



Dr. Thania Paffenholz

Dr. Thania Paffenholz is an internationally recognized expert in support of peace processes with 25 years of work experiences both as an academic and a policy advisor. She is the Director of the [Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative](#) (IPTI) at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Thania Paffenholz advises the United Nations, the European Union, the OSCE, the OCED/DAC, governments and non-governmental organizations, and has supported peace processes in over a dozen countries since 1992 like Mozambique, Angola, Somalia, South Sudan, Mali, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Syria, Yemen, or Colombia.

Thania Paffenholz has also led comparative research of peace processes for over two decades. Her main fields of expertise are: mediation and peace process design; strategies and actors; broadening inclusion in peace negotiations and implementation; civil society in peace processes; planning and evaluation of peace processes; development-peace nexus. Her publications are widely used by scholars and practitioners and include, 'Peacebuilding: A Field Guide' Boulder (2000), 'Aid for Peace' (2007) and 'Civil Society and Peacebuilding: A Critical Assessment' Boulder (2010).

In recognition of her work, Dr. Paffenholz received the prestigious Wihuri International Prize in 2015. She previously held the position of Senior Researcher at the Center on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute. She was also Director of the Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF) at swisspeace in Berne, and served as peacebuilding officer at the Delegation of the European Commission in Kenya working on the peace process in Somalia (1996-2000). From 1992 to 1996 she was research fellow at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Germany. She holds a PhD in International Relations with focus on mediation and conflict transformation. Dr. Paffenholz has roots in Europe, Africa and Asia. For more information, read her [full biography](#).