

Information Note

As per the commitments given to the people of Sri Lanka, to strengthen good governance; promote, protect and uphold human rights; foster reconciliation; and strengthen the rule of law and democracy; in the follow-up to the Presidential Election of 8 January 2015, the Government, following the Presidential Election and the Parliamentary Election of August 2015, proposed the setting up of several mechanisms, namely,

- an Office of Missing Persons
- a Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Non-Recurrence Commission
- a Judicial Mechanism with a Special Counsel, and
- an Office of Reparations

It was also stated that these mechanisms will be evolved through a process of wide consultations involving all stakeholders, including victims.

Please refer:

- o <http://www.mfa.gov.lk/index.php/en/media/media-releases/unhrc2015/6200-slfm-hrc30>
- o *Page 14 onwards of Hansard:*
<https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansard/1443418220088147.pdf>

Subsequently, a ***Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM)*** was appointed with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers for the coordination of the public consultation process and the design and establishment of relevant mechanisms thereafter.

The Secretariat, comes under the Prime Minister's Office, and was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 18 December 2015.

The Secretariat is headed by Secretary-General Mr. Mano Tittawella.

Consultation Task Force (CTF) on Reconciliation on Mechanisms

A Consultation Task force comprising of 11 civil society members was appointed thereafter, to seek the views of the public on the proposed reconciliation mechanism and any other views pertaining to reconciliation mechanisms.

Composition: CTF is drawn entirely from civil society and is an independent body.

On 26 January 2016 the Prime Minister appointed the following:-

Chair: Manouri Muttetuwagama; **Secretary:** Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu;

Members: Dr. Farzana Haniffa, Prof. Sitralega Maunaguru, Mirak Raheem, Gamini Viyangoda, Ms. Shantha Abimanasingham P.C., Prof. Gameela Samarasinghe, Ms Visaka Dharmadasa, K.W. Janaranjana, Prof. Daya Somasundaram.

Mandate: To consult members of the public on the processes and mechanisms for reconciliation in Sri Lanka and seek suggestions for the design of

- i) Office of Missing Persons
- ii) Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Non-Recurrence Commission
- iii) Judicial Mechanism
- iv) Office of Reparations
- v) Any other mechanisms

Methodology: To gather public views on the processes and mechanisms for reconciliation

Sectoral Consultations	Zonal Task Forces	Submissions
<p>To ensure national participation in the consultation process with various sectors such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Religious community - Security Sector - Professional Associations - Political parties - Media, etc 	<p>To ensure public legitimacy, ownership and participation & to give voice to victims from various ethno-religious communities in different parts of the country.</p> <p>15 Zonal Task Forces representing All Districts & Provinces are to hold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public consultations - Focus group discussions - Individual meetings 	<p>Direct submissions to the Consultation Task Force relating to mechanisms for reconciliation may be made via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post - Email - Online submission of webform

Zonal Task Forces

The CTF finalized appointment of members of the Zonal Task Forces (ZTF) at the end of May 2016.

- 6 to 8 ZTF members selected from 15 geographical zones on basis of
 - Gender balance
 - Ethnic and religious representation
 - Members' leadership roles in society
 - Experience in working on issues related to human rights, reconciliation and peace

The ZTFs will operate in the following 15 zones

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Jaffna District | 9. North Central Province |
| 2. Killinochchi District | 10. North Western Province |
| 3. Mullaitivu District | 11. Central Province |
| 4. Mannar District | 12. Western Province |
| 5. Vavuniya District | 13. Uva Province |
| 6. Trincomalee District | 14. Sabaragamuwa Province |
| 7. Batticaloa District | 15. Southern Province |
| 8. Ampara District | |

Consultation Process

ZTF are responsible for conducting consultations on the reconciliation mechanisms proposed by GOSL. They would consist of public meetings and focus group discussions (FGDs) in each of the above zones.

ZTFs are expected to commence public sittings in July 2016 and would submit a zonal level report to the CTF after consultations conclude in August 2016.

The Report

The Report of the CTF will be handed over to the Government at the conclusion of the consultation process. It is expected that the Report, upon conclusion of consultations in August 2016, will be handed over in September 2016.

For more information: refer <http://www.scrm.gov.lk>