

THE DIPLOMATIC ADVISORY GROUP

Annual Report 2025

INDEPENDENT DIPLOMAT





ABOUT THIS REPORT

A year of inclusive diplomacy

Independent Diplomat (ID) is a non-profit diplomatic advisory group that helps those most affected by crises and conflict access the high-level political discussions about them. In 2025, ID advanced this mission across three pillars – Systems Change, Global Threats, and Conflict Resolution – while navigating one of the most volatile global environments in our history. As traditional diplomatic channels came under mounting pressure and international attention narrowed, ID's role in amplifying marginalized voices and opening alternative pathways for diplomatic progress became more vital than ever.

Current diplomatic structures provide little space for the voices of the most vulnerable. Ethnic minorities, political opposition groups, women, and refugees are regularly excluded from the debates that determine their future – and agreements that fail to serve the interests of all parties eventually fall apart. ID exists to change that: by building the diplomatic capacity of marginalized groups and democratic governments, we help create more inclusive, just, and lasting peace processes and international agreements.

This report covers Independent Diplomat's work globally. ID consists of three legal entities that share a common charitable mission and strategy – a United States 501(c)(3) nonprofit, a United Kingdom charity, and a Swiss charitable association – that together deliver coordinated diplomatic support worldwide.

3

PROGRAMME PILLARS

14

COUNTRIES WITH ID
STAFF

\$5.07m

TOTAL REVENUE (2025)

2004

FOUNDED

"ID goes where conventional diplomacy cannot or will not. Its advice helps marginalized peoples raise their voices in the halls of diplomatic power, to produce better and more just decisions."

GARETH EVANS

Former Australian Foreign Minister

Systems Change

Transforming diplomatic institutions to be more inclusive as standard practice – creating new channels for marginalized groups to reach decision-makers, and precedents for their continued participation.



01 Meet the Parties

The only confidential forum for legitimate non-state voices to directly address members of the UN Security Council.

Most violent conflicts involve non-state actors, yet they are routinely shut out of the body responsible for international peace and security. Meet the Parties closes that gap. In 2025 the initiative continued to expand to emerging conflicts – from South Sudan to Afghanistan to Cameroon – and an independent assessment confirmed its value: several member states report using the sessions to shape their positions in subsequent Council discussions.

Those findings anchored a flagship conference held in November with the International Peace Institute – a milestone toward institutionalizing inclusive diplomacy and exploring how the model might be applied in other multilateral fora. By creating systematic access for non-state actors to the world's most powerful diplomatic body, Meet the Parties demonstrates how inclusive engagement contributes to more effective and sustainable conflict resolution.

91% OF UNSC MEMBERS FOUND SESSIONS HELPFUL OR VERY HELPFUL

02 Centering Refugees in the Diplomatic Process

Partnering with refugee leaders to secure not just a voice in negotiations, but formal seats at the table.

ID's breakthrough was establishing a provision in international law requiring that refugees be consulted in any international negotiations about refugee policy – fundamentally changing how refugee voices are included in policymaking. ID now supports a comprehensive programme across six countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Jordan, Egypt, and Turkey – to localize that impact, enabling refugee-led organizations to influence policy at local, national, and global levels.

In 2025, ID supported partners to take the floor at major regional policy forums, delivered a series of "Skill Up" sessions building diplomatic and advocacy skills, and prepared a partner delegation for the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in Geneva. In a landmark for refugee self-representation, a refugee leader based in Ethiopia was granted permission to travel to attend a policymaking event for the first time. ID also concluded a scoping study on climate displacement, drawing on consultations with affected communities to position the organization for new programming in an emerging field where both refugee and climate policy fall short.

"ID is a critical actor in increasing refugee self-representation in international policy discussions ... they support us to spearhead and shape a global movement of refugees that is designed by refugees, for refugees."

SANA MUSTAFA

Global Refugee-led Network

Global Threats

Helping the most vulnerable states shape the global response to challenges that cross borders – from the climate crisis to cyberspace and the ocean.

03 Climate Change

Helping the world's most climate-vulnerable nations lead, not follow, in international climate diplomacy.

For more than fifteen years, ID has supported the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to achieve maximum impact in complex international climate negotiations. With ID's support, RMI created and leads the High Ambition Coalition (HAC), which helped deliver key elements of the Paris Agreement – the 1.5°C temperature goal and the requirement to strengthen emissions targets every five years – and has been central to securing commitments to double adaptation finance, building momentum to transition away from fossil fuels, and capitalizing the Loss and Damage Fund.

In 2025, ID supported RMI's leadership of the HAC on the road to COP30, including at UN General Assembly High-Level Week, across two sessions of the UN Human Rights Council – including the Council's first-ever resolution addressing the human-rights dimensions of sea-level rise – and at Pre-COP. In July, the International Court of Justice issued a landmark advisory opinion on states' obligations in respect of climate change, opening new pathways for accountability; ID supported RMI in carrying its significance to international audiences. Across every forum, the goal is the same: ensuring vulnerable nations can effectively advocate for climate justice.

