

Executive summary

Peace negotiations 2021: analysis of trends and scenarios is a yearbook that analyses the peace processes and negotiations that took place in the world during 2021. The examination of the development and dynamics of negotiations worldwide allows to provide a comprehensive overview of peace processes, identify trends and comparatively analyse the various scenarios. One of the main objectives of this report is to provide information and analysis to those who participate in peaceful conflict resolution at different levels, including parties to disputes, mediators, civil society activists and others. The yearbook also aims to grant visibility to different formulas of dialogue and negotiation aimed at reversing dynamics of violence and channelling conflicts through political means in many contexts. Thus, it seeks to highlight, enhance and promote political, diplomatic and social efforts aimed at transforming conflicts and their root causes through peaceful methods.

Methodologically, the report draws mainly on the qualitative analysis of studies and information from many sources (the United Nations, international organisations, research centres, media outlets, NGOs and others), as well as on experience gained during field research. The report also cross-cuttingly incorporates a gender perspective in the study and analysis of peace processes.

The report is divided into six chapters. The first presents a summary and map of the 37 peace processes and negotiations that took place in 2021 and provides an overview of the main global trends. The next five chapters delve into the peace processes and negotiations from a geographic perspective. Each of them addresses the main trends of peace negotiations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, respectively, and describes the development and dynamics of each case in those regions. At the beginning of each of these five chapters, a map is included indicating the countries where peace processes and negotiations have occurred in 2021.

Peace processes and negotiations in 2021

AFRICA (12)	ASIA (10)	EUROPE (7)
Cameroon (Ambazonia/North West and South West) CAR DRC Eritrea – Ethiopia Libya Mali Morocco – Western Sahara Mozambique Somalia South Sudan Sudan Sudan – South Sudan	Afghanistan DPR Korea – Republic of Korea DPR Korea – USA India (Assam) India (Nagaland) Myanmar Papua New Guinea (Bougainville) Philippines (MILF) Philippines (NDF) Thailand (south)	Armenia–Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh) Cyprus Georgia (Abkhazia, South Ossetia) Moldova (Transdniestria) Serbia – Kosovo Spain (Basque Country) Ukraine
	AMERICA (3)	MIDDLE EAST (5)
	Colombia (FARC-EP) Colombia (ELN) Venezuela	Iran (nuclear programme) Israel-Palestine Palestine Syria Yemen

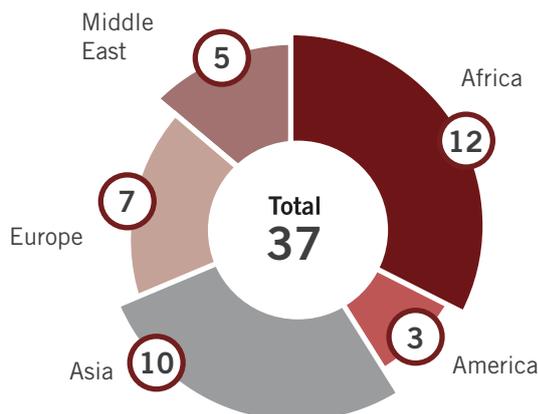
Negotiations in 2021: global overview and main trends

A total of 37 peace processes and negotiations were identified in 2021: 12 in Africa (32% of the total), 10 in Asia (27%), seven in Europe (19%), five in the Middle East (14%) and three in the Americas (8%). Compared to the previous year, there was a moderate drop in the number of peace processes and negotiations analysed worldwide, with 37 active processes in 2021, compared to the 40 cases studied in 2021, though the decrease was not as marked as the one that occurred between 2019 and 2020 (50 to 40 cases). Cases in 2020 that are not analysed in this edition include Burundi, where

the peace initiatives of recent years were considered as finalised in 2021; the Americas, where the national dialogue begun in Haiti did not continue in 2021; and Asia, where there was no information on initiatives regarding the negotiations between the Philippine government and the MNLF. No new peace process was reported.

