

## CEASEFIRE MANAGEMENT

### DEFINITION

Ceasefire management is the process through which the conflict parties coordinate and supervise the implementation of terms set out in the ceasefire agreement and handle the inevitable incidents that arise during this process.

### CEASEFIRE IMPLEMENTATION

- Requires the conflict parties to agree on how their ceasefire will be managed.
- The most common and effective way of managing a ceasefire is through a system of joint ceasefire management, often requires the creation of **new institutional and organizational arrangements**
  - Ex. Joint Commission

### JOINT MILITARY/CEASEFIRE COMMISSION

- Structure: Ideally should be defined by the ceasefire agreement.
  - May involve an integrated command body, or a system of liaison officers.

- Staff: Composed of representatives from both conflict parties, though it may often be chaired by a neutral third party. It is a military body, though it can sometimes be supported by civilian and civil society groups.
  - Often requires capacity building
- Mission: Holding the parties to the obligations agreed in the content of the ceasefire. The Commission oversees the ceasefire implementation process, but always reports to the conflict parties' higher political authorities—those responsible for the overall peace process. It also handles incidents that arise, and creates a forum where parties can discuss and negotiate their different preferences and understandings on how the process should develop.

### **IMPORTANCE OF CEASEFIRE MANAGEMENT**

A ceasefire management system or commission is needed because it often takes time for parties to build trust in one another and fully cease all violent activities. Parties need time and space to work together to build confidence in each other and the process, and the capacity and capabilities to move towards peace. This includes building functional channels of communication.

### **IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS**

The implementation of a ceasefire centers around planned and phased compliance, so that all parties understand their obligations, and those of their opponent, and includes deciding on the application, sequencing and implementation procedures for prohibitions and control mechanisms, including:

- Which areas will be demilitarized,

- Which areas will have restrictions on the numbers of forces or types of weapons,
- Which areas will be inaccessible to different parties,
- Which areas will be placed under the control of different actors,
- If there will be any buffer zones or humanitarian corridors,
- If there will be additional road openings or opened trade routes for civilian use,
- How disengagement, redeployments, assembly and cantonment of military forces will occur,
- How the implementation of other procedures to improve conditions for the civilian population will occur.

And the applicability and application of possible mutual threat reduction measures, such as:

- No fly zones,
- Air base lockdowns,
- Restrictions on deployment of weapons
- Limitations on the supply and rotation of troops.