



Independent Diplomat

a diplomatic service for those who need it most

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Universal Right of Address

Independent Diplomat has recently initiated a new campaign to improve the function of the United Nations Security Council. We are calling for the introduction of what we call the "Universal Right of Address": that all parties (as defined by the UN) to disputes on the Council agenda have the opportunity to address the Council's meetings directly, but also hear directly the Council's views.

This project, our first foray into advocacy, is inspired by the experiences of our clients. Four of our current clients are parties to conflicts on the agenda of the Security Council, but none has access to the Council. Their voices are ignored by the very body that is tasked to make decisions about their future. An obvious example is case of Kosovo, whose democratically-elected (and UN-supported) government was excluded from Council discussion of Kosovo for most of the final status process.

We believe that such an innovation will give the Council a better basis for its decisions, improve its communication with the parties to disputes before it, and thereby help the Council be more accessible, effective and legitimate. Our initial contacts with our clients, UN members - both inside and outside of the Security Council - and other interested parties have been met with much interest and support for our idea. We will keep you updated as the project develops further.

When most of the conflict in the twenty-first century is inside rather than between states, it's time for the Security Council to deal with this reality.

Resumption of Negotiations in Cyprus

President Talat of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) and the Greek Cypriot President Christofias recently agreed to re-open Ledra Street in central Nicosia, an important symbol of unification, and to resume full negotiations over the next few months. Independent Diplomat will be supporting the Turkish Cypriot leadership in the negotiations process. This follows closely upon the publication of a letter from President Talat expressing the TRNC's wish for good faith negotiation toward reunification of the island of Cyprus. You can find a copy of this letter [here](#).

Sergio Vieira de Mello and the United Nations

Carne Ross recently reviewed Samantha Power's new book, *Chasing the Flame: Sergio Vieira de Mello and the Fight to Save the World* in the 13 March 2008 New Statesman. The review takes issue with Power's conclusion that dignity should be the goal of international intervention and engagement. You can read the full article on their website [here](#).

ID Seeks African Diplomat to Open Addis Ababa Office

Independent Diplomat is looking for an experienced African diplomat to establish a presence for us at the African Union in Addis Ababa. If you have suggestions or would like to apply, please contact us at Edward.Mason@independentdiplomat.org.

For further information, please contact Independent Diplomat at info@independentdiplomat.org.