

2018 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.

The Mediation Support Unit 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 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 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, 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.

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

Composition of the Standby Team

BARNEY AFAKO (Uganda - Process Design / Legal Issues / Wealth-sharing) has been significantly drawn on by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan while on the Standby Team. He has been deployed to CAR to support the UN peacekeeping mission's reflection regarding dialogue with non-state armed groups, and to South Sudan to discuss National Dialogue preparations. He has also supported the Yemen process led by the UN Special Envoy, the peacekeeping operation in DRC, and the Resident Coordinator in 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.

EMMANUEL HABUKA BOMBANDE (Ghana - Process Design) is an experienced process design adviser who has most recently served as a senior mediation adviser to the Head of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR. Prior to that, he served until 2016 in the Government of Ghana as Deputy Foreign Minister. Before that, he was the Special Assistant to SRSB 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 organisation, and ran it for two decades. For the last ten years he has been one of the facilitators of the Folke Bernadotte Academy-DPA Dialogue and Mediation Course. He speaks English and French.

CATE BUCHANAN (South Africa/Australia - Process Design, Gender and Inclusion) has expertise on process design, violence prevention and reduction, gender equality and inclusion, and health policy. Since mid-2014 she worked in the Myanmar peace process as an adviser to armed groups and civil society organisations on national dialogues, process design and gender inclusion. Prior to that she spent over a decade generating analysis and best practice guidance for the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue to operationalise violence reduction, inclusion and gender equality normative

standards and principles, and providing advice on HD's programming in Asia and the Pacific (including Indonesia and Papua, Philippines, Myanmar, Nepal, Fiji, and India). Cate is also a specialist in violence reduction and small arms control, has developed effective small arms control policies (including linkages to addressing gender-based violence) and has developed related UN guidance. In 2014 she was chief editor of *Gun Violence, Disability and Recovery*. She is experienced in providing tailored, on-demand analysis and advice, including training and coaching. She speaks English.

MIRIAM CORONEL-FERRER (Philippines - Process Design) headed the Government of the Philippines panel in the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that culminated in the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro in March 2014. She led governmental negotiations, consultation, and strategizing processes, and was also responsible for setting up the peace infrastructure and supervising the first two years of implementing the accord. Prior to this, she was extensively involved in national civil society campaigns, co-leading the initiative to draft the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security that was adopted by the Philippine government in 2010. She has also joined international CSO-led human rights/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.

PRISCILLA HAYNER (United States - Process Design / Transitional Justice) has advised, while on the Standby Team, on issues of justice in peace negotiations, most notably in Yemen and CAR, and undertook an in-depth lessons-learned assessment of the peace talks in Cyprus. Previously, she supported the Colombia talks, in conjunction with Norway; the Kenya negotiations of 2008, as human rights adviser to former Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the UN-AU mediation team; and served as Senior Adviser to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue for several years. She is a recognised authority in the field of transitional justice: she co-founded the International Center for Transitional Justice in 2001, and her first book, *Unspeakable Truths*, was the first in-depth look at truth commissions globally. Her second book, *The Peacemaker's Paradox* (January 2018), looks closely at the challenge of addressing justice in peace negotiations. Ms. Hayner speaks English, Spanish and French.

MARCIE MERSKY (United States – Process Design) has provided strategic advice to senior UN officials and a range of organizations and clients in South Asia, MENA, sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in Latin America. She has worked with government and civil society partners, facilitated seminars and complex dialogue processes, conducted evaluations and lessons learned exercises, designed programmes, and produced reports in the fields of peacebuilding, rule of law, transitional justice, gender and environmental issues. Ms. Mersky has previously served as a senior political officer with the Commission of Inquiry into the Benazir Bhutto assassination and the UN Verification Mission in Guatemala.

In 2008, she helped set up the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). She also coordinated the drafting of the final report of the Guatemala's UN-sponsored truth commission. Prior to joining the Standby Team she was Director of Programs at the International Center for Transitional Justice. Ms. Mersky has a M.Sc. from Harvard University and is fluent in English and Spanish.

CHRISTINA MURRAY (South Africa – Constitution-making / Power-sharing) is a constitutional expert and Professor Emerita of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the University of Cape Town. She has recently supported Yemen constitution-making processes, and provided advice on constitutional issues in Sudan and Lesotho. Between 1994 and 1996 she served on a 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 advised on constitutional matters in several other countries including Libya, Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Yemen. She speaks English.

ISSAKA SOUARÉ (Guinea - Process Design) during his tenure on the Standby Team, has been deployed in support of the AU Facilitator in the DRC to provide advice and operational support in the conduct of a national dialogue in the country in 2016, to support the strategic reflections of MINUSCA, the AU and the Government of the CAR regarding a dialogue process with non-state armed groups, and in support of the UN Resident Coordinator in Chad. He was also deployed to co-facilitate training workshops in mediation for several UN missions. 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 at the AU Commission in policymaking and analysis roles, with a focus on early warning and preventive diplomacy. Mr. Souaré also has had significant academic and research experiences, including his work at the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa. He speaks Arabic, English and French.

SIMON YAZGI (United Kingdom – Security Arrangements) has, while on the Standby Team, primarily provided support and advice to UN efforts in Yemen, to UNSOM in Somalia on local cease-fires, to the Office of the Special Adviser on Cyprus on security and guarantees, and to the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee in Myanmar. He also worked on weapons disposal in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, with the Government of Norway on the NDFP peace process in the Philippines and with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine on monitoring and verification questions. He is the former DDR Chief in DPKO, and worked for the Secretariat for 15 years in field missions (UNMISS, MONUC) and at HQ. He has managed DDR operations in countries like the DRC, 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.