

The Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers (SBT) is a service of the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) 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, Member States and other 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 Standby Team 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 Chief, Mr. Asif Khan, at khan34@un.org or the MSU Standby Team Coordinator, Mr. Juan Jeannet Arce, at jeannetarce@un.org

Composition of the Standby Team

BARNEY AFAKO (Uganda – Process Design) has, while on the Standby Team, supported the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan, South Sudan, and the Horn of Africa, led by former South African President Thabo Mbeki. He also supported the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen in negotiations in Kuwait and subsequent processes; the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region; and the UN efforts to develop a strategy on reconciliation, trust-building and constructive dialogue in the Western Balkans. Mr. Afako's experience includes serving as a legal adviser to the SADC high-level mediation team of former African heads of state on the boundary dispute between Malawi and Tanzania; to the Government of Southern Sudan's Mediation for the Uganda/LRA negotiations; and to the AU Panel on Darfur. He speaks English.

EMMANUEL HABUKA BOMBANDE (Ghana – Process Design) has, while on the Standby Team, advised on the establishment of infrastructures for peace in Burkina Faso and the Sudan transition process. He has also been deployed in support of dialogue efforts in Montenegro and conflict prevention initiatives in São Tomé and Príncipe. Before joining the SBT, he was as a senior mediation adviser with MINUSCA in the Central African Republic. From 2016-2017 he was Deputy Foreign Minister of Ghana, and from 2015-2016 was the Special Assistant to SRSG 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 thirteen years he has been one of the facilitators of the Folke Bernadotte Academy–DPPA dialogue and mediation course. In 2020, he was a co-recipient of the Peacebuilder of the Year Award by the Centre for Justice and Peacebuilding of the Eastern Mennonite University. He speaks English and French.

FRANCISCO DIEZ (Argentina – Process Design) has, during his tenure on the Standby Team, supported the UN's efforts to foster dialogue and reconciliation in Bolivia, and provided expert advice on conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy in Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Venezuela. 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 Carter Center Latin America representative from 2007-2010. He mediated between President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela 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 to monitor and support the implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the 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 Standby Team, advised on justice, human rights, and reconciliation in peace negotiation contexts, including in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Libya and Sudan. She has undertaken in-depth studies of peace efforts in Cyprus and Mali, and local mediation efforts in Afghanistan. She has authored papers on the UN's work to support reconciliation and its policies on transitional justice in peace negotiations. 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, other peace processes as Senior Adviser to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. She is an authority in the field of transitional justice: she co-founded the International Center for Transitional Justice in 2001, and her book, *Unspeakable Truths*, was the first in-depth look at truth commissions globally. Her 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) has, while on the Standby Team, supported the Sudan peace process, provided security arrangements expertise in support of the Libyan-led ceasefire monitoring mechanism, and regarding the situations in El Salvador, Mozambique, Ukraine and Yemen. Prior to joining the SBT, she served for seven years as Adviser to the High Commissioner for Peace of Colombia during the Havana Peace Talks with the FARC. 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, she 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 ELN. She speaks English and Spanish.

FLORENCE MPAAYEI (Kenya – Gender and Inclusion) has, while on the Standby Team, provided advice on gender and inclusion in Kenya, Sudan and Zambia and shared insights elsewhere on women, youth and civil society engagement in peace processes. In South Sudan, she has supported UNMISS in engaging with and strengthening the mediation capacity of religious leaders. Florence has twenty-five years of experience in peacebuilding, dialogue facilitation, and capacity-building. She has designed programmes to support women's participation in high-level mediation efforts (including in the Great Lakes, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan) under the auspices of, inter alia, the AU, IGAD, and UN Women. She has also helped enhance the capacity of young women mediators and women peacebuilders at middle and grassroots levels. She has been a member of FEMWISE-Africa. Prior to joining the Standby Team, she was a Senior Adviser on Peace Practice and a Guest/Visiting Lecturer at the Hekima University College/Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations. She speaks English.

CHRISTINA MURRAY (South Africa – Constitution-making / Power-sharing) has, while on the Standby Team, supported constitutional discussions in Yemen, and advised on the Bougainville Peace Agreement implementation in Papua New Guinea. She has provided constitutional expertise to the UN in Sudan and South Sudan and worked on constitutional matters with women from conflict-affected regions. She is Emeritus Professor of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the University of Cape Town. From 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, including in Libya, Indonesia, Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tuvalu and Zimbabwe. She speaks English.

RICHARD SMITH (South Africa – Process Design) has, while on the Standby Team, worked in support of peace processes and conflict prevention programming in Europe, Northern Africa, the Americas and the Pacific. He is an expert in process design and facilitation, gender sensitive conflict analysis and strategy development, and has extensively worked on conflict prevention, local peace processes, electoral support, inter-religious dialogue, cyber security, digital technologies and environmental mediation, in multiple countries. Over a ten-year period he served as conflict sensitivity advisor and process facilitator for multiple agencies and organisations in Myanmar, working with armed groups, government and civil society stakeholders. Mr. Smith has also been a rostered member of the African Standby Force, and from 2018 supported SADC, the ECOWAS Commission and AU Peace Support Operations Division in strengthening the peace support capabilities of AU Regional Mechanisms. He is co-author of *Working with Conflict, Skills and Strategies for Action*. He speaks English.