

The Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers (SBT) is a service of the United Nations (UN) Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and is managed by the Mediation Support Unit (MSU) of the Policy and Mediation Division (PMD). It is a specialized resource that can be rapidly deployed on a temporary basis to provide technical advice to UN officials and others engaged in preventive diplomacy or mediation. The SBT's services are available to UN envoys, political and peacekeeping missions and country teams, as well as to regional organizations and partners with whom the UN works closely in conflict mediation and good offices worldwide. SBT members can be deployed individually or in small groups, including with MSU staff.

The MSU is “an essential resource to support the good offices, mediation and facilitation work of the United Nations system and its partners. It seeks to get the right expertise to the right places at the right time, both by deploying personnel and providing remote analytical support.”

Report of the Secretary General on the United Nations and conflict prevention (S/2015/730 of 25 September 2015).

The principal operational role of the SBT is to provide expert advice to senior UN officials and partners upon request, either by deploying to the field or by providing advice remotely. This support is flexible and adapted to the needs of the situation. It can include: providing technical expertise in a specific area; giving advice on procedural and agenda-setting issues; identifying entry points for dialogue and mediation; drafting the text of agreements; leading workshops for parties on substantive or process issues; and providing specialized mediation training and coaching.

SBT members are experienced in mediation situations and experts in a range of issues that arise frequently in peace negotiations, including the overall design and conduct of mediation, facilitation and dialogue processes (process design), security arrangements (ceasefires/DDR/SSR), constitution-making processes, gender and inclusion, power-sharing issues, and wealth-sharing/natural resources. When not deployed in the field, SBT members are on permanent standby, conducting research and comparative analysis of effective practices in their areas of expertise. Team members also support MSU in drafting operational guidance notes and related training materials.

### Administration of the Standby Team

SBT support is provided in response to requests from UN officials and other partners at no cost to requesting entities; it is a resource fully-funded from voluntary contributions to DPPA. All logistical, travel and administrative arrangements for the SBT are handled by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

For further information, please contact the MSU Team Leader, Ms. Roxanne Bazergan at [bazergan@un.org](mailto:bazergan@un.org) (+1-917-367-4254) or the MSU Standby Team Coordinator, Mr. David Mueller at [david.mueller@un.org](mailto:david.mueller@un.org) (+1-917-915-6104).

### Composition of the Standby Team

**EMMANUEL HABUKA BOMBANDE (Ghana – Process Design)** has advised, while on the SBT, on the establishment of infrastructures for peace in Burkina Faso and the Sudan transition process and has been deployed in support of dialogue and conflict prevention efforts in São Tomé and Príncipe. Before joining the SBT, he served as a senior mediation adviser to the Head of MINUSCA in the Central African Republic (CAR). Prior to that he served from 2016-2017 in the Government of Ghana as Deputy Foreign Minister, and from 2015-2016 was the Special Assistant to Secretary General's Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel. He co-founded the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), a well-established peacebuilding organization, and ran it for two decades. For the last twelve years he has been one of the facilitators of the Folke Bernadotte Academy -DPPA Dialogue and Mediation Course. He speaks English and French.

**MIRIAM CORONEL-FERRER (Philippines – Gender and Inclusion / Process Design)** has, while on the SBT, been deployed to support the UN's work in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Maldives and the ASEAN region, advising on peace process design and modalities of inclusion. Prior to joining the SBT, she headed the Government of the Philippines' panel in the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that culminated in the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro in 2014. She led governmental negotiations and strategizing processes and was also responsible for setting up the peace infrastructure and supervising the first two years of implementing the accord. Before that, she was extensively involved in civil society campaigns, co-leading the initiative to draft the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security that was adopted by the Government in 2010. She has participated in international civil-society led human rights and peace missions in Nepal, East Timor, Cambodia, the Philippines, Myanmar, and Sudan. She is a full professor at the University of the Philippines, teaching courses and publishing on comparative governments and politics of Southeast Asia, human rights, peace processes, and democratization. She speaks English.

**FRANCISCO DIEZ (Argentina – Process Design)** is a process design expert with extensive experience in Latin America. From 1983-1993 he was private Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Argentinian Foreign Ministry and, in 1998, founded the non-governmental organization *Mediadores En Red*. From 2005-2007 he served as Coordinator of the Regional Support Network for the UNDP Democratic Dialogue Program in Latin America, and as Latin America representative of the Carter Center from 2007-2010. He acted as mediator between Hugo Chavez and the opposition from 2002-2005, and between former Presidents Rafael Correa and Alvaro Uribe in the Ecuador-Colombia crisis in 2008-2009. From 2014 onwards he worked with the Kroc Institute to set up the Colombia Peace Accord Matrix (PAM) to monitor and support the implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and assisted dialogue processes in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Mexico. He speaks English and Spanish.

