

TARGETTED MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE TASK FORCE ON INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO COMPLEX DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Background

On 30 April 2012, Larry Bridgesmith proposed to Manon Schonewille and Jeremy Lack the setting up of a Task Force to examine the application of Legal Project Management (LPM) to assist in the resolution of complex international disputes. This followed Ross Sydney's presentation to the IC on 21 April 2012 concerning the application of systemic thinking to such disputes.

On 2 May 2012, Manon and Jeremy proposed to Larry and Ross that they collaborate in a project for the IC to investigate using interdisciplinary tools (outside of the legal field) such as systemic thinking and LPM in designing ADR processes in complex cases and initiating such processes. Larry and Ross accepted this proposal, and have commenced that collaboration.

On 18 May 2012, in agreeing to a request from Larry and Ross to assist with calling for contributors to the Task Force's deliberations, Manon and Jeremy proposed a theme for the Task Force:

"If, when and how mediators, conciliators and arbitrators could work together in organizing hybrid ADR processes to achieve cheaper, faster or better outcomes". (This is the theme for the IC's Spring 2013 meeting in Chicago, and something which will be discussed in September in Geneva).

In keeping with the objectives and theme proposed by Manon and Jeremy for the Task Force, Larry and Ross have framed the following mission statement to provide a specific target and focus for the near-and-medium term activities of the Task Force.

Mission Statement

The Interdisciplinary Task Force will work towards the progressive development of an integrated set of web-based software tools to assist in the collaborative planning and execution of resolutions to complex disputes across wide geographical areas. This integrated set of web-based software tools will be called "WIDRE", an acronym for the "Web-based Interdisciplinary Dispute Resolution Environment."

WIDRE - Vision

WIDRE will be an integrated set of web-based software modules which collaborating teams across wide geographical areas can use to assist in the effective planning and execution of the resolution of complex disputes. As well as communication tools and other standard collaborative functions, users will have global, mutual, integrated, convenient and immediate access to specific procedures,

processes, knowledge-bases, and training, together with contact details and references to published works of experts in such disciplines as ADR, law, global cultural information, psychology, other social sciences, legal project management, systemic thinking, neuroscience, history, geography, demography and other relevant fields.

Near Term Activities

Larry's organisation has developed a web-based collaborative LPM tool which can form the nucleus of WIDRE. Larry will be investigating how current specific ADR knowledge, processes and tools might be incorporated in WIDRE. Larry will similarly be investigating how neuroscience material might be incorporated in WIDRE by virtue of its application to specific case studies.

Ross will commence the development of a WIDRE Concept of Operations. In plain English, the Concept of Operations will explain in greater detail how the various modules of WIDRE will function and interact and how users will collaboratively make use of WIDRE as a system. This is the first stage of the progressive engineering development of the WIDRE system. The WIDRE Concept of Operations will thereby be a specific focus and repository of input from people of all disciplines to the activities of the Task Force as sought by the IC.