Of the 32 active armed conflicts in 2021, 44% (14 cases) were not dealt with via a peace processes. These included five high-intensity armed conflicts: Ethiopia

Regional distribution of peace negotiations in 2021



(Tigray), the Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram), the Western Sahel Region (although Mali continued to be the scene of negotiations between the government and northern armed groups due to the application of the clauses of the 2015 Algiers Peace Agreement), Mozambique (north) and the DRC (east-ADF) (in contrast, the conflict in DRC with other armed groups in the eastern DRC was addressed as part of negotiations with some groups alongside the political dialogue in the country as a whole). Over half (56%) the armed conflicts were addressed in negotiating processes, though in some cases they only involved some of the

active armed actors and dynamics. Along with the 18 armed conflicts addressed in the peace processes, to varying degrees, peace negotiations in 2021 also dealt with socio-political crises of varying intensity. Four peace processes in Africa dealt with socio-political crises (Eritrea-Ethiopia, Morocco-Western Sahara, Mozambique and Sudan-South Sudan). In Asia, almost half of the peace processes (four cases) were related to socio-political crises (North Korea-South Korea, North Korea-USA, the Assam and Nagaland regions of India). In the Americas, the crisis in Venezuela was also addressed in a negotiating process. Five of the seven peace processes in Europe were related to socio-political crises of varying intensity (Armenia-Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Moldova and Serbia-Kosovo). And two of the five processes in the Middle East dealt with socio-political crises of various kinds and intensity (the international tension around Iran's nuclear programme and the intra-Palestinian dispute between Hamas and Fatah).

In its second year, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the peace processes around the world in a variety of ways. On the one hand, the intertwined dynamics of the pandemic and armed conflict exacerbated crises and humanitarian needs and worsened the security situation for civilians in many contexts, highlighting the urgent need to intensify efforts for nonviolent and negotiated solutions to conflicts. The pandemic continued

Armed conflicts and peace processes in 2021

Armed conflicts with peace negotiations (18)
AFRICA (9)
Cameroon (Ambazonia/North West and South West) -2018-
CAR -2006-
DRC (east) -1998-
Libya -2011-
Mali -2012-
Somalia -1988-
South Sudan -2009-
Sudan (Darfur) -2003-
Sudan (South Kordofan and Blue Nile) -2011-
AMERICA (1)
Colombia -1964-
ASIA (4)
Afghanistan -2001-
Filipinas (NPA) -1969-
Myanmar -1948-
Thailand (south) -2004-
EUROPE (1)
Ukraine (east) -2014-
MIDDLE EAST (3)
Israel-Palestine -2000-
Syria -2011-
Yemen -2004-

Armed conflicts without peace negotiations (14)
AFRICA (6)
Burundi -2015-
DRC (east – ADF) -2014-
Ethiopia (Tigray)-2020-
Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram) - 2011-
Mozambique (north) -2019-
Western Sahel Region -2018-
ASIA (5)
India (CPI-M) -1967-
India (Jammu and Kashmir) -1989-
Pakistan -2001-
Pakistan (Balochistan) -2005-
The Philippines (Mindanao) -1991-
EUROPE (1)
Turkey (southeast) -1984-
MIDDLE EAST (2)
Egypt (Sinai) -2014-
Iraq -2003-

*Between hyphens is the date on which the conflict started.

Internal and international peace processes/negotiations with and without third parties in 2021

Peace processes	INTERNAL					INTERNATIONAL	
	Direct negotiations without third parties (2)	Negotiations with third parties (22)	National dialogues without third parties (1)	National dialogues with third parties (0)	Other formats (2)	Direct negotiations without third parties (2)	Negotiations with third parties (9)
AFRICA							
Cameroon (Ambazonia/North West-South West)		x					
CAR		x					
DRC		x					
Eritrea-Ethiopia							x
Libya		x					
Mali		x	x				
Morocco – Western Sahara							x
Mozambique		x					
Somalia		x					
South Sudan		x					
Sudan ⁱ		x					
Sudan – South Sudan							x
AMERICAS							
Colombia (FARC)		x					
Colombia (ELN)					x		
Venezuela		x					
ASIA							
Afghanistan		x					
India (Assam)	x						
India (Nagaland)	x						
Korea, DPR – Korea, Republic of						x	
Korea, DPR – USA						x	
Myanmar		x					
Papua New Guinea (Bougainville)		x					
Philippines (MILF)		x					
Philippines (NDF)		x					
Thailand (south)		x					
EUROPE							
Armenia – Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)							x
Cyprus		x					
Georgia (Abkhazia, South Ossetia) ⁱⁱ							x
Moldova (Transnistria)		x					
Serbia – Kosovo ⁱⁱⁱ							x
Spain (Basque Country)					x		
Ukraine (east) ^{iv}							x

i. In 2019, the three peace processes and negotiations that were taking place in Sudan in 2018 were merged into one, due to the completion of the national dialogue between the government and the opposition after the formation of a transitional government, as well as the merger of the peace negotiations in Darfur and the “Two Areas” (South Kordofan and Blue Nile) into a single process.

