

## 2017 Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers

*The Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers is a service of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) administered 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 into the field to provide technical advice to UN officials and others engaged in preventive diplomacy or mediation. The Team's services are available to United Nations envoys, political and peacekeeping missions and country teams, as well as to regional organizations and partners with whom the United Nations works closely in conflict mediation and good offices worldwide. Team members can be deployed individually or in small groups.*

*MSU is today recognized "as 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 United Nations 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; providing analysis of the positions of parties in negotiations, including the identification of potential points of convergence as well as possible gaps; drafting the text of agreements; leading workshops for parties on substantive or process issues; and providing specialised mediation training and coaching.

Team members are experienced in mediation situations and experts in a range of issues that arise frequently in peace negotiations, including the overall design of processes, security arrangements (ceasefires/DDR/SSR), constitutional processes, gender and inclusion, power-sharing issues, and natural resources. When not deployed in the field, the members of the Team are on permanent standby, carrying out research and coordinating reviews of best practices in their area of expertise. Team members are also responsible for producing operational guidance notes and related training materials, and supporting MSU efforts to develop networks of thematic experts.

### Administration of the Standby Team

Standby Team support is provided in response to requests from UN officials and other partners. Support is provided at no cost to requesting entities. It is a resource fully-funded from voluntary contributions to the Department of Political Affairs. All logistical/travel and administrative arrangements for the team are handled by the United Nations Office for Project Services.

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### Composition of the Standby Team

**BARNEY AFAKO (Uganda - Process Design / Legal Issues / Wealth-sharing)** during his tenure on the Standby Team, has been deployed in support of the Yemen process led by Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, in support of peacekeeping operations in CAR (MINUSCA) and DRC (MONUSCO), and to support the Resident Coordinators in Kosovo and Sudan. He has also been drawn on by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) for Sudan and South Sudan. Mr. Afako previously served as a legal adviser to both the AUHIP, supporting former President Mbeki of South Africa, and to a high level mediation team of former African leaders on the boundary dispute between Malawi and Tanzania. He also has extensive prior experience in mediation, notably as legal adviser to the Government of South Sudan mediation of the Uganda/LRA negotiations, and as legal adviser to the AU Panel on Darfur. Mr. Afako speaks English.

**PRISCILLA HAYNER (United States - Process Design / Transitional Justice)** has worked on peace negotiations and dialogue in a wide array of contexts. She engaged in the recent Colombia talks as transitional justice advisor to Norway, and in the Kenya negotiations of 2008 as human rights advisor to former Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the United Nations-African Union mediation team. She has supported a number of mediation and dialogue processes (in Thailand and elsewhere) run by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, where she was a Senior Advisor. Ms. Hayner has also worked extensively in the implementation stages following a peace agreement or transition, from Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste in 1999 to South Sudan in 2015. She is a recognised authority in the field of transitional justice: she co-founded the International Center for Transitional Justice in 2001 and is known especially for her book, *Unspeakable Truths*, which surveys truth commissions globally. She speaks English, Spanish and French.

**PIERRE-YVES MONETTE (Belgium - Process Design / Constitutions / Natural Resources)** Mr. Monette, during his tenure on the Standby Team, has been most significantly deployed in Africa, especially in the Sahel, and in Asia. In Ma-

li, he has assisted MINUSMA throughout the peace process, in supporting the implementation of the 2013 Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement, advising the Algerian-led peace talks, and assisting the implementation of the 2015 peace process. In Central African Republic, he coached the National Mediator for the 2011 ceasefire between the government and main opposition groups, assisted during the talks, and co-wrote the 2012 transitional constitution. In Chad and Maldives, he supported Resident Coordinators in preparing conditions for political dialogue, and in Burkina Faso for strengthening the reconciliation process. He has also been active in different water-related conflicts. Mr. Monette is a former National Mediator of Belgium (1997-2005) and is honorary Counsellor to the King. He speaks English, French, Spanish and Dutch.

