

Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation

Mission Statement

(adopted by the Strategic Partnership on Humanitarian Negotiation on 25 October 2016)

The mission of the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation is three-fold:

1. Fostering a community of professionals engaged in frontline humanitarian negotiations.

The core mission of the Centre is to facilitate the emergence of a global community of professionals engaged in frontline humanitarian negotiations across regional contexts and themes. The Centre is established as a joint effort of the Strategic Partnership on Humanitarian Negotiation involving UNHCR, WFP, ICRC, MSF and the HD Centre. It is governed by the Strategic Partners, meeting once a year at the Principals level. As a community-based and practice-oriented initiative, the Centre is also guided by a Development Committee, composed of dedicated practitioners from headquarters and the field, committed to support and further, the Centre's mission. This Committee contributes to the design of the priorities and thematic scope of the activities of the Centre to be approved by the Strategic Partners.

2. Promoting critical reflection, learning and exchanges among peers within this community.

The Centre offers a safe, informal and neutral space to discuss and review humanitarian negotiation processes in the light of current challenges and constraints in regions affected by conflicts. In fostering peer exchanges across regions and themes, the Centre aims at supporting individual negotiators and their organization in addressing the growing challenges and dilemmas of operating in complex emergencies. The Centre collaborates closely with all the relevant humanitarian agencies and organizations to ensure the relevance of its activities and the participation of negotiators and operational actors to the proposed activities of the Centre.

3. Developing a stronger analytical framework and greater capacity for effective practice.

Informed by current practices, the Centre contributes to professional and scientific reflections on negotiation processes, tools and strategies to prevent, mitigate and remedy the effects of hostilities on affected populations as well as to address some of the underlying causes of violations of international law. It cooperates with leading policy and academic centres in the elaboration of analytical frameworks to review humanitarian negotiation experiences, as well as the development of practical planning and evaluation tools for humanitarian negotiators. It further proposes case-based material for policy research and training purposes. It hosts regular deliberations amongst practitioners at regional level, as well as organizes an annual meeting of frontline humanitarian negotiators.

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