parties. Even if mediation does not always result in a resolution, it can foster mutual understanding, improve communication, and reduce the severity of the conflict. Thus, negotiation becomes a significant step towards resolving the issue (Zartman & Touval, 2001, p. 438). Although this step may not always lead to an immediate solution, it can prevent destructive conflict and pave the way for future peace.

Mediated negotiations allow the parties to directly decide how the process unfolds, from setting the agenda to concluding the discussions. These negotiations are political in nature, non-binding until an agreement is signed, and the decision-makers remain the conflicting parties themselves. In this context, mediators help create a conducive environment for negotiation, but the final decisions rest with the conflicting parties.

Beriker (2014, p. 202) categorises the roles of mediators as facilitators, peacekeepers, and peacemakers. Şahin (2021, p. 227) further describes the mediator as an actor who can open communication channels, facilitate the negotiation process, offer options, provide realistic and

achievable goals, and intervene or guide the parties when necessary.

The process of solving problems through mediation is inherently political. It involves bringing together issues that the parties cannot resolve on their own, with the help of a third party, without coercion or imposition (Moore, 2014, p. 19). The mediator, though not a direct party to the dispute, seeks to find a solution. Mediators typically conduct a deep analysis of the underlying issues between the parties and redefine the points of contention. By opening up new avenues for dialogue, they help unblock stalled negotiations and guide the parties towards realistic expectations and achievable goals (Bercovitch, 1992, p. 17).

For successful mediation, the mediator must project an image of honesty, trustworthiness, and fairness. Their qualifications should include experience, expertise, status, political will, economic power, and prestige, all of which are crucial for establishing a platform for settlement (Bercovitch & Jackson, 2009, p. 72).

There is no single, clear definition of a mediator's role or boundaries, as each dispute has its dynamics. Although the term 'mediator' suggests impartiality, it relates more to maintaining balance than strict neutrality. Şahin (2021, p. 230) notes that the literature frequently uses terms like impartiality, neutrality, and trustworthiness in discussions of mediation. Scholars such as Young (1967) and Svensson (2006, p. 20) stress the importance of impartiality in the mediation process, while others like Jackson (1952) and Northedge and Donelan (1971) emphasise neutrality (Bercovitch & Schneider, 2000, p. 148).

However, while impartiality is often cited, it is misleading. A mediator might favour one party, yet still facilitate a balanced solution. In other words, balance can be achieved without strict impartiality. True impartiality may be impossible in the context of international relations. Stedman (1996, p. 341) argues that attention should focus on the mediator's relationships with the disputing parties, as well as their role, attitude, and management of the mediation process. Şahin (2021, p. 232) suggests that, although traditional literature views



(Arda Küçükkaya - Anadolu Agency)

neutrality as ideal, it is not the sole decisive criterion. The mediator must manage the process neutrally, treat both parties equally and fairly, and inspire confidence. Interestingly, Şahin also notes that a mediator who is seen as a party to the dispute might have an advantage in persuading the side with whom they have a closer relationship.

Mediation, a form of conflict resolution where a balanced third party helps conflicting parties reach a voluntary agreement, is crucial for maintaining global peace and stability. It is often preferred over other conflict resolution methods due to its non-coercive nature and emphasis on dialogue and mutual understanding. International organisations such as the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) frequently use mediation to address global conflicts. Mediation helps prevent escalation, reduce violence, and lay the groundwork for sustainable peace by addressing the root causes of conflict and fostering trust between the parties involved.

Mediation is a fundamental aspect of international relations, bridging gaps between conflicting parties and promoting understanding and compromise. The UN, for example, has made some successful mediation attempts, including the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel in 1978, and more recently, the peace

process in Colombia. Similarly, the OSCE has played crucial roles in resolving conflicts in Eastern Europe and promoting dialogue between East and West during the Cold War. The OIC has also tried to mediate disputes within the Muslim world.

Effective mediation requires several key elements: to be balanced, confidentiality, and a deep understanding of the conflict's context. Mediators must remain balanced, ensuring that all parties feel heard and respected. Confidentiality encourages open communication, allowing parties to express their true positions without fear of public backlash. A thorough understanding of the conflict's historical, cultural, and social dimensions is essential for crafting solutions acceptable to all parties involved.

International organisations and trusted countries can also function as mediators in the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Countries can effectively resolve conflicts by remaining balanced, facilitating dialogue, and providing a conducive environment for negotiations.

Türkiye has engaged in an active foreign policy, consistently addressing regional issues. The country has often taken on a mediating role in various crises, aiming to facilitate peaceful conflict resolution in a timely manner.

