

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

BUILDING A RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE SRI LANKA – 2026

“Pathways for Integrated National Development and Social Cohesion”

Organized by the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), Ministry of Justice and National Integration and in collaboration with the Department of Geography, University of Colombo

EXTENDED ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Purpose and Scope

This document sets out the guidelines for authors submitting extended abstracts to the National Conference on Building a Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Sri Lanka – 2026. The conference provides a national platform for interdisciplinary dialogue and policy convergence, bringing together policymakers, academics, civil society, the private sector, and community and youth representatives to address structural inequality, spatial disparity, and reconciliation, while fostering inclusive knowledge exchange and collaborative solutions.

Authors are strongly encouraged to read these guidelines in full before preparing their submission. Abstracts that do not conform to the requirements below may be returned for revision or may not be considered for review.

2. Conference Tracks (Pillars)

Extended abstracts should be aligned with one of the six conference pillars listed below. Authors should indicate their chosen pillar clearly on the submission and on the abstract itself.

1. Pillar I — Social Cohesion and Reconciliation
2. Pillar II — Inclusive Economic Development
3. Pillar III — Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability
4. Pillar IV — Spatial Planning and Regional Equity
5. Pillar V — Governance, Policy Integration, and Institutional Reform
6. Pillar VI — Education, Youth, and Innovation

3. Who May Submit

Submissions are invited from a broad range of contributors, including:

- Senior policymakers and government officials
- Academics and researchers
- Civil society actors and community representatives
- Development sector professionals
- Private sector representatives
- Youth participants
- International experts

Co-authorship is permitted. One author should be designated as the corresponding author responsible for all correspondence regarding the submission.

4. Content Requirements

Each extended abstract should present original research, applied policy analysis, or evidence-based practice relevant to one of the six pillars. A complete extended abstract should address the following elements:

7. Title — concise and descriptive of the work
8. Author(s) and affiliation(s) — full names, institutional affiliation(s), and corresponding author's e-mail address
9. Pillar/track alignment — the pillar under which the abstract is submitted
10. Background and rationale — the problem, gap, or policy context being addressed
11. Objectives — the aim(s) of the study or intervention
12. Methodology — data, methods, and analytical approach used
13. Key findings / results — the principal results, or, for in-progress work, expected findings
14. Policy or practical implications — relevance to national development, social cohesion, or the chosen pillar
15. Keywords — 4 to 6 keywords

Extended abstracts may report completed research, work in progress with preliminary findings, or evidence-based policy/programme case studies. Purely conceptual pieces without an empirical or applied basis are discouraged unless they offer a substantive policy framework.

5. Formatting Guidelines

Element	Requirement
Word count	800–1,200 words (excluding title, author details, references, and keywords)
Page length	1–2 pages, inclusive of tables/figures (maximum 2)
Language	Sinhala, English, or Tamil
Font	Times New Roman, 12 pt, single-spaced body text
Margins	2.5 cm on all sides
Title	14 pt, bold, centred
Headings	12 pt, bold, left-aligned
Tables and figures	Numbered consecutively, with a caption above tables and below figures; referenced in the text
Referencing style	APA 7th edition (in-text citation and reference list)
File format	MS Word (.doc/.docx) or PDF
File naming	Surname_Pillar-Number_ONUR2026 (e.g., Perera_Pillar3_ONUR2026)

6. Submission Process

16. Prepare your extended abstract in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 above, using the template provided in Section 9.
17. Save the file using the naming convention specified in the formatting table.
18. Submit the abstract by e-mail to conference2026onur@gmail.com, with the subject line: “Extended Abstract Submission – [Pillar Number] – [Corresponding Author Surname]”.
19. Refer to the full author guidelines published on the ONUR website (<https://onur.gov.lk/>) for any supplementary instructions or updates.

20. Authors will receive an e-mail acknowledgement of receipt within 5 working days. If no acknowledgement is received, authors should follow up with the conference secretariat.

Only one submission per corresponding author will be accepted for initial review; authors involved in multiple submissions should designate a different corresponding author for each.

7. Review Process and Criteria

All extended abstracts will undergo a review process coordinated by the conference organizing and scientific committees. Abstracts will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevance to the conference theme and the selected pillar
- Clarity of objectives and research/policy question
- Soundness of methodology or analytical approach
- Originality and contribution to knowledge or practice
- Policy relevance and practical implications for Sri Lanka
- Clarity and quality of writing, and adherence to formatting guidelines

Authors will be notified of the outcome (accept, accept with revisions, or decline) by the paper acceptance date. Accepted abstracts will be considered for oral presentation, poster presentation, or panel discussion, at the discretion of the organizing committee.

8. Important Dates

Milestone	Date / Detail
Extended abstract submission deadline	31st August 2026
Notification of acceptance	30th September 2026
Conference dates	November 2026 (exact dates to be confirmed)
Venue	University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

9. Extended Abstract Template

Authors may use the structure below as a template for their submission. Text in [brackets] should be replaced with the author's own content.

[Title of the Extended Abstract]

[Author 1 Full Name]¹, [Author 2 Full Name]², ...

¹[Institutional affiliation, country]; ²[Institutional affiliation, country]

Corresponding author e-mail: [email address]

Pillar: [insert relevant pillar number and title]

Background and Rationale

[150–200 words describing the problem, policy context, and gap being addressed.]

Objectives

[50–80 words stating the aim(s) of the study/intervention.]

Methodology

[150–250 words describing the study design, data sources, sample, and analytical methods.]

Key Findings / Results

[200–300 words presenting the principal findings, or expected findings if work is in progress. Include a table or figure here if relevant, numbered and captioned.]

Policy / Practical Implications

[100–150 words on relevance to national development, social cohesion, or the selected pillar.]

Keywords

[Keyword 1; Keyword 2; Keyword 3; Keyword 4; Keyword 5]

References

[List all in-text citations in APA 7th edition format.]

10. Contact Information

Role	Contact
Conference Co-Chair	Professor Fareena Ruzaik — +94 77 774 4087
Conference Co-Secretary	Dr. Thisara Perera - +94 72 432 0521
General inquiries / submissions	conference2026onur@gmail.com
Author guidelines and updates	https://onur.gov.lk/

For further clarification on any aspect of these guidelines, authors are encouraged to contact the conference secretariat via e-mail in the first instance.