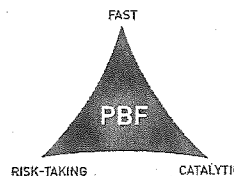


## IRF – PROJECT DOCUMENT

## TEMPLATE 2.1



## United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)/ Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

<b>Project Title:</b> Support for Sri Lanka to design transitional justice mechanisms: Phase 1: National consultations and design of follow-up strategy.	<b>Recipient UN Organization(s):</b> <b>UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</b>
<b>Project Contact:</b> Rory Mungoven Address: OHCHR 48 Motta, Geneva Telephone: +41229289782 E-mail: rmungoven@ohchr.org	<b>Implementing Partner(s) – name &amp; type (Government, CSO, etc):</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Office of National Unity and Reconciliation, other line ministries as appropriate; local civil society partners. <b>Project Location:</b> Sri Lanka
<b>Project Description:</b> <i>One sentence describing the project's scope and focus</i> First Phase of a larger initiative to provide technical support to the Government of Sri Lanka in establishing effective and comprehensive transitional justice mechanisms to deal with allegations of violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and to provide redress to victims in line with international standards. Phase 1 consists on supporting the Government in undertaking broad-based national consultations with broad range of actors including women, youth and traditionally marginalized groups and support the initial conceptualization of the transitional justice mechanisms identified through those consultations.	<b>Total Project Cost:</b> US\$ 1,000,000 of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Peacebuilding Fund:</b> US\$1,000,000</li> <li>• <b>Government Contribution:</b> (cost in-kind contribution):</li> </ul> <b>Proposed Project Start Date:</b> 1 January 2016 <b>Proposed Project End Date:</b> 1 June 2017 <b>Total duration (in months)<sup>1</sup>:</b> 18 months

<sup>1</sup>The maximum duration of an IRF project is 18 months.

**Gender Marker Score<sup>2</sup>: 2**

*Score 3 for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective.*

*Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective.*

*Score 1 for projects that will contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly.*

*Score 0 for projects that are not expected to contribute noticeably to gender equality.*

**Overall outcome:** Broad based Sri Lankan society engagement in peacebuilding with support of credible initiatives to advance human rights, reconciliation, accountability and address grievances.

**Project Outcome 1:**

Consultations: Victims including women, youth and traditionally marginalised groups, civil society and other key stakeholders views and opinions contributing and influencing the design of a national strategy on transitional justice and reconciliation. The project will support the Government and key stakeholders for the development of an inclusive, participatory and transparent process aimed at the establishment of credible and effective mechanisms to address past violations and provide redress and effective remedies to victims and conflict affected groups in line with international standards<sup>3</sup>.

**Project Outcome 2:**

Government receives advice and technical assistance on policy, legislation and standards related to transitional justice mechanisms resulting from the outcome of the national consultations. This assistance includes both general accompanying of the process as well as ad hoc assistance is selected topics.

**PBF Focus Areas<sup>4</sup>** which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select one*): 2

<sup>2</sup> PBSO monitors the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment all PBF projects, in line with SC Resolutions 1325, 1888, 1889, 1960 and 2122, and as mandated by the Secretary-General in his Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender Responsive Peacebuilding.

<sup>3</sup> This outcome is interlinked to and mutually reinforcing of the other 3 outcome areas included in the IRF project.

<sup>4</sup> PBF Focus Areas are:

1: *Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue (Priority Area 1):*

(1.1) SSR, (1.2) RoL; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

2: *Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2):*

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management;

3: *Revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends (Priority Area 3):*

(3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services

4) *(Re)-establish essential administrative services (Priority Area 4)*

(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including JSC/ PBF Secretariats)

**IRF PROJECT DOCUMENT**

<i>(For IRF-funded projects)</i>	
<p>Recipient UN Organization(s)<sup>3</sup>  <i>Name of Representative</i>  <i>Signature</i>  <i>Name of Agent</i>  <i>Date &amp; Seal</i> 8/4/16  <i>(Obtain PBO for mission activities and RC for permission activities. If it is a joint project all the Heads of UN Entities/Agencies receiving funds should sign)</i></p>	<p>Representative of National Authorities  <i>Name of Government Counterpart</i>  <i>Signature</i>  <i>Title</i>  <i>Date &amp; Seal</i>                        Chitranganee Wagiswara                      Secretary                      Ministry of Foreign Affairs                      Colombo 01</p>
<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBO)    <i>Name of Representative</i>  <i>Signature</i>                      Peacebuilding Support Office, NY  <i>Date &amp; Seal</i> 20/05/2016</p>	<p>Resident Coordinator (RC)    <i>Name of Representative</i>  <i>Signature</i>                      RC  <i>Date &amp; Seal</i></p>

<sup>3</sup> Please include signature block for each RUNC receiving funds under this IRF.

**I. Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for PBF support**

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### **Peacebuilding context and statement of problems:**

The United Nations estimated that between 80,000–100,000 people were killed during the armed conflict in Sri Lanka from 1982 to 2009, with deaths including LTTE fighters, Sri Lankan soldiers and policemen, and tens of thousands of civilians. While the loss of civilian lives has been prevalent during the entire conflict, the final five months saw the heaviest attrition rate. The final stages of the war created 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who were transferred to camps in Vavuniya District. The total economic cost of the 26-year war was also huge. After the complete military defeat of the LTTE, former President Mahinda Rajapaksa announced the government's commitment to a political solution, and took action based on the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Following the end of the war in May 2009, amid mounting international pressure for an inquiry into the final stages of the war, President Rajapaksa appointed the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (hereinafter LLRC) to look back at the Sri Lankan Civil War, and to provide recommendations for healing and peace building. However, the Commission was criticized by human rights groups and the UN Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability due its limited mandate, alleged lack of independence and its failure to meet minimum international standards or offer protection to witnesses.

In its resolution A/HRC/25/1 adopted in March 2014 on "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka", the United Nations Human Rights Council requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake a comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes by both parties in Sri Lanka during the period covered by the LLRC, and to establish the facts and circumstances of such alleged violations and of the crimes perpetrated with a view to avoiding impunity and ensuring accountability. The Council requested the High Commissioner to present a comprehensive report on the investigations at its twenty-eighth session, and in accordance with this mandate, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights established the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (hereinafter OISL), based in Geneva to look into events from 21 February 2002 until 15 November 2011.

The changed political context in Sri Lanka, with the election of a Government committed to an agenda of human rights, good governance, the rule of law and reconciliation, represents an historic opportunity to advance reconciliation and end impunity as necessary steps towards long term and sustainable peace.

The commitments of the Government in the Statement made to the Human Rights Council on 14 September 2015 have been reflected in Human Rights Council resolution 30/3, co-sponsored by Sri Lanka. These in turn build upon the recommendations made by the High Commissioner in his report to the Human Rights Council<sup>6</sup>, the OHCHR investigation report on Sri Lanka released

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<sup>6</sup> Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka - Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/30/61)

in September 2015<sup>7</sup>, as well as previous OHCHR reports to and resolutions of the Human Rights Council. In the report summarizing the findings of the OISL the High Commissioner provides specific recommendations to address the past including “*initiate genuine consultations on transitional justice, in particular truth-seeking and accountability mechanisms, reparations and memorialization, with the public, victims and witness groups, civil society and other stakeholders*”<sup>8</sup>.

The OISL report documented allegations of indiscriminate shelling, extra judicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, and ill treatment, sexual violence, recruitment of children and other grave crimes allegedly committed by both parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka. The principal findings established by the OISL as a result of its investigation and on the basis of the information in its possession indicate the sheer number of allegations, their gravity, recurrence and the similarities as well as the consistent pattern of conduct they indicate, all point towards system crimes. The findings demonstrate that there are reasonable grounds to believe that gross violations of international human rights law, serious violations of international humanitarian law and international crimes were committed by all parties during the period under investigation. For example, the OISL report notes reasonable grounds to believe that both warring sides were implicated in unlawful killings carried out in a widespread manner against civilians and other protected persons. The investigations also documented long-standing patterns of arbitrary arrest and detention as well as abductions which often reportedly led to enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. In addition, hundreds of cases of enforced disappearances occurred in various parts of the country, with particular prevalence in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Furthermore, the mass detention after the end of hostilities also led to enforced disappearances. Family members of the disappeared persons were also subjected to reprisals and denied the right to an effective remedy, including the right to the truth. On the basis of the information obtained by OISL, there are reasonable grounds to believe that acts of torture were committed on a widespread or systematic scale, in breaches of the absolute prohibition of torture, and Sri Lanka’s international treaty and customary obligations. The information gathered by OISL provided reasonable grounds to believe that rape and other forms of gender based sexual violence was widespread against both male and female detainees, particularly in the aftermath of the armed conflict. The patterns of sexual violence appear to have been a deliberate means of torture to extract information and to humiliate and punish persons who were presumed to have some link to the enemy. OISL gathered information indicating a pattern of abductions leading to forced recruitment of adults by the LTTE until 2009 that were obliged to perform both military and support functions and were often denied contact with their families. The extensive recruitment and use of children in armed conflict by the LTTE over many years in violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Information gathered also indicate reasonable grounds to believe that many of the attacks reviewed in the report did not comply with the principles on the conduct of hostilities; notably the principle of distinction. It is also reported that the control of movement was also used during the conflict thereby unlawfully interfering with the liberty of movement.

