

## ***Panelists bios***

**Dr Thania Paffenholz** is Senior Researcher and Project Coordinator at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding at the Graduate Institute. She is an internationally recognised expert in support of peace processes with 25 years of work experiences both as an academic and policy advisor. She has supported peace processes in many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin-American, advising the UN, the EU, the OSCE, the OECD/DAC as well as governments and non-governmental organisations. She also worked as Director of the Centre for Peacebuilding (KOFF) at Swisspeace in Bern, Switzerland, and at the European Commission in Kenya on the peace process in Somalia (1996-2000). She holds a PhD from the University of Frankfurt/Main Germany and her publications are widely read by academics and practitioners alike.

**Dr Katia Papagianni** is the Director for Policy and Mediation Support at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre). Her work focuses on the design of peace processes and, more specifically, on national dialogues and constitution-making processes. At the HD Centre, she has supported peace processes in countries including Liberia, Libya, Syria, Myanmar and the Philippines. She was seconded by the HD Centre to the United Nations in Yemen as an expert on national dialogue processes and, in that capacity, shared comparative insights on the preparation and structure of national dialogue efforts. Before joining the HD Centre, she worked for the National Democratic Institute, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human rights, and the UN Development Programme. Her experience includes work in Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iraq. She holds a doctorate in political science from Columbia University, New York, and has taught on peace- and state-building at Columbia University and the Geneva Graduate Institute for International Studies.

**Roxaneh Bazergan** is the focal point for guidance and mediation support for the Middle East and political transitions in the Mediation Support Unit, Policy and Mediation Division, UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA). She was recently on an extended mission to Yemen to assist the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General in supporting the Yemen National Dialogue Conference and has also supported mediation initiatives in Libya as well as trying to find entry points in Syria. Ms Bazergan was the lead drafter of the UN Guidance for Effective Mediation and is now developing guidance for DPA's support to national dialogues. She is also the focal point for partnerships and developing networks with mediation actors. Previously she has worked with the peacekeeping operation in Lebanon after the 2006 war, responsible for negotiations with the Israeli and Lebanese armed forces on marking the Line of Withdrawal and tripartite meetings on security issues, and in Policy and Planning in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Ms Bazergan has conducted extensive field-planning and assessment missions to peacekeeping operations, including in Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Haiti, Kosovo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan.