

Doha World Negotiation Day Agenda

Sheraton Grand, Doha, Qatar, 8 December 2025

11:30 - 12:30

Masterclass/Practical Toolkit Session on Key Cross-Cultural Negotiation

- Prof. Nicholas Coburn-Palo, Preceptor in Public Speaking, Harvard University

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 14:15

Opening Ceremony

- Welcoming Remarks: Mr. Rabih El-Haddad, Director, Division for Multilateral Diplomacy, UNITAR
- Keynote Speech: H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa, Former President of the UN General Assembly, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Former Minister of National Defense of Ecuador

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14:15 - 14:35

Fireside Chat

- Speaker: Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl, Director-General, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Facilitator: Ms. Elayne G. Whyte, Professor of Practice at School of Advanced International Studies, John-Hopkins University, and Former Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Nations and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs

14:35 - 15:50

High-level Panel - Negotiating Peace in a Fragmented World: The Case for Preventive Diplomacy Today

The world is experiencing a dangerous resurgence of armed conflict and violent polarization, from Ukraine and Gaza to Sudan and the Sahel. These crises expose the limits of reactive crisis management and underscore the urgent need for preventive diplomacy and negotiation as the first line of defense against war. Millions of lives are at stake, with women and girls disproportionately affected by cycles of violence and displacement. At this critical juncture, dialogue is not an option but a moral and political imperative.

This debate will provide a space for leaders, diplomats, and practitioners to reflect on the lessons of today's conflicts, examine the obstacles to negotiation in a fragmented world, and explore how preventive diplomacy can be revitalized as a credible tool of collective security. The discussion will highlight the role of the United Nations, regional organizations, civil society, and reassert the need for political will to place peace and prevention back at the heart of international cooperation.

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Moderator:

- Ms. Elayne G. Whyte, Professor of Practice at School of Advanced International Studies, John-Hopkins University, and Former Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Nations and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs

Speakers:

- H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, Former President of Finland, member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation
- Ms. Irene Fellin, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security
- Ambassador Karim Haggag, Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- Ms. Alanoud Qassim Al-Temimi, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State of Qatar

15:50 - 16:05

Award Ceremony and Closing Speeches

- Closing Remarks: H.E. Mr. Mubarak Ajlan Al-Kuwari, Executive Director, Doha Forum
- Doha 'Best Negotiator of the Year 2025' Award recipient

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