



Dr. Thania Paffenholz

Dr. Thania Paffenholz is an internationally recognised expert in support of peace processes with 25 years of work experiences both as an academic and a policy advisor. She holds a PhD in International Relations with focus on mediation and conflict transformation. She has supported peace processes in Mozambique, Angola, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Mali, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Egypt, El Salvador and Colombia. 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.

She is Senior Researcher at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva (IHEID). She previously held positions such as Director of the Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF) at swisspeace in Berne, Switzerland (until 2003); 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. Dr Paffenholz has participated in different UN missions in Africa. She advises the UN, the EU, the OSCE, the OCED/DAC as well as governments and non-governmental organisations. She is member of international boards and research associations. 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). She currently directs an international comparative research project on 'Broadening Participation in Official Peace and Transition negotiations with 40 case studies. For more info see:

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