



ICRC

**Presentation of the Humanitarian Negotiation Exchange Platform (HNx)
and
Strategic Partnership in Humanitarian Negotiations and Mediations**

by

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Purpose of frontline negotiations

- ▶ Establishing a **presence** in a new/ hostile environment
- ▶ Negotiating **access** in contested territory/ frontlines
- ▶ Development of a **new protection/ assistance programs** in a situation of violence
- ▶ Increasing **safety and security** measures surrounding operations
- ▶ Negotiation for the **release of hostage(s)**

Some examples of frontline negotiations

- ▶ Negotiation to **airlift medicine into Yemen**



- ▶ Negotiation to **evacuate civilians under siege in Syria**



- ▶ Negotiation of **access to displaced populations in Northern Mali**



Project Premises

- ▶ **Specific nature** of humanitarian negotiations
 - ▶ Transactional versus relationships management
- ▶ Un-tapped **informal knowledge**
- ▶ Isolation of negotiators – **lack of shared experiences**
- ▶ Insufficient in-house **capacity building**
- ▶ Need to support **expanding community of practice**

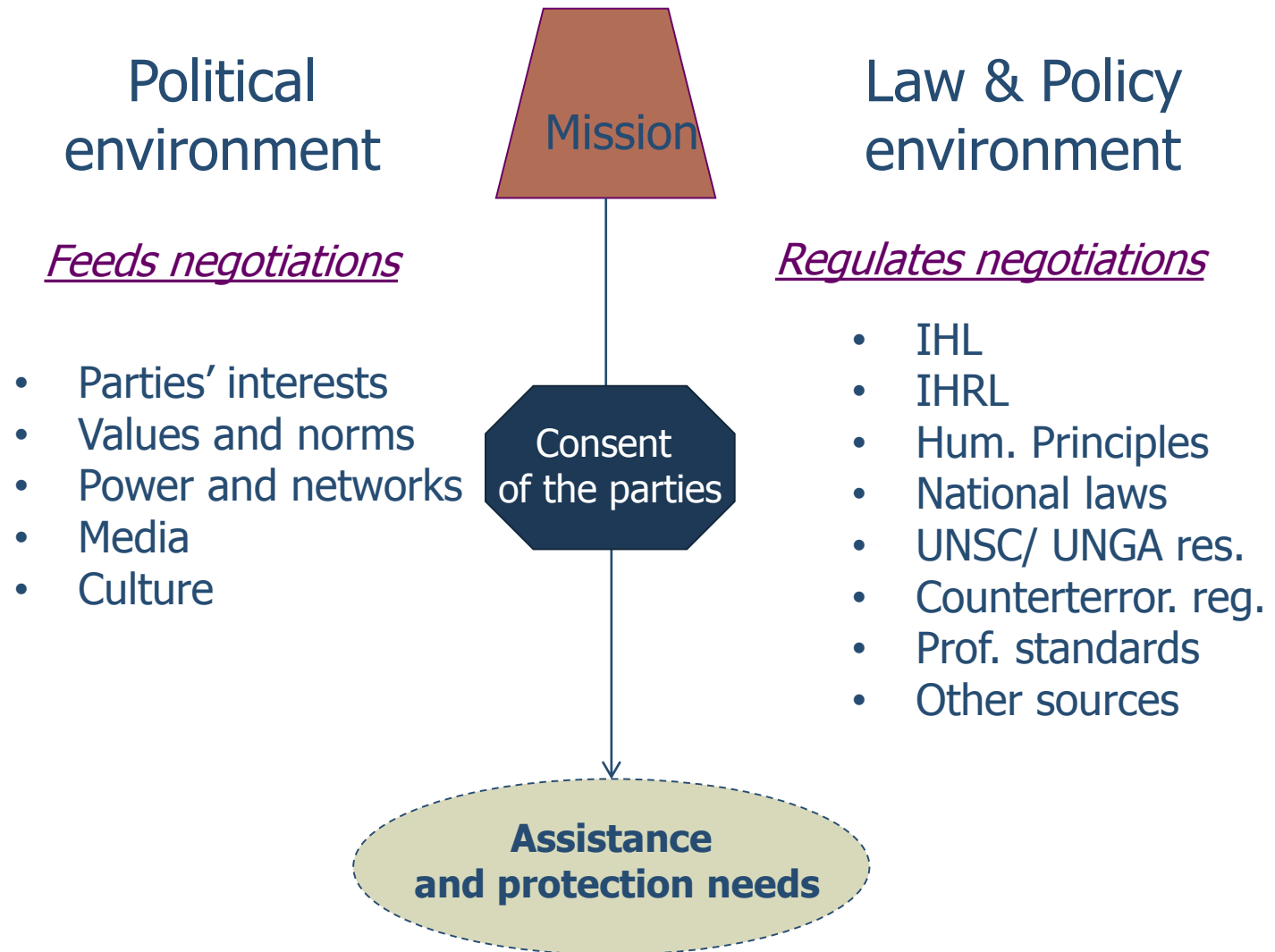
Humanitarian Negotiation Exchange Platform (HNx)