**PRISCILLA HAYNER (United States – Process Design / Transitional Justice)** has, while on the SBT, advised on issues of justice, human rights, and reconciliation in peace negotiations, including in Afghanistan and the Central African Republic. She also undertook lessons learned studies in Cyprus and Mali, and a review of UN local mediation efforts in Afghanistan. Prior to the SBT, she supported the Colombia talks in conjunction with Norway; the 2008 Kenya negotiations as human rights adviser to former Secretary General Kofi Annan; and supported a number of other processes as Senior Adviser to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. She is a recognized authority in the field of transitional justice: she co-founded the International Center for Transitional Justice in 2001; her book, *Unspeakable Truths*, was the first in-depth look at truth commissions globally; her recent second book, *The Peacemaker's Paradox*, looks at the challenge of addressing justice in peace negotiations. She speaks English, French and Spanish.

**JUANITA MILLAN HERNANDEZ (Colombia – Security Arrangements)** is a retired Lieutenant Commander of the Colombian National Navy. Prior to joining the SBT, she served seven years as Adviser to the High Commissioner for Peace during the Havana Peace Talks. In 2014, she was appointed by former President Juan Manuel Santos to become a member of the Sub-Commission on Ending the Conflict, a technical working group responsible for the design of the Ceasefire and Disarmament process. The same year, Ms. Millan Hernandez assumed a position in the Sub-Commission on Gender, advising on the gender-sensitivity of the agreement's provisions. After the signing of peace accords, she was part of the Tri-Partite Ceasefire Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, focusing on gender-sensitivity, security guarantees, as well as the reincorporation of FARC combatants. She also advised the Colombian Government on potential configurations of talks with the National Liberation Army (ELN). She speaks English and Spanish.

**CHRISTINA MURRAY (South Africa – Constitution-making / Power-sharing)** is a Professor Emeritus of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the University of Cape Town. As part of the SBT she has supported Yemeni discussions on constitutional options, as well as the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, and worked on constitutional matters with groups of women from conflict-affected regions. Between 1994-1996 she served on the panel advising the South African Constitutional Assembly; in 2009 and 2010 she was a member of the Committee of Experts that prepared the 2010 Constitution of Kenya; and, in 2012, she served on the Constitution Commission of Fiji. She has extensively advised on constitutional matters in several other countries including Libya, Indonesia, Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tuvalu and Zimbabwe. She speaks English.

**RICHARD SMITH (South Africa – Process Design)** has worked extensively on multiple thematic areas including conflict prevention and electoral support, and has worked in countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, South East Asia and in support of peacebuilding practitioners in Syria. Since 2010, he served as the Conflict Sensitivity Advisor to a multi-agency fund in Myanmar, working with armed groups, Government and civil society stakeholders. Mr. Smith has been a rostered member of the African Standby Force, and from 2018 supported the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission and African Union (AU) Peace Support Operations Division in strengthening the peace support capabilities of the AU Regional Mechanisms. In 2016, he facilitated the development of a regional mediation strategy to prevent electoral-related conflict with the SADC Electoral Advisory Council. He is also co-author of *Working with Conflict, Skills and Strategies for Action*. He speaks English and Afrikaans.

**ISSAKA SOUARÉ (Guinea – Process Design)** has, while on the SBT, been deployed to advise the AU Facilitator in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the conduct of the national dialogue; to support strategic reflections of MINUSCA, the AU and the CAR Government regarding a dialogue process with non-state armed groups; to provide advice to the Secretary General's Personal Envoy on Western Sahara; as well as to support MONUSCO in the design of a mediation strategy to guide the DRC Government in talks with the Patriotic Resistance Front of Ituri (FRPI). He was also deployed in support of UN Resident Coordinators in Chad, Malawi, Togo, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Zambia; and to support the Secretary General's Special Representative in Haiti. From 2013-2016 he was Special Adviser to the AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, working extensively on the Mali peace processes. Mr. Souaré has also served at the AU Commission in policymaking and analysis roles, with a focus on early warning and preventive diplomacy. He speaks Arabic, English and French.