

# A Road Map for Negotiating a Political Settlement and Promoting Conflict Transformation in Sri Lanka

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A joint initiative of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies, Sri Lanka Office

**Context** After two decades of ethno-political conflict, Sri Lanka is moving towards a negotiated settlement. The process of finding a just and equitable solution to the conflict requires many steps, from facilitating and sustaining a ceasefire to a macro-political settlement and its implementation. It must be designed as a process that engages with and encompasses multiple levels of interaction between representatives of all stakeholders who seek to address relevant structural challenges to transform the current polity, economy, society, and culture of Sri Lanka.

In response to this need, the Road map envisions a route of multiple steps to the process, multiple levels of involvement amongst stakeholders and multiple issues. The program uses the metaphor of a 'Road Map' in order to outline and explore ways forward through the current process of protracted conflict transformation at work in Sri Lanka.

**Aims** The aim of the Road Map Program is to support all stakeholders in their pursuit of a just and equitable negotiated settlement to the ethno-political conflict. It will achieve this through proactively demarcating the steps that are required for conflict transformation on all relevant tracks.

What the Road Map does not intend to do is to propagate one particular path of development. Rather it aims to enhance knowledge, generate debate, and encourage creative solutions about the implications of different options and will achieve this in two ways:

1. A series of background and policy papers in which the most urgent issues at stake are identified and possible future scenarios, based on the collection of empirical data are analyzed.
2. A series of events which seek to collect the most urgent issues at stake in order to initiate a paper or to discuss the future scenarios in a paper with a view to enriching that paper's recommendations.

**Topics** The topics identified in the Road Map are organized into ten discourse areas. Each section contains a number of papers and workshops, which relate to that topic.

**Structure** Security - This develops a traditional idea of state security in to a more comprehensive analysis of human security.

Interim Administration - The procedural and substantive character of an interim administration are weighed alongside questions of constitutional concern.

Constitutional Reform - Visualizing the trajectories from interim to a final political solution based on comprehensive constitutional reforms and the re-structuring of the State.

Inclusivity, Sustainability, and Effectivity of the Peace Process - Covering many elements that address concerns of this nature and include bi-partisanship in the South, public participation, the role of the Muslim community.

Reconciliation - Exploring the ways in which Sri Lanka can acknowledge, account for and mourn its painful past, how can restorative justice be balanced with safeguarding peace, and ways in which Sri Lanka can learn from other healing processes worldwide.

Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Resettlement, and Development - Addressing the political moves towards these socio-economic processes whilst analyzing how efforts can be effective without causing new areas of conflict.

Role of the International Community - Questioning international stakeholders impact on Sri Lanka's peace process and identifying the ways in which international experience and influence can affect the process of conflict transformation.

Human Rights - Exploring means and processes of safeguarding human rights in Sri Lanka during the period of transition.

Gender - Addressing the political moves towards integrating women's considerations into the political process and looking to engender conflict transformation in Sri Lanka's transition.

Method The Road Map is more than an academic exercise. Its emphasis is on multi-track, multi-issue and multi-process positions this program as a means of creating, stimulating and engaging with current opinion in Sri Lanka. Through its contributing authors, the Road Map will channel primary empirical data to key stakeholders in the peace process. This data will be used to provide possible future scenarios for consideration. The development of these scenarios will be overseen and enriched through the contribution of expert opinion. Workshops will provide the forum for expert debate to develop existing papers and create new ones.

In bringing together key stakeholders the Road Map can be used as an effective tool to contribute, network, and galvanize actions of civil society and political opinion.

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