

Institutionalization of Dialogue

Institutionalization means

1. establishment of a structure
2. inclusion of the structure in the decisionmaking mechanism
3. set up of the rules for running the structure

ad.1.

The name of the structure could be: Dialogue Room/Chamber of Dialogue/Dialogue Space.

It provides space for conducting dialogues, namely,

- facilitating greater understanding between official interlocuters,
- exploring and explaining the views, backgrounds and motivations of diverse identities in polarized set up/ conflict situation,
- reflecting on options for settlement, alternative perspectives and shared approach.

It is a stand alone, independent, unbiased unit run by a permanent staff/secretariat which

- organizes the dialogue processes: sets agendas on the basis of early warnings and working programmes of decisionmaking structures,
- identifies and invites the participants in an inclusive manner across identities and ideologies as well as dialogue facilitators,
- provides the technical conditions necessary for smoothly running the confidential dialogue sessions.

ad.2.

The unit acts

- in the preparatory phase of the decision making mechanism and governance,
- next to the highest forum of decisionmakers,
- provides information and recommendations collected during the dialogue process for the decisionmakers,
- the dialogue facilitators participate regularly in the negotiations of the decisionmakers in the capacity of „observers“.

ad.3.

The participants

- represent a spectrum of identities and ideologies,
- represent personal views,
- are not mandated by any organization or government,
- respect diversity, equality and dignity of the individual,
- commit to speak confidentially.

The dialogue process is driven and guided by professional dialogue facilitators who are responsible for the rules of the dialogue sessions.

Experts of the topics could be invited for some sessions.

The sessions are not public.

The summary of dialogue sessions to be submitted to the decisionmakers could be published pending the unanimous agreement of the participants.