- **A community-based initiative** launched in 2014
- **Provide an informal space** for ICRC negotiators to share their experiences and reflections
- **Study of recurring practical dilemmas and challenges**
- **An experiential learning platform** that moves beyond negotiation concepts and theory
- **A hub to facilitate networking among negotiators**

Challenges and dilemmas of humanitarian negotiation practice

- ▶ **Paradoxical issue:** Promoting respect of international norms while seeking the consent of parties to operate;
- ▶ **Increasingly peripheral,** contextual, political activity;
- ▶ **Limited analysis or discussion** at a policy level;
- ▶ **Minimal understanding of challenges, dilemmas and strategies** across regions and themes, as well as organizations.

Multifaceted nature of humanitarian negotiations: At the crossroads of legal and political environments



Results of the Research so far

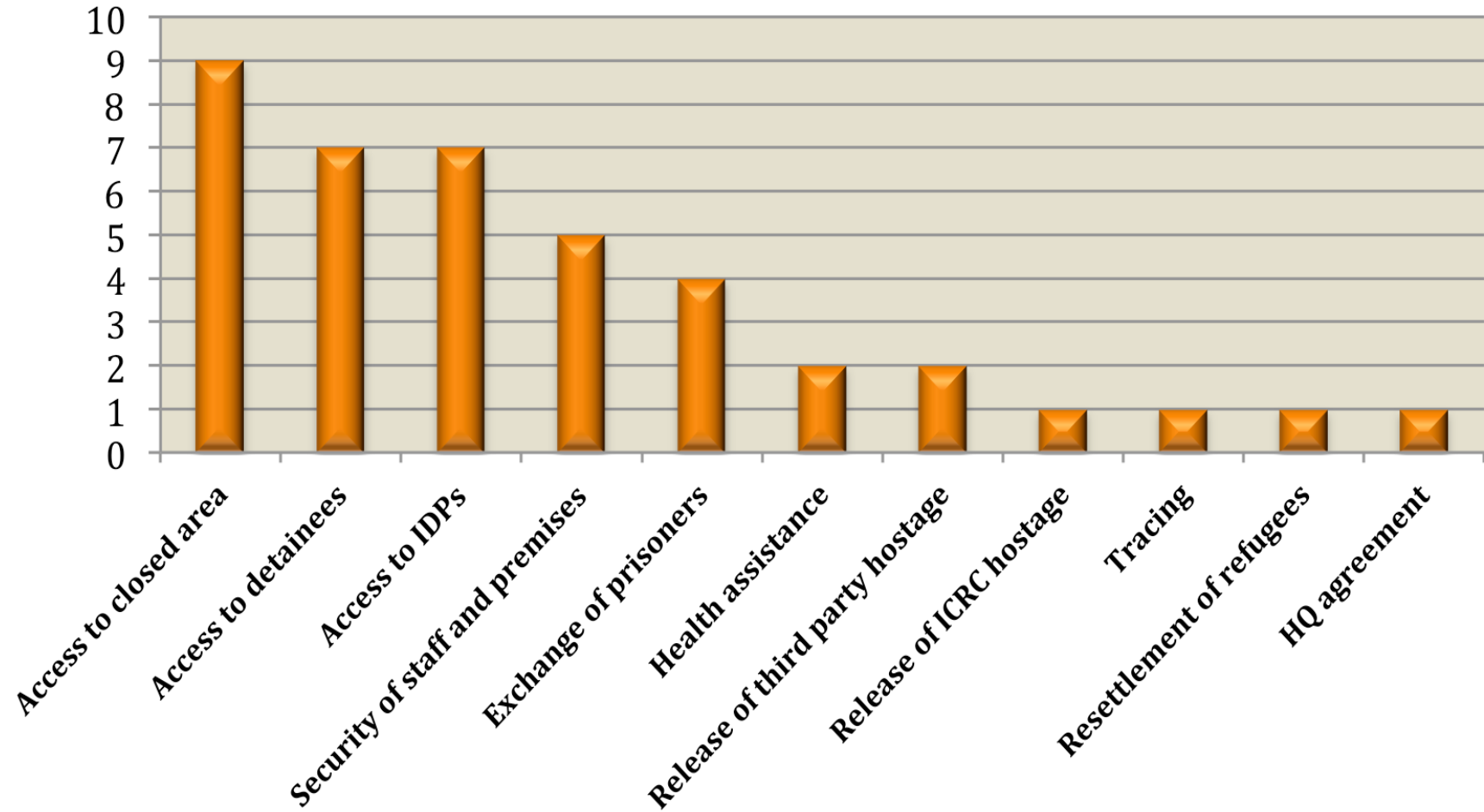
Capture and analysis

- ▶ Over 60 interviews of current and former ICRC negotiators completed
- ▶ Creation of an analytical database of the interviews
- ▶ Elaboration of two reviews of literature on humanitarian negotiation
- ▶ Set-up a scientific committee

