

Preface

The purpose of this publication is to better understand why intrastate peace agreements are being badly implemented or not implemented at all, to gain insight into what parties and other actors in intrastate peace processes currently do to prevent non-implementation, and to explore what more can be done to promote effective and satisfactory implementation of intrastate peace agreements in the future.

The chapters address these issues from different perspectives, corresponding to the background and specific experiences of their respective authors. The authors write from personal experience with intrastate peace processes and autonomy arrangements. Some were involved in the negotiation and implementation of agreements, while others played third party roles in these processes. These experiences are complemented by empirical and comparative analysis.

The information presented in the first chapter is based on the authors' experiences as well as those of other high level diplomats, leaders of parties in intrastate conflicts, international lawyers and representatives of international organisations, all of whom were personally involved in intrastate peace processes. Work on this book began with the engagement by Kreddha and the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya of these individuals in their personal capacity in a five day meeting in Sitges, Spain.¹ A wealth of experiences derived from knowledge of and experience with some fifty or more peace processes was shared at that meeting and is reflected here. Some situations are discussed in great detail in the book's chapters, such as those relating to the implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, the Northern Ireland process, Tibetan experiences, the settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims of Maori groups in New Zealand, and the implementation of agreements in Macedonia and South Tyrol. But experiences gained in many other processes, including those in Sri Lanka, East Timor, Bougainville, the Crimea, Georgia, Catalonia, Nagaland, Moldova, Albania, Russia and the Balkans were equally instrumental in reaching an understanding of the problem and the development of ideas to face and overcome the tremendous challenge of implementation in intrastate peace processes.

It is hoped that the many experiences shared and discussed in this volume will contribute to the creation of a situation in which political negotiations become the preferred way to end intrastate conflicts and to bring about change.

¹ Short biographies of the authors and other contributors are found on page 323.

This would be possible if an international climate were created in which state governments as well as non-state parties would be expected and required to fully implement agreements just as they are required to comply with international treaties and other (enforceable and legally binding) commitments. Considering that most of the armed conflicts that rage in the world today are conflicts within states, governments, international organisations, appropriate international courts and tribunals as well as non-governmental entities and organisations should focus some of their energies and resources to contribute in a meaningful way to give intrastate peace processes and agreements a real chance.