The OSCE as Mediator
Instruments - Challenges - Potentials
6 July 2016 - Europasaal, German Federal Foreign Office - Berlin

Address of Welcome

Rüdiger König, Director General, Directorate-General S for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation and Peacebuilding, German Federal Foreign Office

Mr. Rüdiger König is the Director General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance at the German Foreign Office in Berlin. He is leading this new Directorate-General since its creation within the Foreign Office in March 2015. The creation of this Directorate-General is one of the results of a broad public consultation and review process to strengthen the instruments of the German Government in fragile contexts. Prior to this post, Mr. König was the Crisis Management Commissioner at the Foreign Office. Since his entry into the Foreign Service in 1986, his placements included the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York, the Directorate-General for the United Nations at the Foreign Office in Berlin, and Head of former Federal President Rau’s Office. Especially during his time at the Permanent Mission of Germany at NATO and as Head of the Special Task Force on Afghanistan and Pakistan he focused on international security policies and supported the peacebuilding process in Afghanistan, where he served as German Ambassador from 2010 to 2013. Current priority areas of the Directorate-General in the area of humanitarian assistance are the post-WHS implementation of Germany’s commitments, including the Grand Bargain, as part of a broader WHS follow-up process, as well as the continuation of the provision of assistance to people in need, especially following Germany’s pledge at the London conference.

Keynote
The OSCE as Mediator

Dr h.c. Gernot Erler, Special Representative of the Federal Government of Germany for the OSCE Chairmanship

Dr h.c. Gernot Erler is the Special Representative of the German Federal Government for the OSCE Chairmanship and Coordinator for Intersocietal Cooperation with Russia, Central Asia and the Eastern Partnership Countries. From 2005 to 2009, he was appointed Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office. In 2008, he was called upon by Kofi Annan as expert on coalition governments, to support the mediation efforts in post-election Kenya. Since 1987, he is the elected representative of the electoral district of Freiburg at the German Parliament. He has served twice as Deputy Chairman of the SPD Parliamentary Group (foreign-, defense- and development policy, human rights). Dr h.c. Erler is Chairman of the Southeast Europe Association (Munich) and a member of the German steering committee for the Petersburg Dialogue. He has published several articles and books, most recently “Warum Frieden machbar ist. Kriegsverhütung und Friedensstrategien seit dem 1. Weltkrieg. Eine historisch-politische Ermutigung” (2014). Dr h.c. Erler studied history, slavic languages and political science in Berlin and Freiburg.

Plenary Panel
The OSCE and Mediation: Roles and Approaches

Ambassador Astrid Thors, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Astrid Thors of Finland is the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. She began her mandate on 20 August 2013. A lawyer by
education, she now leads her Institution mandated to identify and address causes of ethnic tensions and conflicts. The High Commissioner addresses the short-term triggers of inter-ethnic tension or conflict and long-term structural concerns. Previously, Thors was a Member of Finnish Parliament from 2004 to 2013. During this period, she was involved in the work of a number of committees: Grand Committee (EU Affairs), the Constitutional Law Committee (basic rights) and the Legal Affairs Committee. Between 2007 and 2011, Astrid Thors served as Minister of Migration and European Affairs where she was responsible for a number of issues, including Finnish migration and integration policy. Astrid Thors was also a Member of the European Parliament (1996–2004) with membership in the committees for Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy, Petitions, Legal Affairs, Internal Market, Trade and Industry. She chaired the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) with Romania, and was a member of the JPC with Slovakia and with Latvia. Astrid Thors held various positions of trust such as a Chair of the Advisory Board of International Human Rights Affairs, Chair of the Swedish Assembly of Finland Folktinget, Chair of Unicef Finland, and Vice Chair of the Swedish People’s Party.

