

## THE FUTURE OF DIPLOMACY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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### MOHAMMED SAAIDA

Associate Professor, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Faculty of Administration Sciences and Informatics, Al-Istiqlal University, Jericho – Palestine

**Abstract:** *The current study examines the future of diplomacy and conflict management by identifying the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization, technology, climate change, the involvement of non-state actors, and international bodies. Although these factors have garnered considerable interest, their intricate interplay and the context-dependent effects of diplomatic practice warrant further examination. There is still a lack of comprehensive knowledge about how diplomacy can adapt to a changing world, making it hard to develop holistic frameworks that can predict and respond to new realities. This study employs a literature review methodology to synthesize and critically analyse scholarly publications, policy reports, case studies, and qualitative studies, identifying major trends and gaps in the field of diplomacy and conflict resolution. Results highlight the dynamics between challenges and opportunities in the future of diplomatic undertakings, and underscore the necessity of institutional change and integrative, foresight, and interdisciplinary global governance. Policymakers, diplomats, and organizations should focus on active conflict prevention, innovation, dialogue, and cooperation, and ensure that marginalized voices and non-traditional actors are represented.*

**Keywords:** *diplomacy, conflict resolution, globalization, technology, climate change, non-state actors, international organizations.*

### Introduction

The unstable nature of the modern-day world makes the art of diplomacy and conflict resolution uncertain and unpredictable. In a world where the threads of globalization are becoming increasingly transparent and have become an invisible web, the line between home and foreign affairs blurs, making any community a participant in the global balance. For example, the constant resettlement of refugees many miles away (OCHA, 2024) demonstrates that local crises extend across borders and that the international diplomatic and conflict-management process requires it. At the same time,



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technology transforms the field of communication, redefining diplomatic etiquette, while the growing danger of climate change forces the world to adopt adaptive solutions on a scale never attempted before to protect a shared future. As the world changes under the intensity of warfare, with the single-minded dissolution of national boundaries and shifts in power channels, a new language of protest is being developed to reinvent the principles and insist on a mutual and joint future for the art of diplomatic practice and the refusal of war.

The increasing forces of globalization are drastically redefining the dynamics and the results of diplomacy and conflict resolution. As countries become closer, they encounter economic prospects and cultural collisions that reconfigure the world landscape. Technological improvements have transformed the communication process, changed diplomatic methods, and altered the level of conflict. The United Nations has frequently been unable to mediate between the United States and China, as the two major powers prefer bilateral negotiations to multilateral intervention in their strategic conflicts (Rzhevskaya & Borotkanych, 2022). Climate change is a common threat that cannot be solved by the international community. Diplomatic priorities are increasingly influenced by public opinion and grassroots movements, which compel governments to be more transparent and accountable in addressing international problems. Moreover, the world order is undergoing a transformative transition to multipolarity rather than unipolarity. With the rising economic and geopolitical power of BRICS countries, it is important that middle powers such as Australia reevaluate their diplomatic policies to protect their national interests in a multipolar world (Esposito & Quintero, 2024). Handling these complex issues requires an incisive view of how the world is changing and how diplomatic practices must be proactively adapted to help create sustainable peace and collaboration.

Although the role of diplomats in resolving international disputes has increased with a more interconnected world, there remains a significant gap in research on their future. Globalization, technology, climate change, the rise of non-state actors, and the growing influence of international organizations and regional alliances bring both opportunities for cooperation and threats to stability. The fact that hybrid risks are unpredictable (they involve a mix of cyberattacks, disinformation, and proxy conflicts) complicates diplomacy and necessitates flexible, proactive policy models. Recognizing the long-term relevance of national interests in defining

state action, the current analysis also focuses on how national interests are sought and reformulated in a more interdependent world order. The leadership position of Nigeria in the ECOWAS demonstrates the importance of regional powers using multilateral institutions to pursue national interests, as well as the collective security of West Africa (Talibu & Abdulrasheed, 2025), and it is important to note that the role of sovereign interests remains relevant even in the context of international interdependence. Hence, these interconnected dynamics can only be well understood to devise effective diplomatic and conflict-resolution strategies capable of tackling any emerging global challenge. The study examines the issues and opportunities facing the future of diplomatic negotiations and conflict resolution in an evolving world. It uses an interdisciplinary systematic literature review methodology, supplemented by qualitative case analysis, to examine the factors that drive diplomatic strategies, drawing on political science, international relations, economics, and environmental studies to provide insight and recommendations for practitioners, policymakers, and scholars. The triangulation of evidence in the study, using case studies and qualitative research, informs policy-making and enhances diplomacy in future strategies that will be more effective in the 21st century.

The research is structured in the following manner: a full literature review, the effect of globalization on diplomacy, conflict management and the individuals doing it, the role played by technology in the conflict and the diplomatic practices, discussion of the challenges and opportunities of climate change, the role played by the non-state actors in the diplomacy sector and their changing influence on it, the changing role of international organizations and regional alliances, and the conclusion summarizing the findings and recommendations to the policymakers and practitioners. In this paper, new lessons are provided on how global pressures are transforming diplomatic and conflict-resolution practices. It is an attempt to offer valuable insight for scholars and practitioners seeking to navigate and respond to the ever-shifting, complex context of international diplomacy.

