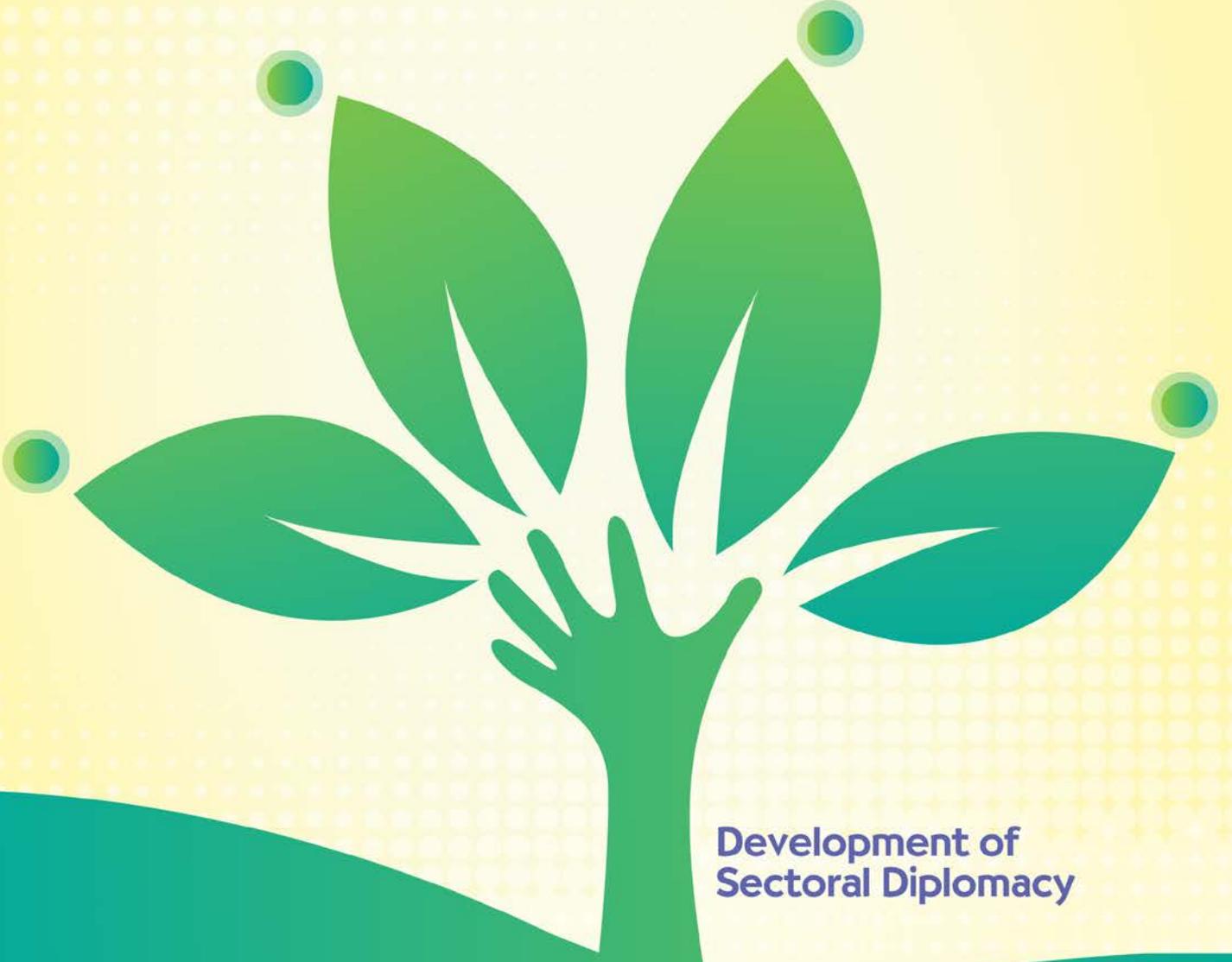




SECTORAL  
DIPLOMATIC  
CHANNELS



Development of  
Sectoral Diplomacy

# BELIEF DIPLOMACY

## STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT

# **BELIEF DIPLOMACY**

### **“Development of Sectoral Diplomacy”**

Belief is one of the most important factors in the individual lives of people and political communities almost in all over the world. Belief is a phenomenon that should be considered by determinants in the foreign policy as ideology and national profit. There are requirements to well-thought detailed strategies for addressing the beliefs by actors dealing with the public diplomacy. However, it is seen that policies and in general the public opinion haven't made so many efforts to understand historical dimension and multilateral nature of belief diplomacy. Beliefs, which can't be correctly understood or haven't been well-accepted in general, have been demonized.

Prejudiced culture and approaches developed in laic/secular countries have been ignoring beliefs to be considered as needed and to develop proper policies. Hence, units that deal with religious problems in the ministries of foreign affairs haven't been existed or have been highly insufficient. By considering the effect of religion in the international area, it will be seen that this situation has been forming a serious dilemma.