**Edelgard Bulmahn, Vice-President, German Bundestag**

Ms. Edelgard Bulmahn has been a member of the German Parliament since 1987, successfully securing a direct mandate in every election without exception. She is currently Vice-President of the German Bundestag as of October 2013. She is a member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) and has been a member of the party executive for almost 20 years. In the federal state of Lower Saxony, she served as chairwoman of the SPD from 1998 to 2003. In the Bundestag, she held several parliamentary positions. Among others she was chair-woman in the committee for education, science and technology and the committee for economic affairs. She was the spokesperson in the committee for education, science, research and technology, the subcommittee for civilian crisis prevention and two study commissions. From 1998 to late 2005, she served as German Federal Minister of Education and Research. During this time, she initiated the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF). Edelgard Bulmahn is a member of the board of the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies”

**Prof. Dr Dr h.c. Christian Tomuschat, President of the OSCE Court of Arbitration and Conciliation**

Christian Tomuschat, professor emeritus, joined the Faculty of Law of Humboldt University Berlin in 1995 after having held a chair of constitutional and international law at the University of Bonn since 1972. He was a member of the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights from 1977 to 1986; from 1985 to 1996 he served on the UN International Law Commission (chairman in 1992). He has gained judicial experience as a judge at the Administrative Tribunal of the Inter-American Development Bank (1995 to 1997) and at the Administrative Tribunal of the African Development Bank (1999-2008). Since 2013 he performs the function of President of the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. Christian Tomuschat was actively engaged in Guatemala, first as rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights from 1990 to 1993, later as coordinator of the national truth commission of that country (1997-1999). He is the author of numerous books and articles, among them: *Human Rights between Idealism and Realism*, 3rd. ed. Oxford 2014. He was twice invited (1993 and 1999) to lecture at the Academy of International Law in The Hague. He is a member of the Order Pour le mérite.

**Chair:**

Dr Almut Wieland-Karimi, Director, Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF)
Dr. Almut Wieland-Karimi has been Director of the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) since 2009. Prior to joining ZIF, she worked for the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in various countries, at last as country director for the US and Canada based in Washington, D.C. In 2002, she set up the FES country office in Kabul/Afghanistan. Until 2005 she initiated numerous programs in support of Afghan democratic institution building. She is Advisory Board member of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the German Armed Forces Staff College (Führungskademie) and the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS). Almut Wieland-Karimi is the honorary managing director of Mediothek Afghanistan, an NGO dedicated to media development and community building. Almut Wieland-Karimi holds a Master’s degree in Oriental Studies from Bonn University and a doctorate in the same field, with a thesis on the role of religious leaders in modern Afghan politics at Humboldt University Berlin.

Dr. Norbert Ropers, Senior Advisor, Berghof Foundation

Dr. Norbert Ropers is based in Thailand and works primarily on conflict transformation in Southeast Asia. Apart from his function as Senior Advisor to the Berghof Foundation he serves as Senior Research Fellow at the Prince of Songkla University in Pattani and as Director of the Peace Resource Collaborative at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Norbert was a founding shareholder of Berghof Peace Support and established the Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management (later Berghof Conflict Research), which he directed until 2004. Between 2001 and 2008, he headed the Resource Network for Conflict Studies and Transformation (RNCST) in Sri Lanka. Previously, Norbert had worked for the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF, University of Duisburg), the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House, London), and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). He also served as the academy director for the Gustav Stresemann Institute. He graduated in Sociology and holds a PhD from the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main, Germany.

Parallel Panels

1. Status-neutral Mediation Approaches: How to involve non-recognised or disputed entities?
   Kick-off Examples from South Caucasus

Ambassador Dr. Günther Bächler, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus

Ambassador Günther Bächler was nominated as Special Representative for the South Caucasus by the German Chairman of the OSCE, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, in January 2016. He holds a Ph.D. in Conflict Studies from the University of Bremen and was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Peace Research and Security Studies at the University of Hamburg, where he focussed his research on issues related to East-West conflict. He was the founding director of the Swiss Peace Institute between 1988 and 2000 and established the Conflict Prevention and Transformation Division at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in 2001. Born 1953 in Basel, he has been working in mediation in several conflicts, among others in Nepal and Sudan. In 2010 he was nominated by the Swiss Federal Council as the Ambassador of Switzerland to Georgia where he also represented the Russian interests in Georgia.

Ms. Nina Tsikhistavi, Director, International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN), Georgia

Ms. Nina Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili chairs the Board of the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN). She is working in the field of peace, conflict resolution and promoting non-violent approaches to disputes through gender equality, human rights approaches; advocating for women’s rights since 1996. Between 2007 and 2011 she served as Director of Programmes ‘Taking Cases to the ECtHR’ for the Human Rights Priority. She is a doctoral researcher, working...
on the thesis: “The Role of Leader Women in Conflict Resolution’ and holds master’s degrees in biology as well as in agricultural and natural sciences.

