Understanding peace processes

Peace, no armed conflict
Peace, based on democracy and respect for human rights, prevails. Conflicts exist on different levels and are resolved without resorting to violence or repression.

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Tensions
Tangible tensions manifest in violent clashes or state repression. At all societal levels, people increasingly revert to violence to resolve conflicts or disputes.
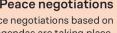
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Armed conflict without peace intent
Violent conflict has broken out. The parties to the conflict have no intentions to resolve the conflict without violence but focus on military victory.
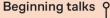
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Peace negotiations
Formal peace negotiations based on specific agendas are taking place. Humanitarian or ceasefire agreements may be reached to create trust between the negotiating parties.

Beginning talks
Preparations are underway for official peace negotiations. The circumstances and conditions for these to be held are being negotiated.

Armed conflict with peace intent
Despite the ongoing armed conflict, the parties show willingness to negotiate, and a critical mass of the population is actively calling for a non-violent solution to the conflict.

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Post-conflict reconciliation
The long-term quest for structural transformation allows for truth, transitional justice, reconciliation, reparation, finding missing persons and guarantees of non-repetition.

Peace agreement
Successful peace negotiations conclude with a formal agreement, comprehensive or partial, signed by the parties to the conflict. Sub-groups might continue violent action.

Implementation of a peace agreement
The short- to medium-term implementation of an agreement focuses on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, establishes new structures and addresses truth-finding.

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