## **Literature Review**

The changes in diplomacy and conflict resolution in the 21st century have prompted extensive scholarly inquiry within the international relations discipline. Academic discussion of modern diplomacy and conflict management is increasingly aware of how political, economic, social, cultural, and ecological forces interact to shape the

dynamics of these processes. According to Young et al. (2022), conservation conflicts are becoming more common worldwide, and diplomatic approaches may be more widely applied and effectively implemented to prevent and address them. The authors argue that the field of diplomacy has many resources that conservationists are already using to some extent, though there is a need to increase their involvement in applying these techniques to conservation conflicts. The article by Zhang et al. (2023) focused on how India is changing its climate governance to become a dealmaker aligned with its domestic needs and priorities. The article by Young et al. (2022) devoted to conservation conflicts and Zhang et al. (2023) to the analysis of the climate governance in India, reflect the growing necessity to consider adaptive diplomatic responses in particular and intertwined problems of the whole world, which is one of the primary concerns of this work. The next part also focuses on the development of 21st-century conflict and foreign affairs, emphasizing the transition from traditional nation-state conflicts to more complex, multifaceted conflicts involving non-state actors. The digital diplomacy information warfare nexus has brought up new spheres of influence, where narratives, misinformation, and cyber policies determine the conflict pathways as well as diplomatic interactions, as Aksoy and Çiçek (2023) describe.

Another thorn in the way of the diplomatic and conflict-resolution process is the landscape of trust and cooperation among warring parties. The issue of mistrust is always a phantom bedeviling the work of diplomats and casting a dark cloud over the efforts to establish agreements and open the door to peace, so scholars are interested in the role of trust-building strategies and efforts that can create a more hospitable environment for diplomatic work. This is particularly true of the German diplomatic signals at the onset of the July Crisis of 1914, when Germany sought to reassure its neighbors that its internal tensions did not threaten their statehood by maintaining a cooperative external posture (Yoder & Spaniel, 2022). The enduring issue of distrust in diplomatic practices, as evidenced by the historical case of Yoder and Spaniel (2022), underscores the crucial importance of flexible policies that promote trust, a central focus of this study.

The complex nature of diplomatic acts and their association with the future resolution of conflicts incorporates the thread of international organizations and alliances. These powerful players act as channels for division, establish diplomatic missions, and provide an arena for peacebuilding (Rijo Lopes da Cunha, 2024). Scholars also focus on

this issue and consider the role of the media in conflict management, peacekeeping, and collaboration. In Brandenburg, a region in Germany, the contest over energy infrastructure projects within land-use planning provides insight into how a lack of early consultations can escalate disputes into legal battles in the shortest time possible (Fienitz, 2025). The case of international organizations and alliances (such as Rijo Lopes da Cunha, 2024, and the role of dialogue delay in Fienitz, 2025) makes the role of institutional adaptability underlying effective diplomatic and conflict-resolution strategies a core theme of this research.

With reference to opportunities, the literature has highlighted the use of new technologies and innovations to transform the craft and efforts of the gathering parties in diplomacy. Mertoğlu (2023) demonstrated that digital technologies, social media, and other innovations can not only enable communication and information sharing between opposing parties but also provide new tools. In post-conflict situations such as Rwanda and Bosnia, embodied experiences of violence have strongly influenced the possibilities for intergroup reconciliation (Brett et al., 2024). The literature recognizes the use of more inclusive and responsive diplomatic processes, with increasing involvement and engagement of civil society organizations, including women's organizations. Informal disaster diplomacy can be practiced outside the official remit of states and international organizations, allowing coordination among various actors during crises to be flexible and fast (Duda & Kelman, 2023). The opportunities of new technologies (Mertoğlu, 2023) and the influence of civil society involvement and informal diplomacy (Brett et al., 2024; Duda & Kelman, 2023) are the next forces this paper will evaluate for their practical and sustainable application in diplomacy and conflict resolution.

The relationship between challenges and opportunities in foreign affairs and conflict resolution is complex, as noted in the literature on the future of diplomacy. The challenge of gathering credible information in conflict-affected areas was highlighted by practitioners from 19 countries across four continents, many of whom relied on informal networks and local connections (Rhodes & Akram, 2022). Although these contributions provide multidimensional, comprehensive insights, there is still a need to integrate more than themes to overcome fragmentation in the literature and present more consistent strategic frames. The information on the complexity of data collection provided by Rhodes and Akram (2022) emphasizes the practical difficulties faced by

diplomatic workers, which is why the informed strategy that the proposed study aims to develop is necessary to facilitate governmental and non-governmental work.

The study on *The Future of Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution: Challenges and Opportunities* highlights that very little attention is paid to the interplay of factors and actors in diplomacy and peace-making. Although the literature available has provided useful information in terms of individual causes of change, there has been a major gap in consolidated analyses of the overall effect of the intertwined political, economic, social, environmental, and technological aspects on diplomacy and conflict resolution, and this explains the integrative nature of the research project. The task of overcoming this limitation is the main goal of this study: to create a more comprehensive picture of the relationships among political, economic, social, environmental, and technological aspects, as well as the variety of actors involved in foreign policy and in the conclusion of an agreement. To fill this gap, this study will adopt an integrative approach to develop more sophisticated, practical methods for explaining and navigating the complexities of modern-day diplomacy and conflict resolution.

