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Analysis of multiparty mediation processes

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Analysis of Multiparty Mediation Processes

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Propositions:

1. In multiparty mediation processes, cooperative behavior among third parties proves to be not only beneficial for the conflict management process, but also for the involved third parties themselves, as rational actors driven to get involved on the basis of their self-interests.
2. Cooperative behavior sends a strong signal to the disputing parties that the mediating coalition is fully committed to manage the conflict, which directly increases the chances for success.
3. Cooperative behavior between mediators is directly linked to the commitment of conflicting sides in the peace process, as potential defection by one of the mediators will induce a conflicting party with which it has close (i.e. biased) relations to defect from the negotiations.
4. Cooperation is a dynamic process. Throughout the peace process, parties may alternate their strategies from cooperation to defection, and vice versa.
5. Change in mediators' behavior can be induced by at least three mechanisms: large geopolitical shifts, changes in conflict dynamics, and the bargaining process between third parties; these mechanisms can induce the convergence of interests.
6. As mediators are rational actors driven by self-interest, convergence of preferences is the key ingredient to achieve cooperation between mediators.
7. The game theoretical model (developed in this dissertation) indicates that cooperation can be seen as a strategy generating more utility for third parties than defection, once the multiparty mediation efforts have set in.
8. In order to manage (and hopefully resolve) international conflicts, they first need to be carefully studied, as any omission in understanding them might cause most catastrophic consequences.
9. Living and working across the world is professionally stimulating, culturally fulfilling, academically thought-provoking, and emotionally challenging.
10. He who dares wins.