**Magdalena Grono, Europe and Central Asia Program Director, International Crisis Group**

Ms. Magdalena Grono has worked on conflict and transition issues in the former Soviet space since 1999 with a particular focus on the Caucasus region where she also lived for a decade. Before joining Crisis Group as Europe and Central Asia Program Director at the end of 2015, Magdalena worked with the European Commission where she advised the former Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy on Eastern partnership countries. In 2013-2015 she also led, together with UN and OSCE colleagues, the Working Group II on Humanitarian Issues of the Geneva International Discussions. Prior to that, Magdalena worked on conflict, inter-ethnic and reform issues with the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and various international NGOs (International Crisis Group, Conciliation Resources, Freedom House, International Centre for Transitional Justice, International Alert).

**Chair:**

**Dirk Splinter, inmedio Berlin - institute for mediation . consulting . development**

Since 2001, Dirk Splinter has been the co-director of inmedio - institute for mediation. consulting. development. He is a certified mediator and mediation trainer with more than 15 years of experience, focusing on local mediation and dialogue projects in post-war countries as well as business and organisational mediation. Dirk has been implementing and supporting mediation and dialogue projects in Nepal, Egypt, Ukraine the South Caucasus and Ethiopia among other countries. He provides mediation trainings for post-graduate programs of different universities in Germany and Switzerland since 2002. Dirk is a member of the Reflecting-on-Peace-Practices Learning community of CDA (Boston, MA) and he represents inmedio in the Initiative for Mediation Support Deutschland (IMSD).

**Sebastian Dworack, Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF)**

Mr. Sebastian Dworack heads the International Capacity Development Team at the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) and represents the organization in the Initiative for Mediation Support Deutschland (IMSD). Prior to his current function, he has been advising the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission on strengthening of civilian capacities for African peace and security operations. Sebastian is a trained mediator and has served as political advisor for the OSCE Mission to Skopje and consultant for the OSCE’s High Commissioner on National Minorities in Southern Serbia, as well as political monitor and analyst for the European Union Monitoring Mission in the Balkans between 2002 and 2010. After that managed the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt and a mediation capacity building program with the Potsdam University of Applied Sciences in Georgia, Armenia and Moldova. He holds a MA degree in International Relations from the University of Bonn.

**2. Insider Mediators as Part of Peace Infrastructure: Where do they complement and where do they pose a challenge?**

**Kick-off Examples from Northern Ireland and Tajikistan**

**Rev. Dr Gary Mason, Founder and Director, RethinkingConflict, Northern Ireland**

Rev. Dr Gary Mason is a Methodist minister and directs a conflict transformation organisation based in Belfast called “Rethinking Conflict.” Prior to this, he spent 27 years as a Methodist clergy person in parish ministry in Belfast and has played an integral role in the Northern Irish peace process. He played a key role in establishing the Skainos project which is a world class urban centre developed in a post conflict society as a model of co-existence and shared space, acknowledged as the largest faith-based redevelopment project in Western Europe. Gary is a close advisor to Protestant ex-combatants on the civilianisation efforts of paramilitaries and was
instrumental in facilitating negotiations with paramilitaries and government officials. He holds a
PhD in Psychology from the University of Ulster, completed his theological studies at Queens
University, and a Bachelor’s in Business Studies from the University of Ulster. Gary has lectured
in political and academic forums throughout Europe, South Africa, the Middle East and the U.S.A.
on lessons from the Irish peace process and is a Research Fellow at the Kennedy Institute for
Conflict Intervention at Maynooth University in Ireland and a visiting faculty member at the
Candler School of theology at Emory University in Atlanta lecturing on peace building, the history
of the NI conflict, racism, sectarianism and conflict transformation.

Dr Faredun Hodizoda, Director, The Academy of Dialogue, Tajikistan
Dr Faredun Hodizoda has over fifteen years of sound expertise and excellent experience in the
area of dialogue and mediation, and he builds on a wide network of contacts within political elites
in Tajikistan, such as political parties, parliamentarians, ministries, and also civil society. Since
2010, as the Director of the Dialogue Academy, Hodizoda implemented a number of projects
focusing on reducing tensions between religious leaders and the secular state, and on
strengthening understanding, confidence, and tolerance within the Tajikistan society. He
succeeded to lobby the adoption of the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention in Tajikistan. From
2004 to 2010, Hodizoda was manager of the Islamic-Secular Dialogue in Tajikistan. The overall
objective of the Project was to implement cooperation projects in order to prevent potential
sources of tension related to the relation between the State and religious organizations. From
2001 to 2005, Hodizoda was the National Coordinator of the Tajik Goodwill Ambassadors Team,
operating in the Ferghana valley. Both projects were supported by the Swiss Government.

