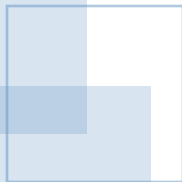




THE OSLO CENTER
for Peace and Human Rights

Netherlands Institute for
Multiparty Democracy









What is PP Dialogue?

Permanent/semi-permanent party forums for political deliberation & trust building.

- Similar concepts: political dialogue, mediation, preventive diplomacy...
- All are deliberative processes of:
 - Self-reflection
 - Exchange of views
 - Expression of interests, needs & fears



Distinguishing feature

- Political parties are central actors;
- (semi-) permanent platforms;
- Home-grown & inclusive.



Why does PP dialogue matter?

- Often the only sustainable way to address underlying structural and/socio-political bottlenecks for **political reform**.
- The best path to achieve **inclusive solutions** to institutional weaknesses, or politics of identity and religion/region.



Impact

1. Crucial to peace building and post-conflict reconstruction;
2. Helps democratic consolidation;
3. Instrumental to sustainable socio-economic development.



Why the PP dialogue Guide?

PP dialogue is increasingly popular:

“By far the most common area of programming at the party system level”

(DIPD: Study on Results frameworks, 2013)



What was lacking?

Politicians and PP dialogue facilitators have had to invent structures as they go, too often drawing only on their own intuition.

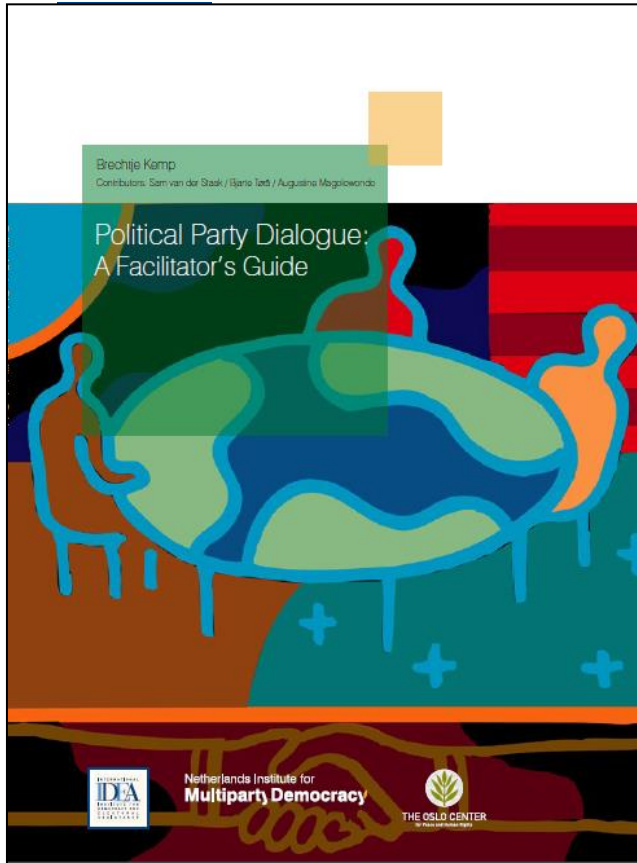


Discusses common dilemmas

- ✓ Which contexts allow for PP dialogue?
- ✓ How to deal with political risks?
- ✓ Which parties to invite?
- ✓ When to start: before/after elections?
- ✓ Should dialogue be formal/informal?
- ✓ Etc...

So, we....

- Captured these common dilemmas & experiences;
- Took a practical perspective ('how to');
- Allowed practitioners to speak.





Whose experiences?

- Interviewed 23 facilitators;
 - More than 200 years of experience in PP dialogue facilitation;
 - In some 25 countries;
 - involving over 150 political parties and movements.
- Guide is their account of how political party dialogue works



Box 11.2.

Suggested points for an agenda

Points that can be put on the agenda of the parties' first meeting could include:

1. an opening statement by the facilitator introducing participants and stating the purpose of the meeting;
2. participants committing themselves to the dialogue process and ground rules;
3. sharing of official party statements and personal stories from each party;
4. joint identification of the political and technical matters raised;
5. prioritization of the various topics for discussion;
6. a second round on issues: direct exchange of ideas on specific topics;
7. generating options, using input of technical experts;
8. exploring alternatives acceptable to all parties around the table;
9. formulating areas where consensus is reached and/or finalize agreement;
10. recognition of issues on which parties 'agree to

14: Choosing political party dialogue representatives

Each party needs to discuss internally who is taking part in the dialogue platform. A party's choice of participants can be based on a person's position within the party organization or on his or her personality, but in practice it is usually a combination of both. As a

know 'who is who' within the party hierarchy.

Which individuals will be the table?

Leadership and party cadre parties at the national and

equally represented, party leaders, cadres,

formal and informal

between parties?

level of involvement?

Participants and their

and with what mandate?

Should they involve future elected

gates?

Should they involve minority representa-

considerations taken into

and representation of

- What is the balance between men and women politicians at the party leadership and cadre levels?
- How can the dialogue platform and composition ensure more equal participation by women and men?
- Can the dialogue support legislation and policies that help reduce gender disparities?
- Is it possible to coordinate efforts with other women's groups in society, or with parliamentary caucuses?
- How can the dialogue reflect the reality that, while women and men may share similar concerns, they do not always act as homogeneous groups?

16: Minority representation and diversity

The maturity of a democracy can be judged by its ability and willingness to include and accommodate minorities in decision-making processes. The strength of a dialogue over a regular political debate is that it has the ability to more easily accommodate minorities in a political decision-making process. At the same time, dialogue requires a workable size in order for it to be effective.

Overarching question: How can facilitators ensure that appropriate attention is paid to diversity and minority issues in the dialogue?

- What are the major issues of minority representation and diversity in country X?
- How do these issues relate to the dialogue's topics and processes?
- How do these issues relate to each of the political parties?
- How can the dialogue as a whole reflect as many identities as realistically possible?
- What are obstacles to doing so (i.e. being



Foreword by Jerzy Buzek





Policy recommendations

- **Be inclusive**

- All relevant parties, Women, Youth, Minorities...

- **Involve parliaments**

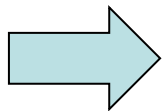
- Outcomes may require transformation into policy or law
- Links with parliamentary committees

- **Coordinate with other key actors**

- CSOs, Academia, Think tanks, private sector...



- **Take a long-term perspective**
 - Deep rooted causes of conflicts need comprehensive discussions and trust building.
- **Adopt a realistic Implementation roadmap**
 - Avoid damage to the credibility of dialogue
 - Ensure that outcomes are financially, politically & practically implementable



Result will be owned, legitimate & easier to implement



The Post-2015

■ Development Agenda:

Relies heavily on capacity to create local **political consensus** and ownership for successful implementation at **country-level**.



Thank you