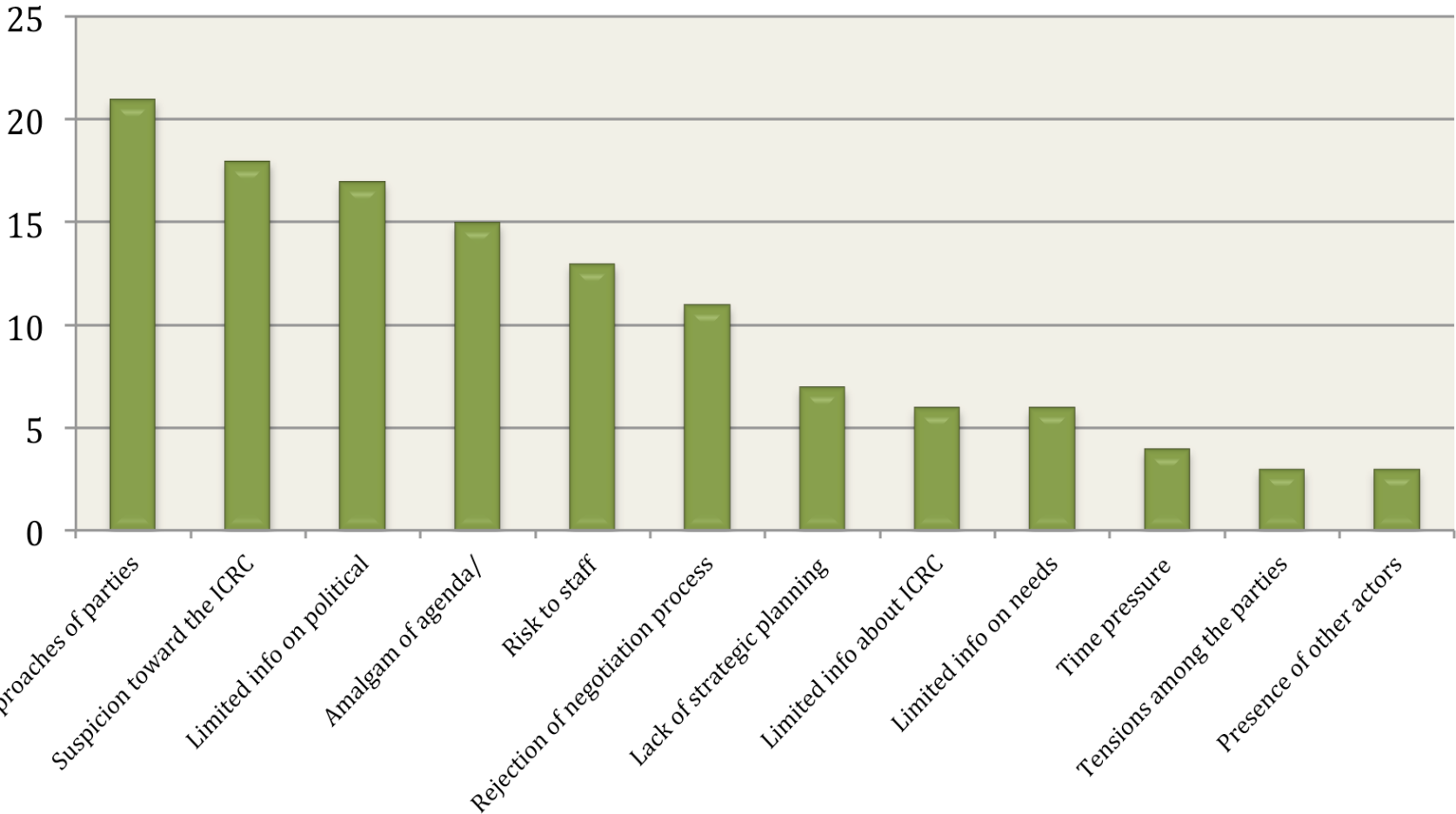
Peer-to-peer exchanges

