



Strategic Partnership on Humanitarian Negotiation

Terms of Reference

*Adopted at the High-Level Meeting of the Strategic Partners on 30 November 2015
Revised version adopted on 25 October 2016*

1. Composition and duration of the Strategic Partnership

The Strategic Partnership on Humanitarian Negotiation is composed of agencies and organizations providing humanitarian assistance and protection in complex emergencies. It is established for an initial period of five years by UNHCR, WFP, MSF, HD and the ICRC for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of humanitarian professionals to seek and maintain access to populations affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

2. Objectives of the Strategic Partnership

The main objectives of the Strategic Partnership are to:

- a. Promote critical reflections, learning and informal exchanges on frontline negotiation among humanitarian professionals;
- b. Support the development of a stronger analytical framework and greater capacity for effective humanitarian negotiation practice, and
- c. Foster a community of practice among humanitarian professionals engaged in frontline negotiations.

3. Activities of the Strategic Partnership

To fulfill these objectives, the Strategic Partnership undertake the following activities:

- a. It guides and supervises the creation of the Centre of competence on humanitarian negotiation serving frontline negotiators at HQ and the field from all relevant humanitarian agencies and organizations;
- b. It reviews and orient the planning of the Annual Meeting of Frontline Humanitarian Negotiators to be held in Geneva under the auspices of the Centre of Competence in the fall of each year; and,
- c. It undertakes any other activities deemed relevant by the Strategic Partners for the support of frontline negotiation activities.

4. On the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiations

The Centre of Competence serves as a central hub for Partners' efforts to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian professionals to engage effectively in negotiation. While its activities are designed to support professional staff from Partner organizations, these activities are open to the participation of professionals from all humanitarian organizations active on the frontlines of conflict.

The Centre of Competence is hosted on a temporary basis by the ICRC for a period of five years under the guidance of the Strategic Partnership. The fiduciary responsibility for the management of the Centre rests with the ICRC for the initial incubation period during which Strategic Partners will decide on the opportunity to establish a permanent institutional framework for the activities of the Centre of Competence.

The Director of the Centre is assigned and funded by the ICRC during the incubation period. Staff positions of the Centre are provided and/or funded by Partner organizations based on an annual call for candidacies. The final selection of candidates rests with the Director of the Centre.

5. On the Annual Meeting of Frontline Humanitarian Negotiators

The Center of Competence will organize and host an *Annual Meeting of Frontline Humanitarian Negotiators* in the fall of each year, gathering humanitarian professionals, mediation practitioners, diplomats, scholars and experts around the challenges and dilemmas of humanitarian negotiations practices identified so far.

6. Support for the activities of the Strategic Partnership

Strategic Partners are committed to support actively the Centre by:

- a. Facilitating the participation of relevant experienced staff to the activities of the Centre at HQ and in the field as well as recommending experienced negotiators for the Centre's Development Committee. Partners endeavor to promote the open and critical exchanges of views and analysis on negotiation practices among participants with due respect to applicable confidentiality requirements with regard to specific cases;
 - b. Guiding the selection of thematic areas of the *Annual Meeting* as well as facilitating the contribution and participation of professional staff to this important event;
 - c. Seconding professional staff to the Centre's team on an annual basis, based on available resources within the Partnership, to enable the development of the Centre's peer support, policy analysis as well as communication and networking activities on humanitarian negotiation;
 - d. Participating actively in the mobilization of the financial resources required for the activities of the Centre, particularly by supporting approaches to governmental, corporate and philanthropic donors.
7. Partners shall receive semi-annual reports on the activities of the Centre and meet once a year at Principals level at the occasion of the *Annual Meeting of Frontline Humanitarian Negotiators* to review the strategic development of the Centre. Additional working level meetings may be planned in the course of the year as necessary to fulfill the mission of the Strategic Partnership.
8. These terms of reference can be modified at all times with the approval of all the Partner organizations.

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