"ID helped us to level the playing field by advising on diplomatic strategy, securing press coverage, and helping us get a seat at the table."

H.E. TONY DE BRUM

Former Foreign Minister, Republic of the Marshall Islands (in memoriam)



ID'S CLIMATE TEAM WITH MARSHALL ISLANDS' GOVERNMENT PARTNERS IN MAJURO

04 Cyberdiplomacy

Turning Pacific small-island states from passive recipients of global cyber policy into active shapers of it.

Small Island Developing States in the Pacific face unique cyber vulnerabilities but have historically been excluded from global internet governance. Since 2021, ID has enabled Pacific nations to participate effectively in UN cybersecurity negotiations and cybercrime treaty discussions. Our breakthrough achievement was facilitating the first-ever joint positions by Pacific Islands Forum member states – ensuring their voices shape global norms for responsible state behavior online.

In 2025, at the final session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group, ID played a coordination role for Pacific Islands Forum members, helping secure recognition of small-island priorities in the outcome. ID led sessions at the inaugural Pacific Cyber Week in Fiji and supported Vanuatu in articulating a national position on how international law applies in cyberspace – one of the few developing countries in the world to do so. This work demonstrates how diplomatic capacity-building can transform small states into active shapers of digital governance while advocating for human rights protections in global cyber frameworks.

05 Ocean Resilience

Ensuring the communities most affected by ocean degradation help shape the policies meant to protect it.

Ocean degradation and climate impacts disproportionately affect coastal and island communities that often lack representation in climate policy forums. Through the Ocean Resilience and Climate Alliance (ORCA) programme, ID supports a network of senior diplomatic champions advocating for ocean-focused climate policies, with particular attention to indigenous Arctic and coastal Pacific communities.

In 2025, ID convened and staffed high-level champions – including former US Secretary of State John Kerry, the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, and a former EU Commissioner – across key international meetings. The work delivered concrete results, including a new law in Ghana expanding inshore coastal protections for small-scale fishers, alongside progress on offshore wind development and the protection of the Central Arctic Ocean. By connecting under-represented communities with high-level diplomatic platforms, ID helps ensure ocean resilience becomes central to global climate responses.

Conflict Resolution

Lasting solutions require the meaningful participation of all affected parties – not just traditional state actors. For more than fifteen years, ID has helped conflict-affected groups achieve their diplomatic goals in pursuit of just and sustainable peace.

06 Myanmar / Rohingya

Keeping Rohingya voices – and the pursuit of justice and safe return – at the center of Myanmar's future.

Since 2017, ID has provided diplomatic support to Rohingya representatives pursuing justice and accountability following genocide, while working toward conditions for safe repatriation. We help bridge critical gaps between Rohingya voices and Myanmar's broader democratic opposition, positioning Rohingya inclusion as integral to the country's democratic transition. In 2025, new multi-year support strengthened grassroots human-rights documentation and training and sustained the international advocacy that keeps the Rohingya issue on the diplomatic agenda – demonstrating how systematic advocacy can maintain international focus on a marginalized community even amid broader upheaval.

07 Mali

Preserving space for a future, inclusive peace as international attention fades.

Following the collapse of Mali's 2015 Peace Agreement, ID continues supporting northern Mali's marginalized communities through strategic diplomatic engagement despite a challenging environment. With international attention diminished and external accountability mechanisms eliminated, ID maintains visibility for northern Mali's concerns on international agendas through targeted diplomacy with UN Security Council experts and regional partners. We also support systematic documentation of human rights violations, building local capacity for evidence collection while leveraging diplomatic networks to combat impunity. Our work shows how sustained diplomatic engagement can preserve space for future negotiations even when formal peace processes collapse.

08 Yemen

Ensuring the marginalization of Southern Yemenis is addressed in any path to lasting peace.

ID advises the main political representative in South Yemen – the Southern Transitional Council (STC) – and several Yemeni women's groups, with the aim of ensuring a genuinely inclusive political process that addresses the marginalization of Southern Yemenis, an essential component of a sustainable Yemen-wide peace. In 2025, ID significantly expanded this partnership around a comprehensive two-year strategy, conducted its first mission to Aden in five years, and supported the STC's engagement across the US, UK, EU, and UN – including a high-level delegation at the UN General Assembly and the opening of new regional relationships. This work strengthened the STC's standing as a credible voice within Yemen's government while advancing the case for southern inclusion in any future settlement.

09 Western Sahara

Supporting the Saharawi people's pursuit of self-determination in the last colony in Africa.

