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رسالة مؤرخة 3 كانون الثاني/يناير 2023 موجهة إلى رئيس مجلس الأمن من الممثل الدائم لأيرلندا لدى الأمم المتحدة

يشرفني أن أحيل إليكم طيه المذكرة المفاهيمية (انظر المرفق الأول)* ومجموعة البيانات (انظر المرفق الثاني)* الصادرة فيما يتعلق بالاجتماع المعقود بصيغة آريا بمناسبة الذكرى السنوية السابعة للخطة المتعلقة بالشباب والسلام والأمن، المعقود في 12 كانون الأول/ديسمبر 2022. وقد استمع المشاركون في الاجتماع إلى عدد من مقدمي الإحاطات وأعضاء مجلس الأمن والدول الأعضاء والدول المراقبة.

وأرجو ممتنا تعميم هذه الرسالة ومرفقيها بوصفها وثيقة من وثائق مجلس الأمن.

(توقيع) فيرغل ماين

الممثل الدائم لأيرلندا لدى الأمم المتحدة

* يُعمَّم المرفقان باللغة التي قُدِّما بها فقط.



المرفق الأول للرسالة المؤرخة 3 كانون الثاني/يناير 2023 الموجهة إلى رئيس مجلس
الأممن من الممثل الدائم لأيرلندا لدى الأمم المتحدة
مذكرة مفاهيمية لاجتماع مجلس الأمن المعقود بصيغة آريا بمناسبة الذكرى السنوية
السابعة للخطة المتعلقة بالشباب والسلام والأمن

Date & Time: Monday, 12 December 2022, 1:15pm – 3:00pm

Location: ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters

Co-Sponsors: Ecuador & Ghana

Introduction:

December 2022 marks seven years since the ground-breaking United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 recognised the important and positive contribution of youth towards efforts in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolutions 2419 and 2535 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) further reaffirmed the need to actively engage youth in peacebuilding, emphasizing that the participation of young people in formal and informal peace processes, conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts remain key. In particular, Resolution 2535 discussed measures to operationalize the agenda, including by bringing youth peacebuilders to brief the Security Council. This anniversary is an opportune moment for the Council to take stock of the progress, achievements and challenges in implementing the YPS agenda so far, and reflect on the findings and recommendations of the second report of the Secretary-General on YPS (S/2022/220) published earlier this year.

In the years since the first YPS resolution was adopted, the world's youth have experienced tumultuous changes. The COVID-19 pandemic uprooted the social security net for millions globally, placing an increasing number of young people's lives and opportunities into disarray. War continues to be waged, with young people frequently among the most affected in conflict-situations globally, many of which are on the agenda of the Security Council. The growing impacts of the climate crisis threaten humanity itself, and jeopardise aspirations of intergenerational equity.

Yet in spite of these challenges, young people remain relentless in their pursuit of justice, human rights and sustainable peace. In many situations, young people sit at the pinnacle of cultural change and are uniquely placed to define and implement their visions for a peaceful and equitable society. As was noted in the Secretary-General's report on YPS [S/2022/220], it is integral that we take stock of the positive and transformative role of young people. In Sudan, young people were leading the call for a democratic and peaceful political transition, despite the violence they were facing. Across the globe, young people regularly highlight the linkages between climate change and the exacerbation of conflict. Young women too have played a particular role in navigating the space between activism and community response. In Colombia, for example, young women peacebuilders sought to create safeguard protocols for demonstrations in response to threats of violence. In many of these situations, youth are organising through formal and informal networks and civil society groups to ensure their opinions are heard.

The independent progress report *The Missing Peace* (A/72/761–S/2018/86), mandated by the Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), recognised that young people need to be trusted and adequately funded to enhance their capacities and leadership abilities. However, to achieve this Member States must be committed to ensuring that the structural barriers that limit youth engagement are broken down, and that youth are empowered to fully and meaningfully participate in all peace and security matters. In response, action is being taken at the national, regional and international levels. National coalitions on YPS have

been established in several countries, including Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territories, while Finland, Nigeria, the Philippines, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo recently developed the first dedicated National Action Plans (NAPs) on YPS. Regional organizations are also developing YPS frameworks, including the African Union Continental Framework on YPS, and ongoing efforts by the League of Arab States and ASEAN. And in January 2022, Member States and civil society gathered for the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes. These activities can serve as inspiration as to how to better mainstream, localise and accelerate the implementation of the Agenda.

On the anniversary of UNSC resolution 2250, this Arria-formula meeting is an opportunity for Member States to celebrate the achievements of the YPS agenda while engaging in frank discussion about the persistent gaps in implementation and how to best advance the Agenda in consultation with young people globally.

Objectives and focus of meeting:

Member States are encouraged to consider the following points in their statements:

- How can the UN Security Council further advance the implementation of the YPS Agenda and ensure the meaningful participation of youth in conflict and post-conflict situations, including in UN peacekeeping transitions?
- How can the Security Council and UN Missions and entities, including Peacekeeping and Special Political missions, work together to ensure that the YPS Agenda is mainstreamed and that youth voices are a key pillar of all peace and security matters?
- What concrete efforts can the Security Council take to advance the institutionalization and implementation of the YPS agenda, including in conflict, post-conflict and transition settings?

Meeting programme:

The meeting will be chaired by **H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations. Due to time constraints, briefers will be limited to **5 minutes**, & UNSC Members will be limited to 3 minutes. Briefers will include. Briefers will include:

- Youth peacebuilder;
- Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Logistics:

The meeting will be webcast on UN Web TV. Interpretation services will be available. The event can be attended in-person by Member States & NGOs with UN accreditation. Unfortunately, due to time restrictions, speakers will be limited to current and incoming members of the Security Council. Other Member States who wish to participate are welcome to send a written statement to alexandra.trant@dfa.ie no later than COB 12 December. NGOs are also welcome to submit statements. Statements should be no more than 400 words and sent via Word Doc, and will be circulated in a compendium following the meeting.

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مجموعة البيانات الصادرة فيما يتعلق باجتماع مجلس الأمن المعقود بصيغة آريا بمناسبة
الذكرى السنوية السابعة للخطة المتعلقة بالشباب والسلام والأمن

Statements by Briefers

1. H. E. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA
2. Ms. Nynar Koul, Civil Society Activist

Statements by Members of the United Nations Security Council (*in order of delivery*)

3. Ireland
4. Ghana
5. France
6. China
7. Kenya
8. Mexico
9. Russian Federation
10. Gabon
11. Albania
12. United States
13. United Arab Emirates
14. Brazil
15. India
16. United Kingdom
17. Norway

Statements by Incoming Members of the United Nations Security Council (*in order of delivery*)

18. Ecuador
19. Malta
20. Japan
21. Switzerland

Statements by Member States, UN Entities, and Civil Society

22. Dominican Republic
23. Finland
24. Jordan
25. Poland
26. Portugal
27. South Africa
28. Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO)
29. Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY)
30. UN Women
31. Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)

Statement by the UNFPA Executive Director

**Arria Formula Meeting of the Security Council on the Implementation of the Youth,
Peace and Security Agenda**

Monday 12 December 2022 - 1:15 pm EST

Excellencies,

Let me begin by thanking Ireland, Ecuador and Ghana for organizing this timely and important meeting.

