



## Overview

Independent Diplomat (ID) is a unique non-profit venture in the world of international relations, diplomacy and conflict prevention. ID delivers advice and assistance to governments, political groups and NGOs across the three pillars of contemporary diplomacy: political and diplomatic strategy, international law and public diplomacy.

Independent Diplomat works *inside the diplomatic system* to ensure that the voices of the people most affected by international decisions are heard in the negotiations about their futures. By promoting greater inclusiveness and accountability in foreign policy-making, our work contributes to more just and sustainable solutions to international problems, whether preventing conflict or limiting climate change.

There is no other independent agency, for-profit or not-for-profit, that seeks to prevent conflict through expert advice and assistance in diplomatic tools and strategy. ID is an independent organization, and only works with those who support **democracy, human rights and the rule of law**.

Independent Diplomat was founded by former British diplomat Carne Ross in 2004. ID has offices in Brussels, Hargeisa, Juba, London, Majuro, New York, Sydney and Washington, DC. Comprised of a staff of eighteen, ID maximizes its impact and outreach through a distinguished Advisory Council, a team of pro bono lawyers, a roster of expert consultants and an internship program for international relations students.

## Current Projects

Independent Diplomat's principal mode of operation is the provision of confidential strategic advice and diplomatic assistance to its clients, as listed below.

**Climate Change** • ID advises the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on the formidably complex international climate change process under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Working inside the negotiating room, ID's legal and diplomatic assistance amplifies the voice of the most vulnerable countries at the frontline of climate change impacts. ID's work with AOSIS and the new and unique Cartagena Dialogue on Progressive Action was instrumental in delivering the Cancun Agreements as a stepping stone towards a new international architecture on climate change for post-2012. Working with ID, RMI has become a powerful voice in global climate change negotiations.

**Island Baselines Initiative** • ID is currently developing the 'Islands Baselines Initiative', a service to assist small island states to submit their coastal baselines under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in an effort to safeguard the full extent of their maritime jurisdiction in the event of loss of territory or receding coastlines due to climate change-induced sea-level rise.

**Somaliland** • ID works with the Government of Somaliland on its diplomatic strategy and outreach to the international community, including its quest for international recognition. As the only hub of relative peace and democracy in the Horn of Africa, but with little recognition for its achievements, ID has assisted

Somaliland to take a long-term strategic approach to achieving its international objectives. The British Foreign Office has described ID's assistance to the government of Somaliland as 'transformative' in its effect on Somaliland's foreign policy.

**South Sudan** • ID provides advice and assistance to the Republic of South Sudan on the practical conduct of its diplomacy, helping the Government to convey its views effectively in the complex and fast-moving diplomatic discussions on Sudan and South Sudan, particularly at the UN Security Council. From late 2009, ID provided extensive advice to the Government on engaging internationally to maintain support for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended a 22-year civil war, to ensure the on-time holding of a referendum on self-determination, and to secure the full acceptance by the international community of an independent South Sudan in July 2011, including UN membership.

**Syrian Coalition** • ID supports the National Coalition for Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces in Washington, DC and New York with diplomatic advice and general assistance to strengthen its relationships to government interlocutors in particular. Since March 2013, ID has focused on helping the Coalition establish its New York office and build relations with the United Nations and the UN's Member States.

**US Tamil Political Action Council** • ID is providing diplomatic advice to the US Tamil Political Action Council, a Tamil Diaspora organisation, that seeks accountability for both sides for the alleged serious crimes committed during the final stages of the civil war in Sri Lanka. In addition, ID advises the Council on how to effectively draw attention to the ongoing human rights abuses against the Tamil community in Sri Lanka.

**Western Sahara** • ID advises the political leadership of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), the Frente POLISARIO, on its objective of securing a self-determination referendum for the indigenous Saharawi people and reasserting control over Western Sahara's rich natural resources. Since the 1975 withdrawal of former colonial power Spain, Western Sahara has been occupied illegally by Morocco. ID's advice has had a significant impact on the SADR's foreign policy, in particular on efforts to highlight escalating human rights abuses in the territory and the illegal exploitation of phosphates and fisheries by Morocco and complicit foreign entities.

## Past Projects

ID's past clients have included the governments of **Croatia**, **Kosovo** and **Moldova**, the **Georgian Dream coalition**, the **National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma**, and the **Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus**. ID has also advised other organizations on the diplomatic aspects of their work, including Human Rights First, International Center for Transitional Justice, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Oxford Research Group, The Elders and World Wildlife Fund.

More information is available at [www.independentdiplomat.org](http://www.independentdiplomat.org).

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