Luxshi Vimalarajah, Programme Director Dialogue, Mediation and Peace Support Structures,
Berghof Foundation
Ms. Luxshi Vimalarajah is the Programme Director of the Dialogue, Mediation and Peace Support
Structure Programme at the Berghof Foundation. She is both conceptually and practically
involved in designing and facilitating dialogue processes and providing training and on-demand
support for negotiators, advisors and mediators involved in peace negotiations. Currently she is
providing negotiation training for negotiators from armed opposition movements and
implementing various stakeholder dialogue projects in Turkey, Armenia and Macedonia. She has
spent the last years conceptually developing the topic of insider mediators and national
dialogues. Luxshi Vimalarajah holds an MA in Political Science from the Free University in Berlin.

Dr Christina Stenner, Mediation Support Officer, OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre
Dr Christina Stenner serves as Mediation Support Officer at the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre
in Vienna. Prior to joining the OSCE, Dr. Stenner worked as Research Fellow at the Center for
International Peace Operations (ZIF) Berlin, and as Lecturer at the University in Witten/Herdecke,
Germany, on conflict resolution, mediation and negotiation. Before that, Dr. Stenner worked for
a number of years at the CSSP Berlin Center for Integrative Mediation, heading mediation
projects in the MENA region and implementing mediation projects in the Balkans. She has also
worked for OSCE/ODHIR in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) as Election
Observer, as a visiting scholar at the Central European University in Budapest, and for UNHCR in
Bosnia & Herzegovina as well as the OSCE Mission to Serbia. Dr. Stenner completed her PhD at
the University of Witten/Herdecke, Germany.

Chair:
Dr Norbert Ropers, Senior Advisor, Berghof Foundation
see Plenary Panel: The OSCE and Mediation: Roles and Approaches

Amit Singhal, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Department of Political Affairs, UN
Since 2009, Amit Singhal works at the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) where he currently acts as team leader for the Europe-based regional organisations, Central Europe, and cross-cutting issues team. Amit’s responsibilities include strengthening the UN’s partnership with the Council of Europe, EU, NATO and OSCE, and providing advice on cross-cutting issues. He is also supporting the EU-UN Project on “Building and Consolidating National Capacities for Conflict Prevention” which is aimed at strengthening insider mediation and enhancing resilience to conflict and instability. Prior to that, he served as desk officer for a number of countries, regional organizations and thematic issues, such as Afghanistan, Iran, Madagascar, Yemen, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), outstanding issues between Kuwait and Iraq, and Somali piracy. From late 2005 -2009, as deputy head of the Office of Communities, Returns and Minority Affairs in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, Amit was responsible for supporting inter-ethnic dialogue, managing programmed activities for the return of displaced persons, as well as developing policies and procedures regarding the readmission and reintegration of persons repatriated to Kosovo. Previously, Amit had worked as a civil servant in the Government of India. A graduate of Ecole Nationale d’Administration of France, Amit also holds an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Allahabad, India, as well as an M.A. in French from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

3. **Protracted Conflicts and their Multi-Dimensionality for Mediation: How to see and use the potential of perceived deadlock-situations?**

**Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodt, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniesterian Settlement Process**


**Rasa Ostrauskaite, Deputy Director OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre**

Ms. Rasa Ostrauskaite is Deputy Director for Policy Support Service at the OSCE’s Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). Rasa co-moderates Working Group 2 (humanitarian issues) of the Geneva International Discussions. Previously, she worked for the EU in various capacities: at the EU Council’s Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit; as Political Advisor to the EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina; as Political Advisor to the EUSR in the Southern Caucasus; and Senior Political Advisor to the EUSR for the crisis in Georgia. Prior to that, Rasa worked for the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry both in Vilnius as well as in Lithuania’s Representations to the United Nations in New York and to the EU in Brussels. Rasa has a number of publications on the EU foreign and security policy and the OSCE, including two co-authored books.