ii. The nature of the peace processes in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and Russia’s role in those conflicts and peace processes are open to interpretation. Ukraine considers Russia a party to the conflict and a negotiating party, whereas Russia considers itself a third party.

iii. The peace process between Serbia and Kosovo is considered interstate because even though its international legal status is still controversial, Kosovo has been recognised as a state by over 100 countries. In 2010, the International Court of Justice issued a non-binding opinion that Kosovo’s declaration of independence did not violate international law or UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

iv. The nature of the peace process in Ukraine and Russia’s role in the conflict and peace process are open to interpretation. Ukraine considers Russia a party to the conflict and a negotiating party, whereas Russia considers itself a third party.

Peace processes	INTERNAL					INTERNATIONAL	
	Direct negotiations without third parties (2)	Negotiations with third parties (22)	National dialogues without third parties (1)	National dialogues with third parties (0)	Other formats (2)	Direct negotiations without third parties (2)	Negotiations with third parties (9)
MIDDLE EAST							
Iran (nuclear programme)							x
Israel-Palestine							x
Palestine		x					
Syria ^v		x					
Yemen		x					

v. There are two parallel negotiating processes in Syria (Astana and Geneva). Third parties are involved in both processes, though some of them directly project their interests onto the negotiations.

to affect the course of peace negotiations, as well as the effective application of some peace agreements already reached, and efforts to manage the pandemic showed up in some negotiating agendas. In 2021, among the policy responses to the pandemic, some of them continued to deteriorate the security, human rights and humanitarian situation. This was the case in various African countries, which imposed states of emergency and exception that they instrumentalized to remain in power, and which, added to previous governance challenges and shortcomings, affected the development of different peace negotiations and initiatives.

As in previous years, the negotiating actors involved in the peace processes and negotiations were characterised by their heterogeneity, as they included governments, non-state armed actors and the political and social opposition, according to the case. National governments were one of the negotiating parties in all the peace processes and negotiations. The governments of the respective countries conducted direct or indirect negotiations with various kinds of actors, according to the peculiarities of each context. These included armed groups or their political representatives and political-military movements, as was usually the case in Asia, or a combination of armed groups and political and social actors, prevalent in Africa and the Middle East. In fewer cases, the processes involved governments and political and social actors, such as in the Americas and Europe. A significant number of processes involved governments of different countries as part of inter-state disputes. The direct participation and/or projection of foreign actors with interests in various conflicts also resulted in a high number of negotiating processes with a complex map of actors that included governments of third countries together with local governmental and non-governmental actors (military, political-military and, in some cases, political and social actors). This was the case in Syria, Yemen, Libya, Afghanistan and Ukraine, among others. In his report on the state of global peace and security released in early 2021, the UN Secretary-General asserted that the world was witnessing the highest levels of geostrategic tension in years and that

Of the 32 active armed conflicts in 2021, 44% were being dealt with via peace processes

managing the shifting challenges of global peace and security, including intra-state conflicts that are both subnational and transnational, required reviewing and updating mechanisms and approaches

Regarding the third parties involved in peace and negotiation processes, although in many cases one can clearly identify the actors involved in mediation, facilitation and accompaniment activities, in others these tasks were carried out discreetly or behind closed doors. At least one third party participated in 33 of the 37 peace processes analysed (89%), in line with previous years (82.5% in 2020, 80% in 2019). The

predominance of third-party support was found both in internal and international peace processes. In regional terms, while all the peace processes in Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East had third-party support, negotiations with third parties accounted for 60% of the cases in Asia (55% in 2020). For yet another year, the multi-stakeholder character of mediation efforts was clear. In 31 of the 33 cases with third parties, there was more than one actor carrying out mediation or facilitation work. Prominent types of actors involved as third parties included intergovernmental organisations, such as the UN, EU, AU, OSCE, IGAD, OIC, SADC, EAC, CEEAC and OIF, state governments, religious organisations and civil society actors, including specialised centres. Intergovernmental organisations played a predominant role in all regions, except in Asia, where comparatively they were hardly involved in mediation and facilitation efforts. Overall, for yet another year the UN stood out as the main intergovernmental organisation involved in peace processes. It was present in different formats (mainly envoys and special representatives and missions) and served various support functions (mediation, co-mediation, verification, ceasefire supervision, assistance, support, the use of good offices and others) in 19 of the 37 peace processes during the year and in 19 of the 33 that involved at least one third party (57.5%).