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<sup>7</sup> Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on advice and technical assistance for the Government of Sri Lanka on promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka (A/HRC/22/38)

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/30/61

The denial of humanitarian assistance during the conflict impacted on the capacity of humanitarian organizations and personnel to effectively exercise their functions and ensure access to relief of civilians in need. The final stages of the war created 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who were transferred to camps in Vavuniya District. Screening and deprivation of liberty of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) went far beyond what would have been permissible under international law. Moreover, the material conditions in those closed IDP camps amounted to violations of the right to health and to an adequate standard of living, including food, water, housing and sanitation.

Following the end of the approximately 30 years long armed conflict and commitments made to the Secretary-General in May 2009, the previous Government made insufficient effort to deal with the past. A few, *ad hoc* mechanisms were established to address issues of accountability, truth seeking and reconciliation, without consultation and which did not meet international standards. The mentioned LLRC was established in 2010 to “understand the failure of the ceasefire”, “look into possible options of restitutions and to offer institutional, administrative and legislative measures which need to be taken in order to prevent any recurrence of such concerns in the future”, and “to promote further national unity and reconciliation among communities”. The LLRC in its final report underlined that “all allegations should be investigated and wrongdoers prosecuted and punished...so as to inspire confidence among the people in the administration of justice”. It also emphasized the importance of investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators of extrajudicial executions as “such action would send a strong signal in ensuring respect for the rule of law, which in turn tends to contribute to the healing.”<sup>9</sup> The final report of LLRC recommended constitutional reforms, steps towards reconciliation and reparation for victims, but remained largely silent on accountability issues.

During this period, the Sri Lankan Armed Forces also initiated its own investigations in relation to allegations of violations of humanitarian law, such as those reported by UK Channel 4. These investigations were not transparent and did not comply with international standards. Although there have been a few exceptional prosecutions of past offences under regular criminal law, these have been limited to a few cases and have undergone lengthy court proceedings with frequent delays. Many other emblematic cases highlighted previously by OHCHR remain stalled and unresolved.

The term ‘reconciliation’ was appropriated by the previous Government to construct a narrative of post-war Sri Lanka in which the rights of minorities were being protected and their concerns addressed. In reality, post war state policies and action did not adequately take into account the ethno-political nature of the conflict and the need for a political solution. Strident Sinhala nationalism and continued militarization, combined with a lack of acknowledgement of the past, have served to deepen the ethnic divide in post-war Sri Lanka. This in turn has resulted in a deeply polarized society and very limited interaction across ethnicities. The shrinking political space and ethno-nationalist politics led all political parties to adopt entrenched positions that have increased polarization both at the political and community levels.

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<sup>9</sup> LLRC Report para 9.120 and 9.213

During this period, there was little Government recognition of the need to acknowledge the grave violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law allegedly committed during the war, commemorate the loss of lives, or acknowledge the suffering and trauma of the war affected population. For example, due to the lack of a comprehensive and transparent programme to trace the missing and the disappeared, families continue to experience huge emotional distress due to not knowing the whereabouts of their loved ones. This is compounded with the lack of trust in government institutions, as these families have appeared before numerous government-established commissions and told their stories, re-lived their loss and trauma, yet have received no remedy or answers. Moreover, the recommendations of previous commissions remain unimplemented, and in many instances their reports were not made public.

The political context has changed since January 2015 creating increased space for freedom of expression and dialogue and the Government, including through such measures as bringing the two main political parties in the country together in forming a National Unity Government, has committed itself to taking steps necessary for reconciliation and non-recurrence.

In this endeavor, the root causes and consequences of the armed conflict are yet to be comprehensively identified, recognized or addressed by the state, and a number of factors that fueled the conflict and possible challenges to establishing a comprehensive and credible transitional justice mechanisms remain. For instance, post-war militarization and intrusion into civil, political and economic life, particularly in the conflict-affected areas in the North and the East, will have to be addressed to create an enabling environment for an effective national consultation and effective transitional justice responses. The erosion of secularism and multiculturalism and the surge in ethno-nationalism and communalism over the past decade is another possible challenge to the establishment and effective functioning of transitional justice mechanisms.

Since the end of the war more than 300,000 IDPs have been able to return and rebuild their homes and lives. However, nearly six years after the end of the war, there continue to be displaced persons<sup>10</sup> majority of them being women and children for whom durable solutions to address their displacement conditions are urgently required. Despite large-scale infrastructure development, such as roads and expressways and several urban rejuvenation and renovation projects in the South, many of those that have returned in the north and east still have assistance and protection needs. There is a need for effective mechanisms to restore land and property and for facilitated mechanisms to compensate for losses. Women-headed households remain especially vulnerable.

### **Mapping of existing peacebuilding activities and gaps**

Notwithstanding the value of the LLRC, the previous Government took few steps to ensure truth, justice and redress for victims, or address the root causes and consequences of the 30 years long war. Even when mechanisms were established, such as the Presidential Commission on Missing

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<sup>10</sup>According to the Ministry of Reconstruction, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs, a total of 44,934 IDPs are yet to be resettled as of end of April. <http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/index.php/en/idps/idps-statistics.html>



Persons, there lacked a broad based approach as victims and those affected by the armed conflict were not consulted and civil society remained largely excluded from those processes. Most of these mechanisms were established in response to evolving scrutiny and pressures at the international level, particularly in the Human Rights Council. On the other hand, serious concerns have been raised regarding the credibility, impartiality and effectiveness of national institutions, especially the judiciary, weakened by the enactment of the 18th amendment to the Constitution, in delivering justice under domestic law in relation to violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Over the past decade, public institutions have been weakened, incapacitated and their independence compromised. OISL reported on widespread interference by the Executive in judicial proceedings related to conflict-related cases, and threats and intimidation of judicial personnel. The National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, which should play a primary role in protecting human rights, was downgraded internationally due to the lack of independence in the manner in which commissioners were appointed.

Therefore, victims have faced formidable barriers in seeking redress for human rights violations through public institutions in Sri Lanka. In the absence of any reliable system of victim and witness protection, and an atmosphere of threats and intimidation by state actors, victims were often reluctant to come forward for fear of reprisals. People, particularly the minorities, exhibit limited faith in public institutions, from which they have not been able to receive any redress. The lack of broad based participation and lack of transparency in the establishment of the numerous ad-hoc mechanisms over the years has further exacerbated public exhaustion and lack of faith in public institutions. Moreover, the ad-hoc nature of these mechanisms meant their temporal and thematic scope was limited, as a result of which large groups of victims' voices were not heard, nor their needs met. This in turn has created a sense of isolation and frustration amongst victims. There is an urgent need not only to rebuild these institutions but also change the political culture and rebuild confidence in the justice system amongst the population.

Although the new Government has embarked on a number of initiatives since January 2015, and outlined its plans for new transitional justice mechanisms, these have yet to be subject to broad public consultation or acquire national support and ownership, particularly among victims' groups and civil society. It is also hoped these will be consolidated into a comprehensive transitional justice policy rather than a continuation of ad-hoc and uncoordinated initiatives which have spelt failure in the past. For instance, the Government has for now continued with the existing Presidential Commission to Investigate Into Complaints Regarding Missing Persons established by the previous Government, despite widespread concerns with its independence and effectiveness. The Rehabilitation of Persons, Properties and Industries Authority (REPPIA), established by the Rehabilitation of Persons, Properties and Industries Authority Act No 29 of 1987, has served as a primary vehicle for the rehabilitation of victims, but this has been limited to financial means and not other forms of reparation. There is to date also no coherent, cohesive or comprehensive reparation policy in Sri Lanka.

