

# SEMINAR THEME

**Good practice in cooperation  
and conflict resolution in  
sensitive diplomatic contexts**

# DEPARTING QUESTION

How situations of conflict in the absence of diplomatic relations can be successfully dealt with?

# TWO MAJOR FACTS MOTIVATE THIS SEMINAR

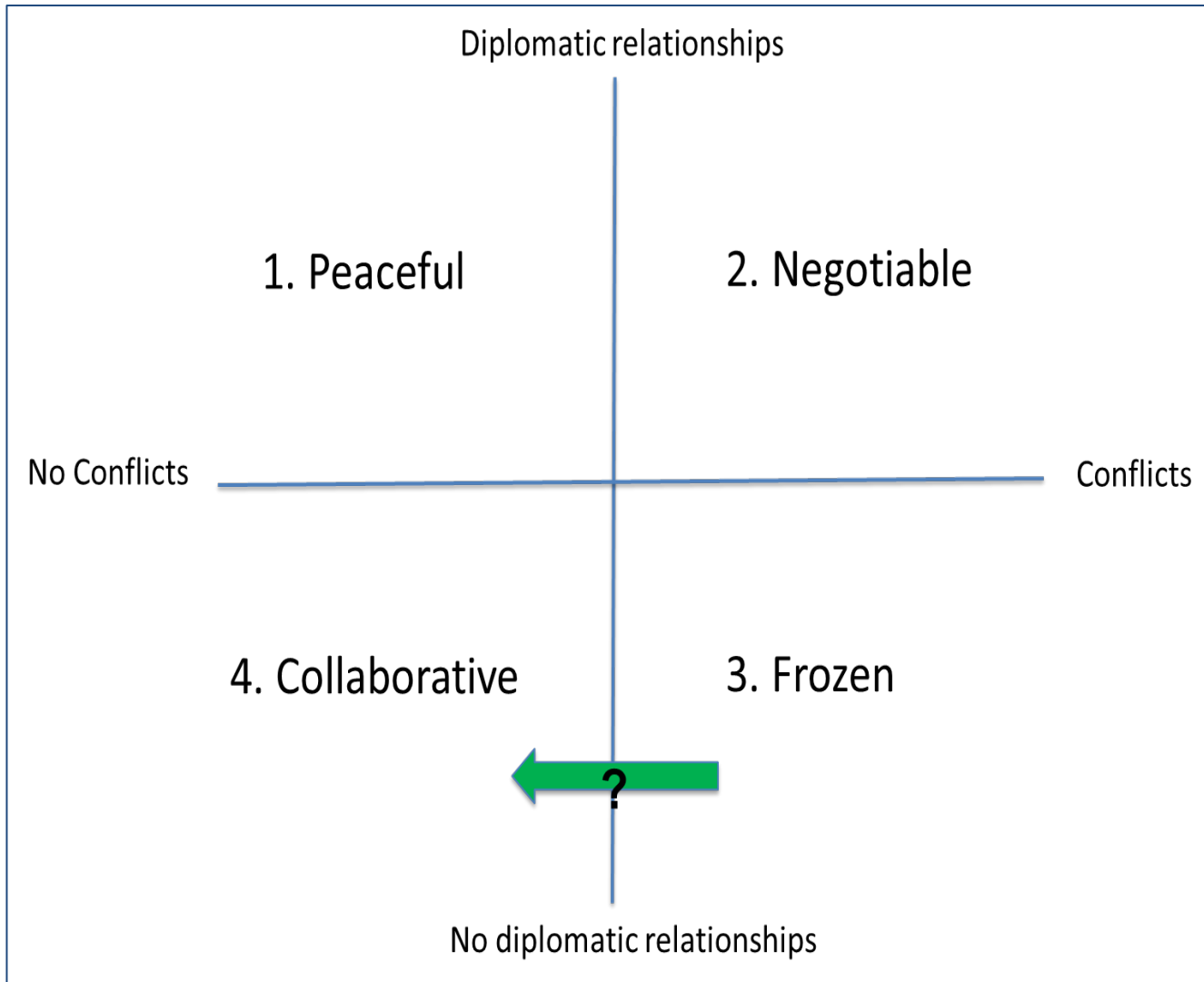
The environment does not recognize political boundaries

The implementation of the Espoo Convention and the SEA Protocol in situations where diplomatic relations are absent or difficult can be delayed, or even impossible in practice

# Conflict is not just about who is right and who is wrong

- Factual disagreement – imperfect knowledge, notions of risks, abstract nature of rules
- Conflicting goals – desires and expectations
- Relational aspects – distrust and power struggles

# Breaking the ice? How to move towards collaboration



# Purpose of seminar

- Discuss environmental related conflict issues in contexts of politically sensitive conflict areas across national and regional boundaries, and
- Learn how conflicts have been addressed and how problems have been attempted to be resolved

# Agenda

Presentation Ms **Mary Matthews** (International Expert, UNDP-GEF International Waters)

Presentation Mr **Raymond Saner** (Director of Diplomacy Dialogue, CSEND, Geneva)

**Plenary discussion:** what can we learn from the presented examples in terms of potentially successful mechanisms to achieve environmental collaboration under politically tense circumstances?

Wrapping up, first conclusions

6:00 Closure