



MEDRC

Water | Environment | Peace



The MEDRC Conflict Resolution Model

MEDRC is an International Organization headquartered in Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman. Established in 1996 as part of the Middle East Peace Process it conducts environmental diplomacy, development cooperation, training, and research. It is mandated by Member States to:

- 1) Support the Middle East Peace Process
- 2) Find solutions to freshwater scarcity
- 3) Be a model organization for states seeking to use transboundary environmental issues in the service of a peace process.



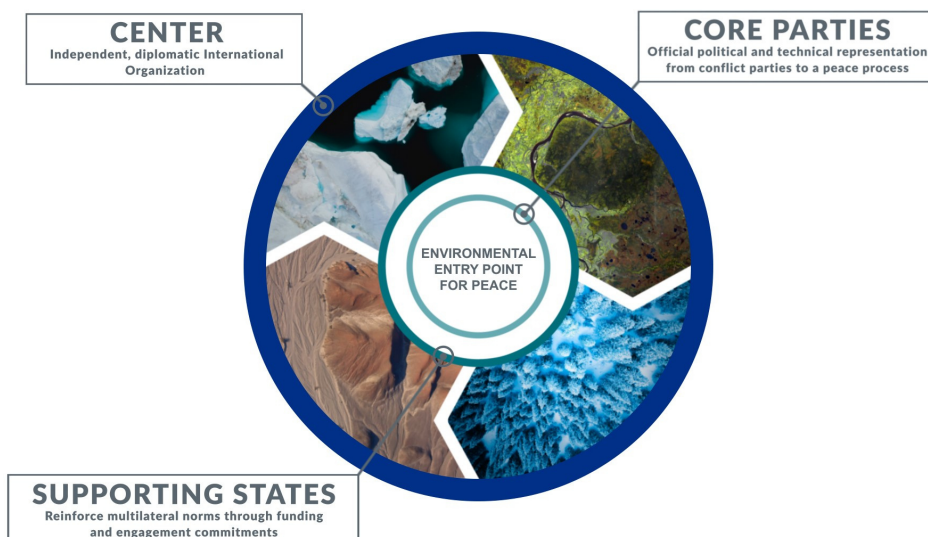
In 2022, MEDRC was mandated to further expand its focus to include all transboundary environmental issues including climate change and the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus.



To ensure that the institution also houses significant technical capacity, MEDRC operates commercial research and training programs in the GCC and wider MENA region. This work directly corresponds to the Center's second mandate. MEDRC operates a state-of-the-art research facility including training laboratories, seminar rooms, and a series of desalination, wastewater and renewable energy plants built especially for training and research purposes.

The MEDRC Conflict Resolution Model presents a unique resilient multilateral systems approach, that uses transboundary environmental issues in the service of a peace process. Today, it is the last remaining institution or process that survives from the multilateral track of the Middle East Peace Process.

Using transboundary water and the environment as an entry point, it requires all Member States to be joint owners, joint guarantors, and co-equal partners in the organization and its processes. In doing so, the framework enables resilient points of contact between diplomats and technical officials. Based on this multilateral approach, MEDRC convenes the Core Parties of the Middle East Peace Process around transboundary environmental issues.



Supporting States help set diplomatic norms, ensure good conduct by all members and support ongoing funding to the organization.

A clear but broad mandate allows the organization to work at the intersection of peace and transboundary environmental issues common to the Core Parties to the conflict. The nature and extent of initiatives undertaken depend on the state of the peace process.

MEDRC is recognized an autonomous non-profit international institution with international juridical personality. Oman as the Host State, recognizes the inviolability of the Headquarters Seat, guaranteeing freedom of assembly and full freedom of discussions and decisions at meetings convened by the Center in relation to its official activities. Furthermore, to remain operationally and tactically independent, the organization ensures that multiple funding streams are present at all times.

Government participation and leadership provides the ability to include the broad spectrum of technical, academic, state agency and system-wide expertise and coordination as required. It links progress in water directly to all other elements or final status areas for discussion between governments. Practically, this structure facilitates the success of initiatives undertaken through the mechanism - official buy-in, visa support, access to contested spaces, ready access to clearances and permissions, etc.

For developing country members, MEDRC engages in bilateral programs that assist in addressing capacity disparities that may hinder socio-economic development and a balanced peace process. Furthermore, these bilateral programs serve as a confidence-building measure for officials from those states.

These programs include developing in-country university research capacity through fellowship awards for graduate student, targeted applied research projects, and strategic equipment funding as well as targeted trainings, which help to bridge the knowledge and capacity gaps of institutions.



As part of MEDRC's third mandate to be a model organization, the MEDRC Stabilization Project, supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, is developing and disseminating the MEDRC model for ongoing conflict areas internationally. As a working model, there are lessons that can be learnt from MEDRC's mandate, strategy and overall approach, especially when considering how the framework can be replicable in other conflict-affected regions.





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