The world faces an unprecedented convergence of multiple, inter-related crises, from a concerning increase in armed conflict, to the impacts of climate change, to rollbacks of women's rights in many countries.

An estimated one in four young people live in settings affected by armed conflict or violence.

Whether it's an adolescent girl in a war-torn country desperate to stay in school; a young woman living in a refugee camp who fears daily for her safety, or a young activist forced to flee their home, they ALL have a right to live in peace and dignity.

Today we celebrate the 7th anniversary of Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

Truly groundbreaking, it shifted our understanding, recognizing that young women and men are not security threats to be countered or idle victims; they are positive agents of change and critical partners for peace.

The second Secretary-General's report on youth, peace and security (S/2022/220) provides an overview of accomplishments made and challenges faced over the past two years and offers recommendations for the path ahead.

Regional and national frameworks on youth, peace and security are being developed to make the vision of this Council real on the ground.

Youth, peace and security coalitions – instrumental to coordination and implementation efforts – are in place globally, regionally and in a number of countries.

Progress, yes, but not enough.

Around the world, civic spaces are shrinking, divisions are widening, and trust in institutions eroding.

It is time to turn the youth, peace and security agenda into concrete action, with dedicated funding support and targeted national commitments.

Allow me to highlight some of the conclusions and recommendations for advancing this agenda proposed in the Secretary-General's report:

- **We need better data to understand the lived experiences of youth.** Reporting from peacekeeping operations and special political missions should include age- and gender-sensitive analysis and age- and sex-disaggregated data.

- **Young activists need protection from harassment and retaliation.** Member States should consider the Secretary-General's proposed rapid response fund for the protection of young peacebuilders and human rights defenders who face threats.
- **Young people must meaningfully participate.** The Council is encouraged to create opportunities for young people to safely participate in its meetings and field visits, and to inform its deliberations.
- **We need to accelerate implementation.** This means scaling up efforts to institutionalize the youth, peace and security agenda at all levels. The creation of country- and regional-level frameworks is a good start.

Ultimately, we seek meaningful youth engagement in the core mandates of United Nations political and peacekeeping missions.

We seek field operations better able to monitor and provide age- and gender-responsive protection support to young peacebuilders at risk.

We seek flexible, long-term and sustainable direct investment in peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts led by young people.

Progress on youth, peace and security also contributes to the New Agenda for Peace and to the vision of “Our Common Agenda” for diverse and effective youth engagement in the United Nations.

I am proud to be here today on behalf of UNFPA and representing the UN System.

UNFPA’s mandate and the aims of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, which guides our work, are relevant before, during and after conflict.

UNFPA stands with and works in partnership with young people every day, supporting and investing in their leadership.

Together with our partners, we work to shape a human rights-based, evidence-informed, gender-inclusive, youth, peace and security agenda.

We have seen strides forward in the implementation of other important, related agendas, notably on “women, peace and security” and on “sexual violence in conflict”. These processes are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

More than ever, we must break silos and work together to build peace in our homes, peace in our world – peace for every young person, and for all of us.

Few would question the responsibilities the world owes its young people. Let us not leave them behind.

Let today be a call to action.

Thank you.

Statement by Nynar Koul

Civil Society Briefer

Arria-formula Meeting on YPS, 12 December 2022

Mr. Chairman,

Your Excellencies,

It is an honour to speak here on the 7th anniversary of Resolution 2250.

I am humbled to be here today as a young woman who comes from a conflict area in Sudan and as a 1st generation person who lived for the past 26 years of my life the consequences of wars & political instability.

Standing here today is not an easy task. I am aware that I do not and could not claim to represent all the youth of my country;

Young people are not the same. We may share the same struggles, dreams and aspirations. But we have our own individuality and complexities within our different contexts.

Before, during and after conflict, young people are often the most affected economically, social-politically, physically and psychologically. Although they are often perceived as the victims, evidence shows that young people are catalysts of change.

The YPS agenda has recognized the critical role of young people in peace and security beyond numbers or statistics. But recognition is not enough, the international community has the responsibility to create enabling and safe environments for young people to leverage their impact.

it's time for us to unlearn colonial and patriarchal practices that are embedded in our Institutions, societies, and homes. That requires true political will and adequate resources.

Peacebuilding is intended to heal the wounds of war, repair the systems, and keep people safe. Youth must be at the core of these efforts.

Once the dust of revolution settles, youth voices get silenced ; their abilities are questioned and their critical contributions to security and political discussions are side-lined.

When young people try to participate, the absence of safe spaces put them at risk.

It bewilders me the limited support and funds that are channelled to young people. Dysfunctional, bureaucratic and inaccessible procedures prevent young people from accessing those resources. But when funding is available, they are based on institutional mandates and priorities rather than the actual needs of youth.

I would be amiss to not take advantage of this opportunity to highlight the situation of youth back in my country, Sudan.

They are the major driving force behind calls for a free, democratic and prosperous Sudan. Yet, they are largely excluded from avenues and platforms to implement transitional processes. Youth disproportionately bear the burden of the state's heavy-handed security response to calls for civilian led

democratic change. Since the 25th of October 2022, over 122 protesters have been killed, hundreds arrested and over 8,000 people injured, most of them youth.

Amidst all of this, youth were still mobilising in innovative and creative ways, creating informal organisational bodies, such as the neighbourhood resistance committees.

Youth are tokenised but not trusted to lead or participate remaining largely excluded from political processes.

It is unfortunate that youth views were neglected in the recent framework agreement. Therefore, youth continue to courageously battle to be heard by the state and political elites.

We cannot inherit a framework that we were not part of designing. If this agreement is to succeed, it must ensure freedom of expression and assembly without fear of violence and encouraging increased meaningful participation by women, youth and other minority groups in the political process.

Let me conclude with three recommendations

- First, we need a trust-based, inclusive, bottom-up approach when designing, implementing and monitoring peacebuilding programs and policies. Young people cannot only be consulted, they need to be equal partners at all stages.
- Second, funding models needs to be decolonised, decentralised and made accessible for youth-led organizations at the local level.
- Finally, we must invest in creating, maintaining and protecting civic spaces for youth; governments around the world must support and empower youth instead of restraining, suppressing or tokenising them.

