

The Mediation Support Unit (MSU), in the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), was established in 2006 to provide professional, cross-cutting support to “good offices” activities, including preventive diplomacy and the formal mediation of disputes. The Unit is designed as a centre of expertise for operational support to mediation efforts, a resource for strengthening the mediation capacity of regional organizations and Member States and a global repository of mediation knowledge and best practices. The MSU is a service provider to the UN system, regional organizations, Member States and relevant peace-making entities. The operational capacity of the MSU includes its UN Headquarter-based staff members, its Standby Team of Mediation Advisers, and its Mediation Experts Roster.

Visit UN Peacemaker, the online mediation support tool developed by the UN DPPA. Intended for peace-making professionals, it includes an extensive database of peace agreements, guidance material and information on the UN mediation support services. UN Peacemaker is part of the UN effort to support UN and non-UN mediation initiatives. (<http://www.peacemaker.un.org>)

Purpose

The rapid deployment of qualified mediators and experts is crucial for the success of peace processes. The Secretary-General has highlighted the importance of civilian rosters and standby capacities in the immediate aftermath of conflict and has encouraged the development of expert rosters in priority areas (A/63/881S/2009/304, para. 64).

The Mediation Experts Roster is second-level response capacity of MSU which complements its staff and its Standby Team of Mediation Advisers, both of which can be mobilized within 72 hours. In cases where a request of expertise is not suitable for an MSU staff or a Standby Team member, MSU uses the Mediation Experts Roster to identify and check availability of the right expert for the purpose.

The service provided by the Mediation Experts Roster also serves to strengthen the partnership between the UN and other partner organizations.

Composition

The Mediation Experts Roster has approximately 220 members from UN, governments, academia and non-governmental organizations, with relevant professional experience in mediation and peace processes. The membership is maintained to reflect diverse range of background, skills and mediation expertise in mediation in order to respond to different needs.

Operational-level mediation experts, who can be “chiefs of staff” or mediation team members assisting Experts in the roster can provide procedural and thematic advice on a full range of topics such as mediation strategy and process design, constitutional issues, power-sharing, wealth-sharing and natural resources issues, security arrangements, and gender peace and security.

Special focus is made to maintain a balance of gender and geographic representation of candidates on the roster by conscientiously identifying mediation experts from “Global South,” women mediation experts and professionals with gender and inclusion mediation expertise.

Administration

The application process for the roster is “by referral only.” Potential candidates are referred to MSU by UN staff members or by MSU partners. The eligibility criteria include at least ten years of operational work experience in the field of mediation for “operational experts” and at least seven years for “thematic experts.” The work experience should include specific expertise in mediation, field experience and knowledge of UN policies.

The Roster Manager does the initial screening to make sure that the candidate has required substantial experience and mediation expertise. The selection is done by a Mediation Expert Roster Panel, composed of senior MSU staff members, that meets twice a year. The selected candidate is then invited to register in the roster.

Selection for the Mediation Experts Roster does not guarantee deployment or generic training opportunities.

Requesting an Expert

Requests for the services of the Mediation Experts Roster can be made by contacting the MSU.

The roster members can be engaged in field missions (e.g. supporting ongoing mediation activities), teaching and training activities (e.g. mediation training for conflict parties), long distance advice and backstopping (e.g. advice on thematic issues), research activities (e.g. development of options papers).

The primary clients of the Mediation Experts Roster are UN Envoys, Special Representatives and Resident Coordinators, Special Political Missions and Peacekeeping Missions. Other parts of the UN system, Member States, regional or sub regional organizations and nongovernmental organizations can also benefit from the services provided.

For further information or to discuss possible support, please contact MSU Team Leader Roxanne Bazergan at bazergan@un.org (+1 917 367 4254) or dppa-mediationroster@un.org.