ID works with the Frente POLISARIO on its objective of securing a process of self-determination for the indigenous Saharawi people of Western Sahara. In 2025, amid a stalled UN process and shifting positions among key states, ID provided strategic support around the annual MINURSO mandate negotiations and the broader political track. Following the 2024 European Court of Justice ruling, ID supported engagement on the application of EU–Morocco agreements to the territory, and facilitated a visit by the SADR Foreign Minister to the United Kingdom to explore avenues for a credible and balanced process.

"Over the course of a decade, ID has shared our struggle and supported our efforts ... In Independent Diplomat, we know we have a true ally who will stand with the Saharawi people in our quest for justice and self-determination."

EMHAMED KHADAD

Frente POLISARIO · Adviser to the President of the SADR (in memoriam)

10 Afghanistan

Amplifying credible democratic voices – especially women – to keep Afghanistan on the international agenda.

Through targeted support to Afghan female diplomats and civil society actors, ID works to keep Afghanistan on the international agenda while bridging pro-democracy initiatives. Our approach empowers professional women diplomats as focal points for international engagement, builds their capacity for multilateral outreach, and facilitates coordinated messaging – countering Taliban legitimacy claims by amplifying credible democratic voices in UN processes and international forums. Building on a successful pilot, ID launched a fully-fledged two-year project in 2025 with the support of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, fostering shared working methods and joint diplomatic products among the leading pro-democracy platforms.

11 New & Emerging Work

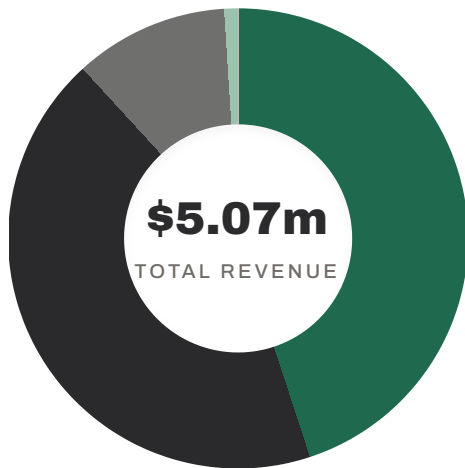
Sikh Federation International. ID began a new advisory engagement supporting the Federation's principled international engagement on cultural-identity and human-rights issues, centred on UN Human Rights Council mechanisms in Geneva.

Water for Hasakeh. Launched in late 2024, this pilot works with a coalition of partners to restore the Alouk Water Station – critical infrastructure serving more than 800,000 people – as both a humanitarian imperative and a confidence-building measure between divided communities. A 2025 field mission confirmed the initiative's continued relevance and urgency, and ID secured initial funding with promising prospects for expansion.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2025 in numbers

Independent Diplomat closed 2025 with total revenue of approximately \$5.07 million, exceeding budget on the strength of growth in foundation and government support and earned income. The figures below are presented on a consolidated global basis and are unaudited.



Foundation Support	\$2,280,079	45.0%
Government Support	\$2,191,383	43.2%
Earned Income	\$547,626	10.8%
Bank Interest & Rewards	\$49,266	1.0%
Individual Contributions	\$2,055	<1%

2025 EXPENDITURE	USD
Total Compensation	\$3,756,619
Travel	\$524,791
Direct Support to Partners	\$335,431
Professional Services	\$282,881
Communications / IT	\$59,391
Events & Meetings	\$57,088
Occupancy Costs	\$46,729
Public Relations / Translation	\$45,004
Insurance	\$38,703
Dues & Subscriptions	\$34,545
Board & Staff Related	\$15,316
Office Expense	\$10,807
Equipment Purchases	\$9,647
Exchange Gain/Loss & Fees	\$3,728
Total Expenditure	\$5,220,679

Figures are unaudited and presented on an accrual basis. Compensation and direct support to partners together account for the large majority of expenditure, reflecting ID's people-centred, partner-led model.



WITH GRATITUDE

Our 2025 supporters

Independent Diplomat is an international non-profit that relies on the generosity of its supporters and donors. We are deeply grateful to the institutions whose investment in our work made it possible to help our partners amplify their voices, transform diplomacy, and resolve conflict in 2025.

Australian Department of Foreign
Affairs & Trade

Carnegie Corporation of New York

Climate Ambition Support Alliance

Climate Emergency Collaboration
Group

ET Global Fund

European Climate Foundation

European Union (administered by
UNDP)

Gates Foundation

Geneva Canton

Humanity United

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

Network for Social Change

NextLevel Initiatives

Oceans5

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Sabi Fund

Swedish Postcode Lottery
Foundation

Additional information about ID's work with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Southern Transitional Council, and Coordination of the Movements of the Azawad is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Thank you.

Generous investments in our work make it possible to help our partners amplify their voices, transform diplomacy, and resolve conflict. Thank you for sharing in our vision of a better world – we could not do it without you. For more, visit independentdiplomat.org.