

SRI LANKA POLICY FORUM

Concept Note

On 8th January 2015 Sri Lanka's political landscape entered into a new era bringing hopes to its twenty million people.. Nine years of lawlessness and untold hardships to the population in general and civil society in particular was brought to an end democratically, which was a dream come true for the majority of the people. His Excellency President Maithree Pala Sirisena in his Independence Day address specifically mentioned the dire necessity of reconciliation and the challenge before us to overcome it comprehensively. Six years down the road after the end of the war very little has been done on this very important aspect, After President Maithreepala taking office few key efforts has been taken place in this direction. Establishment of the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation headed by Former President HE Chandrika Kumaratunga and several mechanisms in facilitating the much needed reconciliation process, the Prime minister's action group, and the Steering committee as well the Consultation Task force on reconciliation mechanisms which will carry out Island wide consultations to obtain people's ideas on the proposed 4 mechanisms, namely:

- A Commission for Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Non-Recurrence
- Judicial mechanism with a Special Counsel
- An Office of Missing Persons
- An Office for Reparations

The task before GOSL is very complex. Geneva resolution has placed it already at the international domain. Thus as much as domestic civil society and other process are absolutely vital, this special process also demands international involvement, mainly from friendly countries and civil society specially based here in New York in multiple ways.

The policy forum will support Sri Lanka in its road to reconcile through

- Identifying the individuals and groups who are interested in Sri Lanka and its process of transformation
- Identifying the expertise and technical support that Sri Lanka need at this juncture,