



**GCSP**  
Geneva Centre for  
Security Policy

# Diplomatic Dialogue

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## Why diplomatic dialogue?

In addition to its world-renowned executive education programme, the GCSP also actively facilitates diplomatic dialogue. Drawing on our in-house expertise and widespread global networks, we facilitate inclusive, discreet dialogue to support Track 1 actors and processes, and to inform Track 2 actors (“decision shapers”) with a view to generating creative and policy-oriented approaches to addressing security challenges, defusing tensions, and building trust and confidence.

# Examples

## of our diplomatic dialogue work

The GCSP's diplomatic dialogue engagements span a broad array of initiatives, such as geopolitical talks between global powers and dialogues on regional security challenges, and support to existing peace processes. We work with dialogue participants to develop creative options that can be translated into policies which, in turn, improve the prospects of peace and security.

Our dialogue processes benefit from our access to a wide global network that, among others, includes 9,600 professional alumni of GCSP courses and visiting Fellows, together constituting a community of decision makers and decision shapers that is known for its influence. To inform our dialogue tracks, we draw on GCSP's in-house expertise on themes that are increasingly critical to international security, including cyber warfare, artificial intelligence, climate change, disarmament and others.

### **Geneva Centre for Security Policy**

Swiss in character, but global in scope, the GCSP is an impartial, independent, and inclusive platform that focuses on advancing peace and security through diplomatic dialogue, executive education, the exchange of innovative ideas, and practical cooperation. Established in 1995, it is governed by a Foundation Council comprising representatives of 53 states (including the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) and the Canton of Geneva, and is led by former OSCE Secretary General Ambassador Thomas Greminger.

## **Chambesy Roundtable on European Security**

Together with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the GCSP hosts a dialogue process involving relevant international organisations, senior officials and experts that focuses on addressing the complex security challenges in Europe and working towards a cooperative security framework. This process has, among others, allowed bilateral discussions between representatives of NATO and Russia on ways to de-escalate tensions, providing a dialogue space for Track 1 actors while official formats are currently blocked.

## **Zermatt Roundtable Process on North-East Asian Security**

In partnership with the Swiss FDFA, the GCSP convenes a Track 1.5 dialogue process that enables open and informal exchanges among the countries of North-East Asia, with a view to facilitating contacts among actors with little or no communication channels, improving understanding, identifying ways to reconcile diverging interests, and thereby helping to enhance peace and stability. The question of an “End of War Declaration” on the Korean Peninsula – an issue recently discussed between the parties – had earlier been extensively debated at the Zermatt Roundtable.

## **Syria and Global Security project**

The GCSP convenes representatives and experts from several key states that are invested in efforts to resolve the Syrian conflict. Through discreet exchanges between well-connected Track 2 and Track 1.5 actors regarding their respective countries' positions and expectations, this project has assisted Track 1 actors to cultivate fresh ideas for peacemaking and post-war state building.

**The GCSP is also engaged in a number of delicate dialogue processes that are handled with strict confidentiality.**

To find out more, visit the GCSP website:  
[www.gcsp.ch](http://www.gcsp.ch)



# Dialogue “The GCSP Way”

The GCSP emerged from the 1985 Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Geneva, where the two leaders discussed their countries’ diplomatic relations and the Cold War arms race.

That meeting revealed the need to strengthen expertise in the field of disarmament and international security. Accordingly, Switzerland took the initiative to design an executive training programme for government officials from around the world, which not only facilitated exchanges among experts and practitioners, but also enabled unique networking opportunities across political divides. These were the building blocks of what would become “The GCSP Way”, and led to the creation of our Centre. Its mission would be to promote peace and security by facilitating international cooperation.

The GCSP provides a safe space where stakeholders and interested parties can discuss difficult issues, incubate new ideas, and consider all points of view on a particular issue. By facilitating dialogue, the GCSP helps to reconcile opposites, break down barriers, challenge assumptions, and encourage creativity in tackling international challenges. Our impartial approach to dialogue, combined with our location in the heart of the “international peace capital”, Geneva, make us a sought-after venue for private diplomacy.

We are a neutral third party with no stake in any particular outcome – except enhanced security. As such, we can convene non-likeminded states (and associated interlocutors) who would otherwise be unwilling or unable to engage directly and constructively at the official level.

## **Office in Geneva**

Maison de la paix  
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2D  
CH-1211 Geneva 1  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 (0)22 730 96 00  
Email: [info@gcsp.ch](mailto:info@gcsp.ch)