**Roxana Cristescu, Head, Eurasia Programme, Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)**

Ms. Roxana Cristescu is the Head of the Eurasia Programme at CMI. She leads CMI’s programme activities in the region, including in Ukraine, South Caucasus and Moldova. Ms. Cristescu joined CMI in 2009 and previously worked as Adviser for the Black Sea and Central Asia Programme, with a special focus on CMI’s mediation related activities. Before joining CMI, Ms. Cristescu worked in various conflict affected areas including Ethiopia, Sudan, Kosovo (Mitrovica Region),
Moldova/Transdniestria, Ukraine and Lebanon. Ms. Cristescu is among others a member of the United Nations Mediation Roster and a member of the UN Women, Central and Southeastern Europe (CSEE) Sub-regional Roster of Experts.

Walter Kemp, Vice-President International Peace Institute, Director for Europe and Central Asia
Mr. Walter Kemp is the International Peace Institutes’ (IPI) Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Previously, he was Spokesman and Speechwriter at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) from 2006 to 2010. Between 1996 and 2006 he worked for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including as Senior Adviser to the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Secretary General, and several OSCE Chairmanships. He was also part of the editorial team of OSCE Panel of Eminent Persons reports in 2005 and 2015, and the Bolzen/Bolzano Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations (2008). Walter has written extensively on conflict prevention, national minorities, organized crime, the OSCE, and European security issues. He has been involved in a wide range of projects at IPI including “Peace without Crime,” energy and security, peace and health, and Track II diplomacy in Europe’s protracted conflicts.

Dr. Tanja Tamminen, Leader of the Research Group on Frozen and Unfrozen Conflicts, Institute for East and Southeast European Studies
Dr. Tanja Tamminen leads a Research Group on Frozen and Unfrozen Conflicts at the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg, Germany. Previously she served as a political advisor in the EU Rule of Law Mission EULEX in Kosovo and before that, she led a research project on peace mediation at the Finnish Institute for International Affairs. She has also worked as a Balkan specialist in the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In May 2009, she defended her doctoral thesis on “Coveted borders in the Southern Balkans” in Sciences Po, Paris. She holds the title of Adjunct Professor specialized in European security questions in the Department for Contemporary History in Turku University, Finland. In addition to following EU and OSCE policies, she has conducted research in the field of peace and conflict studies. She has published e.g. on peace mediation, crisis management, peacebuilding, statebuilding, early warning and cross-border cooperation.

Chair:
Prof. Dr. Lars Kirchhoff, Center for Peace Mediation, European University Viadrina
Prof. Dr. Lars Kirchhoff, mediator and international lawyer, is Co-Director of the Center for Peace Mediation and Director of the Institute for Conflict Management and the Master’s Program in Mediation at the European University Viadrina. After research positions at the OSCE in Vienna and Prague, Lars Kirchhoff specialized in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and International Law at Yale Law School and at the U.S. District Court of Northern California. In addition to his practical work as a mediator, Lars Kirchhoff is teaching mediation and ADR skills at the German Academy of Judges, Bucerius Law School, the United Nations and the Training Academy for International Diplomats at the German Federal Foreign Office. Lars Kirchhoff is a faculty member of the Master of International Human Rights & Humanitarian Law.

Julia von Dobeneck, Center for Peace Mediation, European University Viadrina
Ms. Julia von Dobeneck, certified mediator and change manager, is senior project manager and researcher at the Center for Peace Mediation. She holds a degree in Media Science from Technical University Berlin. She led community mediation projects in Kosovo for three years, including dialogue facilitation on the municipal level, political consultations and round-tables with stakeholders. Together with her multi-ethnic team, she implemented a system for
mediation in Mitrovica/Kosovo on both sides of Ibar river, including mediation trainings and supervision for local mediators and supporting them to act as a conflict sensitive “third side”. Julia has years’ experience in political consultancy and analysis of political structures, having worked eight years as a scientific adviser for members of the German Bundestag.

4. **Inclusivity in Mediation Processes: Who sits at the table – who at the window?**

**Kick-off Examples from the Belgrade-Pristina-Discussion**

**Ambassador Samuel Žbogar, Head of the European Union Office in Kosovo /European Union Special Representative in Kosovo**

In 2011, Ambassador Samuel Žbogar was appointed by the former EU High Representative/EC Vice-President Catherine Ashton as the Head of the EU Office in Kosovo and by the decision of the Council of the EU in January 2012 as the European Union Special Representative in Kosovo. Ambassador Žbogar is a former Slovenian Minister for Foreign Affairs and diplomat with 24 years of experience in key strategic postings, including China, the UN in New York, and Washington DC. In the capacity of state secretary at the ministry of foreign affairs and EU political director, he led the preparation of Slovenia’s OSCE presidency, headed Slovenia’s negotiating team for NATO accession, and was a member of Slovenia’s EU negotiating team. He graduated from the University of Ljubljana in Political Science-International Relations.