With regard to the **negotiating agendas**, one must consider the particular aspects of each case and bear in mind that the details of the issues under discussion

did not always become known to the public. Issues related to the security sector stood out in 2021, and especially processes of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants and the reform or creation of new security forces following the signing of peace agreements. This was present in most cases in Africa as well as in cases in Asia. For yet another year, the issues on the agendas prominently included the search for truces, ceasefires and cessations of hostilities. Another prominent military issue in the agendas was denuclearisation, present in the negotiations around Iran's nuclear programme and in the negotiations between North Korea and the US. In political-military terms, Russia demanded to include the issue of the security architecture in Europe in the dialogue over Ukraine. Issues related to governance (elections, constitutional reform, political transitions, the distribution of political power, as well as political, economic and social transformations) were also found in various peace processes, such as in Mali, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Libya, Colombia (FARC), Venezuela, Syria and Palestine, amid many obstacles, including disagreements between the parties and contexts of insecurity and violence. Moreover, issues related to administrative decentralisation, self-government (including some demands for independence) and recognition of identity were present in many processes, even if they were not the predominant focus of the negotiations in all cases. Other topics on the agenda during the year included issues related to border demarcation and transport and economic links between different territories.

On a positive note, relative progress was made in some cases, particularly in Africa

In terms of **evolution of the peace and negotiating processes**, most of them in 2021 faced many problems, including serious regression in some cases, and a significant number remained mostly deadlocked. Overall, little significant progress was made, and where limited progress was made, it occurred in broader contexts of fragility, insecurity and obstacles. Asia witnessed serious backsliding in three of the 10 cases in 2021: Afghanistan, the Philippines (NDF) and Myanmar. The

vast majority of the peace processes in the Middle East experienced serious difficulties, such as obstacles to re-establishing political dialogue in Yemen and Palestine. In Syria, contacts and meetings continued without yielding positive results against a background of serious, high-intensity violence and the projection of foreign interests in the dispute. Substantive obstacles were faced in Africa. For instance, in Somalia tensions rose between parts of the Federal Government, the federated states and opposition groups; in Libya, the cancellation of the elections scheduled for late 2021 increased uncertainty about the negotiating process and the political future of the country; disagreements and instability in Mali prevented significant progress in the implementation of the 2015 peace agreement, although there were some agreements in the central region of the country between various community militias; in Sudan, the military coup d'état posed a serious threat to the peace process in the country. In Europe, there were serious difficulties linked to the antagonism between Russia and Georgia and Russia and Ukraine and the projection of the geostrategic conflict between Russia, the US, NATO and the EU over these processes, aggravated in 2021 in Ukraine. The historical antagonism between Armenia and Azerbaijan, aggravated by the 2020 war and its consequences, and between Serbia and Kosovo, continued to result in serious obstacles in both processes. Peace processes that were mostly stalled in 2021 included Eritrea-Ethiopia, Morocco-Western Sahara, North Korea-South Korea, North Korea-USA, Cyprus, Moldova (Transnistria) and the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Faced with the difficulties and impasse in the formal processes, civil society actors were active in many contexts to promote avenues for dialogue.

On a positive note, relative progress was made in some cases, particularly in Africa. In Mozambique, progress was made in the DDR programme and in dismantling the military bases of the former guerrilla group. In South Sudan, headway continued to be made in the implementation of some clauses of the 2018 peace

