Peace Terms

DAN SNODDERLY, Editor

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACEBUILDING

SECOND EDITION

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In memory of our colleague Marie Marr Jackson (1961–2014)

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FOREWORD

"To jaw-jaw is always better than to war-war."
—Winston Churchill

Communication is vital for building peace, and the ability to reach for words that connect rather than divide depends on a shared understanding. Yet the language of peacebuilding is not always clear in a rapidly changing world filled with specialized sectors, evolving vocabularies, and contested concepts.

The meanings of terms such as diplomacy, mediation, and negotiation are relatively straightforward. But what is the difference between autonomy and sovereignty? And how is peacekeeping different from peacemaking or peacebuilding?

To help answer these questions, the United States Institute of Peace published the first edition of *Peace Terms* in 2011. Since then, the glossary has been embraced by thousands of readers, bringing a shared understanding across the diverse fields of development, security, international relations, and peacebuilding.

The first edition of the glossary has been used by a wide audience—from peacebuilding practitioners and scholars to college students, from experienced professionals participating in USIP's Academy courses and trainings to high school students taking on their first research projects.

Much has changed since *Peace Terms* was first published. For this edition, we have added some sixty new terms—including such entries as customary justice, just peace theory, radicalization, resilience, and violent extremism—and we have substantially revised another fifteen—such as cyberattack, environmental security, human security, and violence—for a total of 350 terms.

An important new feature is the addition of boxed texts throughout the book, which allows us to explore in greater depth the more complex and confusing terms such as civil society, countering violent extremism, resilience, and tracks of diplomacy.

In developing this glossary, we realized that we needed to reach broad agreement on terminology, especially given the cross-disciplinary nature of the field. Accordingly, the editor, Dan Snodderly, has consulted a wide range of sources, as well as the entire senior staff and many others within and outside the USIP community.

Similarly, the definitions in this glossary have been drawn from many sources, not least of which are the Institute's own publications. Notable among these are the volumes by Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall—*Managing Conflict in a World Adrift* and *Herding Cats: Multiparty Mediation in a Complex World*—and the second edition of Chas. W. Freeman, Jr.'s *Diplomat's Dictionary*.

This edition of *Peace Terms* has been produced by USIP's Center for Applied Conflict Transformation (ACT), which is the hub of the Institute's thematic programs. The center leads the Institute's long-standing engagements on justice, security, and rule of law; inclusive societies; and current challenges to peace such as election violence and violent extremism. Among its many other functions, ACT designs and pilots tools for peacebuilders, such as the Global Campus's online courses and this glossary.

As was true of the first edition, this glossary is a living document. *Peace Terms* is by no means the last word, and we welcome feedback from aspiring, emerging, and seasoned peacebuilders alike as we continue to refine this compendium.

Nancy Lindborg, President
United States Institute of Peace

PREFACE

When the first edition of *Peace Terms* was published in 2011, I noted our need to reach broad agreement on the terminology of peacebuilding, especially given the cross-disciplinary nature of the field. As the field has evolved and expanded, that need has only expanded—hence this new, larger edition.

As with the first edition, I consulted a wide range of sources and individuals. Because this volume is intended for a broad audience, I did not footnote the text but instead listed the major sources at the end of the book. As before, I found that there were few agreed-upon definitions. Accordingly, definitions are sometimes original, sometimes composites of existing definitions, and sometimes existing definitions that I tightened or reframed. To highlight some of the most complicated terms, I have placed them in boxes spread throughout the text. Note also that the list of abbreviations includes many items that do not appear in the main text but could be useful to readers.

Fortunately, throughout this lengthy process I have had the support of many colleagues. I want to thank USIP senior staff for their thoughtful and constructive comments on the draft definitions, and especially Institute President Nancy Lindborg, Executive Vice President Bill Taylor, and ACT Vice President Carla Koppell for their encouragement and advice.

Also invaluable has been the support of Pamela Aall, Viola Gienger, Kay Spencer, and the talented and hardworking USIP publications team—Jake Harris, Cecilia Stoute, Peggy Archambault (who did the wonderful cover design), Delsena Draper (who did the equally wonderful interior design), Erica Sanford, and Jodi Narde. I also want to acknowledge the thoughtful and constructive comments by Matt Levinger and two anonymous reviewers. It was truly an ensemble performance. The book is stronger for everyone's involvement, but does not necessarily reflect their views.

Dan Snodderly

A

Accountability—The notion that individuals, including public officials, should be held responsible for their actions. *Political accountability* means the responsibility or obligation of government officials to act in the best interests of society or face consequences. *Legal accountability* concerns the mechanisms by which public officials can be held liable for actions that go against established rules and principles. In cases of crimes against humanity, accountability means that individuals should be held accountable by the state the crimes occurred in or by the international community.