In the result of new developments in the communication and transportation technologies, the interaction among beliefs has increased; the representatives of belief have begun to voice more. In this point, people dealing with the public diplomacy is supposed to interest also with beliefs and to develop convenient strategies for determinants in the area called as belief diplomacy. Actually, church members who were withdrawn from domestic policy in modern periods have focused into the outer world; and have been an active “belief diplomat” by using also new financial savings gained by their countries.

Today, it is visible that China has been trying to strengthen its diplomatic activities by using Buddhism and other beliefs specific to the Far East. So, belief diplomacy can be defined as public diplomacy that considers religious anxieties in the applications of international relations. Belief diplomacy is an approach that deals with religious factors as an important factor in the solution of problems based on identity, which can't be solved in the traditional diplomacy models.

On the other hand, the majority of conflicts seen especially in Balkans, Caucasus, the Middle East, North Africa and South Africa has a religious aspect. In the solution of these problems, having a peaceful dialogue with persons or institutions whose have a high representation capability and a capacity to affect addicts of a certain religious belief or sect will accelerate the solution of these problems and will decrease their cost.

Belief diplomacy has been maintained by the aim of forming a bridge between the political and religious areas; organizing activities to remove the communication gap among religion or sect members; and informing in case of the development of dogmas, views, thoughts, and peace causing conflicts and discussions. During the activities of belief diplomacy, it is told that it isn't certainly supposed to perceive some obligations sourced by the nature of politics as the opposition of religion.

Each individual lives in a meaning world even if s/he depends on a religion or sect, or not. We can mention that the amount of meaning worlds has been the same as with the amount of living individuals in the world. However, the human as a social and even a political living creature provides the expressions of the meaning worlds of individuals with common terms. This association creates the perception of “identity”. One of the most important factors that define common identity is the religion. People has been trying to relate and legitimize all done with this meaning world. When this meaning world falls, life becomes nonsense and even the reason to live disappears, so in the following step it becomes so easy for people to drag themselves or others to death. One of the main principles of belief diplomacy should be to care the meaning worlds, which keep individuals and so communities alive, in case not to be harmed while national profits have been activated and necessary steps for protecting international systemic stability are taken. Thus, religious beliefs have been one of the main reasons of conflicts called as asymmetric war in today. Otherwise, more developed weapons that can make present weapons silent, but it will be impossible to end conflicts as long as the thoughts or beliefs behind these weapons keep their vitality.

Actually the aim of diplomacy is to affect rival/enemy by official representatives without applying violence. The aim of public diplomacy is to affect interlocutor public opinions by informing with the ways as language education, exchange programs for students/instructors, leadership programs for international visitors etc. New tendency in public diplomacy is in the direction of treating proactively towards to the development of relation. And that makes obligatory to connect with religious leaders and ordinary public by the aim of society development based on multi-principles such as life in tolerance, respect, peace all together.

According to the interaction between domestic politics and international relations, the fact that the curriculum, propagandas or other information kinds done for citizens etc. will have several reflections in the international area, should be considered and domestic political applications should be revised.

On the other hand, usage of religion as a tool is different from the sincere respect for beliefs and organization of foreign policy applications under this frame. The Western tradition has developed a culture that can sacrifice profits in general; and all values for national profits in special. Thus, the expression as “sharing limited sources according to unlimited requirements” placed in the expression of modern economics has been revealing this dilemma. The most important reason of crisis and dilemmas in our period is that fact. The way of avoiding from these crisis and dilemmas is not repeating the tradition of instrumentalization of all including religion that is formed in West; but it is to develop approaches respecting human and all humanitarian values. And its first condition is the sincerity. We should develop an approach that sincerely believes the development of world by humanitarian thoughts and beliefs instead of that believes the development of world by individual or national profits. This sincerity will be the most important capital of representatives of belief diplomacy while gaining hearts in the following periods.

It is supposed to give privileges to the principles and activities such as organizing activities that bring diplomats, religious functionaries and academicians together by the aim of ignoring radicalism in the context of belief diplomacy; increasing the interaction with persons who have the quality of opinion leader; developing relations with nongovernmental organizations; establishing several special commissions specific to problem areas.

In this context, we hope **the Studies of Belief Diplomacy**, which will be held in the content of **Civil Global 2015-2023-2053** “Development Program of Global Civil Diplomacy”, will provide multilateral profits and important contributions on the development of cooperation opportunities in the national and international area by the proactive approaches.

## **Main Theme**

**“Development of Sectoral Diplomacy”**

## **Sub Themes**

**Historical Perspective: Belief and Diplomacy**

**Communication, Transportation and Belief Diplomacy**

**Non-State Actors, Non-Governmental Organizations and Belief Diplomacy**

**Opinion Leaders and Belief Diplomacy**

**Solution of Conflict and Belief Diplomacy**

**Academic Activities and Belief Diplomacy**

**New Approaches in Diplomacy and Belief Diplomacy**

**Belief Diplomacy in the Context of Interaction of Domestic and Foreign Politics**

**Rising Powers (China, India, Russia, Brazil etc.) and Belief Diplomacy**