Main agreements of 2021

Peace processes	Agreements
Mali	Ceasefire agreements and reduction of violence between different communities in the central region. On 15 March, Donso community militias linked to the armed organisation Katiba Macina and Bambara militias affiliated with JNIM reached a ceasefire agreement in Ségou. On 6 August, after several peace initiatives supported by MINUSMA, representatives of the Fulani and Dogon communities agreed to establish local mechanisms to resolve conflicts amicably. In October, Ogosagu Peulh and Ogosagu Dogon communities (where two major attacks in 2019 and 2020 killed 192 civilians) and 10 other Peulh and Dogon communities in the towns of Bankas and Dimbal signed a local reconciliation agreement.
South Sudan	Declaration of Principles. On 11 March, after four days of negotiations in Naivasha (Kenya), the government and the South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) faction led by Paul Malong and Pagan Amum (which includes SSUF/A and Real-SPLM) signed the Declaration on which the basis of the political dialogue in Rome was built, which is being mediated by the Community of Sant'Egidio and regional organisations.
Sudan	Declaration of Principles between the Transitional Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N al-Hilu (South Kordofan). The text was signed in Juba, South Sudan, on 28 March by the head of the Transitional Sovereign Council of Sudan, General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, and the leader of the SPLM-N, Abdelaziz al-Hilu. It establishes a federal, civil and democratic state in Sudan, in which freedom of religion, belief, religious practice and worship will be guaranteed to all Sudanese people by separating the identities of culture, region, ethnicity and state religion, principles that will be enshrined in the Constitution. After the Declaration was signed, talks between the parties resumed on 26 May with a view to integrating the rebel group into the Transitional Government.

agreement and negotiations were held with groups that had not signed that agreement. In the dispute between Sudan and South Sudan, diplomatic relations were strengthened, making progress in the rapprochement that began in 2019. In other regions, in Asia progress was made on the negotiations between the autonomous government of Bougainville and the government of Papua New Guinea over the island's status and in the Philippines, progress was made in the institutional consolidation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, arising from the 2014 peace agreement, while the third phase of the DDR process got under way. In the Americas, the dialogue on the socio-political crisis in Venezuela was resumed between Caracas and the opposition, with talks in Mexico mediated by Norway and supported by Russia and the Netherlands. Although the peace process with the ELN in Colombia did not officially resume, there were indirect contacts. In Europe, in Spain, the multilevel peacebuilding process in the Basque Country witnessed progress, including in the area of co-existence and in transferring ETA prisoners, in the year that marked the 10th anniversary of the definitive cessation of ETA's armed activity.

Finally, regarding the **gender, peace and security agenda**, the analysis of the different peace processes in 2020 confirms, like in previous years, the obstacles that women face in participating in formal processes and the difficulties in incorporating a gender perspective in negotiation. The year 2021 was also one of serious gender regression due to the seizure of power by the Taliban, which brought about an abrupt end to the negotiating process and was a serious setback for the human rights of civilians and specifically of women and girls, posing a serious security risk to women politicians and women activists and human rights defenders. In Myanmar, women's organisations played a leading role in protests against the military coup d'état, which shut down the 21st Century Panglong Conference with the insurgents and involved serious violations of women's human rights, including sexual violence against women detained in the protests. Women civil society activists from different contexts continued to demand an end to the hostilities, the promotion of inclusive dialogue, responses to humanitarian emergencies and the defence of the rights of civilians, including the human rights of women. The COVID-19 pandemic aggravated gender inequalities, posed additional obstacles for the work of women human rights defenders, including through the instrumentalization of emergency measures, and created difficulties in holding meetings and building trust. Nevertheless, women's movements and organisations were key to civil society's persistent demands for peacebuilding.

Overall, women's participation in peace processes continued to be very limited. According to UN data released in 2021, women accounted for only 23% of the members of the delegations of the parties to the

conflict in negotiating processes mediated or co-mediated by the UN in 2020. Nevertheless, some limited progress was made at formal levels in 2021 in cases such as Mali and the Philippines. The negotiating processes generally continued without substantively or significantly integrating a gender perspective in their design, agenda or agreements. A notable exception was Colombia, where the implementation of the gender approach included in the Colombian peace agreement continued, although at a much slower rate than the application of the agreement as a whole.

Regional trends

Africa

- Throughout 2021, 12 peace processes and negotiations were identified in Africa, which accounts for 32% of the 37 peace processes worldwide.
- There were various local initiatives by civil society actors, including women's organisations, and by political-military groups to relaunch the dialogue process with the government in Cameroon.
- Amid the impasse in negotiations and increased tension after the ceasefire ended in 2020, the appointment of a new UN envoy for Western Sahara in late 2021 encouraged mild expectations that talks would resume.
- The postponement of the elections scheduled for 24 December exacerbated the climate of uncertainty regarding the political future of Libya.
- Progress was made in Mozambique during the year in implementing the DDR programme provided for in the 2019 peace agreement.
- Political instability and disagreements between the parties in Mali prevented progress in implementing the clauses of the 2015 Algiers Peace Agreement.
- Sudan suffered a new coup in October 2021 that threatened the transitional process and peacebuilding efforts in the country.
- In South Sudan, progress was made in implementing the peace agreement, as well as peace talks with the armed groups that did not sign the 2018 agreement. However, internal struggles and fragmentation within the SPLA-IO threatened the fragile peace in the country.