Thank you



Youth, Peace and Security

Statement by Ambassador Fergal Mythen

12 December 2022

1. Colleagues,
2. Today marks the seventh anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the Security Council.
It is a moment, as I said earlier, to celebrate its achievements, but also acknowledge where we are falling short. And to do this we must go back to the roots of this agenda. And discuss how we can ensure that young people are embedded into our peace and security architecture.
3. Throughout history, every generation of young people has faced challenges, often extreme challenges, and they have responded with determination and ingenuity. Wars. Violence. Recessions. Famine. Today, they are facing the impacts of climate change; global political instability; and energy and food crises. This all comes amidst the economic and social aftermath of a devastating global pandemic.
4. For those just finding their feet into adulthood, the world can be cruel and extremely challenging and in some ways very frightening.
5. Yet young people's resilience and dedication to changing that world for the better is unquenchable. And we, in this room, should be grateful for that.
6. We have just heard from Nynar about how Sudanese youth are leading positive change. Young people are at the forefront of building new forms of social movement. Leveraging art, music, culture and new ways of communicating, grassroots organizing, solidarity and protest, they are challenging class, ethnic and gender divisions.
7. Young peacebuilders from Colombia to Mali to Iraq are demanding to be a part of building their countries' futures. They want to contribute to an inclusive, sustainable peace. Recently young people in Iran, notably young women, have been standing up for their rights. And globally, we are seeing young people as the leading voice holding us accountable on our climate actions, and in some cases inaction.

8. In my own country, young people were the driving force of much of our social change over the last two decades. And they have created a lasting positive impact.
9. We have long known that non-inclusive peace efforts are simply not sustainable. We have the blueprint, and it is now up to us to implement.
10. Firstly, we must do better to have buy-in to the YPS agenda. Resolution 2535 gives us clear guidance on how to include young people and ensure their meaningful participation. So bring YPS and young peacebuilders into the Council. Put YPS language into peacekeeping mandates. And secure the money, the resources, to match our ambition. Partnerships are a crucial factor in this: Ireland has been supporting the empowerment of youth through actors such as Interpeace.
11. Secondly, from local to national to regional levels, we must hear and heed young people's voices. From National Youth Councils and Youth Parliaments, to the UN Youth Delegate programme, countries should enhance their capacity to integrate young people at all levels in policy making and peace and security matters.
12. Thirdly, we know that youth continue to face pushback, threats or reprisals for their advocacy. Protection is a key pillar of the YPS Agenda. We must instill that in our efforts to promote human rights and a vibrant civic space.
13. Fourthly, we must recognise that peacebuilding is inherently intergenerational. It is not a one day action, but a continuous, conscious effort. We know this from our own peace process on the island of Ireland. Without the meaningful participation and engagement of young people, we will simply not achieve our aims.
14. We cannot afford to forget that it is our young people who will carry the torch of peace into future generations. So this is not the time for stagnation but action. As we exit the Council later this month, we encourage you all to keep this agenda burning, to keep it going forward. And Ireland will certainly do its part.

Thank you.



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STATEMENT BY

CAROLYN OPPONG-NTIRI (MRS.)
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING
MARKING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUTH, PEACE AND
SECURITY (YPS) AGENDA

12th December, 2022
1:15 p.m. - 3 p.m.
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ
New York.

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, permit me to convey Ghana's appreciation to Ireland for organizing this Arria-formula meeting on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the adoption of the landmark Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). Cognizant of the important contributions played by young people in driving transformation, change and sustainable peace, my delegation is pleased to have been one of the co-sponsors of this meeting. We are grateful to our gallant youth peacebuilder, Ms. Nynar Arop Deng Koul, as well as Ms. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their excellent presentations

Mr. Chair,

2. While we pay tribute to the young men and women who have lost their lives in conflict situations in many parts of the world, my delegation wishes to recognize those that have exuded leadership in matters relating to peace and security. Indeed, there is the need for the international community to support the youth in fulfilling their full potential as a positive force for building peaceful and resilient societies. We must admit, however, that despite the adoption of Resolution 2250, actual implementation among Member States, including my own country, remains slow. Young people continue to face exclusion from peacebuilding and decision-making processes, rendering them unable to access the needed support to sustain their peacebuilding initiatives and conflict prevention mechanisms. Also, as we are all aware, the existential threats posed by several unprecedented global challenges have further stalled progress in the implementation of the YPS agenda.

3. Regardless of the setbacks, my delegation is convinced that the Security Council, UN Missions and entities as well as other relevant peace and development actors can advance the YPS agenda. To this end, Ghana would like to make the following recommendations:

4. Firstly, to ensure the effective implementation of the YPS agenda and the meaningful participation of the youth, my delegation wishes to encourage the Council to explore integrating the YPS agenda in its debates and include more youth briefers in its meetings so as to revive discussions on the engagement of youth in the global pursuit of sustainable peace. In fact, the convening of periodic Arria-formula meetings could be a good example of platforms that can be utilized to build momentum towards the operationalization of the agenda. We are also of the opinion that just like the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security, the creation of an Informal Expert Group on YPS could be another useful platform to institutionalize and strengthen, in a systematic manner, the oversight and coordination of YPS implementation work through specific country-level analysis.

5. Secondly, Ghana wishes to urge the Council to work with UN agencies, Peacekeeping and Special Political Missions to ensure that these Missions are more responsive to issues concerning the youth. It is important that the Council ensures that the YPS agenda is reflected in peacekeeping mandates. We believe that this would better prepare Troop and Police Contributing Countries to implement measures that would enhance the role of the youth as partners in conflict prevention.

6. Lastly, my delegation wishes to underline that the Security Council can advance the institutionalization of the YPS agenda through the work of UN bodies such as the Peacebuilding Commission, which needs a more prominent role in the UN peace and security architecture. Certainly, it is paramount for elements of the YPS agenda to be incorporated in the Commission's engagement in countries where there are conflicts, including in post-conflict and transition settings. In this connection, my delegation welcomes the adoption of the PBC Strategic Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding, which is expected to guide and monitor the progress made by the Commission in support of the critical role of young people in peacebuilding.

Mr. Chair,

7. In concluding, I wish to reiterate Ghana's commitment to the effective implementation of the YPS agenda within national, regional and multilateral frameworks.

8. I thank you.



REUNION EN FORMAT ARRIA SUR L'AGENDA JEUNES, PAIX ET SECURITE

INTERVENTION DE NATHALIE BROADHURST, REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE ADJOINTE DE LA FRANCE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK, 12 DECEMBRE 2022

Monsieur le Président,

Je vous remercie d'avoir organisé cette réunion avec le Ghana et avec l'Equateur et je vous remercie d'y avoir convié Natalia Kanem ainsi qu'une jeune artisane pour la paix, et je voudrais les saluer pour leur exposé et leur travail remarquable sur le terrain en particulier.