**Ambassador Jean-Claude Schlumberger, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo**

Ambassador Jean-Claude Schlumberger of France has headed the OSCE Mission in Kosovo since October 2012. Between 2009 and 2012, he was Ambassador to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. His other postings include assignments to Germany, Algeria, the United States, Laos and Haiti. In France, from 2006 to 2009, he was assigned to the Inspectorate-General of the Foreign Ministry. He held senior positions in the Ministry’s department responsible for the United Nations and other international organizations and was Chief of Staff for Foreign Ministers Hervé de Charette in 1996 and Alain Juppé in 1993.

**Valdete Idrizi, Executive Director, platforma CiviKos, Pristina**

Ms. Valdete Idrizi is the executive director of CiviKos Platform, a voluntary union of civil society organizations, committed to the development of a favorable environment for cooperation between Civil Society and Public Authorities. Previously, she was the executive director and founder of Community-Building Mitrovica (CBM), a non-governmental organization working for peace and community building in the Mitrovica region in northern Kosovo. Since 2009, she is the coordinator of Mitrovica Forum, a platform that brings together the authorities, civil society, media and business from the two sides of Mitrovica. Mitrovica Forum is a member of Global Forum for Cities in Transition. In 2008, she won the International Women of Courage Award on presented by the US State Department. She has extensive experience working on inter-community conflicts and on building trust in post-conflict societies.

**Sonja Biserko, President, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights Serbia**

Ms. Sonja Biserko is founder and president of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia. She has written extensively on the wars in the former Yugoslavia and war crimes and edited several books such as the Srebrenica genocide, the fall of Vukovar, and accounts of the trials of Slobodan Milošević and Vojislav Seselj. She is the author of “yugoslavia Collapse” Ms. Biserko is a founding member of a European movement in Yugoslavia and the Centre for Anti-War Action in the Belgrade Forum for International Relations, and a Senior fellow in the United States Institute of Peace. She received several international awards or her human rights work. She holds a degree from the University of Belgrade Faculty of Economics.
Chair:
Brigitta von Messling, Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF)
Ms. Brigitta von Messling is deputy head of Training at the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) and represents the organization in the Initiative for Mediation Support Deutschland (IMSD). In 2015, she supported the German Federal Foreign Office as mediation desk officer in anchoring mediation into its structure and integrating it into its processes. From 2006-2010, she worked for CSSP-Berlin Center for Integrative Mediation as mediator of inter-community conflicts in the Western Balkans, particularly in Kosovo. Previously, she worked as an Inner-City-School Teacher in New York City. She holds an MPhil and MA degree in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies from the University of Bradford and is a Rotary World Peace Fellow.

Christoph Lüttmann, CSSP – Berlin Center for Integrative Mediation
Mr. Christoph Lüttmann is managing director and integrative mediator at CSSP-Berlin Center for Integrative Mediation, and represents the organization in the Initiative for Mediation Support Deutschland (IMSD). He is a peace mediator, trainer and facilitator specialised on intercommunity and political processes in transitional and conflict-affected regions. With a background in political science and public law, he previously worked for a Swiss NGO for refugees, the United Nations Secretariat, the “Research Center 700 - Governance in Limited Statehood” and the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) in Berlin. Mr. Lüttmann has worked on various mediation processes in the Western Balkans, South Asia and Eastern Europe, for example “direct” facilitation of dialogue and mediation processes with groups in conflict, mediation support for insider mediators and international organisations, mediation in the context of access to justice and reduction of case-backloads in courts, support to state actors on regional dialogue as well as legal frameworks for mediation.

