

## CRS Faculty Learning Commons

### Term Sheet<sup>1</sup>

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**Conflict Management.** Any efforts made to contain violent conflict, reduce the levels of violence, or engage parties in a process to settle the conflict.

**Conflict Resolution.** Conflict resolution addresses and resolves the deep-rooted sources of conflict. It often uses a problem solving methodology in order to identify options for addressing the sources of conflict. A newer, related term is conflict transformation.

**Conflict Transformation.** Conflict transformation goes beyond the concept of conflict resolution in that it requires a transformation of the parties, their relationships to each other, and the structural elements that underlie the conflict. These relationships and social structures are often unjust and unequal, and transforming conflict seeks to alter these structures in ways that build a more just society. It is a term that implies a long-term perspective on conflict and its transformation.

**Identity Conflict.** Identity conflict involves self- or other-defined groups whose identity is based upon shared racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious, or kinship characteristics.

**Intra-national Conflict.** Many of today's conflicts are internal or civil conflicts that take place within a particular state (e.g., Burundi in the 1990s, South Africa before the end of apartheid, Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, or El Salvador). Intra-national conflicts are distinct from international conflict that takes place between two or more states (e.g., World War II or between Britain and Argentina over the Malvinas/Falkland Islands).

**Parties.** Parties to a conflict are the groups or individuals involved in a conflict. There are primary parties (those who are directly involved in the conflict) and secondary parties (those who are indirectly involved in the conflict or have a stake in the outcome of the conflict). A primary party to the conflict would include the various groups fighting over power or resources, while secondary parties might include those benefiting from war (e.g., those plundering resources or shipping arms into a country) or individuals or groups supporting the primary parties in some way (e.g., with money or soldiers). Both primary and secondary parties are stakeholders (those who have an interest in the outcome of the conflict). Third parties are those individuals that assist the primary parties in resolving the conflict, also called intermediaries or intervenors. These

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<sup>1</sup> This term sheet comes directly from Reina Neufeldt, Larissa Fast, Fr Robert Schreiter, Fr Brian Starcken, Duncan MacLaren, Jaco Cilliers, and John Paul Lederach, *Peacebuilding: A Caritas Training Manual* (Caritas Internationalis, 2002): 14-15. Further, the authors acknowledge that these definitions “complement and add to the definitions provided in *Working for Reconciliation: A Caritas Handbook*.”

individuals, or sometimes groups, may be considered “neutral” by all parties, or they may be partial but are accepted by and have legitimacy with all the parties involved in the conflict.

**Peace Enforcement.** The use of armed force by a third party military contingent to prevent or bring an end to armed hostilities in a conflict situation.

**Peacebuilding.** Peacebuilding represents a way to achieve societal reconciliation. It is important to note that peacebuilding is a very widely used term, one that differs according to who uses the term and in what context it is used. As used in this manual, it is a people-centred, relationship-building, and participatory process. Peacebuilding occurs either before violent conflict erupts (a preventative measure), or after violent conflict ends (an effort to rebuild a more peaceful society). Peacebuilding may take the form of activities designed to increase tolerance and promote coexistence, or activities may address structural sources of injustice or conflict. Peacebuilding overlaps with what *Working for Reconciliation* defines as reconciliation activities.

**Peacekeeping.** Peacekeeping is normally carried out by a third party military force and is designed to separate the armed forces in a conflict and maintain any negotiated or proclaimed cease-fire. Peacekeeping missions are often under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), or regional organisations such as NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) or ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). Missions may include provisions to monitor, police, or otherwise support humanitarian intervention. Examples of UN peacekeeping missions include Cyprus and Cambodia. NATO has a peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and ECOWAS supported the ECOMOG peacekeeping operation in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

**Peacemaking.** Any activities designed to move towards a settlement of armed conflict, usually at the official diplomatic level. This includes peace agreement negotiations such as the Arusha Process to end Burundi’s civil conflict or the Sant’ Egidio mediated peace agreement in Mozambique.

**Reconciliation.** A theological concept with a specific meaning within the Catholic Church, as well as an activity in a narrow sense in development work. According to Catholic theology, reconciliation is central to faith in Jesus Christ. The Church teaches that all reconciliation comes from God the Father through Christ. The Christian community is a community of equals: sinners in need of revelation, compassion, forgiveness, and conversion. Forgiveness is essential to the Christian understanding of reconciliation, so the process begins with the victim since forgiveness comes before conversion. As an activity, reconciliation aims to achieve right relationships between individuals. Examples of reconciliation activities include victim-offender reconciliation programmes (VORP), where a specific victim and the offender both voluntarily agree to participate in a facilitated dialogue process. A variant of VORP is called “Face-to-Face,” where groups of victims/survivors of a particular crime meet with groups of the offenders who committed the same crime for a dialogue process. Reconciliation activities may also include rituals of cleansing, healing, or forgiveness.

**Violent Conflict Prevention.** Any actions taken, procedures put in place, or policies proposed that are designed to prevent either states or groups within the state from using armed force or other forms of violence or coercion to settle disputes.