Alors que nous commémorons le 7e anniversaire de l'adoption de la résolution 2250, cette réunion nous rappelle les nombreux défis auxquels les jeunes continuent d'être exposés au quotidien sur le terrain.

Face à ce constat, notre action doit s'orienter dans trois directions :

Premièrement, nous devons nous mobiliser davantage pour permettre aux jeunes de s'engager activement dans toutes les étapes des processus de paix et de la résolution des conflits.

Et c'est tout le sens de notre action au Conseil, en particulier de l'initiative qui a été portée par la France avec la République Dominicaine en 2020 avec l'adoption de la résolution 2535 qui demande au Secrétaire général la publication d'un rapport biennal sur le sujet Jeunes, Paix et Sécurité.

Notre mobilisation doit également se traduire par la pleine mise en œuvre de toutes les dimensions de l'Agenda Jeunes, Paix et Sécurité, y compris en réunissant, comme vous l'avez fait, de manière plus fréquente ce Conseil sur ce sujet.

Deuxièmement, la participation de la société civile est indispensable.

La France se félicite à cet égard du lancement d'un groupe de travail de la société civile dédié à la mise en œuvre effective de l'Agenda Jeunes, Paix et Sécurité en 2021.

Nous saluons également la tenue de la Conférence de haut niveau sur l'inclusion des jeunes dans les processus de paix qui a eu lieu en janvier 2022 à laquelle la France était représentée à niveau ministériel.

Toutes les composantes de la société civile doivent pouvoir participer, et notamment les jeunes femmes, conformément à notre engagement dans le cadre de l'Agenda Femmes, Paix et Sécurité.

Enfin, nous devons nous attaquer aux causes profondes de l'exclusion des jeunes des processus de paix.

Ces causes sont nombreuses, et elles incluent en particulier les stéréotypes qui leur sont associés et qui servent de prétexte pour porter atteinte à leurs droits fondamentaux.

Ce n'est qu'en veillant à leur inclusion effective dans le champ de l'action politique, sociale et économique, que nous pourrions pleinement bénéficier de leur rôle positif comme acteurs du changement, comme catalyseurs du changement.

C'est la raison pour laquelle la résolution 2535 a mis l'accent sur la préservation de l'espace civique.

Je conclurai en réitérant le plein soutien de la France au rôle indispensable que jouent les jeunes dans tous les processus de paix.

Et La France continuera à s'engager activement dans la mise en œuvre effective de l'Agenda Jeunes, Paix et Sécurité dans toutes ses dimensions.

Je vous remercie.

YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

STATEMENT BY MRS. NATHALIE BROADHURST, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

MEETING IN ARRIA FORMAT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

New York, December 12, 2022

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for organizing this meeting with Ghana and with Ecuador, and thank you for inviting Natalia Kanem and a young peacebuilder, and I would like to thank them for their presentation and their remarkable work on the ground in particular.

As we commemorate the 7th anniversary of the adoption of resolution 2250, this meeting reminds us of the many challenges that young people continue to face on a daily basis in the field.

In light of this, our action must be directed in three directions :

First, we need to do more to enable young people to become actively involved in all stages of peace processes and conflict resolution.

And this is the meaning of our action in the Council, in particular the initiative that was taken by France with the Dominican Republic in 2020 with the adoption of resolution 2535 which asks the Secretary General to publish a biennial report on Youth, Peace and Security.

Our mobilization must also be reflected in the full implementation of all dimensions of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, including by convening, as you have done, more frequent meetings of this Council on this topic.

Secondly, the participation of civil society is essential.

In this regard, France welcomes the launch of a civil society working group dedicated to the effective implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in 2021.

We also welcome the holding of the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Process which took place in January 2022 and at which France was represented at ministerial level.

All components of civil society must be able to participate, especially young women, in accordance with our commitment to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Finally, we must address the root causes of youth exclusion from peace processes.

These causes are numerous, and they include in particular the stereotypes associated with them that serve as a pretext for violating their fundamental rights.

We will only be able to fully benefit from their positive role as actors of change, as catalysts of change, if we ensure their effective inclusion in the field of political, social and economic action.

This is why Resolution 2535 emphasized the preservation of civic space.

I will conclude by reiterating France's full support for the indispensable role that youth play in all peace processes.

France will continue to be actively involved in the effective implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in all its dimensions.

Thank you.

在“青年、和平与安全”

阿里亚模式会议上的发言

(12 月 12 日下午 1:15, 经社理事会厅, 3 分钟)

主席先生:

我感谢爱尔兰、厄瓜多尔和加纳常驻团共同举办此次会议。我也认真听取了各位通报人的通报。

青年是国家的未来,也是世界的未来,在维护世界和平与安全、推动可持续发展、深化国际团结合作方面都发挥着重要的作用。中方高度重视青年、和平与安全问题,欢迎安理会有关决议落实工作不断取得进展。同时我们也要看到,新冠肺炎疫情对青年群体的健康、教育、就业仍构成巨大挑战,冲突和战乱使一些国家和地区的青年面临贫困、失业、被边缘化等现实风险。国际社会应继续落实安理会有关决议,切实关心青年发展,支持青年为促进世界和平与发展发挥更大作用。

要加大对青年保护力度,全力预防冲突,防止恐怖和极端主义对青年的侵害。安理会要加大力度政治解决热点问题,通

过和平手段预防和解决冲突。要以“零容忍”的态度坚决打击各种暴恐势力，防止恐怖和极端思想对青年的侵蚀。

要支持青年在促进和平与安全方面发挥重要作用。在预防和解决冲突、冲突后重建过程中，都应充分考虑与青年有关的因素，确保青年建设性参与。联合国机构间要在既有授权和资源范围内加强协调，尊重当事国要求，发挥各自优势，合力为青年群体提供必要支持。

要促进包容性发展，为青年创造有利成长环境，实现持久和平。要大力推动以发展促和平，继续支持青年参与落实 2030 年可持续发展议程。必须加强青年教育和职业技能培训，为青年提供就业和创业机会，重视疫情导致的教育中断和失业问题，加强医疗资源建设，减少疫情对青年冲击。

主席先生，

中国始终积极同有关国家和国际组织开展青年领域交流合作，提供中国政府奖学金支持各国青年赴华学习交流，数百名中国青年活跃在联合国和其他国际组织中，为世界和平与发展事业贡献自己的力量。我们愿继续同各方携手努力，为年轻一代开创更加美好的未来。

谢谢主席。



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya

To the United Nations, New York

Security Council -2021-2022

SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA MEETING: MARKING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022 (1:15-3:00 PM) -ECOSOC CHAMBER

STATEMENT BY AMB. MICHAEL K. KIBOINO – DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE-UNSC

1. Thank you to Ireland, Ecuador and Ghana for hosting this meeting in recognition of the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.
2. Kenya reaffirms the importance of inclusion, participation, and the contribution of young people in the maintenance of peace and security, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding.
3. Kenya continues to localise and implement the five key pillars of the youth, peace, and security normative framework to support national peace and security objectives and the ongoing development of a national youth, peace, and security action plan.
4. We are persuaded that the path to ensuring youth participation in nation building requires a holistic approach that comprehensively considers how the numerous drivers of conflict and interlinked social, political, economic, environmental, and human dimensions impact the youth, and how the youth can be meaningful drivers of change.
5. **In this regard, I will propose four points that should be considered:**
 - First** It will be necessary to address structural and cultural barriers that hinder creative and innovative avenues for meaningful leadership opportunities and social and economic inclusion of youth.