In his statement to the Human Rights Council on 14 September 2015, the Minister for Foreign Affairs promised to establish "independent, credible and empowered mechanisms for truth

seeking, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence within the framework of the constitution.”<sup>11</sup> The Government proposes a Commission for truth, justice, reconciliation and non-recurrence, consisting of a Compassionate Council, an Office on Missing Persons, an Office for Reparations and a judicial mechanism with a special counsel I to investigate grave violations.<sup>12</sup> The Government has also committed to a number of other legislative reforms and safeguards to guarantee non-recurrence.<sup>13</sup> Commitment was also made to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles.<sup>14</sup>

Many of these commitments have subsequently been included in resolution 30/3 adopted by consensus by the Human Rights Council with the co-sponsorship of Sri Lanka. The resolution, inter alia:

- *Supports* the commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to strengthen and safeguard the credibility of the processes of truth-seeking, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence by engaging in broad national consultations with the inclusion of victims and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, from all affected communities, which will inform the design and implementation of these processes, drawing on international expertise, assistance and best practices<sup>15</sup>;
- *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to undertake a comprehensive approach to dealing with the past, incorporating the full range of judicial and non-judicial measures; also welcomes in this regard the proposal by the Government to establish a commission for truth, justice, reconciliation and non-recurrence, an office of missing persons and an office for reparations; further welcomes the willingness of the Government to give each mechanism the freedom to obtain financial, material and technical assistance from international partners, including the Office of the High Commissioner; and affirms that these commitments, if implemented fully and credibly, will help to advance accountability for serious crimes by all sides and to achieve reconciliation<sup>16</sup>;
- *Welcomes* the recognition by the Government of Sri Lanka that accountability is essential to uphold the rule of law and to build confidence in the people of all communities of Sri Lanka in the justice system, notes with appreciation the proposal of the Government of Sri Lanka to establish a judicial mechanism with a

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<sup>11</sup> Statement by Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, minister of foreign affairs of Sri Lanka, on 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, 13 September 2015, page 4.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Ibid page 5

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, A/HRC/30/L.29, page 3

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

special counsel to investigate allegations of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, as applicable; affirms that a credible justice process should include independent judicial and prosecutorial institutions led by individuals known for their integrity and impartiality; and also affirms in this regard the importance of participation in a Sri Lankan judicial mechanism, including the special counsel's office, of Commonwealth and other foreign judges, defence lawyers and authorized prosecutors and investigators<sup>17</sup>;

The Government announced its intention to begin a national consultation process on the design of transitional justice mechanisms and processes in October 2015, which provides the immediate context for the IRF Peace Building Fund project.

#### Government strategy:

In September 2015, the Government of Sri Lanka stated that, in accordance with the mandates received from the public at the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections held in January and August 2015, respectively, action will be taken to establish mechanisms for truth-seeking, justice, and reparations to consolidate peace, reconciliation and guarantee non-recurrence. The mechanisms in this connection will be evolved through a wide process of consultations involving all stakeholders, including victims.

The Government of Sri Lanka will assume the lead on the Consultation process within the framework of the reconciliation strategy. The institutional mechanism that oversees the Consultations and other reconciliation and transitional justice initiatives is the Prime Ministerial Action Group (PMAG) chaired by the Prime Minister and in charge of politically guiding the process of reconciliation and accountability. The PMAG includes representation of key Ministers. Under the PMAG is the Steering Committee (that seat at Ministerial Secretary level) and is chaired by the Foreign Minister. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to develop a coordinated plan for the mechanisms envisaged for truth-seeking, justice and reparations. The Steering Committee is supported by the Secretariat for Coordinating the Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM), which has received cabinet approval. The SCRM is currently operating within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In order to specifically implement the National Consultations, the Government has appointed an 11 member's Consultation Task Force which members are prominent human rights activists from civil society and academics. The Task Force is supported by two advisory panels (an Expert Advisory Panel and a Representative Advisory Panel, also composed of civil society members) with plans on the way for a third Panel representing Victims. The Task Force is gender balanced (6 women and 5 men)<sup>18</sup> and its members come from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The members of the Taskforce and advisory panels bring a good composition and ensure inclusiveness.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid page 4

<sup>18</sup> See short bios of Task Force members in annex

The Task Force will further appoint Provincial Task Forces to assist in the consultation process. In addition, they will also appoint the District Task Forces for the North and East.

The Task Force is considering a comprehensive consultation process with web-based written submissions town hall meetings across the districts of the country, focus group discussions and structured interviews with the most affected victims of the conflict will be organised based on specific themes with the objective of reaching out to a wide range of stakeholders.

In order to successfully implement their mandate, the Task Force will require considerable resources and technical support. The Secretariat (SCRM)<sup>19</sup> put in place by the Government will channelled a substantive part of the Government support with assistance from the United Nations. In terms of technical advice, the Task Force requires expertise in transitional justice processes and specifically on consultations. The immediate purpose of this project proposal is to provide a framework for OHCHR support to the Task Force and the SCRM by making expertise available and accompanying specific activities of the Task Force, advise on procedures and standards, support organisation of events and trainings, support grassroots civil society organisations meaningful participation in the process by raising awareness of the concepts and processes around consultations.

The Consultation Task Force is expected to come up with recommendations for establishing viable mechanisms to address the alleged serious human rights violations that have taken place during the last phase of the war, after nationwide consultations.

The following are the Task Force's Guiding Principles that also influence the work of this project:

1. The purpose of the Task force is to ascertain the opinion of stakeholders on institutions and processes for transitional justice which will in turn guide their design.
2. It is recognized that the consultation process is the initial and integral part of the accountability and reconciliation process.
3. The consultation process will be designed and directed by the Task Force.
4. The consultations will take place within clearly defined parameters, without prejudice to other concerns raised by stakeholders.
5. Consultations will be victim-centred and the deliberations of the Task Force will be representative of diverse victims and other stakeholder interests / groups.
6. Consultations will be conducted in a manner that respects the dignity of those consulted and provides confidence to those wishing to make submissions.
7. While deliberations of the Task Force will meet the requirements of transparency, it will be balanced by the right of confidentiality of the victims.

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<sup>19</sup> See [www.scrm.gov.lk](http://www.scrm.gov.lk) for details on the Secretariat and the Task Force

8. The process will be accessible to all citizens and efforts will be taken to that effect, especially in terms of language needs for those making submissions.
9. Consultations will be preceded by a public awareness and information campaign on the purpose and objective of the consultation process.
10. The consultations process will follow a robust methodology that is internally coherent and sensitive to the context and needs of stakeholders.
11. Consultations will draw from global and national best practices.
12. The consultations process will be conducted by persons of integrity who are appropriately skilled and knowledgeable and will prioritize their commitment to the process.
13. Government will support and resource the consultation process.
14. Ensure commitment from the government (in consultation with the Task Force) to provide protection and an enabling environment for participants throughout the consultation process and thereafter.

### **Rationale for IRF project**

Following the presidential election of 8 January 2015 and the consensual outcome at the 30th session of the Human Rights Council, the Government has sought the assistance of the UN to provide UN expertise and technical assistance to advance accountability and reconciliation and build sustainable peace in Sri Lanka. This project therefore aims to quickly respond to the Government of Sri Lanka's request and provide support to initiate a process that leads to a nationally owned transitional justice policy, and thereafter credible and effective transitional justice mechanisms that adheres to international standards, as necessary steps towards reconciliation and peace.

In this regard, the IRF project approach is guided by the statement of the High Commissioner while releasing the OISL report on 16 September noted "*after so many years of unbridled human rights violations and institutionalized impunity, the wounds of victims on both sides have festered and deepened...unless fundamentally addressed, their continued suffering will further polarize and become an obstacle to reconciliation, and – worse – may sow the seeds for further conflict*".

<sup>20</sup> The High Commissioner further noted that failure to address impunity and root out the systemic problems that allowed such abuses to occur could risk their reoccurrence. The High Commissioner stressed that "it is imperative that the Government seizes the unique opportunity it has to break the mold of impunity once and for all."<sup>21</sup> The change in national politics since

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<sup>20</sup> See more at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/SriLanka.aspx#sthash.QF4OZB9x.dpuf>

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

January 2015 together with the commitment of the new national unity Government towards reconciliation and accountability provides an historic opportunity for Sri Lanka to move towards a sustainable peace.

The Government of Sri Lanka has assumed the lead on the Consultation process through the referred Consultations Task Force supported by the SCRM and overseen by the PMAG and its steering committee.

The Government of Sri Lanka has expressed its willingness to receive technical assistance from OHCHR and the Special Procedures in advancing accountability and reconciliation, and as required help to fill the critical capacity and knowledge gaps in the process. HRC Resolution 30/3 (OP 20) “encourages the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant special procedure mandate holders to provide, in consultation with and with the concurrence of the Government of Sri Lanka, advice and technical assistance” in implementing the measures and commitments contained in the resolution.

This project aims at providing technical assistance to the Consultations by advising and supporting the Task Force and other relevant bodies (Advisory Panels, SCRM, etc). The assistance consists on sharing lessons and experiences of other countries (providing literature and reports, including the OHCHR Rule of Law Tools for Post Conflict States, other Consultations reports, etc), providing training and developing skills for the national experts (including by regular interaction with the office of the Human Rights Advisor and by bringing international experts and OHCHR HQ staff for briefings and discussions), ensure the credibility, independence and objectivity of the consultations by advising and accompanying discussions, provide limited support with organization of the different aspects of the consultation (including deployment of national volunteers to assist the process).

