Preventive Diplomacy:

Introduction:

- The 1992 Agenda for Peace defines preventive diplomacy as “action to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of the latter when they occur.”
- Article 33 of the UN Charter lists mediation, conciliation, enquiry, and resort to regional agencies and arrangements alongside negotiation, arbitration, and judicial settlement as means by which the parties shall peacefully settle their dispute if its continuation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Since the end of the Cold War the international community through international institutions has been focusing on preventive diplomacy. As the United Nations and regional organizations as well as global and regional powers discovered the high costs of managing conflict, there is a strong common perception of benevolence of preventive diplomacy.
- Preventive diplomacy actions can be implemented by the UN, regional organizations, NGO networks and individual states. It was the first UN preventive action.
- One of the examples of preventive diplomacy is the UN peacekeeping mission in Macedonia (UNPREDEP) in 1995–1999.

Objective of preventive diplomacy:

- The first objective of preventive diplomacy is to facilitate cooperative problem solving among the parties through the pursuit of mediation, facilitation, or good offices.
- Preventive diplomacy can seek to alter the disputing factions’ incentive structure. Conditional incentives, threats of sanctions and of the use of
force, and public diplomacy all change the parties’ calculations of the benefits of seeking confrontation or cooperation with the other side.

- Preventive diplomacy may include actions that seek to strengthen moderates and manage spoilers within each side’s leadership, through assistance, threats, and sanctions.
- By imposing arms embargoes and targeted sanctions, and by employing preventive peacekeeping, third-parties can also restrict the parties’ capacity and willingness to wage war. Preventive diplomacy has traditionally been a central component of conflict prevention.

**Conflict Prevention includes:**

- Monitoring and/or intervening to stabilize a potentially violent conflict before its outbreak by initiating activities that address the root causes as well as the triggers of a dispute.
- Establishing mechanisms that detect early warning signs and record specific indicators that may help to predict impending violence.
- Using planned coordination to prevent the creation of conflict when delivering humanitarian aid and in the process of development.
- Institutionalizing the idea of preventing conflict at the local, regional, and international levels.

**Tools for Conflict Prevention:**

**Official Tools:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mediation</th>
<th>Unilateral good will gestures</th>
<th>Crisis and war diplomacy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>· Negotiations</td>
<td>· Conflict prevention</td>
<td>· Coercive diplomacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Conciliation</td>
<td>or management centers</td>
<td>· Diplomatic recognition</td>
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<td>· Good offices</td>
<td>· Special envoys</td>
<td>· Withdrawal of recognition</td>
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<td>· Informal consultations</td>
<td>· Diplomatic sanctions</td>
<td>· Certification/decertification</td>
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<td>· Peace conferences</td>
<td>· International appeal/condemnation</td>
<td>· Hot lines</td>
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**Military Tools:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preventive peacekeeping forces</th>
<th>Alternative defense strategies</th>
<th>Arms embargoes or blockades</th>
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<tr>
<td>· Restructuring/integration of military forces</td>
<td>· Confidence-building and security measures</td>
<td>· Threat or projection of force</td>
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<td>· Professionalization/reform of armed forces</td>
<td>· Non-aggression agreements</td>
<td>· Disarmament</td>
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<td>· Demobilization and reintegration of armed forces</td>
<td>· Collective security or cooperation arrangements</td>
<td>· Arms control agreements</td>
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<td>· Military aid</td>
<td>· Deterrence</td>
<td>· Arms proliferation control</td>
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<td>· Military-to-military programs</td>
<td>· Demilitarized zones</td>
<td>· Crisis management procedures</td>
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<td>· Limited military intervention</td>
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<td>Peace enforcement</td>
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**Economic and Social Tools:**

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<th>Development assistance</th>
<th>Joint projects</th>
<th>Economic sanctions</th>
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<tr>
<td>· Economic reforms</td>
<td>· Private economic investment</td>
<td>· Economic sanctions</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Economic and resource cooperation</td>
<td>· Health assistance</td>
<td>· Humanitarian assistance</td>
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<td>· Inter-communal trade</td>
<td>· Agricultural programs</td>
<td>· Repatriation or resettlement of refugees and displaced people</td>
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<td>· Aid conditionality</td>
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