Second, localization is critical. This is achievable through amongst others: support to the development of national youth, peace and security action plans; regular dialogue and coordination with

local and national youth chapters and networks; and the integration of regional youth, peace and security efforts and frameworks including the African Union Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security and its linkages to Silencing the Guns in Africa and Agenda 2063.

Third the Security Council needs to demonstrate a more robust commitment to youth issues in addressing the limited spaces for youth in formal peacebuilding initiatives through among others, the operationalisation of the recently adopted GA resolution on the Establishment of the UN Youth Office (A/RES/76/306).

Fourth, there needs to be enhanced capacity building, education, training and integration of the use of digital technology to enhance youth peace efforts.

Kenya is promoting the positive use of social media including through the ‘Social Media 4 Peace’ campaign launched by UNESCO in cooperation with the Kenyan Government to strengthen the resilience of societies to hate speech and incitement to violence, while protecting the freedom of expression, and innovation in the promotion of peace through digital technologies.

6. **I conclude** by reaffirming Kenya’s commitment to greater investment and recognition of young people’s meaningful participation in peace, security and development at the community, national, regional, and international levels and ensuring their voices are heard for a safer and more inclusive world.

I thank you.



**INTERVENCIÓN DE MÉXICO EN LA REUNIÓN BAJO FÓRMULA ARRIA
“MARKING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUTH, PEACE AND
SECURITY AGENDA”, ORGANIZADA POR ECUADOR, GHANA E IRLANDA**

Cotejar contra lectura

Nueva York, a 12 de diciembre de 2022

Gracias, Sr. Presidente. Comienzo agradeciendo a Ecuador, Ghana e Irlanda por convocar a esta reunión bajo fórmula Arria para conmemorar el séptimo aniversario de la adopción de la resolución 2250 (2015) del Consejo de Seguridad, y gracias también a los expositores por sus valiosas aportaciones.

Nos encontramos en un momento importante para la implementación y transversalización de la agenda juventud, paz y seguridad. Primeramente, nos congratulamos de que el informe del Secretario General “Nuestra Agenda Común” tenga entre sus objetivos escuchar y trabajar con la juventud, y valoramos que la propuesta de una “Nueva Agenda de Paz” contemple la participación juvenil como un aspecto clave para la sostenibilidad, inclusión y éxito de los esfuerzos de mantenimiento y consolidación de la paz.

Reconocemos también la creación de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Juventud, que será una aliada clave para avanzar en la implementación de la agenda de juventud, paz y seguridad.

Refiriéndome a nuestros esfuerzos a nivel nacional en la materia, destaco los “Centros Territorio Joven – Clubes por la Paz”, que son espacios de atención, prevención y protección a la salud, y el programa “Jóvenes por la Transformación – Brigadas Comunitarias de Norte a Sur”, que impulsa la participación y empoderamiento de jóvenes mediante procesos de interacción comunitaria.

Como miembro del Consejo de Seguridad, México ha reafirmado la necesidad de apoyar el empoderamiento y participación significativa de las juventudes, particularmente en materia de prevención de conflictos, asistencia humanitaria y consolidación de la paz, y para prevenir y contrarrestar el extremismo violento.

Consideramos necesario respaldar la participación de jóvenes en los procesos de paz y en los esfuerzos de prevención de conflictos y de construcción de la paz. Para ello, sería importante considerar, en la revisión de los mandatos de las misiones de paz,

apoyar la inclusión y empoderamiento de las y los jóvenes en las labores de mantenimiento y construcción de la paz.

Otra medida importante es la de fomentar sinergias entre las agendas mujeres, paz y seguridad, niños y conflictos armados, y juventud, paz y seguridad. También se debe alentar a la Comisión de Consolidación de la Paz a continuar impulsando su plan de acción para la agenda de juventud, paz y seguridad.

Finalmente, enfatizamos la importancia de invitar a jóvenes constructores de la paz a sesiones informativas relevantes del Consejo de Seguridad, a fin de escuchar sus voces, necesidades y demandas, y encontrar soluciones más eficientes a las problemáticas relacionadas.

Muchas gracias.

Russian Federation

Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative Anna Evstigneeva at an "Arria-formula" meeting of UNSC members marking the 7th anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

Mr. President,

We listened carefully to representative of the Sudanese youth, Ms. Nynar Kul, as well as Executive Director of UNFPA, Ms. Natalia Kanem.

We subscribe to what have been said about the need to prioritize the youth agenda in the UN and address urgent issues of socialization of the young people. We recognize the importance of a conscious and constructive participation of the youth in efforts to maintain peace and security in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations. Those goals are reflected in UNSC resolutions 2250 and 2419, to which this meeting makes frequent references.

However involvement of the youth in any activities of such sensitive nature must be based on their professional knowledge and skills in the first place. Besides, we believe we need to guard the young people from any political activity until they achieve legal age.

We understand and share the importance of including the issues of youth in discussing some country-specific situations on the UNSC agenda, especially taking into account the specifics of African states, where young people constitute a considerable share of the population. However, when discussed outside this context, these issues but distract the Security Council from addressing the urgent problems that UNSC is called to solve.

In practical terms, we think it is necessary that states in conflict pay proper attention to eradicating poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment, as those are the major impediments that do not let the youth unleash their potential. Against the backdrop of difficult living conditions, some countries develop favorable environment for the spread of extremist ideas and radicalization.

It is also essential that we view the youth agenda in the context of UNSC tasks and its mandate, and focus on countering extremism and terrorism. By all means, these phenomena can affect people of all ages, but young people, with their worldview still under formation, appear to be more susceptible to radical ideology. Given their overall lack of life experience, education or any prospects for self-realization in countries with an unfavorable socio-economic situation or in conflict situations, young people often come in sight of extremist groups that seek to involve them in illegal activities. In an attempt to win over the young people, extremists would more often turn to information and communication technologies, which makes it necessary for us to increase collective efforts in the area of international information security.