Historical Context of Türkiye's Mediation Efforts

Türkiye's efforts to peacefully resolve international disputes through mediation gained significant importance in the 2000s. During this period, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs prioritised dispute resolution and mediation, making it a cornerstone of Türkiye's foreign policy. Türkiye has actively mediated in numerous conflicts across various regions.

It was asserted that several research centres were established to enhance the role of mediation. Additionally, international congresses were organised, and a dedicated general directorate focusing on mediation was created within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Şahin, 2021, p. 259).

Türkiye has a history of involvement in regional and international conflict mediation, leveraging its strategic location and diplomatic connections to support peace efforts.

Examples of Türkiye's Mediation Efforts

Internal Reconciliation in Iraq, Lebanon, and Kyrgyzstan:

Türkiye has played a significant role in fostering internal reconciliation in these countries, addressing ethnic and sectarian divisions, and promoting political stability.

Trilateral Cooperation Processes in the Balkans

Türkiye initiated trilateral cooperation processes involving Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, and Croatia to achieve lasting peace and stability in the Balkans, a region historically plagued by ethnic conflicts. The initiative aimed to heal the wounds of the Yugoslav Wars by fostering dialogue and reconciliation among Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, and Croatia. This approach not only promoted political dialogue but also encouraged economic cooperation and regional integration, contributing to long-term stability in the area.

In 2010, under Türkiye's leadership, the Türkiye-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia tripartite consultation mechanism was established. Within this framework, the Foreign Ministers of these countries have met eight times so far (*Balkan Ülkeleri İle İlişkiler*).

Türkiye provides support to countries in the region in various areas, including the economy, culture, shared historical heritage, education, military, and security, while also working to strengthen political relations.

Trilateral Cooperation Mechanism with Pakistan for Afghanistan and the 'Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process':

Türkiye, Pakistan, and Afghanistan have engaged in trilateral dialogues to enhance cooperation and support peace and security in Afghanistan.

After Afghanistan gained its independence on 19 August 1919, Türkiye was the second country to recognise it after the Soviet Union. Relations deepened during the Atatürk era but did not follow the same course during the Cold War due to Soviet influence. After 9/11, Türkiye and Afghanistan entered a new phase in their relations. At the Bonn Conference on 5 December 2001, where Türkiye participated as an active observer, Türkiye played a constructive role by establishing good relations with all Afghan groups and promoting reconciliation between ethnic factions to support the creation of a broad-based administration (Yaşar, 2015, p. 125). Following requests from Afghan representatives at the conference, Türkiye decided to join ISAF, a multinational peacekeeping force under NATO. Since 2001, over 30,000 Turkish soldiers have served in Afghanistan (Çolakoğlu & Yegin, 2014, p. 31). Unlike other NATO countries, Turkish troops in ISAF focused on peacekeeping, training, and consultancy missions. The Turkish military also supported Afghanistan's reconstruction and development, providing a total of 400 million US dollars in aid by 2009 (Yaşar, 2015, p. 127).

Additionally, Türkiye convened the Afghanistan-Pakistan-Türkiye Trilateral Summit eight times between 2007 and 2014, offering an essential platform for direct communication between Afghan and Pakistani leaders. Türkiye's role in these summits exemplifies 'facilitative mediation'. This "problem-solving" approach seeks to enhance communication and information exchange to increase cooperation, focusing on an "interest-based", "win-win" outcome for the parties involved (Higgins & Daly, 2010).

Considering these relations, the 'Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process', a regional cooperation platform initiated in 2011 by Afghanistan and Türkiye, has become a cornerstone of Türkiye's regional diplomacy. This process unites regional countries and international partners to promote peace, security, and economic cooperation in Afghanistan. By fostering regional ownership and collaboration, Türkiye has played a crucial role in supporting Afghanistan's journey towards stability and development. This initiative, based on the principle of regional ownership, aims to promote security, political, and economic cooperation among regional countries to support peace and stability in Afghanistan and to create an environment conducive to political dialogue.

Indirect Talks Between Israel and Syria:

Türkiye facilitated indirect negotiations between Israel and Syria, aiming to resolve long-standing issues and promote regional peace. Israel occupied Syria's Golan Heights in 1967 and annexed the region in 1981, a move unrecognised by the international community. Despite Israel's de facto control, international law still recognises the Golan Heights as Syrian territory. This region overlooks Israeli land from a strategic height and holds valuable water resources.

In 2008, after four years of preparation, Türkiye took the initiative to resolve the dispute between Israel and Syria. Türkiye's mediation efforts underscored Ankara's evolving role in the Middle East and its emergence as a regional power. Despite Türkiye's considerable efforts, the talks, which lasted for a long time, failed to conclude.

