

Key issues:

Discussions will focus principally on:

- Assessment of the strengths and the weaknesses of the various extant human rights diplomacy mandates;
- Assessment of the success and failure of the implementation of the principal mandates and, in particular, that of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- The relationship between human rights diplomacy and public advocacy;
- The relationship between human rights diplomacy and law-based human rights promotion and protection;
- The relationship between human rights diplomacy and other political considerations;
- The role of confidence-building measures within human rights diplomacy;
- The role of human rights diplomacy in the prevention of human rights violations;
- The role of human rights diplomacy in the prevention, management and resolution of armed conflict;
- The role of human rights diplomacy in the promotion of sustainable human development;
- The role of human rights diplomacy in engagement with non-state actors and civil society.



Subject and aim of the workshop:

The purpose of the workshop is to explore the notion, dimensions and means of human rights diplomacy with a view to better understanding the sector and promoting good practice.

By “diplomacy” is meant “the art of persuasion in international affairs”. “Human rights diplomacy” refers to the use of the range of persuasive negotiation-based diplomatic tools available to States and Inter-governmental organisations for the specific purpose of promoting and protecting human rights.

This field has developed considerably since 1945, and especially as a response to and in the aftermath of the Second World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, 1993, with the advent of diplomatic office holders tasked specifically with human rights responsibilities.

Nevertheless, the field of human rights diplomacy has attracted remarkably little attention in terms of systematic analysis and the potential of this important instrument for promoting and protecting human rights has until now not been fully recognised and exploited. Equally, it appears that the related risks and pitfalls have not been adequately identified.

The workshop seeks to better illuminate the potentials and challenges of human rights diplomacy by pooling the experience of high-level diplomats, scholars, and practitioners in the field of human rights.



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European Inter - University Centre
for Human Rights and Democratisation



High-level workshop
on

**HUMAN RIGHTS
DIPLOMACY**



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DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
TECHNISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
(GTZ) GmbH

30-31 January 2009

Monastery of San Nicolò
Venice - Lido

High-level workshop on HUMAN RIGHTS DIPLOMACY

Friday, 30 January 2009

9.30 Opening Session

Welcome on behalf of institutional organisers

Preliminary overview: what human rights diplomacy is about

Introduction of workshop participants

Presenters:

HORST FISCHER, *President, EIUC*

GEORGE ULRICH, *Senior Research Fellow, EIUC*

MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY, *Professor of Applied Human Rights, University of Nottingham; Member of UN Human Rights Committee*

DZIDEK KĘDZIA, *Professor of Constitutional Law, Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan; Member of UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Session 2:

Main contemporary forms of human rights diplomacy

Presenters:

KYUNG-WHA KANG, *Deputy UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*

MANFRED NOWAK, *Professor for International Human Rights, University of Vienna; UN Special Rapporteur on Torture*

DZIDEK KĘDZIA, *Professor of Constitutional Law, Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan; Member of UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

12.45 Lunch

14.30 Session 3:

The practice of bilateral human rights diplomacy by States

Presenters:

ENGELBERT THEUERMANN, *Director for Human Rights, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria*

TOBIAS KING, *DG Relex, European Commission*

16.00 Coffee break

16.30 Session 4:

The practice of multilateral human rights diplomacy by States

Presenters:

VITIT MUNTARBHORN, *Professor of Law at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*

LUIS ALFONSO DE ALBA, *Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva*

18.00 End of Session

20.00 Dinner in Venice

Saturday, 31 January 2009

9.00 Session 5:

The practice of multilateral human rights diplomacy at the regional level

Presenters:

SILVIA ESCOBAR, *Special Mission Ambassador for Human Rights, Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs*

CHRISTIAN STROHAL, *Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva*

WOLFGANG BENEDEK, *Professor, Institute of International Law and International Relations, University of Graz*

JEAN-PAUL JACQUÉ, *Honorary Director General and Special Counsellor, Council of the EU*

10.15 Session 6:

The practice of human rights diplomacy by inter-governmentally appointed office holders

Presenters:

BERTRAND RAMCHARAN, *Former Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*

JOHN PACKER, *Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex*

11.30 Coffee break

12.00 Session 7:

Human rights diplomacy by other actors

Presenters:

HURST HANNUM, *Professor of International Law, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University*

MARTA SANTOS PAIS, *Director, UNICEF-Innocenti Research Centre*

PEGGY HICKS, *Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch*

MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY, *Member of the UN Human Rights Committee*

13.15 Lunch

15.00 Session 8:

Future challenges and opportunities for human rights diplomacy

Presenters:

ROBERT ARCHER, *Executive Director, International Council of Human Rights Policy*

TIYANJANA MALUWA, *Associate Dean and Director of Penn State School of International Affairs*

IBRAHIM SALAMA, *Chief of Human Rights Treaty Branch, UN OHCHR*

16.30 Coffee break

17.00 Concluding session: Summary of conference findings and plenary discussion

18.00 End of Session

20.00 Dinner on Lido