Cases when radically-minded young people become used for achievement of internal political goals deserve our specific attention. In particular, I mean processes that are orchestrated from the outside and aimed at destabilization – under a cover-up of democratic and human rights slogans. The proclaimed support for young leaders should not evolve into situations when external stakeholders may be forming anti-governmental

movements in the states that they find undesirable. Those were the elements that we believe must underpin the implementation of the youth, peace, and security agenda.

Regional organizations that have the required country-specific expertise play an important role in countering the radicalization of the youth. We note the meaningful engagement of regional mechanisms at this track, for example CSTO and SCO.

In conclusion, an in-depth discussion of youth-related aspects at specialized UN platforms that are designed to address questions of education, employment, sustainable development, and other crucial topics appears to be particularly valuable.

Thank you.

**DECLARATION DU GABON A L'OCCASION DE LA REUNION EN FORMULE
ARRIA MARQUANT LE 7^{ème} ANNIVERSAIRE DE L'AGENDA JEUNESSE, PAIX ET SECURITE**

NEW-YORK, SALLE DE L'ECOSOC, LE 12 .12.2022

Monsieur le Président,

1. Je remercie l'Equateur, le Ghana et votre pays, l'Irlande, pour l'organisation de cette réunion à l'occasion du septième anniversaire de l'Agenda jeunesse, paix et sécurité des Nations-Unies, qui nous offre l'opportunité de faire le point du chemin parcouru et des défis qui continuent de parsemer la voie vers une meilleure prise en compte de la jeunesse dans les dynamiques de construction de la paix.
2. Renforcer le rôle de la jeunesse dans les processus de paix revient à donner à la catégorie de population qui subit le plus les affres des conflits armés et qui est la cible privilégiée de la radicalisation et de l'extrémisme violent, un rôle actif et positif dans les phases de reconstruction, d'établissement et de consolidation de la paix.
3. L'adoption en 2015 de la résolution 2250 et en 2018 de la résolution 2419 du Conseil de Sécurité constitue un excellent pas en avant dans cet objectif en dressant les grandes lignes de notre engagement collectif à renforcer la participation des jeunes dans la prise de décision et au niveau opérationnel. Ceci permet d'agir aussi bien en matière de prévention que dans les situations post-conflit en vue de construire une paix durable.
4. Dans le cadre du Programme « Faire taire les armes » de l'Union Africaine, l'engagement de la jeunesse africaine est indispensable pour atteindre les objectifs ambitieux que le Continent s'est fixés. Les femmes et les jeunes sont des relais de premier plan pour la mise en œuvre de cet agenda., comme cela a été reflété dans la déclaration présidentielle adoptée à la suite du débat sur la question en octobre 2019 (Présidence Afrique -du-Sud). Pour un Continent jeune comme l'Afrique, l'engagement des jeunes est vital pour son avenir et sa sécurité.

Monsieur le Président,

5. Je voudrais à présent faire les quelques remarques suivantes, à titre de contribution sur les moyens d'améliorer la mise en œuvre de l'agenda Jeune, paix et sécurité :
6. Premièrement, je voudrais louer les efforts accomplis depuis l'adoption de la résolution 2250, même si un bon nombre de ces avancées ont été significativement contrariés par la pandémie de Covid-19 avec un rétrécissement notoire de l'espace d'expression des jeunes.
7. La multiplication des parlements des jeunes aux niveaux local ou régional est très positive en ce qu'elle leur offre des espaces dédiés et permanents d'expression. La décision du Secrétaire général de nommer un Représentant spécial pour la jeunesse participe aussi de cette réponse internationale aux appels incessants et de plus en plus pressants des jeunes du monde.
8. Renforcer la participation des jeunes aux processus de paix contribue à leur donner part à l'élaboration de leur propre narratif tout en participant à l'édification d'une paix durable.

9. Deuxièmement, cet activisme des jeunes sur les plans social et parlementaire doit pouvoir être connecté avec des actions concrètes de terrains, et dont le dernier rapport du Secrétaire général montre des exemples de réussite dans des situations de conflit ou post-conflit.
10. Renforcer le dialogue intergénérationnel, à travers les parlements de jeunes, les associations de jeunes ou les institutions académiques est un excellent moyen de parvenir à cet objectif. Le rôle des jeunes filles doit également être renforcé dans l'objectif d'élaborer des réponses sexospécifiques.
11. Dans les phases de reconstruction post-conflit les missions de paix des Nations Unies doit s'appuyer sur des réseaux communautaires, y compris des associations de jeunes, afin de prendre en compte les besoins spécifiques de ces derniers. Les mandats des Nations-Unies pourraient contenir un module particulier incluant les jeunes par exemple au travers du renforcement des capacités des associations de jeunes.
12. Troisièmement, la mise en œuvre des résolutions pertinentes du Conseil de sécurité, et en particulier de la résolution 2553 (décembre 2020) sur la réforme du secteur de la sécurité est un élément clé pour améliorer la participation des jeunes.
13. Je voudrais terminer en insistant sur l'intérêt de rendre plus audible la voix des jeunes au sein du Conseil de sécurité, en tant que briefers.
14. Nous pourrions par exemple réfléchir à la mise en place d'une journée du jeune constructeur de paix, ce qui donnera l'occasion aux jeunes engagés dans les OMP de partager leurs expériences et de faire part de leurs recommandations.

Je vous remercie.

Albania

Arria Formula

Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

Thank you Chair and

I thank Ireland, Ghana and Ecuador for organizing this Arria Formula Meeting.

Mr. Chair,

Resolution 2250 set in motion an important process of normative development and institutionalization of the YPS agenda. The establishment of the UN Youth office is a good example thereof.

But the gap between normative standards and their practical implementation remains wide, and highly problematic.

We continue to observe youth under-representation -and sometimes extreme marginalization- from formal decision-making on peace and security, including in peace negotiations.

The safety, security and protection of young people has not improved: shrinking civic spaces, coupled with the impact of armed conflicts and the pandemic, have led to acute protection challenges requiring urgent action.

Young people – young women in particular – are at risk of being left behind in terms of education, economic opportunities, health, and social protection during a crucial stage of their lives.

Yet, despite these adverse conditions, young women and men continue to fight the right fights, whether it is social justice, climate action, peace action and equality in every society.

We need to recognize the vital role that youth play and create the conditions for them to fully realize their potential and contribute to more just and peaceful societies.

Distinguished colleagues,

I would like to focus on three points, which we believe are crucial for further advancing the implementation of the YPS agenda:

First, at the SC we must make sure that all mandate renewals of peacekeeping operations and special political missions integrate youth engagement in political, civil, human rights, protection, rule of law, and gender equality initiatives and in all other relevant mandated areas.

Second, building Inclusive partnerships with young peacebuilders within and outside the UN System must be a priority. Inclusive partnerships should be central to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

Third, from our own experience in the Western Balkans, I can say that regional cooperation is crucial to empower youth in conflict and post conflict settings.

