

SUPPORT TO THE UN STANDBY TEAM OF SENIOR MEDIATION ADVISORS (SBT)

MAY 2026

CONTEXT

Modern conflicts are growing in complexity, fuelled by climate change, digital disinformation, and persistent gender inequalities, yet mediators often lack timely, specialised expertise to navigate these challenges. Without targeted support, stalled negotiations, exclusionary processes, and preventable escalations undermine sustainable peace.

This action provides financial support to the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers (SBT). It is a specialised resource that can be rapidly deployed on a temporary basis to provide technical advice to UN officials and a wide set of partners engaged in preventive diplomacy and mediation.

The SBT's services are available to UN envoys, political and peacekeeping missions and country teams, as well as to regional organisations, Member States and other partners with whom the UN works closely in conflict mediation and good offices worldwide, including the EU.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The action aims to enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of global mediation efforts by providing timely and specialised expertise. The action consequently supports the UN in upholding the international rules-based order and furthers its efforts to maintain peace and security.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Providing expert advice to senior UN officials and partners, either by deploying to the field or by providing advice remotely.

ACTIVITIES

- Facilitation of dialogue and mediation: Identifying entry points for dialogue and advising on the overall design and conduct of mediation and facilitation processes.
- Drafting and technical support for agreements: Assisting in drafting options for the text of peace agreements and providing specialised expertise in areas such as security arrangements, constitutional issues, and power-sharing.
- Capacity building and training: Leading workshops for conflict parties on process issues and providing specialised mediation training and coaching to stakeholders.
- Research and knowledge development: Conducting research and comparative analysis of effective practices and supporting the drafting of operational guidance notes and training materials when not deployed.

AMOUNT

€ 3,000,000

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The Mediation Support Unit (MSU) in the United Nations (UN) Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

DURATION

January 2026 - January 2028

COUNTRIES COVERED

Global

CONTACT

FPI-2@ec.europa.eu

ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2024, the SBT engaged in a total of 148 operational support assignments, which is an increase over previous years. This upward trajectory reflects the growing demand for the SBT's expertise in mediation, conflict resolution, and preventive diplomacy across various global contexts.
- The specific achievements for the engagements are listed in MSU's quarterly reports, which – due to the sensitive nature of the work – are only shared upon request.



Funded by
the European Union