

# 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.

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**GCSP**  
Geneva Centre for  
Security Policy



## Diplomatic Dialogue

### 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 broad 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, dialogues on regional security challenges, and support to 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 more than 10,000 professional alumni of GCSP courses, constituting a community of decision makers and decision shapers. 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 and the Canton of Geneva, and is led by former OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Thomas Greminger.

## The High North Talks

The recent sharpening of geopolitical tensions, coupled with the lack of an adequate official forum for addressing the urgent issues facing the Arctic, inspired the GCSP to launch a discreet dialogue process that aims to help prevent the Arctic from becoming the next theatre of geopolitical conflict.

The High North Talks is one of the few remaining venues where representatives from the countries most invested in the Arctic can meet discreetly to discuss the future of this region. With a focus on the most urgent problems (including accelerating militarisation and climate change), the aim is to find workable solutions and unearth mechanisms to prevent confrontation.

## The Bridge States

The Bridge States dialogue aims to explore how states that are neither in NATO/the EU nor fully aligned with other big powers, can position themselves on the West-East continuum while maximising their security and economic prospects. The dialogue provides a discreet space for these 'bridge states' to develop policy options that will help them to navigate the fluid geopolitical environment.

This Track 1.5 dialogue enables representatives from these states to learn from one another's experiences and to unearth lessons that might contribute to a more stable and sustainable security order in Europe.

## Zermatt Process on North-East Asian Security

In partnership with the Swiss Government, the GCSP convenes a Track 1.5 dialogue process that enables 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 and thereby helping to enhance peace and stability.

**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)