We need regional leaders to set up regional structures promoting regional connectivity and understanding. In the Balkans we have managed to establish the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), the Western Balkans Fund (WBF), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and most recently the Open Balkan initiative

Mr. Chair,

The Albanian Government pays special attention to youth and their empowerment, especially with regard to their participation in decision-making and policymaking.

Tirana is the European Youth Capital for 2022. Throughout the year, under the slogan "Activate Youth", we have worked for the active participation of young people focusing on their needs while helping them shape their future.

Tirana has been proclaimed the European Youth Capital for 2022. Throughout the year, under the slogan "Activate Youth", we have worked for the active participation of young people focusing on their needs while helping them prepare their future. The Government of Albania and the Municipality of Tirana, in close cooperation with other partners and stakeholders, prepared a rich program, featuring more than 1000 events aiming at promoting volunteerism, empowering youth organizations, and creating networks and synergies among young people from all over Europe.

Mr. Chair,

Young people are determined to have their voices heard. They are willing to actively contribute to the international dialogue and assist in finding inclusive solutions. We must act to create the right conditions for young people to fulfill their aspirations for a better future for all.

I thank you.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



البعثة الدائمة
للإمارات العربية المتحدة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement of the United Arab Emirates
At the United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting
“Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda”
Delivered By:
Ms. Reem AlAmeri
Youth, Peace & Security and Third Committee
New York, 12 December 2022**

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,

At the outset, I wish to thank Ireland, Ecuador and Ghana for convening this meeting, and to Ms. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as well as our youth representative for their briefings today.

Seven years after the adoption of resolution 2250 under Jordan’s leadership, today’s meeting offers a timely opportunity to assess progress and continue to ensure the positive role of young people in preventing and resolving conflict and building lasting peace.

Young people continue to face rising levels of violence and poverty as the number of protracted conflicts increases and the world continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. But this predicament does not have to be a foregone conclusion. There are ways to help young people face these challenges.

When youth are provided with opportunities for engagement, they can become agents of positive change. The UAE is a prime example that showcases youth empowerment, as we believe that youth are the cornerstone for building the future and the continuation of our march towards progress.

To this end, the UAE continues to support spotlighting the way youth are affected by peace and security issues, their inclusion in peace processes and post conflict situations, while also advocating for the active participation as civil society briefers in Security Council meetings.

In that vein, I wish to make the following points:

First, institutional structures must be adapted to enable the full and meaningful participation of youth, especially on matters relating to sustainable development. The UAE continues to engage with the League of Arab States on implementing the YPS agenda and jointly tackling the challenges facing youth in the Arab region.

Second, we need to provide alternative outlets for young people to cope with the stress of modern challenges. For our region, we have invested in the Arab Youth Center to develop youth capabilities and support innovation and creativity among Arab youth. Similarly, the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth and UN entities such as the UN Alliance of Civilization offer young people programs that help build leadership, community building, and conflict management skills. We should continue to support these critical efforts.

Finally, we need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of YPS activities across the UN system, including by monitoring the implementation of relevant Council resolutions. As such, we commend the Secretary General's efforts to establish a dedicated UN Youth Office and look forward to its active engagement on this issue.

The UAE reaffirms its full commitment to the full empowerment and the active engagement of youth in decision-making processes. We will continue to work in close collaboration with our partners to uphold the role of youth in contributing to a culture of peace, dialogue, and peaceful coexistence.

Thank you.



United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

12 December 2022

(check against delivery)

Mr Chair,

At the outset, Brazil would like to thank Ecuador, Ghana, and Ireland for organizing this Arria Formula meeting, which provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the achievements and ongoing challenges of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in its seventh anniversary. We would also like to thank the briefers for their valuable contribution in this regard.

The UN Security Council recognized the important contribution of youth towards efforts in maintaining peace and security, as attested by resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535. Youth can play an important role in peacebuilding, as well as in formal and informal peace processes and peaceful resolution of conflicts. We cannot overestimate the constructive role that women and youth can have in mediation and conflict-prevention.

The most recent report of the Secretary-General on Youth, Peace and Security, published earlier this year, shows that young people have been facing unprecedented challenges. It is worrisome that young people continue to be at risk of being left behind in terms of education, economic opportunities, health and social protection during a crucial stage of their lives.

It has long been the Brazilian view that the UN engagement to promote peace and security should go beyond addressing the immediate causes and drivers of conflict. Strategies to sustain peace must also focus on the structural prevention of the outbreak of or relapse into conflict, including by fighting poverty, ensuring youth employment and gender equality, promoting socioeconomic development, building full-fledged institutions, promoting national reconciliation, improved governance and more inclusive societies.

Inclusivity has proven to be one significant means to achieve sustainability of peace. All members of society should play a meaningful role in peace processes. Women and youth have an exceptionally important role in this regard - both have a lot to offer in building peace and resilience in their societies.

The possible convergence between the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and the Children and Armed Conflict agenda in this Council should also be highlighted, especially when it comes to reintegration, which is a key tool for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Reintegration is essential to help children and youth to rebuild their lives. After their involvement in conflict, they often face exclusion, stigma and lack of opportunities. Reintegration must thus be understood as a long-term process that requires long-term commitment, relevant both to the Youth, Peace and Security and the CAAC agendas. Youth can play an important role in the design of reintegration programmes. Such possible synergies between both agendas could be further explored by the Council.

To conclude, Brazil stresses once again its support to the implementation of the agenda of Youth, Peace and Security and its purpose to enhance and increase the participation of youth in peace processes.

I thank you.

**United Nations Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting
Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the
Youth, Peace and Security Agenda**

India Statement
by
Mr. Ashish Sharma, Counsellor

12 December 2022

Mr. President

At the very outset, we would like to thank Ireland and other co-sponsors for organizing this meeting and to all the briefers for sharing their valuable insights.

2. The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250, adopted seven years ago, was a major milestone which rightly recognized and mainstreamed youth participation in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

3. The Youth, Peace, and Security agenda is based on five pillars, namely prevention, protection, participation, partnership, and disengagement. India believes that a balanced and integrated implementation of all the five pillars is essential for young people to fully and meaningfully engage in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery.

4. Today, India has two major pillars of strength: demography and democracy. With over 250 million, India is home to the largest youth population and one that is instilled with democratic values. To tap this twin demographic and democratic dividend, in India we are committed to creating a conducive environment through a slew of initiatives: "Start Up India", "Skill India", "Digital India"- to name a few that have been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India which are transforming the Indian youth into a more skilled, entrepreneurial, and financially empowered generation.

5. Revered Indian philosopher Sri Aurobindo believed that revolution and evolution is the real identity of the youth. With these two attributes, young people have the ability to not carry the burden of old legacy, and shake it off when they want to or have to. They evolve amidst new challenges and new demands--creating new ideas and new structures in the process.