The implementation of the IRF project will be guided by core areas of work that include the following:

i) Inclusive and transparent process

This project will support the Government and stakeholders to ensure that victims and civil society, including non-governmental organizations from all affected communities identified as stakeholders by the Consultation Task force, participate and contribute meaningfully to decisions on transitional justice options that are required to address the legacy of the 30 year-long conflict, and measures and mechanisms required to prevent recurrence in the future. Victims’ especially the war affected women, widows, women headed household’s involvement is critical in designing and establishing mechanisms for prosecution, truth seeking and reparation. Transitional justice mechanisms that are exclusively developed by the state without broad national consultations, including with victims and affected communities, will lack credibility and fail to adequately respond to the needs of victims. Hence, a transparent and inclusive process of consultation should be organized with all relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to victims, women, youth, representatives of various religions, ethnicities and geographic locations, as well as marginalized groups before transitional justice mechanisms are designed and

established. Participation in such a process itself also has a reparative effect for victims when their views are acknowledged and considered.

ii) Ensuring a comprehensive approach:

The Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence during his first visit to Sri Lanka in April 2015 reiterated that there is no “short cut” to reconciliation in Sri Lanka and highlighted a need for a comprehensive transitional justice approach. He further emphasized the need for the formulation of a human rights-centered state policy on transitional justice. While noting the lack of “*consultation and public participation in the past processes*”, the Special Rapporteur reaffirmed that “*consultation with those affected by the violations is essential*” since “*citizens cannot be simply presented with solutions in the design of which they were not given role*”. In a second visit in January 2016 he insisted on the importance of carrying out national consultations, “*in the conviction that redressing massive human rights violations is best done with the participation of those whose rights were violated in the first place*”. Consulting victims constitutes in itself a mode of recognition and respect and is also a means of trying to guarantee a close fit between the programmes to be established and the needs and expectations of their beneficiaries and a way to signal to others the currency of the notion of equal rights. He also noted that “For the sake of the integrity of the exercise, but fundamentally, for the sake of the effectiveness of victims’ redress, and as a consequence, for what it would say about the robustness and the seriousness of the idea of equal rights for all, of a shared sense of citizenship in Sri Lanka, this exercise must be made to work”<sup>22</sup>.

The Secretary General has also previously emphasized, “the most successful transitional justice experiences owe a large part of their success to the quality and quantity of public and victim consultation carried out”<sup>23</sup>.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein at the end of his mission to Sri Lanka on February 2016 noted that “*the Task Force appointed to lead the National Consultations includes high quality representatives of civil society [but] there are concerns - including among the Task Force members themselves- that is to rushed and has not been properly planned or adequately resourced*”<sup>24</sup>. This project intent to partially supplement the resources available to the Task Force and support them in terms of conceptualizing and planning different elements, including through the support of visits by the Special Rapporteur or other high level experts as well as technical support from OHCHR staff.

The support to the Government and relevant stakeholders through this project will ensure a broad based and victim-centered approach that will help the Government establish a credible transitional justice framework that will be broadly owned and meet international standards. Support under this project will ensure nationwide participation of victims, civil society, youth,

<sup>22</sup> Observations by the Special Rapporteur on the conclusion of his second advisory visit to Sri Lanka (26 January to 1 February 2016).

<sup>23</sup> Report of the Secretary-General of 23 August 2004 on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies (S/2004/616 paras 8 and 26)

<sup>24</sup> Media Statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein at the end of his mission to Sri Lanka, Colombo 9 February 2016.

women, marginalized groups, representatives of various ethnic and geographic locations, thus creating ownership of transitional justice processes and mechanisms. It will also ensure victim and civil society participation is “informed” by ensuring parallel public information and capacity building activities to develop awareness and understanding of transitional justice options and inform the design of mechanisms with comparative international best practice. Special focus would be given to women and the youth also in this dissemination of information necessary for the success of the consultations.

iii) Initialization of the design process:

The transitional justice framework which will be developed through (and in parallel to) national consultations should reflect the actual needs of those affected by the armed conflict, enabling the government to better identify and frame sustainable measures that can address the long-standing grievances of victims and enable the achievement of sustainable peace. The support provided to the Government through this project will help to create national ownership of transitional justice processes and strive to ensure the continued and consistent participation of victims and the conflict-affected population.

In addition to the main purpose of supporting the National Consultations the project also aims to cover Government requests for assistance in discussing and conceptualizing other aspects of transitional justice that will not necessarily wait for the end of the Consultations. To that effect the project retains flexibility to respond to demand driven technical assistance through deployment of further technical assistance, support visits such as the Special Rapporteur that go beyond the specific topic of consultations and conduct sensitization and awareness with civil society on transitional justice topics.

This component of the project is formulated to complement the other outcomes of the IRF given the interlinkages between accountability, reparations and redress for victims, reconciliation initiatives and longer-term institutional reforms. Other components of the UNCT IRF proposals focus on inter-ethnic trust building, reconciliation and social cohesion with the aim of avoiding relapsing into conflict (Project of support to the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation - ONUR) or provide support to the Secretariat for Coordinating the Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM) that in turn also supports the Consultation process. The projects reinforce each other by supporting different aspects of the process, focusing on institutional building (SCRM support project), technical advice to the SCRM and the Task Force (Consultations support project) and promoting reconciliation (ONUR support project). This will reinforce and advance the effectiveness of processes and mechanisms that address accountability issues, truth-seeking and restitution in a participatory, inclusive and transparent manner. For instance, the quality of participation in the proposed national consultation process to establish transitional justice mechanisms will itself have an important impact on confidence building between communities and between minorities and the state. Hence the success of the different aspects is closely interdependent and it will be important to ensure close coordination and coherence between the different components of the project. The need for further coordination of the different government initiatives and the development of an overarching comprehensive transitional justice strategy has been underlined by the Special Rapporteur. UN support, through the PBF of different components will contribute to reinforce the coherence. This can further be strengthened



by a coordinated UN approach to transitional justice through regular interagency consultations both at UNCT and HQ level.

iv) Lessons and experience sharing and skills development:

The support that OHCHR will provide to the Tasks Force and other stakeholders will incorporate lessons and experiences from other countries where the UN has played an important role in accompanying National Consultations and Transitional Justice processes, identifying best practices and ways to adapt them to the specific situation of Sri Lanka, taking into account that there is not a standard model that fits all transitional justice contexts but rather a need to adjust and adapt to respond to concrete needs in a manner that respects international standards.

### **Objectives of PBF support and proposed implementation**

#### **a) Project outcomes, theory of change, activities, targets and sequencing**

The end result of this project is a society that is defined by peace, justice and respect for human rights. The project contributes to that goal by promoting reconciliation through giving a voice to different stakeholders. Specifically, Phase 1 will provide technical support to the Government in undertaking broad-based national consultations with stakeholders including women and war affected youth and children aiming to identify and design credible, effective and comprehensive accountability and truth-seeking mechanisms to address the allegations of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to provide redress and effective remedies to victims and conflict affected communities, that meet international standards. This will be done by supporting the activities of the Government-appointed Task Force (directly or through the SCRM), advising the Task Force members, building capacity with civil society, supporting participation of victims and stakeholders and advising other Government initiatives in transitional justice.

#### Expected overall outcome

The expected overall outcome is to engage the broader Sri Lankan society, especially women, youth and vulnerable group in peacebuilding and reconciliation by seeking their views, needs and expectations on how to address a legacy of conflict and human rights violations and abuses. The project will provide technical assistance to establish and advance an inclusive, transparent and participatory process aimed at the identification and design of credible and effective transitional justice mechanisms to address human rights violations and accountability that will provide redress and effective remedies to victims and conflict-affected groups in line with international standards. This project will contribute towards addressing a number of grievances, needs and concerns of the conflict-affected population that in turn will contribute towards reconciliation, social cohesion and avoid relapse into violent conflict.

#### Theory of change

Sri Lankan initiatives in the past to advance accountability, truth seeking and reparations lacked broad-based consultations with the victims, affected communities and other stakeholders outlined in this project document; as a result they failed to enjoy the confidence and satisfy the grievances of victims or enjoy ownership by the broader civil society. One of the key reason of failure in the past is women, children, youths and traditionally marginalized population such as religious minorities were rarely involved in the decision making process. Therefore, the first step under this project will focus on supporting the Task Force and relevant stakeholders in designing and implementing broad-based and inclusive national consultations. If the Government and the Task Force are provided with adequate technical support and expertise in designing and undertaking national consultations with a range of stakeholders, including victims and civil society, then it will *inter alia* a) create trust between victims, civil society and the government, b) help foster a sense of national ownership of transitional justice initiatives, thereby contributing to their sustainability and c) help the Government in developing a comprehensive framework of possible transitional justice options to address the grievances of the victims, including the question of accountability. In addition, the national consultations will enable the voices of the large number of conflict-affected women, who to date have not been part of any national, provincial or local post-war development or reconstruction processes or discourse, to be heard. This will ensure the particular needs and concerns of women and other marginalized groups are incorporated into the state policy on transitional justice and all mechanisms established to address human rights violations and accountability are sensitive to and geared towards providing effective remedies to the conflict-affected population.

The outcomes of the national consultations will assist the Government in developing a comprehensive transitional justice policy in conformity with international standards. Transitional justice processes that are designed and established based on public consultations, and supported with international expertise, including from OHCHR and the Special Procedures, drawing on international experiences and best practice, will enjoy greater credibility and more effectively address the rights of victims to truth, justice and redress and the longer term goal of ensuring non-recurrence.