America

- Three negotiating processes took place in the Americas: two in Colombia and one in Venezuela, accounting for an 8% of the negotiations held in 2021.
- All the negotiating processes in the Americas had third-party support.
- In Venezuela, the government and the opposition resumed negotiations in Mexico, facilitated by Norway.

- The Colombian government announced that it had made indirect contact with the ELN through the Catholic Church and the United Nations, but ruled out resuming direct dialogue with the guerrilla group.
- Five years have passed since the peace agreement was signed between the Colombian government and the FARC and its implementation remains uneven.
- Despite the difficulties and delays, the implementation of the gender approach included in the peace agreement in Colombia continued, although at a much slower rate than the application of the agreement as a whole.

Asia

- In Asia, 10 negotiating processes were reported in 2021, accounting for approximately one quarter of the total peace processes around the world.
- In comparative terms, Asia was one of the regions in which more direct negotiations took place without the facilitation of third parties.
- In approximately half of the cases analysed in Asia, a certain paralysis and even regression in the negotiations was reported.
- The withdrawal of US troops and the Taliban military advance sank the peace negotiations, causing a change of regime and the fall of the government of Ashraf Ghani.
- In Mindanao (southern Philippines), the period of the transitional government of the new Bangsamoro region (led by the MILF) was extended by three years and the third stage of the reintegration of the 40,000 MILF ex-combatants began with significant delays.
- The Philippine Government declared the NDF a terrorist organisation, which in recent decades has negotiated with Manila on behalf of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing (the NPA).
- The Government of Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government formally began the process of negotiating the political status of Bougainville.
- The president of South Korea proposed signing a declaration that would end the Korean War and allow negotiations to move forward on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.
- The military coup in Myanmar shut down the Panglong 21 dialogue with the insurgency.

Europe

- In 2021, seven of the 37 peace processes in the world (19%) took place in Europe.
- All the negotiating processes in Europe involved third parties in supporting roles.

- On the 10th anniversary of the definitive end of ETA's armed activity, new progress was made in terms of coexistence and prisoners in the Basque Country.
- The negotiations around Ukraine faced serious obstacles, given the delay in implementing the Minsk agreements, the massive deployment of Russian troops along the border and Moscow's demands for a new security architecture in the continent from NATO and the US.
- Under Russian mediation, Armenia and Azerbaijan addressed issues related to the opening of transport and economic ties, the delimitation of the border, the exchange of prisoners and demining in an antagonistic atmosphere after the 2020 war.
- Informal contacts in Cyprus during the year failed to resume official negotiations and the parties remained at a standoff.
- Women's civil society organisations from Kosovo, Georgia, Cyprus and other countries demanded effective participation in the negotiating processes, with specific proposals.

Middle East

- The Middle East witnessed five negotiating, dialogue and exploratory processes that accounted for 14% of the total in the world in 2021.
- The cases in the region once again illustrated the importance of regional and international actors and the influence of their interests and antagonism in developing some of the negotiating processes.
- Negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme resumed in 2021, but developed unevenly, in part due to Iran's breaches of the points of the 2015 agreement.
- Difficulties persisted in establishing a nationwide ceasefire in Yemen and a negotiated path to address the multidimensional conflict affecting the country.
- Palestinian-Israeli negotiations continued to stall, although some high-level contacts took place after the new Israeli government took office.
- Despite signs of rapprochement in the first quarter, the fracture between Hamas and Fatah persisted, especially after the president of the Palestinian Authority decided to postpone what would have been the first Palestinian elections in 15 years.
- The negotiating process for Syria promoted by the United Nations continued in 2021, but the rounds of meetings between representatives of the government, the opposition and civil society did not yield any significant results.
- Women's organisations and activists in the region continued to claim the need for more inclusive peace processes and women's substantive participation in decision-making.

