

DAY 2THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Each segment of Thursday's meeting is intended to present a sample of the different approaches to conflict prevention practiced by multilateral organizations. Presenters will be asked to give a brief overview of the methods used by their organization, and how those methods contribute to preventing conflict. In the discussion, participants will be encouraged to focus on the scope for adapting strategies that have worked for one organization to meet other organizations' needs.

09:00 - 10:30 PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

Methods that could be discussed include:

- Early response instruments and mechanisms
- Special envoys and representatives
- Short and long-term conflict prevention missions
- Informal "Track II" dialogues
- Other methods

Questions for Discussion

- a. How can a potential conflict which has not yet reached the crisis stage best be brought to the attention of multilateral organizations?
- b. What "entry points" have proved effective for preventive diplomacy?
- c. Do standing mechanisms work for preventive diplomacy; or are the most effective responses inevitably ad hoc?
- d. What are the relative advantages of using representatives of member states versus secretariat staff for preventive diplomacy missions?
- e. When can non-governmental actors prove effective in exercising preventive diplomacy? When can they be counter-productive? Is there a useful division of labour between non-governmental actors and multilateral organizations in preventive diplomacy?
- f. How can the skills for preventive diplomacy be developed by government and non-government experts?
- g. Overall, how adequate to the task are the existing mechanisms and resources for preventive diplomacy in most multilateral organizations? What is the prospect of refining them or improving them?