Lastly, the literature has focused on the potential to maintain peace and enhance cooperation in an interconnected world. Globalization has opened new possibilities for collaboration and complicated the idea of keeping conflicts within the local scope, whereas interdependence is viewed as an impetus for interaction and mutual advantage. The acknowledgement of the potential of cooperation to drive globalization and the necessity of peaceful alternatives to conflict highlight the need to study the role of global and regional mechanisms for more equitable utilization, in order to complement diplomatic peace-building initiatives, which is central to the research.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The development of the field and enhancement of its comprehension of the changes in diplomacy to meet the multifarious demands of the fast-changing global context is limited, whereas scholarly interest in the development of the field increases. These mounting geopolitical complexities, economic inequalities, cultural conflicts, and changing balances of power are bringing into question the feasibility of long-established diplomatic activities. Current studies, in most cases, do not capture the interplay of these variables and do not produce strategies that can be applied in intricate global settings.

Cases where there is no coordination, consistency, and impact of the diplomatic work have been recorded in official reports, policy documents, and scholarly analyses, specifically in cases where organizations such as the United Nations and countries such as China, India, Pakistan, the USA, and other African and European states have been involved. When such gaps are not closed, long-lasting conflicts, failures to reach peaceful settlements, and a lack of frameworks for international cooperation may result. The three critical gaps this research directly addresses are: the need for active study of the dynamic geopolitical environment, the development of situation-sensitive diplomacy across a variety of conflicts, and the evaluation of the interaction between global trends and regional/local processes, especially for state and regional actors.

To develop a comprehensive and flexible understanding of this complex issue, this paper employs a qualitative, multi-method approach involving content analysis, case studies, and historical analysis. International organizations and selected countries issue official reports, speeches, policy papers, and press releases, which are carefully examined to uncover and discuss the main themes, diplomatic policies, and conflict resolution. Certain examples of international cooperation are selected for their importance and relevance to contemporary diplomacy to provide a more or less universal picture, whereas previous diplomatic activities of the late 20th century are examined to draw parallels with current work and future trends. The study will also help add to a more adaptive and comprehensive approach to diplomacy and provide insights into the work of diplomats, peacekeepers, policymakers, and scholars in this fast-changing international environment.

### **Globalization and Its Impact on Diplomacy as a Conflict Resolution Tool**

The growing interconnectedness of the world, a result of globalization, is redefining patterns of international cooperation and negotiation, and it is necessary to analyze its effects on countries' foreign policy as a means of resolving conflicts. The broad nature of globalization in the 21st century has necessitated a major redefinition of traditional foreign affairs practices, especially the role of diplomatic negotiation in resolving disputes. With countries increasingly interdependent, competition over resources and influence means that national interests must be weighed against the need for global cooperation, placing a significant burden on diplomats (Abuseridze, 2022). Such changes are disrupting old systems of diplomacy, necessitating a more responsive approach

that goes beyond the traditional pillars of diplomacy, such as trade and security, to new global priorities, such as technology, climate change, and human rights. Another view asserted that the concept of globalization has not changed the nature of diplomacy; it has simply changed its modes (Nanyonga, S. 2019). With the coming of globalization, diplomacy has never ceased to be about creating, maintaining, and leveraging relationships.

Globalization has been spreading the lines between home and foreign policy, and diplomats must find a way to resolve a question that can attract local, national, and international appeal. The globalization of the world, with its interconnectedness, necessitates modern diplomacy that goes beyond the past, constrained state-centered negotiations and considers transnational priorities with direct domestic implications, including technology, human rights, and climate change. China's energy diplomacy strategy is based not only on achieving national energy independence but also on becoming a key player in advancing the new global Sustainable Development Goals (Liang et al., 2023). China's energy diplomacy strategy is a strong example of how states are increasingly inclined to align national interests with input into international agendas in the globalizing environment.

Diplomats are left to walk a fine line between nationalism and internationalism in a globalized world. This tension is indicative of the broader challenge of balancing national interests with the need to address international issues through multilateral means. The 2015 Paris Agreement demonstrated the impact of multilateral diplomacy in bridging political and economic divides among the United States, China, and the European Union to address global challenges, such as climate change (Ali, 2023). The Paris Agreement highlights an increasing dependence of current diplomacy upon consensus-building and multilateral solutions to overcoming complex, shared challenges in the world.

There are challenges and pressures that globalization poses on diplomatic practitioners of the 21st century. The peculiar features of the modern sphere of diplomacy have been the growing interconnectedness, the intensification of rivalry over resources and power, and the constant need to balance the priorities of countries and states with the needs of international cooperation. The dynamism of global networks, driven by globalization, and the speed at which information spreads necessitate that diplomatic actors adopt nimble, forward-looking strategies that can respond to emerging crises and capitalize on opportunities. The changing world

also demands a paradigm shift in how diplomacy has always been applied: looking beyond state-to-state interactions to actively involve non-state actors, multinational corporations, and transnational advocacy networks as key players in solving global challenges.

