

**FAST-TRACK NEGOTIATION:** Mark Freeman, November 2024

1. When it comes to preventing and ending situations of widespread violence, there is a dominant paradigm (i.e., an accepted wisdom) about the “correct” or “ideal” way to negotiate.
2. Though noble in intent, the paradigm’s core principles and practices – in aggregate – produce slow negotiation and rely on slowness-inducing assumptions.
3. This makes the paradigm an increasingly obsolete mismatch with the urgent local needs and speed of deterioration typical of most situations in today’s highly fragmented conflict landscape.
4. A new and different paradigm – “**fast-track negotiation**” – is required.
5. The fast-track paradigm will rely on principles, practices and assumptions that promise greater speed and realism and thus help to restore the utility of negotiation in preventing and ending situations of widespread violence.
6. A prototype of fast-track negotiation – including its expected risks and benefits – will be published soon and will broadly follow the contours of today's presentation. For more information, please visit this webpage: <https://ifit-transitions.org/initiative-on-fast-track-negotiation/>