- ▶ Field workshops and annual meeting

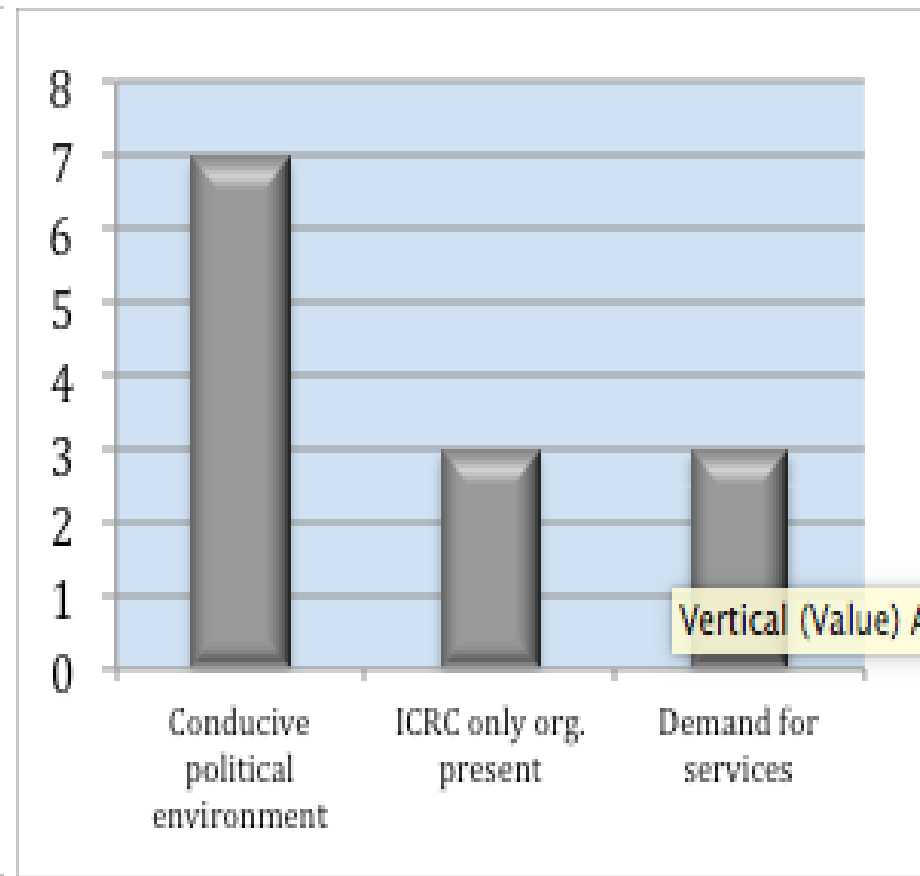