Globalization has significantly transformed the practice of diplomacy by blurring the boundaries between domestic and international realms, broadening the scope of diplomats' work, and creating new pressures to act quickly, inclusively, and adaptively. The success of 21st-century diplomacy, then, will depend on its unceasing adjustment to the complexity of an interconnected world, as it seeks to navigate the ongoing conflict between national interests and the need to bear collective global responsibility.

### **Technology and Its Role in Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution**

The merger of technology, diplomacy, and conflict resolution is an area where one can see how digital innovations are transforming tools and methods of international interaction. The widespread penetration of technology in contemporary society is radically changing the instruments and approaches used in international relations and conflict resolution. With the digital transformation of how people communicate in traditional fashion, technology introduces novel ways of conducting diplomatic practice while also raising concerns about security, misinformation, and ethics. Technology aids the creation of alternative arenas of diplomacy - virtual summits, digital public diplomacy campaigns, cyber negotiations - to redesign the way states and non-state actors interact in closing out conflicts. It is essential to critically evaluate the impact of digital tools on the processes and the effectiveness of modern diplomatic activity.

The development of communication technologies has significantly affected foreign policy and the conduct of diplomacy. Diplomats can now conduct negotiations in real time and transcend geographical borders and time zones thanks to the internet and the prevalence of digital communication tools. The historical aspects of technology in the evolution of diplomatic practices and preservation of international stability can be illustrated by the fact that the United States and the former Soviet Union used the benefits of science and technology (S&T) to leverage their influence on the Cold War over a period of 20 years (Ahmad Shairgojri, 2022). The historical case shows how the potential of technology shapes aspects of diplomatic activities and provides benefits that assist the dialogue process, as

well as the necessity to re-evaluate conventional diplomatic practices and institutional preparedness. On the con side, Reghunadhan, R. (2025) highlights that 5G technology has become one of the most significant aspects of geopolitical rivalry, especially in the Sino-US rivalry.

The emergence of social media and disinformation poses significant challenges for diplomats engaged in conflict resolution. Given the emergence of social media as a key channel of communication and influence, both state and non-state actors deploy it to shape public perception and disseminate information. Efforts to address hate speech on the Internet in the digital age can take the form of corporate social responsibility, even in conjunction with public diplomacy efforts, as in the European policy-oriented code of conduct for major social media companies (Doncel-Martín et al., 2023). The duality of social media platforms, which provides an opportunity to engage in dialogue while also being a major vulnerability, requires diplomats to develop digital literacy and be active in programs of disinformation that undermine trust and drive tensions (Bjola & Manor, 2022).

Modern diplomacy is currently facing severe security threats due to a rise in cybercrime. The increasing level of cyber threats to infrastructure, government institutions, and the private sector continues to undermine the stability of international relations and a country's national security. The growing threat of computer-based attacks, a hallmark of the new-new diplomacy of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Williams, 2022), poses very serious security challenges to modern diplomacy. This development requires diplomats to master the art of cybersecurity, be at the forefront of cooperative efforts to combat cybercrime, and support global solutions of responsible conduct of states in the cyber domain.

Artificial intelligence presents both opportunities and challenges for diplomatic dialogue in international and regional conflict resolution. On the one hand, AI elevates the quality of data analysis, simplifies decision-making, and advances communication tools, such as translation and negotiation support. The EU has already begun to understand the ethical and operational implications of incorporating AI systems into diplomatic services (Molaei, 2025). Drawing on experience adjusting to technological change over the years, modern international diplomacy faces both opportunities and challenges on a scale never seen before due to the advent of artificial intelligence in statecraft (Vacarelu, 2021). On the African continent, artificial intelligence, as a new dimension of diplomatic practice, provides

young governments with new opportunities to gain international recognition and develop intergovernmental relations (Miegbam & Bariledum, 2022). Although AI contributes to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, its potential weaponization raises ethical and security concerns; thus, diplomats need to engage in proactive debates on how AI technologies can be used and controlled responsibly.

The impact of technology on diplomatic negotiations is evident in how it transforms the concept of communication, introduces new security issues, and simultaneously offers opportunities and threats as new technologies like AI develop. Later, the positive maneuvering of technology's increasing prominence in diplomacy and conflict resolution would require diplomats to acquire not only technical proficiency but also tactical knowledge of how technology interacts with geopolitics, culture, and ethics.

### **Climate Change and Environmental Issues in Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution**

The problem of climate change and environmental concerns has taken centre stage in interpreting how ecological pressures transform the diplomatic agenda and conflict politics, and how environmental pressures transform international politics and cooperation. The increased overlap between environmental degradation and security processes has reinforced the urgency of making ecological issues a central concern in the strategies of peacebuilding and conflict management by states and diplomatic actors.