Efforts to Resolve Iran's Nuclear Programme Peacefully:

Türkiye has been actively involved in diplomatic efforts to address Iran's nuclear programme, advocating for

peaceful dialogue and resolution. Since the revelation in 2002 of Iran's clandestine nuclear facilities and uranium enrichment activities, tensions have escalated due to negative reactions from various countries. To prevent an emerging international crisis, Türkiye, particularly after 2005, urged its Western counterparts to employ diplomatic means more actively, emphasising the importance of encouraging a diplomatic solution to the issue. Iran, in turn, was advised to avoid a confrontational approach and to seek resolution through diplomacy.

Negotiations between the two sides, which had been interrupted, resumed on 26th April 2007, thanks to initiatives by the Turkish government. However, no concrete progress was made during these talks. Following these developments, Türkiye and Brazil signed the Tehran Declaration on 17th May 2010, after joint mediation efforts aimed at using diplomacy to address the concerns surrounding Iran's nuclear programme. Through the Tehran Declaration, Iran expressed its willingness to agree to a nuclear fuel swap. Although the declaration impacted the international stage, it did not achieve the desired outcome.

Mediation in Somalia and Somaliland:

Türkiye has actively mediated talks between Somalia and Somaliland, striving to resolve disputes and promote national reconciliation. Political instability has plagued Somalia for many years due to the ongoing civil war. Since 1991, the governance vacuum has plunged Somalia into an anarchic environment. Although Somaliland unilaterally declared independence, no country recognises this, and the international community views Somaliland as an autonomous region within Somalia.

Türkiye has played a crucial role in mediating the conflict in Somalia. In 2010 and 2012, Istanbul hosted the Somalia Conferences. Following these efforts, political leaders from Somalia and Somaliland met on 13 April 2013, resuming a dialogue process after a prolonged period of silence. The two leaders held separate and trilateral meetings with Türkiye's President, Prime Minister, and Foreign Minister. These discussions culminated in the signing of the Ankara Declaration (Ankara Bildirisi, 2013). This declaration aimed to restart the dialogue and establish a mechanism to advance the peace process.

Support for the Southern Philippines Peace Process:

Türkiye has actively supported peace efforts in the Southern Philippines, addressing insurgency and promoting regional stability. The Philippines' peace process marked a crucial point in Türkiye's efforts to institutionalise its evolving mediation approach. As one of the key countries involved in mediating the armed conflicts in the Mindanao region since the 1970s, Türkiye participated in the peace negotiations between the Government of the Philippines, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). This involvement was channelled through the International Contact Group (ICG) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Peace Committee for the Southern Philippines (OICPCSP). A wide range of actors, including NGOs, business circles, international and regional organisations, and neighbouring countries, contributed to this process (Kiraz, 2020, p. 232). Moreover, thanks to a mediation team with broad participation, all causes of the conflict were negotiated, leading to the preparation of an agreement that satisfied all parties (Macduff, 2016). This process significantly enhanced Türkiye's mediation experience, establishing it as an active actor in the successful implementation of multidimensional and multi-actor mediation.

Lebanon Crisis:

After the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005, civil unrest erupted in the country. The demands for an investigation into Hariri's assassination, followed by calls for a trial process in an international court, provoked a strong reaction from the March 8 alliance. This led to the resignation of March 8 ministers in early 2006, followed by street demonstrations, internal conflict between Hezbollah and Sunni and Druze forces in May 2008, a presidential crisis, and finally a government formation crisis that lasted until September after the June 2009 elections. Türkiye took steps to resolve the ensuing government crisis (Eren, 2014, p. 124). Türkiye's Prime Minister and Qatar's Emir held a trilateral summit in Damascus, hosted by the Syrian President. Following the summit, the foreign ministers of Türkiye and Qatar initiated contacts in Beirut and held meetings with the Lebanese Prime Minister and Hezbollah Secretary General. Despite the two-day talks in Beirut, the mediation efforts by the foreign ministers of Türkiye and Qatar failed to achieve any progress. Subsequently, officials from both countries withdrew from the mediation.

The Russia-Ukraine War:

Russia's intervention in the Ukrainian territories escalated significantly in 2022 and has become one of the most severe and complex conflicts in recent history. As a NATO member with strong relations with both Ukraine and Russia, Türkiye was uniquely positioned to mediate the conflict.