Renewing the trust of people, particularly victims and conflict-affected communities in public institutions will be key to transforming Sri Lanka from a post-war situation to a situation of sustainable peace. Provision of technical support and training and capacity building of government officials, (e.g. police, prosecution and judiciary) will not only enhance their capacity to deal with alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Sri Lanka, but will leave a longer-term legacy for the Sri Lankan justice system and help to prevent the recurrence of violations and impunity in the future. Civil society and community based organizations, if supported with trainings and capacity-building activities in various aspects of transitional justice, will also help fill the gap between the government and the victims by bridging the trust deficit.

### **Content of support**

**Target groups:** Victims of conflict, conflict affected communities/groups; and relevant stakeholders

**Geographical scope:** 15 locations of Sri Lanka (8 district headquarters in the north and north east and provincial headquarters in other provinces)

Focus and modalities of support:

**Outcome 1: A National Consultation process that captures diverse views and opinions of different stakeholders in Sri Lankan society on Justice, Truth, Reparations and Non-Recurrence**

**Output 1.1: The Task Force mandate to conduct National Consultations is fulfilled:** This output consists on effectively providing technical assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government-appointed Consultations Task Force, so as to fulfill the TF mandate. OHCHR has already deployed one international human rights officer with specialized experience in transitional justice who has begun engaging with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and civil society organizations and has been providing technical assistance in the design of the national consultations, including the early steps of design of the Task Force. National human rights officers, consultants and national volunteers will further support this task. This team will work under the supervision of the Senior Human Rights Advisor within the Resident Coordinator's Office who has been deployed in Sri Lanka on 15 November 2015. OHCHR will further deploy experts and resource persons on missions to implement, support and facilitate activities outlined in the project document. OHCHR as lead UN agency in transitional justice has substantial capacity and experiences in supporting transitional justice in varieties of transitional justice contexts, and will draw on expertise from other parts of the UN system as required. For instance, it will continue consulting with the Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of non-recurrence to ensure that coherent messaging is provided to the national authorities with regards to sequencing and design of different mechanisms and tools associated to or deriving from the Consultations process, and to ensure that efforts in accountability and reconciliation are mutually reinforcing. The Project aims to support specific implementation activities, provide training and advice to those involve in the process, facilitate material in different national languages and support specific activities by providing short term consultants or volunteer specialists, for example to assist in sensitization, information management, or media strategy, among other activities.

**Output 1.2: Stakeholders are empowered to share their views and opinions on justice, truth and reconciliation.** This output will enable stakeholders including victims, conflict affected groups, including women, families of disappeared, representatives from religious and marginalized groups and youth to participate in an informed and effective manner in shaping a common vision for the establishment of credible and effective transitional justice mechanisms in line with international standards by ensuring, informing and supporting their participation in the National Consultations.

Activities (contributing to both outputs 1.1 and 1,2):

- a) OHCHR will provide technical support to the Consultations Task Force, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, , other technical committees and steering committees

assigned to undertake national consultations, the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Justice and other relevant Government ministries and national institutions, and civil society organizations in the design, conduct and report of national consultations in fifteen locations including in Colombo, with the aim of raising awareness of transitional justice principles and options and generating an open exchange of suggestions and opinions regarding accountability, truth seeking and reparation. Participants in the consultation process would include: Government; civil society organizations, affected persons and groups, religious groups, political parties, professional groups. This technical support includes reinforcing the capacity of the Task Force with short term staff and volunteers, assist the Task Force on planning and designing the processes and limited financial support to in site consultations. The consultation process as designed by the Task Force with the advice of OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the right to truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence will include a desk research of the various previous commissions' reports to understand views of victims and civil society with regards to specific recommendations including the issue of missing persons and other transitional justice measures including reparation and institutional reform; a mechanism of written submissions in which every interested Sri Lankan will be able to send written submissions based on structured questionnaires on various aspects of transitional justice, a total of fifteen in house field consultations in conflict affected districts and provincial headquarters in which different constituent groups, totaling approximately 150-200 persons, will be consulted based on pre agreed questionnaires developed by the Task Force and series of structured interviews with the most affected victims throughout Sri Lanka based on specific methodology and questionnaires developed by the Task Force with support of OHCHR.

- b) Provide advice and expert support: OHCHR will support the consultations task force to develop a minimum common understanding of the issues/questions to be discussed during the national consultations and overall consultation framework in line with international standards and oversee the consultation process. In order to do so it will draw on external experts (i.e. the Special Rapporteur and other mandate holders) and on OHCHR staff in HQ and the field. The project will make expertise available for short missions. OHCHR will also provide support to civil society initiatives to promote coordinated approaches to participation and information sharing during consultation processes and address any protection concerns. This could take the form of a common victims or civil society platform for coordinated advocacy, as has been successful in other similar contexts.
- c) OHCHR will engage with relevant government counterparts to introduce focused methods to engage women, children and youth to reflect their views in the national consultation process. OHCHR will seek support from other sister organizations, especially UNICEF for consultation with children.

**Outcome 2: Sri Lankan stakeholders obtain a basic knowledge and understanding of Transitional Justice processes that will put them in a position to implement the Human Rights Council Resolution 30/1 of 2015**

**Output 2.1.** Key stakeholders have strengthened capacity on transitional justice principles and standards, so as to facilitate broad-based and informed participation in the process of establishing credible and effective mechanisms.

**Activities:**

- a) OHCHR will conduct targeted capacity building trainings, orientations to the task force and workshops to government officials, civil society organizations, and victims and victim's support group to ensure informed involvement and participation in transitional justice process. OHCHR will design training modules in consultation with government counterparts and will be implemented by OHCHR with the support of internal and external resource persons. These activities will be undertaken in a coordinated manner with other UN entities to ensure consistency and to avoid duplication.
- b) Training on transitional justice for senior government officials (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of National Dialogue, Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs Attorney General's Office and National Human Rights Commission,) will be organized in different stages of the process.
- c) OHCHR will conduct three intense residential trainings for civil society organizations and actors both in Colombo and elsewhere in Sri Lanka on different aspects of transitional justice including prosecution and accountability, truth seeking and historical record management, reconciliation, restitution and institutional reform. OHCHR will ensure diverse participation of civil society activists including from civil society organizations working at the grassroots level in the districts.
- d) OHCHR will further undertake series of awareness raising activities targeting victims and victim's groups with the view of ensuring greater understanding of transitional justice aspects and ensuring their participations in national consultations throughout Sri Lanka.

**Output 2.2: Relevant stakeholders are supported in their early brainstorming and conceptualization of transitional justice policies** and measures that ensure accountability for human rights violations and provide redress, effective remedies and reparations to victims and conflict affected groups that meet international standards: Assistance to the Government under this component will ensure the formulation and/or revision of relevant legislation and policies, including in management of information and archiving, in line with international human rights standards and humanitarian law, taking into account recommendations from international human rights mechanisms, comparative international experience and best practices.

**Activities:**

- a) **Provision of expert advice to the Government in the preparation and revision of relevant legislation, policies and mechanisms** necessary for the design of transitional justice institutions and practices. OHCHR will also provide support to the government by reviewing relevant existing legislations to ensure compliance with international standards, with particular focus on victim and witness protection. This assistance will be provided by the specialized OHCHR staff in the Resident Coordinator's Office in

Colombo, as well as through missions by relevant experts and Special Procedures mandate holders.

- b) Drawing on recommendations by the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances that visited Sri Lanka in November 2015, **support the mapping of existing databases on the disappeared and missing persons, and formulation of a strategy and methodology to consolidate existing data in line with international standards.** Provide an international technical expert to conduct an initial scoping and mapping of human rights documentation sources (public and private) and develop a concept for an independent archiving system that would support future accountability and historical memory processes.
- c) Provide technical support to the Government in **designing and establishing a historical record management system** which will provide a system to preserve information and documentation on violations that took place during the war in Sri Lanka.

**Budget:** Provide the envisaged project budget, using the two tables below: (1) activity by activity budget and (2) UN Categories budget. Provide any additional remarks on the scale of the budget and value-for-money, referring to the Value for Money checklist.

The estimate budget for Phase 1 is estimated at US\$. 1,000,000. Of this budget, the PBF will initially provide a total of US\$750,000 or 75 % of the total project budget. The PBF budget is as outlined in Tables 2A and 2B of the project document. The Government of Sri Lanka will provide in-kind contributions amounting to about US\$ 24,258.44. Efforts will be made during the implementation of the project to mobilize additional resources to cover the funding gap of US\$ 250,000. PBSO has advised to identify this funding gap instead of scaling down the project proposal to adjust to the IRF ceilings.

