



Dr. Thania Paffenholz

Dr. Thania Paffenholz is an internationally recognized expert in support of peace processes with 25 years of work experience as an academic, a policy advisor, and a practitioner. She is the Director of the [Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative](#) (IPTI) at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. IPTI is dedicated to evidence-based comparative research and its transfer to policy and practice, and hosts the largest comparative qualitative database on inclusive peace processes. Thania Paffenholz advises the United Nations, the European Union and other regional organisations, governments, non-governmental organizations as well as conflict parties, and has supported peace processes in over a dozen countries since 1992, including Mozambique, Angola, Somalia, South Sudan, Mali, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Syria, Yemen, Kenya, Ukraine, Sudan, Burundi, the Philippines, Libya, Myanmar, and Colombia.

Thania Paffenholz has also led large-scale comparative research projects, including in relation to [Civil Society and Peacebuilding](#) and [Broadening Participation](#). Her main fields of expertise are: mediation and peace process design; strategy development for actors involved in mediation and peacebuilding; inclusive peace negotiations and implementation including National Dialogues; civil society in peace processes; planning and evaluation of peace processes; as well as the development-peace nexus. Her publications are widely used by scholars and practitioners and include the books, '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 a focus on mediation and conflict transformation.