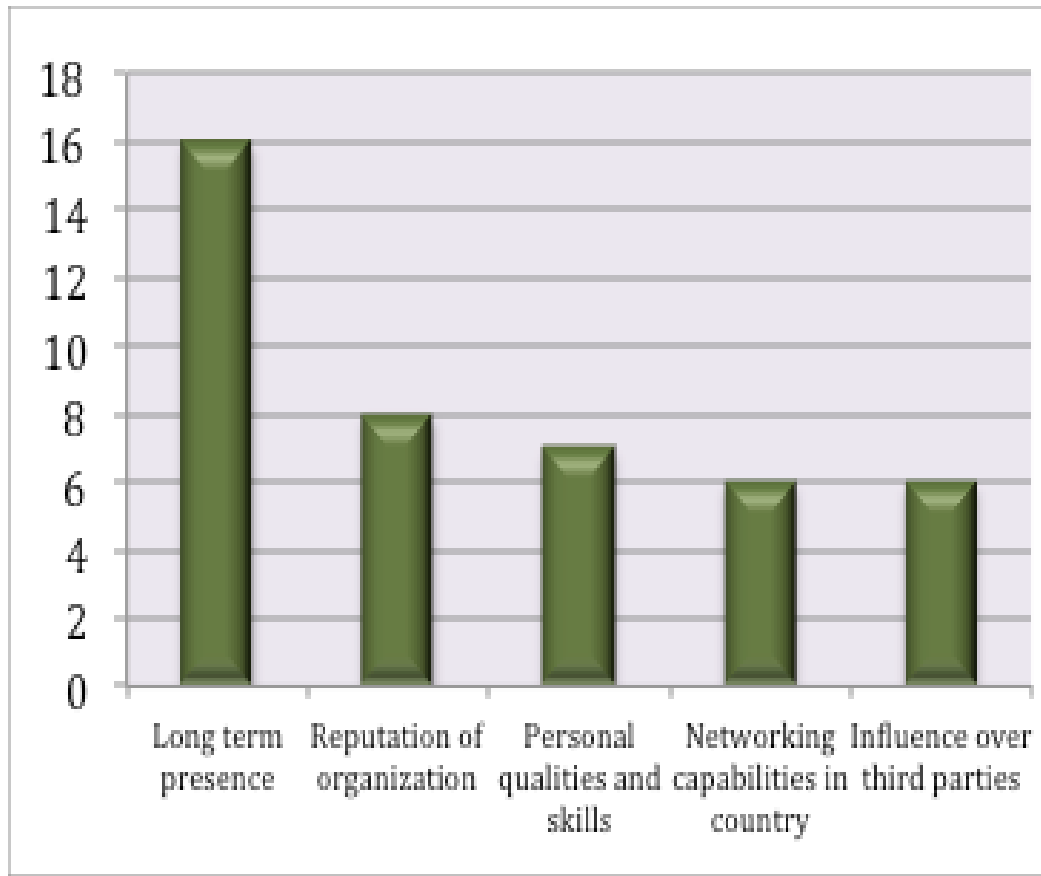
Area of Humanitarian Negotiations