Active listening—A way of listening that focuses on both the content of statements or responses in a dialogue and the underlying emotions. It means asking open-ended questions, seeking clarification, asking for specificity, and confirming your understanding of what the other party has said.

Adjudication—In international relations, adjudication involves the referral of a dispute to an impartial third-party tribunal, normally either an international court or an arbitration tribunal, for a binding decision. However, the state or states concerned must give their consent to participate either through special agreement or existing treaty. Because referral involves a permanent judicial body, the method for selecting judges and procedures of the court are already established. The best-known such court is probably the International Court of Justice. For more on referral to an arbitration tribunal, *see* Arbitration.

Advising—Foreign assistance in which technical experts share their expertise to address institutional or operational fragility of a process, system, or institution in a host country. Often embedded with counterparts in the office they advise, advisers are typically seasoned practitioners in such fields as

logistics management, human resources, gender mainstreaming, contracting, and procurement.

Alliance—In international relations, a formal agreement among states to further common interests on security issues, often confirmed by treaty, for example, NATO.

Alternative dispute resolution (ADR)—In general, an approach to the resolution of conflicts that does not involve litigation and seeks an outcome at least minimally satisfactory to all parties concerned. It typically involves a third-party mediator or arbitrator. ADR tends to involve greater direct negotiation on the part of disputants than does litigation, takes much less time and money when successful, and seeks consensus. Many analysts no longer include the word "alternative." Others use *appropriate dispute resolution*.

Amnesty—The setting aside or forgoing of punishment for specific offenses, often political. It usually applies to a group or class of people. Sometimes used as a synonym for pardon, but the latter usually refers to someone who has been convicted. Sometimes included in peace agreements to secure buy-in from combatants, but this practice is controversial because it can prevent accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Andragogy—*See* Pedagogy.

Appeasement—Traditionally, it simply meant making concessions to an aggressive power to prevent further conflict, but now typically used in a derogatory manner in reference to the Munich agreement of 1938 that allowed Germany to annex part of Czechoslovakia.

Arab League—Formally the League of Arab States (LAS), but usually referred to as the Arab League. It is a regional organization of more than twenty Arab countries in northern and northeastern Africa and southwestern Asia.

Arbitration—A form of international adjudication that involves the referral of a dispute or disputes to an ad hoc tribunal, rather than to a permanently established court, for binding decision. By agreement, the parties define the issues to be arbitrated, the method for selecting arbitrators, and the procedures for the tribunal. Because the parties have committed in advance (often by treaty) to accept the results, most states comply with

arbitral awards. Perhaps the best-known recent example of conflict-related arbitration concerned control of the Brčko area, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as part of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Arbitration differs from mediation, in which a third party helps the disputants develop a solution on their own. *See also* Adjudication *and* Mediation.

Armistice—An agreement to stop fighting pending a more formal settlement such as a treaty. Sometimes used as a synonym for truce or cease-fire, but these are generally more limited and may precede an armistice. In some cases, such as the Korean War, an armistice can become the status quo if no formal treaty is signed. *See also* Cease-fire *and* Treaty.

Arms control—A process of cooperation among states aimed at reducing the likelihood or scope of military action by adopting reciprocal measures to guard against surprise attack, to limit deployments, or to reduce armaments or the size and structure of armed forces.

Assessment—The wide variety of methods or tools used to evaluate, measure, and document a project or program. ***Baseline assessments*** establish a starting point for measuring progress over a period of time and provide a better understanding of the context for a project. ***Formative assessments*** can be made several times during this period and give program managers opportunities to modify the project in process. ***Endline or summative assessments*** are made at the end of the period and typically judge the overall success of the project. Common methods include interviews, focus groups, and surveys of participants, funders, and any other stakeholders in the project including recipients of its intended benefits. *See also* Needs assessment.

Asymmetry—When one person or party in a relationship has more power or leverage than another, whether the power is political, economic, or military, or results from greater experience or knowledge. *See also* Leverage.

Atrocities—*See* Mass atrocities.

Autonomy—Literally meaning self-government, autonomy was traditionally considered synonymous with self-determination and sometimes with sovereignty. Today it more frequently refers to an arrangement whereby a region of a country is granted extensive self-governance or de facto self-rule. In many cases, the region has demanded independence but agreed to autonomy in certain sectors such as police or education. Regions with autonomous arrangements include Aceh, Indonesia; Basque Country, Spain; Jammu and Kashmir, India; Muslim Mindanao, Philippines; Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Zanzibar, Tanzania.