The process, which began with Russia's invasion of Crimea in 2014, was initially addressed through the OSCE. Attempts at peace were made with the Minsk I and Minsk II agreements, where the OSCE, Ukraine, and Russia negotiated under the mediation of Germany and France. However, these efforts were insufficient to extinguish the conflict burning in eastern Ukraine. The situation reached a critical point with Russia's attempt to invade Ukraine in February 2022. Türkiye, maintaining good relations with both countries, chose not to align itself with the polarised positions of Ukraine and Russia. Instead, it invited representatives of both nations to Istanbul, aiming to end the conflict swiftly and prevent further loss of life and property.

Türkiye's strategic neutrality and balanced diplomatic approach allowed it to foster a dialogue conducive to negotiations. Early in the conflict, Türkiye hosted talks between Ukrainian and Russian representatives, attempting to de-escalate tensions and find a peaceful resolution. However, these mediation efforts faced significant challenges.

The most prominent obstacle was the deep-rooted mistrust and conflicting interests between the parties. Ukraine and Russia both maintained hard-line positions: Russia demanded recognition of Crimea's annexation, while Ukraine insisted on restoring its territorial integrity. Furthermore, the geopolitical interests of external powers—such as the United States and the European Union's support for Ukraine, and China's tacit backing of Russia—complicated mediation efforts.

Despite Türkiye's persistent efforts, the mediation talks failed, and the conflict devolved into a war of attrition. The inability to reach an early agreement had devastating consequences, resulting in tens of thousands of casualties and widespread destruction. The unchanged front lines highlighted the profound challenges in mediating such deeply entrenched conflicts.



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The Ankara Process between Ethiopia and Somalia:

The Ankara Process began when Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali requested Türkiye to mediate in easing diplomatic tensions that arose following Somalia's strong reaction to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland in January 2024. This agreement granted Ethiopia access to the Red Sea through Somaliland's Berbera Port, with Ethiopia recognising Somaliland's independence. Somalia viewed the MoU as a violation of its sovereignty, leading to heightened regional tensions.

Türkiye emerged as the natural mediator due to its longstanding, robust diplomatic ties with both Somalia and Ethiopia and the trust it has earned from both sides. The first round of talks, initiated in Ankara in July 2024, aimed to address differences between the parties in a cooperative environment, with Turkish Foreign Minister-led shuttle diplomacy exploring potential solutions. Türkiye's role has consistently been

to promote regional peace and stability as a neutral and constructive facilitator.

During the second round of talks on 12-13 August, Türkiye's impartial and decisive stance paved the way for reconciliation between Somalia and Ethiopia, resulting in a commitment to continue seeking a peaceful resolution. Türkiye's success in this process is rooted in its deep relations with both countries, which play a critical role in building trust between the parties. This background positions Türkiye as a key actor in resolving regional crises.

As these examples illustrate, regardless of their outcomes, each peace initiative contributes significantly to the ongoing pursuit of peace and stability in the region.

Analysis of the International Importance of Türkiye's Mediation Efforts

Türkiye's role as a mediator in international conflicts is gaining prominence, largely due to its strategic geographical location and distinct diplomatic approach. Unlike traditional Western powers that often face resistance in certain regions, Türkiye leverages its unique geopolitical and cultural position to navigate complex conflicts effectively. This is evident in its ability to mediate between conflicting parties and achieve impactful outcomes, such as the 2022 Black Sea grain agreement. Facilitated in cooperation with the United Nations, Türkiye's intervention in this agreement between Russia and Ukraine helped avert a global food crisis, underscoring its effectiveness as a mediator.

Türkiye's partnerships with international organisations, including the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have been pivotal in shaping its mediation successes. For example, in the Syrian conflict, Türkiye worked with these organisations to establish de-escalation zones and deliver humanitarian aid in regions where achieving international consensus was particularly difficult. However, Türkiye's mediation efforts are shaped by a need to balance national security priorities with its commitment to international peace. Actions such as military operations in northern Syria are undertaken to protect its borders and ensure regional stability, even if they sometimes lead to differences with other international actors. This approach highlights Türkiye's ability to pursue its legitimate security interests while remaining a committed partner in global conflict resolution and cooperation.

Compared to other regional actors, Türkiye's mediation style is more assertive and hands-on. In the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Türkiye's active military and diplomatic support for Azerbaijan significantly influenced the resolution process and positioned Türkiye as a key player in the ceasefire agreement. This proactive approach, while occasionally seen as challenging traditional notions of neutrality, enables Türkiye to play a significant role in influencing conflict dynamics and contributing to post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Its long-term engagement strategies in Syria and Libya illustrate its focus on sustainable peacebuilding through continued diplomatic, economic, and security measures.