Main challenges for Humanitarian Negotiators



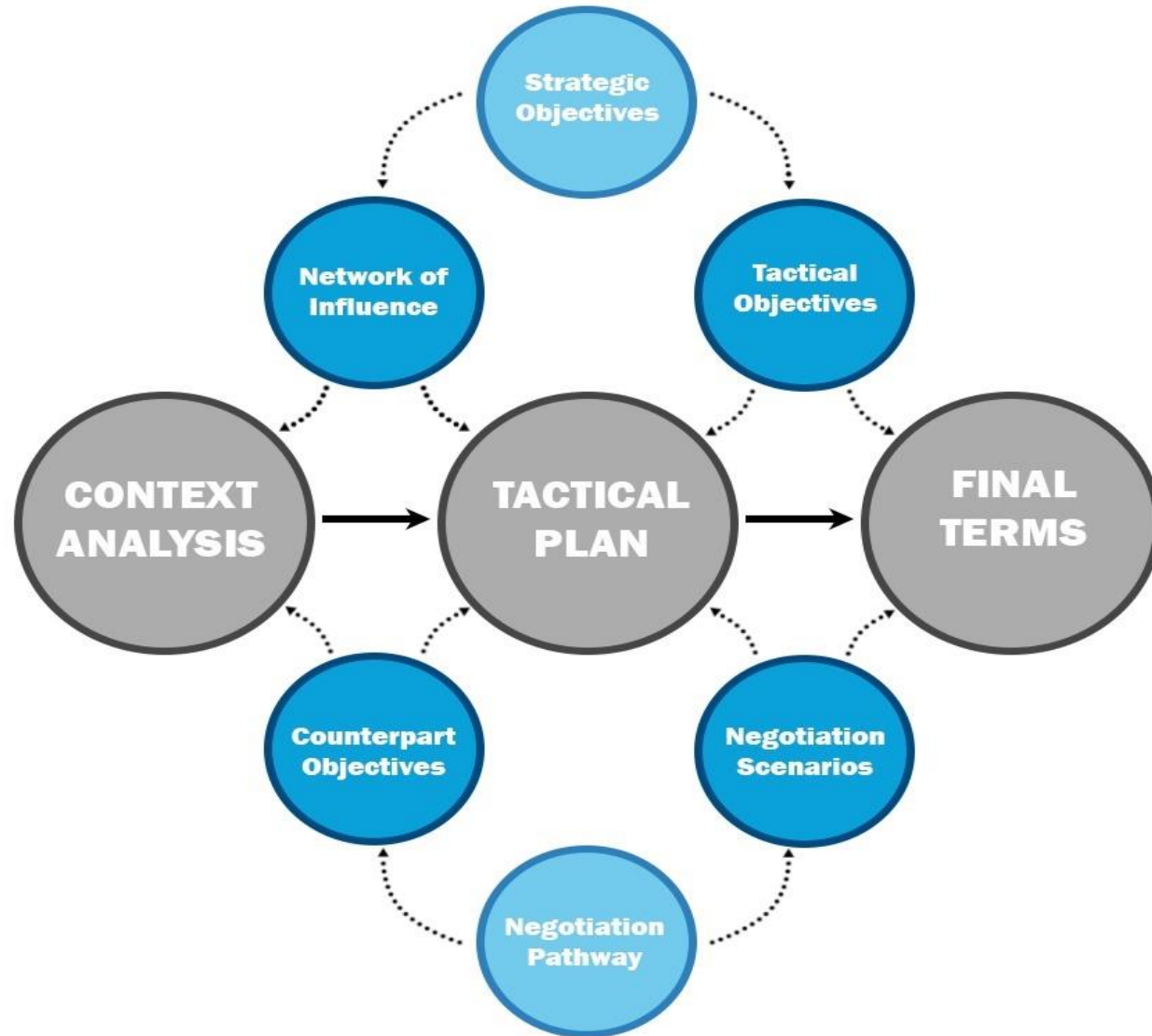
Enablers of Humanitarian Negotiations



Recurring dilemmas

- ▶ Principled versus pragmatic approach
- ▶ Short term results versus long term relationships
- ▶ Neutrality versus Political agility
- ▶ Confidentiality versus transparency

