

Glossary

Writers in the field of conflict studies often use key terms in loose and contradictory ways, reflecting the reality that concepts have not been clearly defined. To encourage coherent usage of these terms the following definitions have been adopted for the purposes of the *Berghof Handbook* for Conflict Transformation. Nevertheless individual authors on occasion have used some terms in a specific way in relation to the particular argument in their chapter. In these circumstances the special use of the term is clearly explained and otherwise the following definitions are general usage in the *Handbook*.

Conflict Management

Activities undertaken to limit, mitigate and contain open conflict. In particular it refers to actions that aim to control and handle a conflict in order to limit its negative effects and bring it to an end and to prevent the vertical (i.e. intensification of violence) or horizontal (territorial spread) escalation of existing violent conflict. It applies to actions on all levels and Tracks (*see* below). One component is Crisis Management, which is active from the beginning of high tension to the cessation of violent conflict and crisis situations.

Conflict Prevention (or Crisis Prevention)

Activities undertaken in particularly vulnerable places and times over the short term to medium term that seek to identify situations that could produce violent conflict, to reduce manifest tensions, to prevent existing tensions from escalating into violence and to remove sources of danger before violence results. It may include Confidence-Building and Security-Building Measures, Early Warning, preventive Peace Keeping. Mainly used to refer to activities occurring before the outbreak of open violent conflict.

Conflict Resolution

Activities undertaken over the short term and medium term dealing with, and aiming at overcoming, the deep-rooted causes of conflict, including the structural, behavioural, or attitudinal aspects of the conflict. The process focuses more on the relationships between the parties than the content of a specific outcome.

Conflict Settlement

The achievement of an agreement between the conflict parties on a political level which enables them to end an armed conflict but which does not necessarily fundamentally alter the underlying causes of the conflict. It is usually content orientated and restricted to the Track 1 level.

Conflict Transformation

A generic, comprehensive term referring to actions and processes which seek to alter the various characteristics and manifestations of conflict by addressing the root causes of a particular conflict over the long term. It aims to transform negative destructive conflict into positive constructive conflict and deals with structural, behavioural and attitudinal aspects of conflict. The term refers to both the process and the completion of the process. As such it incorporates the activities of processes such as Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution and goes farther than conflict settlement or conflict management.

Peacebuilding

A generic term to cover all activities intended to encourage and promote peaceful relations and overcoming violence. A long term process that seeks to positively alter structural contradictions, improve relations between the conflict parties and encourage overall constructive changes in attitudes. It may also refer to activities connected with economic development, social justice, reconciliation, empowerment of disadvantaged/strategic groups and humanitarian support. It applies to all stages and levels of conflict, though mainly operates at Track II and III levels.

Peace Enforcement

Diplomatic and military measures to stop a violent conflict and/or enforce a peace agreement. They are usually carried out by a third-party military force to bring an end to armed hostilities in a conflict situation (see the debate on Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter).

Peacekeeping

The interposition of a third party military force to separate the armed forces of conflicting parties and reduce violence, normally at the request of the parties as part of a cease-fire agreement. It is now often associated with civil(ian) tasks such as monitoring and policing and supporting humanitarian intervention. It may involve restoring the status quo even if that preserves the underlying conflict and structural violence. It can occur preventively before the outbreak of open conflict as well as after the cessation of open conflict.

Peacemaking

Track I intervention consisting mainly of negotiation and mediation after the outbreak of open conflict aimed at moving towards the achievement of agreement on an end to the violent conflict. It is a process that is usually striving for a political settlement on the level of legitimate or de facto leaders. It is normally result orientated but may also seek to change the attitudes of the main protagonists.

Post-Conflict Rehabilitation

A generic term referring to the long term rebuilding of society in the aftermath of violent conflict. It may include structural, behavioural and attitude changes, e.g. by promoting trauma work, reintegration and repatriation, reconciliation, restorative justice and the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and governmental institutions.

Track I

Activities on the stratum of high-level leaders, primarily in the form of conflict settlement.

Track II

Activities in parallel with the formal processes of communication and negotiation that are designed to open up dialogue and understanding between parties in conflict and encourage new thinking about future relationships after the conflict. As such they can inform and contribute to thinking and initiatives at the formal level. They do not normally involve the top leadership of the parties in conflict as they are not able to enter into the kind of open discussion implied by Track II processes, but they often involve influential second level leaders and civil society actors who can interact more freely but at the same time have influence back in their own communities. As coined by Joe Montville it also refers to building co-operation and infrastructural connections between hostile parties so that they become more mutually dependent and can not revert to war in the future. He used the European Iron and Steel Community as a good example of this form of Track II activity.

Track III

Activities directed towards conflict transformation and peacebuilding normally at the grass roots level. It encourages interaction and understanding between formerly hostile local communities and involves awareness raising and empowerment within those communities and as such development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and post-conflict rehabilitation can play an important role at Track III level.

Source: Austin, Alex, Martina Fischer and Norbert Ropers (eds.) 2004. Transforming Ethnopolitical Conflict. The Berghof Handbook. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag, 464-466.