To reduce climate-related conflict and encourage responsibility among states, multilateral environmental cooperation is necessary. Mitigating the conflicts caused by climate change requires effective multilateral diplomatic systems that enable negotiated, collective approaches to handling transboundary environmental risks. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the COP26 outcomes revealed rifts between developed and developing states regarding climate finance and climate justice (Jacobs, 2022). Such frameworks include the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Regional efforts are evident in Pakistan's involvement with the UNFCCC to promote adaptation financing for vulnerable South Asian countries (Ayesha & Naseem, 2024) and in India's efforts to promote regional climate adaptation in SAARC (Islam et al., 2022). These examples of the institutionalization of environmental priorities in diplomacy and in the development of regional alliances define the essential bargaining

ground on which issues concerning the distribution of common resources and climate obligations can be negotiated. However, researchers claimed that as climate change exposes energy security risks, and as large industrialized countries are interdependent across energy markets, it may potentially result in tensions or rivalry over resources or policy decisions - but that would be a speculative leap that is not explicitly justified by this abstract (Gillesen et al., (2019); Ma et al., (2023); Bekun, F. 2024).

Policies of sustainable development are not luxuries, as they minimize the risks of environmental conflicts and encourage equitable growth. Sustainable development incorporates economic growth, social justice, and environmental protection to address the structural factors of instability. Fanoulis and Revelas (2023) underscore a balanced approach to sustainable development, while Indonesia's South-South Cooperation diplomacy strengthens partnerships to advance the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (Hutabarat, 2022). The above illustrative examples of sustainable development show that it increases resilience to climate shocks, alleviates tensions rooted in resource scarcity, and helps prevent conflicts in the long run through a combination of diplomatic and developmental action.

Environmental stewardship reinforces international collaboration by framing ecological risks as collective security challenges. It encourages sound stewardship of resources and a collective responsibility for ecological sustainability, which are key to preserving long-term diplomatic relations. The impact of global environmental diplomacy has been intensified by David Attenborough's advocacy within the UNFCCC framework (Sebastiao & Soares, 2022), where he promotes stewardship discourses. This is the best example of how environmental diplomacy can effectively shift environmental issues to the international security agenda, thus promoting state collaboration in conflict prevention and ecosystem protection.

International collaboration, both bilateral and multilateral, policy of sustainable development, and environmental management are key to integrating climate change issues into diplomatic and conflict management practices. This, in turn, reduces the need to address climate-related security risks; active diplomacy based on cooperation, fairness, and ecological responsibility will be necessary, thereby rejuvenating the critical and dynamic role of diplomacy in navigating the intricate issues of the twenty-first century.

## **The Impact of Non-State Actors on Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution**

In recent years, the contributions of non-state actors such as civil society organizations, multinational corporations, and individuals have been widely recognized as factors in international affairs. Their subsequent participation is transforming traditional diplomacy and conflict management processes and has become essential to addressing transnational issues beyond the ability of individual states.

Civil society organizations are instrumental in diplomatic endeavors by putting local concerns to the forefront and enhancing inclusivity in international relations. Through their extensive networks in the host countries, the civil society, including human rights movements, environmentalists, and religious groups, raises critical concerns on issues that are normally left outside the mainstream diplomatic processes. Engagement with these bodies helps diplomats better understand local issues, enabling them to be incorporated into broader diplomatic plans. Seven liberal states (Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands) have gradually modified their approaches to engagement with civil society organizations in Poland and Hungary (Jeziarska, 2024). This changing involvement of liberal states highlights the importance of recognizing civil society organizations as strategic partners in promoting diplomatic legitimacy and responsiveness, and in building multi-sectoral alliances to approach complex international challenges more holistically. Nevertheless, the abstract portrays non-state actors negatively in the Nigerian political process, linking them to undemocratic actions, ethnocentric behavior, and threats to political sustainability. That is what one would describe in political terms as a black side, but an academic expression would describe this as the destabilizing, retrogressive, or anti-democratic effect of non-state actors on electoral and political processes (Chioke et al., 2025). This is context-dependent (Lagos State, election, 2023, Nigeria) and does not generalize to all non-state actors anywhere in the world or to the setting.

Multinational corporations have a significant impact on diplomacy due to their economic power and international operations. Multinational corporations can influence diplomatic priorities, especially in countries with poor human rights records, through their investments and business practices. Civil society pressure on multinational corporations to reform their practices, especially regarding human rights, can trigger diplomatic action and strongly

influence corporate conduct. Public diplomacy in China has become increasingly dependent on digital media to shape international discourse, especially since the introduction of the Chinese Dream initiative in 2012 (Huang, 2025). The way China is turning to digital platforms to conduct public diplomacy reflects how economic and corporate diplomacy have become increasingly intertwined with state interests and the needs of civil society, presenting both opportunities and challenges for collaborative governance.

Citizen diplomacy has made individuals powerful players in the field, particularly through web-based platforms. Social media allows people to communicate with others around the world, promote change, and influence diplomatic outcomes together, amplifying grassroots voices and informal soft power. The rise of citizen diplomacy provides states with alternative channels to exert influence and build goodwill through interactions with digital communities. Australia's public diplomacy has shifted to broaden ties with Southeast Asia as it seeks to recalibrate its complex bilateral relationship with China (Byrne, 2025). In its public diplomacy practices, Australia emphasizes that the involvement of individuals, however complex it may make decision-making, offers a path toward more inclusive, representative, and adaptable diplomacy that aligns with popular sentiment and evolving digital norms.