**CHRISTINA MURRAY (South Africa - Constitutions / Power-sharing)** is a constitutional expert and Professor of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the University of Cape Town. She is the former Director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, and served previously on the Standby Team from Feb. 2014 to Mar. 2016. Between 1994 and 1996 she served on a panel of seven experts 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 advised on constitutional matters in a number of other countries including Libya, Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Yemen. Most recently, she has supported the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for Cyprus.

**MARK MULLER (United Kingdom - Facilitation / Process Design / Legal Issues / Transitional Justice)** has been a Standby Team adviser primarily deployed in support of UN efforts in Syria and Yemen, as well as on Ukraine (in support of UNDP), Georgia (Geneva International Discussions), Iraq (UNAMI), and South Sudan (IGAD-led talks in Addis Ababa). He is a senior British barrister (Queen's Counsel) and international lawyer specialising in public international law and human rights. Prior to joining the Standby Team, for several years he advised international bodies on conflict resolution and mediation, confidence-building, ceasefires, power-sharing, international law, human rights, and dialogue processes, including several mediation organisations including the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Beyond Conflict and Inter-Mediate. He has first-hand experience of Track 1 and 2 negotiations between governments and armed groups and has worked in a number of conflict zones including Afghanistan, Iraq, Colombia, Georgia, Libya and Syria. He is a Fellow of Harvard Law School. He speaks English.

**ELISABETH SCHEPER (The Netherlands – Gender and Inclusion)** during her tenure on the Standby Team, has supported the Women's Empowerment Section of the UN

Support Mission in Libya, provided advice to the Solomon Islands Government on planning the forthcoming inclusive national dialogue, and provided advice in Papua New Guinea on inclusivity and women, peace and security considerations in advance of the Bougainville referendum. She helped develop the DPA Guidance on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies, and helped develop and coordinate the High-Level Seminars on Gender, Women, Peace and Security, and staff trainings. At the UN Peacebuilding Fund, and at the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, she conducted complex crisis and conflict prevention evaluations. She has had extensive field experience in Asia and Latin America, and has worked closely with and as part of the development community. She conducted Ph.D. studies on the role of local civil society in preventing deadly conflict in Asia. She speaks English.

**ISSAKA SOUARÉ (Guinea - Process Design)** during his tenure on the Standby Team, has most notably been deployed: in support of the African Union Facilitator in the DRC to provide advice regarding the conduct of a national dialogue in the country; in support of the UN Resident Coordinator in Chad; and, in support of MINUSCA in CAR on a possible dialogue initiative. During an earlier tenure as Special Adviser to the AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, he was extensively involved in the Mali peace processes and their follow-up. He has served in AU policymaking and analysis roles, with a focus on early warning and preventive diplomacy (based at the AU Commission). Mr. Souaré also has had significant academic and research experiences, including his work at the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa, which makes him an asset in lessons learned and training activities. He speaks Arabic, English and French.

**SIMON YAZGI (United Kingdom - Security Arrangements)** during his tenure on the Standby Team, has primarily provided support and advice to UN efforts in Yemen, to UNSOM in Somalia on local cease-fire issues, to the Office of the Special Adviser on Cyprus on security and guarantees, and on weapons disposal in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. He also worked with the SRSG for Colombia on reintegration matters and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine on monitoring and verification questions. He is the former Chief of the DDR section in DPKO, and worked for the Secretariat for 15 years both in field missions (UNMISS, MONUC) and at Headquarters. He has managed DDR operations in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, South Sudan and Somalia and provided remote support on ceasefires and security arrangements issues to mediation processes in Yemen, Libya, CAR and Colombia. He speaks English, French and Spanish.

For further information or to discuss possible support, please contact MSU Team Leader Roxanne Bazergan at [bazergan@un.org](mailto:bazergan@un.org) (+1-917-367-4254) or the MSU Standby Team Coordinator, Mr. Juan Jeannet Arce at [jeannetarce@un.org](mailto:jeannetarce@un.org) (+1-212-963-8044).