Türkiye's mediation efforts stand out for several reasons. Its unique position and historical connections enable it to engage with various actors, enhancing its credibility as a neutral mediator. Additionally, Türkiye often complements the initiatives of international organisations by providing a different angle of engagement, which allows for more comprehensive and coordinated conflict resolution efforts.

What distinguishes Türkiye's mediation is its blend of cultural diplomacy, strategic engagement, and the willingness to directly address the core issues of a conflict. This adaptive approach has been effective in a variety of settings, from the Balkans to the Middle East. By fostering regional stability and addressing the root causes of conflicts, Türkiye not only resolves immediate disputes but also contributes to the establishment of long-term peace frameworks that can prevent future conflicts. Its mediation efforts thus have far-reaching implications, promoting not just the cessation of hostilities but also regional stability, economic development, and social cohesion.

Lessons Learned and Future Prospects

Türkiye's extensive mediation efforts provide valuable insights into the complexities of international conflict resolution. A key lesson is the importance of aligning mediation strategies with international frameworks and organisations. For example, in Libya, Türkiye's early efforts faced setbacks due to inadequate coordination with regional actors. However, when Türkiye integrated its approach with the UN-led peace process, the likelihood of achieving a lasting ceasefire increased significantly. This underscores the necessity of building solid partnerships with both regional and international bodies to enhance the effectiveness of mediation efforts.

However, forging such partnerships is challenging. Engaging with international organisations often involves navigating the diverse and sometimes conflicting interests of various stakeholders. Türkiye has addressed this by gradually increasing its influence in key international bodies like the UN while simultaneously developing bilateral relationships.

This dual strategy enables Türkiye to bridge different perspectives, helping shape coherent and effective international responses to conflicts.

Another important lesson is the need for continuous capacity building to strengthen mediation capabilities. Investing in diplomatic training, cultural sensitivity, and technological innovation is essential to keep pace with the complexities of modern conflicts. Establishing a dedicated mediation institute could serve as a centre of excellence, institutionalising Türkiye's mediation expertise and ensuring its long-term sustainability as a global mediator.

To further enhance future mediation efforts, Türkiye and other mediators should focus on three key strategies:

1. Strengthen collaboration with international organisations and regional actors to create unified and comprehensive mediation frameworks.
2. Invest in capacity-building initiatives to train mediators in advanced negotiation techniques and conflict resolution.
3. Promote inclusive dialogue processes involving civil society, local communities, and marginalised

Conclusion

Türkiye's role as a mediator in the international arena exemplifies its commitment to global peace and stability. Through extensive mediation efforts in various conflicts, Türkiye has highlighted the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and strategic neutrality in resolving disputes. Although challenges remain, particularly in complex conflicts like the Ukraine-Russia war, Türkiye's mediation efforts provide valuable insights and lessons for the future.

Mediation continues to be a critical tool in the global conflict resolution toolkit, and Türkiye's contributions emphasise the ongoing relevance and importance of supporting and enhancing mediation efforts worldwide. As conflicts persist, the need for effective and credible mediators like Türkiye will be more crucial than ever in fostering a more peaceful and harmonious world.

Today, as in the past, differences of opinion and problems frequently arise among international actors. When these disagreements cannot be resolved, international

groups to ensure broad-based support for peace agreements.

Türkiye's extensive experience in mediation highlights the importance of understanding the cultural and historical contexts of conflicts and fostering an inclusive dialogue that involves all stakeholders. Its unique ties to both Muslim and Western states give it a distinctive advantage in mediating disputes in its region, balancing regional interests, and bridging divides.

Türkiye is well-positioned to continue playing a vital role in international mediation. Its geopolitical position, historical ties, and strategic diplomacy make it a valuable player in addressing emerging global challenges. By leveraging these assets and maintaining a commitment to peace, Türkiye can contribute to a more peaceful and stable international order.

Türkiye's mediation initiatives are driven by multiple factors, including security, economic interests, domestic politics, and regional prestige. Understanding these motivations is crucial for other mediators seeking to navigate the complexities of international conflict resolution effectively.

disputes emerge, sometimes escalating to the level of military conflicts. A solution is not reached every day, and these problems deepen and become more complex. Thus, international actors are responsible for providing a world of peace and tranquillity for future generations by resolving these disputes.

Mediation has long been a valuable tool for resolving disputes and will continue to be so in the future. This method involves the intervention of an impartial third party who is not directly involved in the conflict. The mediator's role is to assist the parties in an international dispute in addressing a wide range of issues without resorting to force or legal proceedings. To achieve this, the mediator not only facilitates discussions between the disputing parties but may also actively participate in negotiations and suggest potential solutions. Consequently, the mediator bears significant responsibility in this process, as the success of mediation largely depends on their effectiveness and skill.

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