Table 2A: Project Activity Budget				
Outcome/ Output number	Output name	Output budget by RUNO	UN budget category (see table below for list of categories)	Any remarks (e.g. on types of inputs provided or budget justification)
Outcome 1:				
Activity 1.1	Strengthening OHCHR's Office	\$492,063		
Output 1.1	Consultations	\$262,809		
Outcome 2:				
Output 2.1	Support on transitional justice policy	\$20,341		
Output 2.2.	Training cost	\$144,325		
Output 1.4		15,042		
Total		\$934,580		

Table 2B: PBF Project Budget by Input

CATEGORIES	TOTAL
1. Staff and other personnel	\$537,212
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$1,500
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	\$6,500
4. Contractual services	\$70,300
5. Travel	\$101,592
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	\$217,476
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	\$0
<b>Sub-Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$934,580</b>
8. Indirect Support Costs* (7%)	\$65,420
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

## I. Management and coordination

**Project management:** *This section identifies the oversight structure or mechanism responsible for the effective implementation of the project and for the achievement of expected results. If there are other UN peacebuilding projects or other PBF funded projects, this section should also state how coordination/coherence between them will be ensured. If need be, an organogram can be included to help understand the structures.*

In his policy on the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict societies, the Secretary General has designated OHCHR as lead UN agency in the area of transitional justice. OHCHR has accumulated substantial experience in supporting transitional justice mechanisms in a variety of countries, such as Nepal, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Liberia, Burundi and Afghanistan. At its headquarters in Geneva, OHCHR has a team of rule of law and transitional justice specialists who have, inter alia, published a number of Rule of Law Tools for post-conflict societies including prosecution, truth seeking, reconciliation and institutional reform.

The project will be run under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and overall coordination of the Senior Human Rights Adviser in the Resident Coordinator's Office, who will assume overall responsibility for the implementation of the project, including programming, human resources and budget management supported by an expanded team of international human rights officer(s) with expertise in transitional justice and national consultant(s) and legal/forensic experts. The Senior Human Rights Adviser will report to the UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka and the Chief of the Asia Pacific Section in OHCHR on developments related to the implementation of the project and its expected results. OHCHR HQ will provide technical support and guidance to the design and implementation of activities.

The Government of Sri Lanka has put in place a structure to coordinate reconciliation activities including Consultations and transitional justice. At the top of the structure is the Prime Minister Action Group (PMAG) composed of various relevant Ministers that oversees a Steering Committee composed of Secretaries of those ministers and a Secretariat for Coordinating the Reconciliation Mechanisms. The Consultations Task Force leads conducting National Consultations. The Government has been open in seeking support from the United Nations, international community and civil society in Sri Lanka. There is a lack of sufficient expertise within the government with regards to the design of national consultations as well as setting up institutional mechanisms to deal with the legacy of 30 years of conflict in Sri Lanka. This project therefore aims at filling a critical gap in transitional justice expertise in Sri Lanka and ensuring it abides to international good practices and standards.

### Risk management:

Table 5 – Risk management matrix

#### a) Risk management

Risks to the achievement of PBF outcomes	Likelihood of occurrence (high, medium, low)	Severity of risk impact (high, medium, low)	Mitigating Strategy (and Person/Unit responsible)
Possibility of local election campaign in Sri Lanka while activities related to national consultations take place thereby limiting the participation of stakeholders in national consultation process.	High	Medium	OHCHR will encourage civil society organizations both in Colombo and conflict affected areas to constantly engage with victims and victim's network to participate in national consultations. OHCHR will also encourage government to come up with various modes of consultations (e.g., written submissions) to ensure stakeholders have options to participate in the process.
Possibility of involvement or participation of spoilers in consultation process and misinterpretation of consultations outcome.	Medium	Medium	OHCHR will work closely with the Taskforce to ensure appropriate screening mechanism of the participants in in house consultations. OHCHR will continue advocating for independent reporting mechanism and a public report of the results ,



Possibility that the Consultations Task Force and its supporting structures are not provided sufficient support and resources from the government, including full ownership and endorsement of the process	Medium	High	OHCHR will work closely with the Government to identify support or messaging gaps and address them
Possibility that the Task Force and Government-led process timeframes and expectations do not align with each other and/or with civil society and victims expectations and UN expectations and international standards	Medium	Medium	This is a national led process that OHCHR can support but cannot fully guide or endorse. The UN and particularly OHCHR will use its good offices and advocacy to address eventual concerns while maintaining its independence to report on progress to the Human Rights Council.
Potential backlash from nationalist's forces which view government peace-building initiatives being influenced or driven by western powers.	Medium	High	The UN adopts a measured approach to all engagement in addition to a proactive communication strategy, i.e. anticipate possible negative publicity or backlash by different stakeholders, and undertake pre-emptive action.
Significant obstacles by opposition parties/groups in the parliament in passing legislation related to transitional justice	Medium	High	The UN will continue engaging with key decision makers with a view to building trust and broad based consensus for accountability and truth seeking.
Natural hazards (rains, floods), seasonal events (harvest) or other reasons (local elections) jeopardize specific consultation events	Medium	Low	The UN will advocate for a flexible calendar that allows reschedule/relocation of specific events if they were prevented/affected by a given obstacle.

**a) Monitoring & evaluation:**

The project will be monitored in accordance with the IRF Results Framework (Annex B). OHCHR will be responsible for monitoring and reporting of the Results Framework, and for budgeting for these activities accordingly. The project will aim to gather gender and age disaggregated data where relevant, and incorporates the same in the project reporting. Through the project's technical committee, and in consultation with the Senior Human Rights Advisor, OHCHR will ensure that at least bi-annual consolidated updates are provided to the Steering Committee. In line with IRF Guidelines an end of project evaluation will take place during the final three months of the project. The evaluation will draw upon a mix of quantitative and qualitative tools.

OHCHR will ensure, where possible, to spot visits and observation to the consultation process and undertake regular meetings with implementing partners (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consultation Taskforce and civil society organizations) to measure and track the progresses. The implementing partners will be provided orientation and training to enable them to follow the IRF project implementation framework.

OHCHR has allocated 5% of the total budget as an independent evaluation of the project.

### **Administrative arrangements** (This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)

The UNDP MPTF Office serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the PBF and is responsible for the receipt of donor contributions, the transfer of funds to Recipient UN Organizations, the consolidation of narrative and financial reports and the submission of these to the PBSO and the PBF donors. As the Administrative Agent of the PBF, MPTF Office transfers funds to RUNOS on the basis of the signed Memorandum of Understanding between each RUNO and the MPTF Office. Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out as required. OHCHR may deploy staffs from Finance and PMS unit to undertake monitoring and evaluation if deemed necessary.

#### **AA Functions**

On behalf of the Recipient Organizations, and in accordance with the UNDG-approved “Protocol on the Administrative Agent for Multi Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, and One UN funds” (2008), the MPTF Office as the AA of the PBF will:

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate narrative reports and financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is notified by the RUNO (accompanied by the final narrative report, the final certified financial statement and the balance refund);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any costs extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

#### **Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations**

Recipient United Nations Organizations will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

Each RUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the PBF account. This separate ledger account shall be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures, including those relating to interest. The separate ledger account shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the RUNO.

Each RUNO will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

- Bi-annual progress reports to be provide no later than 15 July;
- Annual and final narrative reports, to be provided no later than three months (31 March) after the end of the calendar year;

- Annual financial statements as of 31 December with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the PBF, to be provided no later than four months (30 April) after the end of the calendar year;
- Certified final financial statements after the completion of the activities in the approved programmatic document, to be provided no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.
- Unspent Balance at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the MPTF Office, no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.

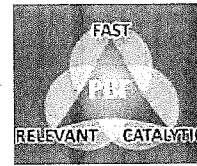
### **Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property**

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the RUNO shall be determined in accordance with its own applicable policies and procedures.

### **Public Disclosure**

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (<http://unpbf.org>) and the Administrative Agent's website (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

## Annex A: Project Summary (to be submitted as a word document to MPTF-Office)



**PEACEBUILDING FUND**  
**PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Project Number &amp; Title:</b>	PBF Support for Sri Lanka to design transitional justice mechanisms. Phase 1: National consultations and design of follow-up strategy.	
<b>Recipient UN Organization:</b>	OHCHR	
<b>Implementing Partner(s):</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
<b>Location:</b>	Sri Lanka	
<b>Approved Project Budget:</b>	US\$1,000,000	
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Planned Start Date:</b> 01 January 2016	<b>Planned Completion:</b> end of June 2017
<b>Project Description:</b>	First Phase of a larger initiative to provide technical support to the Government of Sri Lanka in establishing effective and comprehensive transitional justice mechanisms to deal with allegations of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and to provide redress to victims in line with international standards. Phase 1 consists on supporting the Government in undertaking broad-based national consultations with broad range of actors including women, youth and traditionally marginalized groups and support the initial conceptualization of the transitional justice mechanisms identified through those consultations.	
<b>PBF Focus Area:</b>	National consultations, comprehensive national transitional justice policy, accountability, truth seeking and reparation.	
<b>Project Outcome:</b>	Broad based Sri Lankan society engagement in peacebuilding with support of credible initiatives to advance human rights, reconciliation, accountability and address grievances.	
<b>Key Project Activities:</b>	Technical assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant bodies on conducting of national consultations and designing transitional justice mechanisms	



