

Diplomacy

The practice of managing relations between states.

Political Science

Functions and forms.

Functions

Representation of the state

Negotiation of agreements

Reporting and analysis

Protection of nationals abroad

Signalling intentions and resolve

Forms

Bilateral, between two states

Multilateral, in conferences and bodies

Summit, between heads of government

Track two, unofficial channels

Public diplomacy, aimed at populations

Educational reference. Diplomatic relations are maintained with adversaries precisely because that is when a channel matters most.