Multi-stakeholder alliances are an alternative approach to addressing complex challenges on an international scale, as they can bring together diverse actors. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are particularly useful for bringing together governments, multinational companies, and civil society organizations to achieve common goals. As an illustration, joint initiatives by human rights groups, multinational corporations, and governments can tackle the most pressing concerns, such as labor abuse in specific countries. The deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping forces has also proven to be successful in reducing cases of sexual violence related to conflicts by armed non-state actors (Reeder & Dicke, 2023). These partnerships increase the number of diplomatic instruments and encourage collective responsibility and accountability in international relations.

To sum up, civil society, multinational corporations, and individuals have established themselves as inseparable participants in diplomacy and conflict resolution with their own resources and visions that greatly influence international relations. Thus, the development of multi-stakeholder relationships and the adoption of adaptive diplomatic methods are essential to successfully address

transnational issues, maintain coherence, and deliver inclusive and effective outcomes in international negotiating settings.

### **The Expanding Role of International Organizations and Regional Alliances**

This chapter examines the importance of international institutions and regional blocs in modern international relations, with respect to their special powers to intervene in conflicts, promote workforce development, and respond to crises that are beyond the capabilities of individual states. The following discussion will examine the changing roles of major international actors - the United Nations, the European Union, and the African Union- and the importance of the fact that the institutions are in urgent need to alter their structures to suit the emerging threats in the world.

The United Nations has been assuming a central role in international governance by revising its diplomatic policies. As shown by the UN's peacekeeping operations, treaty negotiations, and mediation efforts, the multilateral approach it applies continues to this day. Such initiatives as the Sustainable Development Goals and peacekeeping reforms have been the attempts of the UN to be responsive to new challenges (Fritzsche & Backstrand, 2023; Young et al., 2022). UNESCO has also emphasized cultural efforts in diplomacy, including music in the conflict-related regions of the Middle East (Rijo Lopes da Cunha, 2024). These examples underscore that the UN has been on the front lines of ensuring its continued relevance, leading in innovation, ensuring inclusive decision-making, and strategically collaborating with non-state actors to help resolve conflicts. Despite claims that alliances are crucial to the successful implementation of the SDGs, transparency, accountability, and good governance remain issues in the abstract. The current lapse in serious research and in the development of properly designed monitoring systems can undermine the validity and efficiency of such relationships (Leal Filho et al., 2024).

Crafted public diplomacy and conflict management enable the European Union to perform its functions as a diplomatic force at the regional level. The EU's diplomacy entails institutional coordination and region-specific narratives in response to political and social instability. The Balkans, the promotion of democracy, and reactions to various forms of instability in neighboring regions have challenged its internal cohesion and external plausibility (Fanoulis & Revelas, 2022). With these developments, there is a need to strengthen the EU's internal cohesion and operational flexibility to ensure an

effective, uncalculated response to any crisis, whilst managing the varying interests of the member states.

The African Union has expanded its role in peace and security, despite structural limitations. Their increased diplomatic presence is evidenced by the AU's peacekeeping missions and mediation of international conflicts in the region, such as those in South Sudan and Libya. These efforts are reflected in gender parity policies and partnership with the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda, although these issues remain problematic (Chiriga et al., 2024; Bove et al., 2022). These structural challenges notwithstanding, the active role the AU has been playing in crisis management reinforces the fact that it is increasingly important in the resolution of regional conflicts. The first step toward the successful resolution of the multifaceted conflicts the African continent faces is the development of the AU's institutional capacity and the establishment of closer collaboration partnerships.

Changes in institutional structures are important for ensuring that organizations remain functional even in the face of new global threats. Such issues as climate change, cyberspace safety, and pandemics require novel diplomatic policies. The incorporation of the concept of resilience into the English School theory explains the adaptation of the international society in pluralistic, contested settings (Korosteleva & Petrova, 2022; Petrova and Korosteleva, 2021; Bargués-Pedreny, 2020). Empirical evidence has revealed a direct relationship between an international organization's inability to adapt and the loss of its operational efficacy. Adaptive versatility and the adoption of rapid decision-making mechanisms are vital qualities that international organizations require to successfully navigate the intricacies of the modern world system.

Such international organizations and regional coalitions also provide a crucial platform for initiating diplomatic efforts and launching mediation efforts in conflicts. Their ability to provide technical support, deploy peacekeeping troops, and mediate in conflict situations underscores their critical contribution to transforming conflicts. Examples of this potential include NGOs' interventions in Bosnia, Georgia, and Afghanistan, as well as Track Two diplomacy in Turkey's Kurdish conflict (Karampini, 2023; Dilek, 2021). The case studies illustrate how the integration of peacekeeping operations, technocratic skills, and informal diplomatic networks has proven an effective means of achieving sustainable peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

This discussion has revealed the response strategies employed by international organizations and regional coalitions to maintain their relevance and usefulness in diplomacy and conflict resolution. The lessons learned in this analysis suggest that the observed ability of these institutions to be innovative, engage with a wider array of actors, and take the initiative to tackle new global challenges makes them key pillars in the quest to achieve international stability and cooperative governance.