Analytical Tools: “Naivasha” Grid





From **ICRC HNx** to

Strategic Partnership on Humanitarian Negotiations and Mediations



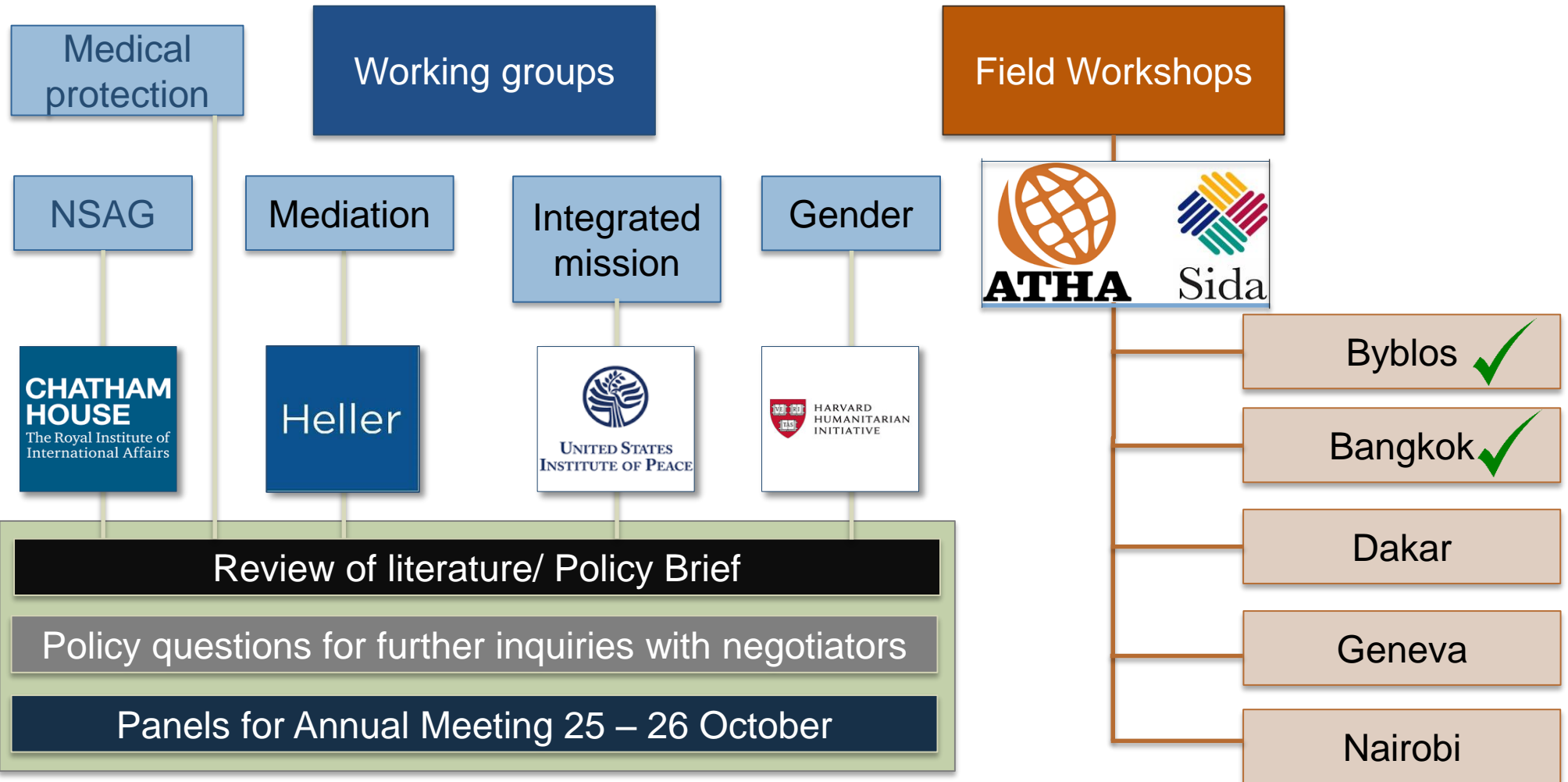
Mission of the Centre of Competence in Humanitarian Negotiations

- ▶ **Promote critical reflections**, learning and informal exchanges on frontline negotiation and mediation activities among humanitarian professionals;
- ▶ **Support** the development of a stronger **analytical framework** and greater capacity for effective humanitarian negotiation and mediation practice,
- ▶ **Foster a community of practice** among humanitarian professionals engaged in frontline negotiations and mediations.

2016 Planned Activities of the Centre of Competence

Main Objectives for 2016:

- Connect professionals to negotiation tools & methods
- Identify priority areas for further development
- Network with academic and policy circles



Medical protection

Working groups

Field Workshops

NSAG

Mediation

Integrated mission

Gender



CHATHAM HOUSE
The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Heller



Byblos ✓

Bangkok ✓

Dakar

Geneva

Nairobi

Review of literature/ Policy Brief

Policy questions for further inquiries with negotiators

Panels for Annual Meeting 25 – 26 October



- First Annual Meeting of Frontline Negotiators: 25 – 26 October 2016 at La Pastorale
- Official Launch of the Centre of Competence: 25 October 18h00 at the Humanitarium

For more information and registration: <http://www.frontline-negotiations.org>



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