**IRF Result Framework (Component one)**

Country Name: Sri Lanka

Project effective dates: November 2015 to April 2017

<p>Project Level</p>	<p>The end result of this project is a society that is defined by peace, justice and respect for human rights. The project contributes to that goal by promoting reconciliation through giving a voice to different stakeholders. The expected overall outcome is to engage the broader Sri Lankan society, especially women, youth and vulnerable group in peacebuilding and reconciliation by seeking their views, needs and expectations on how to address a legacy of conflict and human rights violations and abuses.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 1</b></p>	<p><b>A National Consultation process that captures diverse views and opinions of different stakeholders in Sri Lankan society on Justice, Truth, Reparations and Non-Recurrence</b></p>
<p><b>Output 1.1. and 1. 2 (same baselines and verification)</b></p>	<p><b>Output 1.1: The Task Force mandate to conduct National Consultations is fulfilled:</b> This output consists on effectively providing <b>technical assistance to the Government and the Consultations Task Force</b>, so as to fulfill the TF mandate. To effectively provide technical assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka, OHCHR will deploy one international human rights officer with specialized experience in transitional justice who will be supported by national human rights officers and consultants. This team will work under the supervision of the Senior Human Rights Advisor within the Resident Coordinator’s Office. OHCHR will further recruit/deploy experts and resource persons on missions to implement, support and facilitate activities outlined in the project document. OHCHR as lead UN agency in transitional justice has substantial capacity and experiences in supporting transitional justice in varieties of transitional justice contexts, and will draw on expertise from other parts of the UN system as required.</p> <p><b>Output 1.2: Stakeholders are empowered to share their views and opinions on justice, truth and reconciliation</b> : Victims, conflict affected groups, including women, conflict affected youth and children, families of disappeared, representatives from religious and marginalized groups and youth are enabled, through national consultations with government, civil society and other key stakeholders across the country, to participate in an informed and effective manner in shaping a common vision for the establishment of credible and effective transitional justice mechanisms in</p>

	<p>line with international standards</p> <p><b>Activities</b> (contributing to both Outputs 1.1 and 1.2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) OHCHR will provide <b>technical support to the Consultations Task Force</b>, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other Government bodies assigned to undertake national consultations, as well as civil society in the design, conduct and report of national consultations in fifteen locations including in Colombo, with the aim of raising awareness of transitional justice principles and options and generating an open exchange of suggestions and opinions regarding accountability, truth seeking and reparation. Participants in the consultation process would include: Government; civil society organizations; affected persons and groups, religious groups, political parties, professional groups. This technical support includes reinforcing the capacity of the Task Force with short term staff and volunteers, assist the Task Force on planning and designing the processes and limited financial support to in site consultations. The consultation process as designed by the Task Force with the advice of OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the right to truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence will include a desk research of the various previous commissions' reports; a mechanism of written submissions based on structured questionnaires on various aspects of transitional justice, a total of fifteen in house field consultations in conflict affected districts and provincial headquarters and series of structured interviews with the most affected victims.</li> <li>b) Provide advice and <b>expert support</b>: OHCHR will support the consultations task force to develop a minimum common understanding of the issues/questions to be discussed during the national consultations and overall consultation framework in line with international standards and oversee the consultation process. In order to do so it will draw on external experts (i.e. the Special Rapporteur and other mandate holders) and on OHCHR staff in HQ and the field. The project will make expertise available for short missions. OHCHR will also provide support to civil society initiatives to promote coordinated approaches to participation and information sharing during consultation processes and address any protection concerns.</li> <li>c) OHCHR will engage with relevant government counterparts to introduce focused methods to engage women, children and youth to reflect their views in the national consultation process. OHCHR will seek support from other sister organizations, especially UNICEF for consultation with children.</li> </ul>			
Type of change				
<b>Outcome indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Time bound target</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>	<b>Key Assumptions</b>
Conflict affected	Lack of an independent,	OHCHR deploys	OHCHR's strengthened	The government, civil society and victims

<p>groups, including women, youth, children, families of disappeared and youth are enabled, through consultations with government, civil society and other key stakeholders across the country, to participate in an informed and effective manner in shaping a common vision for the establishment of credible and effective transitional justice mechanisms.</p>	<p>credible and representative body to undertake national consultations.</p> <p>The government, victims, and civil society lack common grounds, questions, modes and timeline of national consultations.</p>	<p>one international human rights officer to Colombo by end of October (the international HRO is already on assignment) and begins recruitment of additional human resources by the end of December 2015.</p> <p>OHCHR deploys two UN Volunteer to assist the SCRM in the design of their media strategy and support to the proposed Reconciliation Secretariat by first week of January 2016.</p> <p>The government establishes a body/Task Force to coordinate consultation process by mid December 2015.</p>	<p>capacity with more staff on the ground.</p> <p>Terms of reference published for national Task Force A document of common minimum standards for consultations including the questionnaires for consultations.</p> <p>Letter of appointment/terms of references of the Consultation Taskforce/advisory panels/expert panels finalized and published.</p> <p>A media/communication strategy is developed.</p> <p>Radio/television broadcast of consultation messages in three languages.</p> <p>Establishment of website on which the</p>	<p>are able to reach a common minimum understanding on major questions that will be asked during consultations and knowledge of core issues that will be discussed.</p> <p>Political will and sustained commitment by the government towards meaningful national consultations.</p> <p>The government ensures enabling conditions for victims, civil society and relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in national consultations, including by ensuring they are not subjected to intimidation, threats or harassment and by enacting and amending laws and or establishing required mechanisms.</p>
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		<p>A National Consultation Taskforce which will be responsible to undertake national consultations is established by the Government by January 2016. Advisory and expert panel members (to support the Taskforce) are established and accorded.</p> <p>Scope of national consultations, detailed plan and methodology are identified and agreed by the Taskforce by 1<sup>st</sup> week of February 2016.</p> <p>A national consultation framework including questionnaires for.</p>	<p>transcripts/reports of consultations will be published. Summary of reports will also be published in newspapers of all three languages.</p> <p>Independent monitoring process established by civil society to cover consultation process.</p> <p>Update and comprehensive report to HRC by High Commissioner.</p>	
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		<p>broad based consultations and is agreed following initial consultations with the stakeholders and published by mid-February</p> <p>OHCHR and the Special Procedures mandate holders provide technical assistance and/ or advise to the Consultation Taskforce on various substantive and procedural issues.</p> <p>OHCHR and Special Procedures mandate holders (particularly SR Truth, Justice, etc. provide orientation to Taskforce members January 2016.</p> <p>OHCHR and the SR on Truth,</p>		
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		<p>Justice, reparations and guarantees of non recurrence share country specific examples of modes and methodologies of national consultation by January 2016. The SR conducts a technical visit in January 2016.</p> <p>The Taskforce seeks advice and technical support from OHCHR and the SR on Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of non recurrence by second week of February 2016. A website is launched with agreed questions for Sri Lankan public to engage in discussion about transitional justice mechanisms by</p>		
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		<p>second week of February 2016.</p> <p>Details about national consultations are broadcasted, telecast and published in print, visual and social media in languages that concerned stakeholders understand as soon as they are agreed upon until end of consultations.</p> <p>Civil society platform created to mobilize participation in consultation process and ensure monitoring and feedback by January 2016.</p> <p>National consultations kick off by end- mid-February 2016 and continue until</p>		
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		April 2016.		
Project Level				
Outcome 2	Sri Lankan stakeholders obtain a basic knowledge and understanding of Transitional Justice processes that will put them in a position to implement the Human Rights Council Resolution 30/1 of 2015.			
Outcome 2.1	<p>Key stakeholders have strengthened capacity on Transitional Justice principles and standards, so as to facilitate broad-based and informed participation in the process of establishing credible and effective mechanisms.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) OHCHR will conduct targeted capacity building trainings, orientations to the task force and workshops to government officials, civil society organizations, and victims and victim's support group to ensure informed involvement and participation in transitional justice process. OHCHR will design training modules in consultation with government counterparts and will be implemented by OHCHR with the support of internal and external resource persons. These activities will be undertaken in a coordinated manner with other UN entities to ensure consistency and to avoid duplication.</li> <li>b) Training on transitional justice for senior government officials (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of National Dialogue, Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs Attorney General's Office and National Human Rights Commission,) will be organized in different stages of the process.</li> <li>c) OHCHR will conduct three intense residential trainings for civil society organizations and actors both in Colombo and elsewhere in Sri Lanka on different aspects of transitional justice including prosecution and accountability, truth seeking and historical record management, reconciliation, restitution and institutional reform. OHCHR will ensure diverse participation of civil society activists including from civil society organizations working at the grassroots level in the districts.</li> <li>d) OHCHR will further undertake series of awareness raising activities targeting victims and victim's groups with the view of ensuring greater understanding of transitional justice aspects and ensuring their participations in national consultations throughout Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>			
Outcome indicators	Baseline	Time bound target	Means of verification	Key Assumptions