### **Main Findings**

1. **Fast Flux and Global Interconnectedness:** The global interconnectedness is fundamentally changing the environment of diplomacy and conflict resolution. This increased interconnectivity requires a radical reconsideration of conventional methods and resolution schemes. Increased global interdependence is not only complicating methods that build on traditional approaches but also offering a means for foreign policy to become more alike, collaborative, and responsive to shared global challenges. Interactions with global concerns today must employ diplomatic and conflict-resolution strategies that are flexible and mindful of the world.
2. **Technological Innovations and Communication:** The rise of technological innovations in communication and the sharing of information is changing the way diplomacy is conducted radically. The widespread presence of online platforms and social media has changed how diplomacy works, and diplomats and peacekeepers need to adapt their approach. The emergence of new communication technologies creates the possibility of promoting diplomatic campaigns and making conflict-resolution strategies more effective.
3. **Climate Change and Complexity:** Climate change is a major challenge with an urgent implication to both diplomacy and conflict resolution. The urgent need to address climate-related problems requires collective responsibility and the enforcement of adaptive actions. The effective solution to climate change should focus on diplomatic approaches that prioritize international cooperation, sustainable practices, and addressing the root causes of environmental conflicts. Climate change, as part of diplomatic strategies, helps reduce environmental threats and promote long-term peace, despite socioeconomic inequality, which contributes to conflict.
4. **Non-state Actors and Inclusive Approaches:** Non-state actors, including NGOs, multinational corporations, and grassroots

organizations, are increasingly playing a more important role in the global arena. Awareness of the leverage these non-state actors possess, and their active involvement in decision-making, can go a long way toward increasing the overall competence and perceived legitimacy of diplomatic efforts at the international level. Actively involving non-state actors will also boost the effectiveness and creativity of diplomacy by bringing diverse perspectives.

5. Future-thinking and Future-looking: Diplomats and peacekeepers should think in the future and use it to pre-empt challenges that might occur and take advantage of opportunities that present themselves. The incorporation of foresight into diplomatic policies will allow not only the prediction of problems but also the discovery of unexploited possibilities, resulting in stronger and more flexible diplomatic systems. The best way to build a more peaceful and cooperative future is to take a human-centric approach to the interests of all concerned parties.

6. Nurturing a Peaceful and Collaborative Future: To successfully develop a positive future of diplomacy, we must adopt new methodologies and develop strong interdisciplinary partnerships to mitigate the tensions associated with conflict. Dialogue, mediation, and negotiation are the most important and direct ways of conflict resolution that diplomats and peacekeepers ought to consider first. It is also imperative to actively promote mutual trust, sincere collaboration, and inclusivity to achieve peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution.

Taken together, these results highlight why diplomats and peacekeepers should actively adapt to the changing global environment by leveraging technology, confronting climate change, engaging non-state actors, forecasting, and focusing on human-centric strategies. This is a holistic strategy necessary for developing a more peaceful and balanced global society.

## **Discussion**

Diplomacy and conflict resolution hold a challenge and a chance for the future. The growing globalization and dynamism of the world environment demand a major change in diplomatic practice. The development of technology demands that diplomats master digital platforms and social media, whereas climate change requires unanimous action and inclusion within diplomatic structures. The changing aspects of the world necessitate that diplomats undergo a paradigm shift in their expertise and methods. This trend is reflected in the erosion of the boundary between conventional diplomacy and

the interplay of digital platforms and networks, which is gaining greater prominence in international relations. Implications can be far-reaching, and partnerships with marginal non-state actors become a necessity rather than an option as global crises and climate change accelerate. Although there are related fears about the possible watering down of formal diplomatic authority, there is a need to tackle pressing international challenges that require broader involvement. Finally, the ability to anticipate threats and adopt more human-oriented, dialogue-based approaches will be critical to establishing a collaborative future. Traditional thinking and practicing in the dynamic world we live in will be the key to the effectiveness of diplomacy in the future.

The growing demands of the world require diplomats to have more competencies and take on more duties. The transition is not devoid of challenges, including institutional inertia and the difficulty of aligning different players. To have a peaceful and cooperative future, people-centric diplomatic strategies that are proactive and emphasize dialogue, trust-building, and collaboration across various spheres are necessary.

There are four major, intertwined drivers fundamentally changing the diplomatic landscape that must be addressed with urgency. In particular, the growing globalization of the world, the accelerated development of technologies, the mounting danger of climate change, and the growing power of non-state actors are changing the diplomatic arena. Such forces also require policymakers, practitioners, and scholars to devise flexible, reactive diplomatic approaches to confront these interacting problems. These three forces are significant for understanding and influencing the future of diplomatic activities, and for finding ways to engage in more progressive and inclusive methods to help the world cooperate better.

The emerging diplomacy needs to change radically to be more adaptive and agile in the evolving world of global relations. This requires diplomats to be highly flexible, digitally adept, and able to respond to the multifaceted, interrelated nature of global challenges. This highlights that diplomacy has always been crucial to adapting to the world through digital competencies and a broader scope of stakeholders. Inability to tackle climate change and to involve non-state actors would constitute a major threat to global cooperation efforts. Even though one can argue that such changes may create additional complications for diplomatic consistency, the increasing urgency of shared crises outweighs this concern. Because of this

imperative, we can reflect on how inclusive and proactive approaches may yield effective, cooperative solutions. The key to winning the race amid such strong global trends is to adopt them and steer them toward a common and sustainable future.

