Territorial power-sharing can be understood as the sharing of the central government’s powers and responsibilities to geographical units.

Territorial power-sharing is most often used in conflicts within states, where ethno-national groups are geographically concentrated in particular places and seek greater self-determination.

The proportion of all agreements that involve territorial power-sharing, and its different forms:

- Territorial (% of all agreements): 14%
- Federal (% of territorial agreements): 41%
- Devolution to local/municipal level (% of territorial agreements): 35%
- Regional autonomy (% of territorial agreements): 42%

Different elements of all these forms of territorial subdivision are often combined in creative and multi-layered permutations.

Using territorial power-sharing to accommodate ethno-national groups is more likely to be part of a complex package of decentralizing powers to a variety of sub-state entities, sometimes building on earlier rhetorical commitments to federal principles, such as in Bosnia and Nepal.
During negotiations on territorial power-sharing, there are critical decisions that have implications for inclusion, include:

- How territory will be split
- How power will be divided
- How boundaries will be drawn
- What this means for non-dominant minorities and women

Women from various identity groups may experience territorial power-sharing differently depending on whether they will find themselves as members of:

- the major community
- the minority community within the sub-national territory

Recommendation 1
Territorial power-sharing can enable inclusion of the main conflict parties, but should also consider how wider social groups will be affected.

Recommendation 2
Symbolic naming of the arrangements may be more difficult than deciding on the arrangements, and creativity may be required.

Federalism? Autonomy? Decentralisation?

Recommendation 3
Sequencing territorial devolution of power in stages, to build incremental agreement, can help build support for territorial power-sharing as a framework for a more inclusive state.

Recommendation 4
Creative techniques for formalising ‘unsettlement’ may present opportunities to accommodate different national groups’ within one state to statehood. This can include:

- Providing for incremental decision-making on powers
- Providing for ‘fuzzy borders’
- Providing for new choices as to the territory in the future (through postponed referenda)

See publications at: www.politicalsettlements.org/publications-database