Plenary Panel
The OSCE: Variety of Mediation Instruments in the Case of Ukraine

Ambassador Dr Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group
Ambassador Martin Sajdik was appointed Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Serbia’s Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić in June 2015. From January 2014 to July 2015 when serving as the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations (2012 - 2015) Martin Sajdik held the post of President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Prior to this he was Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China, Mongolia and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (2007 - 2011). From 2003 until 2007, he headed the General Directorate for Economic Affairs and European Integration in the Austrian Foreign Ministry. In the 1980s and 1990s he served at the Austrian Embassy in Moscow and at the Executive Secretariat of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna and also held executive positions at a major Austrian construction company and an Austrian Bank in Moscow. Sajdik’s first posting was at the Permanent Representation of Austria to the United Nations Office at Geneva. He studied law, international law and international relations in Vienna, Moscow and Bologna, and received his doctorate degree in law in Vienna in 1971. He is the author of several books on the “enlargement process of the EU”, published in Austria, Germany, USA and in China. Sajdik lectured “History of Diplomacy” at Mercy College, New York and presently holds courses on “Global Sustainable Development” at the Diplomatic Academy, Vienna.

Minister Konstantin Obolensky, Deputy Head of the Human Security Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Minister Konstantin Obolensky was born on 13 July 1971 in Liestal, Switzerland. He graduated at the University of Basel with a Master of Law degree in 1997. He then practised law in different law firms in Switzerland, Germany and Russia. In 2000 he was recruited for the diplomatic service, starting in the Directorate of International Law at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in Bern. From 2001 to 2002 he was attaché at the Embassy of Switzerland in Tel Aviv. He then returned to Bern as desk officer responsible for Iran and the Maghreb. From 2006 to 2009 he served as deputy head of mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan and Afghanistan in Islamabad. In 2009 he headed as counsellor the newly founded “Office of the Embassy of Switzerland” in Yerevan, Armenia, that was then part of the Embassy of Switzerland in Tbilisi, Georgia. He was appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Switzerland to the Republic of Armenia in 2011. In 2013 he returned to Switzerland to take up the position of deputy head of the Human Security Division of the FDFA with rank of minister. Konstantin Obolensky is married and has three children.

Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference
Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger has been Chairman of the Munich Security Conference since 2008. He began his diplomatic career in 1973 in the cabinet of the UN Secretary General and joined the German Foreign Service in 1975. For several years, he served in the cabinet of the Federal Foreign Minister. In 1993, he was named Director of the Policy Planning Staff and in 1995 Political Director. In that role, Ischinger was the head of the German Delegation during the Bosnian Peace negotiations in Dayton/Ohio in 1995, the negotiations on the NATO-Russia Founding Act in 1996/1997, and during the Kosovo crisis in 1998. In October of 1998, he was appointed State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office. From 2001 to 2006, he served as German Ambassador to the United States of America and, from 2006 to 2008, to the UK. In 2007, he also represented the EU in the Troika negotiations on the future of Kosovo. In 2014, representing the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Ambassador Ischinger co-moderated a series of Round Table discussions in Ukraine in order to promote a broad national dialogue. In 2015, he chaired an OSCE-mandated "Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project" tasked with providing advice on reconsolidating European security. Ambassador Ischinger is, inter alia, member of the board of the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) and of the board of the International Crisis Group (ICG). He studied law at the universities of Bonn and Geneva, and did graduate and post-graduate work at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and at Harvard Law School.

Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Head of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE
Ambassador Eberhard Pohl has over 30 years of experience working in the German diplomatic service with a focus on security policy. Since July 2015, Mr. Pohl serves as Head of Mission at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE in Vienna, and in the capacity of Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council during the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016. Mr. Pohl started his career with the German diplomatic service in 1984, whereby his first post brought him to the German Consulate in Japan. He then served at the Federal Foreign Office in Bonn, the German Embassy in Accra, Ghana, and the Permanent Mission of Germany at the NATO. In 2000, he was sent to Vienna as Deputy Head of Mission of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE. He then returned to the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, served as Head of the Defense and Security Policy Division and was appointed Special Representative for Security Policy. From 2007 to 2011, he served as Deputy Political Director at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. After that, from 2011
until 2015, he was Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Mr. Pohl studied law at the University of Bonn and completed his final examination in Bonn and Düsseldorf.

Chair:
Rüdiger König, Director General, Directorate-General S for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation and Peacebuilding, German Federal Foreign Office
see Address of Welcome

Conclusions and Recommendations

Dr Almut Wieland-Karimi, Director, Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF)
see Plenary Panel: The OSCE and Mediation: Roles and Approaches

Dr Norbert Ropers, Senior Advisor, Berghof Foundation
see Plenary Panel: The OSCE and Mediation: Roles and Approaches