Through a fresh lens on the changing needs of diplomacy, this study focuses on the growing influence of forces deemed peripheral and otherwise neglected in transforming the world of diplomacy. In particular, this analysis questions the current tendency to assume that old diplomatic protocols are sufficient to resolve modern conflicts, providing evidence of new dynamics that require reactive, context-specific solutions.

In addition to the contributions of major scholars in diplomatic studies, the study examines the essential skills and resources that diplomats and peacekeepers require to operate in the increasingly complex modern international scene. The world requires effective future diplomacy to be led by leaders who can plan and organize the complex system of international interactions. Therefore, the influence of emergent peripheral forces on the evolving diplomatic environment will now be analysed.

Although this paper has outlined some of the major diplomatic challenges and opportunities, other underlying factors are critical and warrant further investigation. Even though the trends are indeed driven by geopolitical changes, financial inequalities, cultural conflict, and power relations, the analysis of these factors is beyond the scope of the present research.

Further studies must focus on how these major factors interact in complex ways with known diplomatic practices. These interactions are important to understand to develop a more holistic and detailed explanation of how political actors can actually resolve conflict. A detailed analysis of these underlying complexities is key to creating diplomatic solutions that are not only responsive to global trends but also driven by underlying forces that make them. Such an emphasis will inform subsequent studies intended to explain their contribution to the changing course of diplomacy.

Although this study offers useful insights into the changing nature of diplomacy, further research is needed to fully appreciate the operational implications of emerging informal diplomatic actors and nontraditional negotiation forums. Although the current literature sheds light on global patterns of diplomacy, this paper acknowledges the possibility of overlooking new developments that remain uncharted by theorists. Hence, the subtle interpretation of conflicts

and diplomatic negotiations requires more than general thematic analysis; it is a detailed, context-specific inquiry. The diplomatic goals need to be based on the political situations in which they are implemented, so as not to become impractical or out of touch with reality. This consideration is important: diplomatic policies should be refined through context-driven analysis. It is necessary to examine global patterns comprehensively and to precisely study the interactions of forces in specific situations within a local environment.

To improve diplomatic strategy and conflict resolution, future studies need to focus on bridging the gap between conceptual and real-world applications. In particular, empirical studies that support theoretical concepts with observable real-world events should be implemented in future research to gain insight into the contextual manifestations of global trends.

The research direction aligns with the existing literature, emphasizing the importance of local and evidence-based studies in diplomatic studies. Such research and its findings would be of great interest to the research community as well as to policymakers and practitioners, who would be motivated to incorporate context-related knowledge into their decision-making. Thus, there is a strategic need to bridge theoretical understanding and practical realities effectively to develop diplomatic solutions that are pertinent and practical in the complexities of life. This requirement will shape the process of establishing a versatile and responsive structure for future diplomatic endeavours. Finally, even the most advanced diplomatic theories must be rooted in the intricacies of the real world to be effective guides to action.

### **Conclusion:**

It has been demonstrated that the future of diplomacy and conflict-resolution endeavours lies in an intricate balance between challenges and prospects. Potential for innovation, strategic flexibility, and active involvement also arise, and international organizations and regional coalitions have avenues to enter this growing diplomatic landscape successfully. How far the foreign affairs tool, as a key instrument of foreign policy, can remain relevant in this changing environment will depend not only on institutional reform but also on the adoption of inclusive, anticipatory, and multidisciplinary approaches to global governance.

The combined synthesis of these findings is that adaptability in an inclusive exercise that encompasses blanket burdens, such as climate-sensitive problems, should help redefine the global peace-

building mechanism within conflict-resolving systems. However, unless these institutional reforms are systematically integrated to embrace the voices of marginalized communities and non-traditional actors, there is a danger that they may reinforce existing power asymmetries rather than dismantle them. This evidence demonstrates how institutional adaptability, operational evolution, and observance of inclusivity enhance the effectiveness of diplomacy in an interconnected world.

The general issues of these lessons attract interest in the role of diplomacy as an evolving, participatory, and anticipatory exercise. Constructive dialogue between the state and non-state actors helps to gain trust and develop long-term cooperation. But without institutionalizing inclusive practices, political manoeuvring is likely to become reactive and exclusionary, thereby reducing legitimacy and long-term opportunities for conflict resolution through effective strategies.

Finally, the future of peacebuilding through diplomacy to resolve conflict will depend on stakeholders' readiness to adopt an adaptive approach, engage actively, and pursue multilateral cooperation. Moreover, as the influence of the masses and civil society in determining the diplomatic agenda persists, it is essential to incorporate these views to attain legitimacy and achieve long-term conflict settlement. This effort should be informed by the following recommendations: (1) Be flexible and constantly innovate and improve diplomatic strategies to meet the emerging challenges; (2) Intensify multilateralism by reinforcing cooperation among international and regional alliances; (3) Be inclusive in diplomacy by actively engaging non-state actors, civil society, and local communities; and (4) invest more in diplomatic training and education to equip practitioners with cultural competence, negotiation, and mediation skills relevant in the interconnected world today. Through these steps, policymakers, diplomats, and international organizations can lay the foundation for a peaceful, cooperative, and mutually beneficial international relationship in the future.

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