

# MEDIATION SUPPORT UNIT



## ABOUT

- Established in 2006
- UN system-wide focal point for mediation expertise and support
- Provides support to good offices and mediation in conflict prevention

## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Operational assistance with mediation and peace processes
- Capacity-building
- Mediation guidance, lessons learned, and best practices

## SUPPORT CAPACITY

- MSU staff, including in-house experts on ceasefires, constitution-making, and process design
- Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers
- Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- [Constitutions and Peace Processes](#)
- [UN Support to Local Mediation](#)
- [The Secretary-General's Call for a Global Ceasefire](#)
- [Social Media in Peace Mediation](#)

The Mediation Support Unit (MSU) in the Policy and Mediation Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) is the system-wide service provider on dialogue and mediation assistance. It develops mediation guidance and lessons learned and provides capacity building, support in developing mediation strategies as well as direct operational assistance. MSU oversees the [Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers \(SBT\)](#) and serves as the secretariat of the [Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation \(HLAB\)](#). The Unit provides mediation support through a mix of in-person and virtual formats.

The Department mobilizes voluntary contributions from Member States through its [Multi-Year Appeal \(MYA\)](#) that calls for US\$120 million for 2020 to 2022. The work of MSU relies heavily on MYA resources.

- ▶ MSU's [Mediation Guidance](#) documents cover a range of mediation topics, including the principles of mediation; ceasefires; constitutional assistance; gender and inclusion; natural resource conflicts; and addressing conflict-related sexual violence in peace processes.
- ▶ MSU has developed a [resource package](#) to help mediators make full use of the opportunities presented by digital technologies, while also addressing ongoing concerns such as misinformation or malicious use of information and communications technologies in the cyberspace.
- ▶ MSU puts [gender and inclusion](#) front and centre in its efforts to promote and support peace to ensure that the views and needs of conflict parties and other stakeholders are represented and integrated into a peace process.
- ▶ MSU takes deliberate efforts to intensify support and engagement at the local levels to help build peace from the ground up.
- ▶ The [UN Peacemaker website](#) is the UNDPPA online mediation support tool. It includes the first [database of peace agreements](#) searchable by key thematic issues.
- ▶ MSU partners frequently with various regional organizations. It is also a member of several [mediation networks](#), including the Group of Friends on Mediation and the Mediation Support Network, and engages regularly with the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks.

# STANDBY TEAM OF SENIOR MEDIATION ADVISERS

The Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers (SBT) includes eight full-time experts that can be deployed within 72 hours to advise on a wide range of issues related to peace negotiations, including process design, constitution-making, power-sharing, gender issues, security arrangements, transitional justice and climate change/natural resources. All SBT experts have been tested for their knowledge on gender, and are expected to mainstream gender considerations in all of their deployments.

Starting in 2020, the practice of remote or virtual deployments of the Standby Team was substantially expanded so as to meet the evolving needs of mediation actors. The Standby Team enhances the quality of support available to Special Representatives and Envoys, political and peacekeeping missions and United Nations Country Teams, as well as to regional and sub-regional organizations and other partners.

## SBT facts in 2020

95 operational deployments in approximately

24 different contexts

## Approximate regional breakdown



## Approximate thematic breakdown



## Breakdown of clients



For further information on the Multi-Year Appeal, please contact the Donor Relations Team:

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