<p>Number of trainings/workshops/other events on Transitional Justice for Government officials.</p> <p>Number of trainings/workshops/other events on Transitional Justice for civils society and victims.</p> <p>Amount of materials distributed</p>	<p>No comprehensive transitional justice framework/policy exists in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Limited understanding of Transitional Justice both an institutional level and among the civil society and victims</p> <p>Limited access to Transitional Justice literature and materials both at institutional and civil society level.</p>	<p>Relevant Government officials are trained by June 2016 on basic TJ issues. Training on specific components will be conducted when needed, linked to the specific timeframe of each mechanism (to be defined).</p> <p>Civil society is familiarized with TJ processes and materials by June 2016. Specific sensitization of given mechanisms will be linked to the specific timeframe of each mechanism (to be defined).</p>	<p>Attendance sheet/Minutes, agendas, etc of Workshops and training sessions.</p> <p>Civil society documents, submissions to Consultations, etc show a sound understanding of TJ.</p>	<p>The national government remains stable, policies are formulated and laws that adhere to international standards are enacted without much obstruction by political parties.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2.2</b></p>	<p><b>Relevant stakeholders are supported in their early brainstorming and conceptualization of transitional justice policies and measures that ensure accountability for human rights violations and provide redress, effective remedies and reparations to victims, in line with international standards. Assistance to the Government under this component will ensure the formulation and/or revision of relevant legislation and policies, including on management of information and archiving, meets international standards.</b></p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <p>a) Provision of <b>expert advice to the Government in the preparation and revision of relevant legislation, policies and mechanisms</b> necessary for the design of transitional justice institutions and practices. OHCHR will also provide support to the government by reviewing relevant existing legislations to ensure compliance with international standards, with particular focus on victim and witness protection. This assistance will be provided by the specialized OHCHR staff in the Resident Coordinator’s Office in Colombo, as well as through missions by relevant experts and Special Procedures mandate holders.</p>			

	<p>b) Drawing on recommendations by the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances that visited Sri Lanka in November 2015, <b>support the mapping of existing databases on the disappeared and missing persons, and formulation of a strategy and methodology to consolidate existing data</b> in line with international standards.</p> <p>c) Deploy an international technical expert to conduct an initial scoping and <b>mapping of human rights documentation sources</b> (public and private) and develop a concept for an independent archiving system that would support future accountability and historical memory processes.</p> <p>d) Provide <b>technical support to the Government in designing and establishing a historical record management system</b> which will provide a system to preserve information and documentation on violations that took place during the war in Sri Lanka.</p>			
Type of change				
<b>Outcome indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Time bound target</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>	<b>Key Assumptions</b>
<p>Number of meetings with Government officials to share standards and best practices on TJ.</p> <p>Number of advisory notes.</p> <p>Visit by consultants on archiving/information management - Mapping document</p>	<p>Limited knowledge of Transitional Justice processes and standards</p> <p>Existing legislation inadequate to accompany a TJ process</p> <p>Management of historical records of disappearances and other violations during the conflict is insufficient in Sri Lanka. Existing information on</p>	<p>Government issues decrees on the preservation of historical records by June 2016.</p> <p>A consolidated database on disappeared and missing persons is established by mid-2017.</p> <p>Mapping of existing data sources and systematic archiving framework developed by mid-2017.</p>	<p>Relevant decrees issued.</p> <p>Electronic archive established.</p> <p>Mapping of Human Rights sources document</p> <p>Update and comprehensive report to HRC by High Commissioner.</p>	<p>The government and major political parties continue to remain firm in their commitment towards establishing truth seeking mechanisms with wide range of powers and mandate to unearth the truth and deal with root causes and consequences of conflict.</p> <p>Existing human rights related documentation is not lost or destroyed.</p> <p>Public and private institutions collaborate with archiving project.</p>

	<p>disappearances, missing, etc is not consolidated in a single database</p> <p>Existing available information on human rights violations is not identified and/o consolidated</p>			
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## ANNEX I

### Sri Lanka – Task Force for the National Consultations - Membership

1. **Ms. Manouri Muttetuwegama** (Chairperson): Manouri Muttutwegama is Barrister and Attorney-at-Law. She was the Co-chair of Civil Society Committee of the Secretariat for the Coordination of the Peace Process and the Commissioner of the Commission of Inquiry into Alleged Serious Violations of Human Rights.
2. **Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu** (Secretary): Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu is the founder Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Alternatives, (CPA). He has presented papers on governance and peace in Sri Lanka at a number of international conferences and is widely quoted in the international and local media. He is also a founder director of the Sri Lanka Chapter of Transparency International and a founding Co- Convener of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV), which has monitored all the major elections in Sri Lanka since 1997. In 2004 he was an Eisenhower Fellow (2004).
3. **Mr. Gamini Viyangoda**: Gamini Viyangoda is well-known as a writer in Sinhala, prolific translator of many great western literary works, a political columnist and pro-democracy activist. He is one of the founders and chief organizers of the “Puravesi Balaya” (Citizens' Power) social movement of artistes, writers, dramatists, filmmakers and other intellectuals who threw their weight behind President Maithripala Sirisena's successful bid for presidency.
4. **Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa**: Visaka Dharmadasa is the founder of the Association of War Affected Women. Her son, a soldier in the Sri Lanka army went Missing in Action in 1998. In recognition of her work for peace, Visaka was nominated for a collective Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. She is a member of the South Asia Small Arms network, Women Waging Peace, and sits on the global advisory council of Women Thrive World Wide. She trains women to run to political office and also on power sharing. Visaka Dharmadasa holds a degree in negotiations and mediation skills from the United States Institute for Peace, Washington, and in women and security from Harvard University.
5. **Ms. Shantha Abhimanasingham**: Shantha Abhimanasingham PC is the President of the Jaffna Bar Association, the sole President's Counsel residing in the North and East, and the Chairperson of the National Committee studying the problems faced by Women-Headed Households.

6. **Prof. Sitralega Maunaguru:** Sitralega Maunaguru, of the Faculty of Arts, is a long-standing mentor of fine-arts and literature scholars in Eastern region. She is a well-known feminist thinker and is an expert on the sociology of post-war feminine affairs in the North and East of Sri Lanka.
7. **Mr. K. W. Janaranjana:** Mr. K. W. Janaranjana is an Attorney-at-Law, senior journalist and is also the Editor of the newspaper "Ravaya" as well as the Director of the Ravaya Publications Guarantee Limited. He served as the founder member and the CEO of Rights Now Collective for Democracy through 2007-2008 periods. In addition, Mr. Janaranjana functioned as the assistant secretary and secretary for Free Media Movement prior to his current undertaking where he serves as an executive committee member. He is also a lecturer of Law and serves as a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Professional Studies (CFPS) Colombo. Mr. Janaranjana is also an active member of Lawyers for Democracy.
8. **Prof. Daya Somasundaram:** Daya Somasundaram is a senior professor of psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, and a consultant psychiatrist working in northern Sri Lanka for over two decades. He has also worked in Cambodia for two years in a community mental health programme with the Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation. Apart from teaching and training a variety of health staff and community-level workers, his research and publications have mainly concentrated on the psychological effects of disasters, both man-made wars and natural tsunami, and the treatment of such effects. His book Scarred Minds: The Psychological Impact of War on Sri Lankan Tamils describes the psychological effects of war on individuals. He has co-authored The Broken Palmyra: The Tamil Crisis in Sri Lanka: An Inside Account. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists. He has functioned as co-chair of the subcommittee on PTSD formed under the WHO working group on stress-related disorders during the ICD-11 revision process. Currently on an extended sabbatical in Australia, he is working as a consultant psychiatrist at Glenside Hospital, supporting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service (STTARS), and is a clinical associate professor at the University of Adelaide.
9. **Dr. Farzana Haniffa:** Farzana Haniffa obtained her PhD in Anthropology from Columbia University in New York in 2007 and is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Sociology Department of the University of Colombo. Her research and activist interests for the past fifteen years have concentrated on minority politics and transitional justice in Sri Lanka with an emphasis on the country's Muslim communities. Farzana has published locally and internationally on issues of women and conflict, transitional justice,

militarization, and child rights in Sri Lanka. She is a member of the management council of the Social Scientists' Association and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Secretariat for Muslims.

10. **Prof. Gameela Samarasinghe:** Gameela Samarasinghe, PhD, is a Clinical Psychologist by training and is an Associate Professor in Psychology in the Department of Sociology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She initiated the design of and introduced the Postgraduate Diploma and Master's in Counselling and Psychosocial Support at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo. These postgraduate programs try to provoke thinking on alternative visions of what support to individuals and communities might look like while at the same time providing training on conventional counselling skills. She has been a member of various advisory groups developing strategies for post-conflict trauma in Sri Lanka and internationally. She was a member of the international research team on "Trauma, Peace building and Development", run from the University of Ulster. She has written extensively on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in Sri Lanka. She has been awarded many fellowships and has been the recipient of research grants including the Fulbright-Hays Senior Research Scholar Award (2004 - 2005) at Boston University and the Fulbright Advanced Research Award (2013 - 2014) at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.
11. **Mr. Mirak Raheem:** Mirak Raheem is a researcher and activist working on human rights, reconciliation, land, displacement and minority issues. He is currently a consultant to the Ministry of Resettlement and is leading their consultation process. He worked as a Senior Researcher at the Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit of the Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sri Lanka for 9 years. He has served on a number of boards, including the Secretariat for Muslims, where he currently serves. He obtained his undergraduate degree in International Relations & History from London School of Economics and Political Sciences, and a Masters in Peace Studies from Notre Dame University, USA.