6. And today we are witnessing this in our country, and outside through our diaspora. With a "Can Do" spirit, young Indians have become a force to be reckoned with across the globe: be it the world of information technology or healthcare or startups, they have made a mark for themselves. Within India alone, our youth prides itself of having created a formidable ecosystem of more than 50,000 startups—of these more than 10,000 being formed in the last two years

amid the challenges of Covid-19. Similar demographic youth dividend could be seen in Africa and other parts of the Global South.

Mr. President

7. As we collectively aim to build back and get on track our SDGs in the post pandemic phase, it is imperative that we keep the concerns and aspirations of our youth at the center of our policies. For, our youth are our 'Growth Ambassadors' and 'Development Drivers'. They are also the foundations on which peaceful societies are built. This would necessitate all member states to first provide security to their young population in all respects: physical, psycho-social and financial. In the absence of strong institutions to which the youth can turn to for guidance, we have all borne the brunt of our youth falling prey to violent ideologies.

8. It is well-known that terrorist, armed and organized criminal activities thrive by preying on such vulnerable young people. And with proliferation of digital technologies and social media platforms, tapping into this susceptible demographic category has become easier than ever. Holistic security of our youth deserves our full attention in our collective endeavours to build peaceful and secure societies.

9. Akin to the WPS (Women Peace and Security) agenda, India strongly believes in the transformative potential of the YPS (Youth Peace and Security) agenda. We will continue to support Council's endeavors to enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes and peacebuilding activities.

Thank you.

UK Statement

United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting

12 December 2022

Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

- Thank you, Chair. Thank you to Ireland, Ghana and Ecuador for organising this Arria Meeting to mark the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, and to reflect on the Secretary-General's latest report. And special thanks to our briefers for setting the scene so clearly for us all today.
- Seven years ago, this Council unanimously adopted resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). Alongside the Missing Peace report, this was instrumental in demonstrating young people's positive role in sustaining and promoting international peace and security.
- We have seen notable progress, with national YPS coalitions established, and some countries committing to YPS National Action Plans. The UK commends these actions and initiatives by member states. Yet more needs to be done to implement the YPS agenda. With one in four young people globally affected by violence or armed conflict¹, young people need to be meaningfully involved in decision making and peacebuilding. Repeatedly, we hear this message from young civil society representatives briefing the Security Council on their experiences – whether from the DRC, Sudan, or Colombia.
- For our part, the UK is committed to amplifying the voices of young people, and putting their interests' front and centre in our policies. For example, just last month, we ensured YPS was integrated into the International Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative Conference in London. This was aimed at driving international support and commitment for existing frameworks that keep survivor rights and wellbeing protected, and amplified the voices of young survivors of conflict relate sexual violence.
- Early in the New Year, the UK will be launching its fifth Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan. Our National Action Plan will set out how the UK Government will put women and girls at the centre of our work on conflict, peace and security, recognising the active role young women have played in conflict resolution and peacebuilding and ensuring their full, active and meaningful participation.
- This is a moment for us all to renew our efforts on this agenda and ensuring young people are not forgotten. Thank you.

¹ The Missing Peace (A/72/761), pg. 5



United Nations Security Council
Arria Formula on Youth, Peace & Security

12.12.2022

Delivered by:

Vebjørn Heines, Deputy Political Coordinator

Thank you to Ireland, Ecuador and Ghana for organizing this meeting, and thank you to the briefers for sharing their expertise.

We have seen youth across the globe mobilise around global issues like climate change, human rights, peace, and democracy. It is obvious that sustainable peace will be impossible without meaningful inclusion of young people. Through Norway's own involvement in peace and reconciliation in Colombia, the Philippines, Sudan and South Sudan, we have seen this first-hand.

Many countries in conflict have very young populations. Strengthening our conviction that the implementation of resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, or YPS, is of critical importance.

Allow me to highlight three global initiatives Norway has taken with our partners in this regard:

First: Norway supports strengthening the African Union-UN partnership on the meaningful inclusion of youth. Including in the implementation of the flagship program "Silencing the Guns" and the "10-Year Implementation Plan for the Continental Framework on YPS, 2020-2029". We must support African solutions for youth inclusion.

Second: Protection of civilians is one of five pillars in resolution 2250. And we have taken an active role in promoting the Children and Armed Conflict agenda, including as Chair of the Working Group- which has critical synergies with YPS.

And third: In the UN Group of Friends on Preventing Violent Extremism, cochaired by Jordan and Norway, we share lessons learned and best practices for including youth in national strategies to prevent violent extremism.

As has been highlighted by many young peacebuilders, including Nynar Kuol today, youth engagement is too often done in a tokenistic manner. This is counterproductive. Meaningful involvement must be a genuine

cross-cutting priority in all our peace and development efforts. In this regard, the important contributions of young women in building sustainable peace should be recognised and supported.

Furthermore, young peacebuilders stress the importance of supporting community dialogue and connecting work at the grassroots level with national and regional policy processes. The Peacebuilding Fund, supported by Norway since its inception, does excellent work in this regard. And we encourage Member States to ensure adequate funding of the PBF.

Allow me to end by welcoming the establishment of the UN Youth Office, an important priority under Our Common Agenda. Let us make the Youth Office an important vehicle for promoting the YPS agenda going forward.

As delivered



Misión Permanente del Ecuador
ante las Naciones Unidas

Discurso de Representante Permanente del Ecuador ante la ONU, en Reunión de Fórmula Arria sobre Juventud, paz y seguridad

“Marcando el aniversario de la agenda de Juventud, paz y seguridad”

Señor Presidente,

- 1.- Deseo destacar la trascendencia de esta reunión de fórmula arria que conmemora el cumplimiento de los primeros siete años de la histórica Resolución 2250 del Consejo de Seguridad. El 9 de diciembre del año 2015, en este mismo espacio, se reconocía el valioso aporte de los jóvenes para el mantenimiento de la paz y la seguridad internacional.
2. La nota conceptual de la presente reunión menciona, entre otros ejemplos, el aporte de las mujeres jóvenes en Colombia en la creación de protocolos de respuesta a las amenazas de la violencia. Iniciativas como esta pueden ser replicadas en todos aquellos escenarios en que se continúa trabajando por el establecimiento de la democracia, por acceso a sociedades más justas y pacíficas y por el mantenimiento y promoción de la paz y seguridad internacional.
3. En este momento crítico, en el que una vez más los conflictos armados resultan en consecuencias devastadoras sobre la población civil, es imperativo que el Consejo de Seguridad aliente a los Estados a apoyar la participación efectiva de los “jóvenes constructores de la paz”, en el diseño e implementación de estrategias para eliminar las barreras estructurales que limitan su acceso a los procesos de recuperación política y mantenimiento de la paz.
4. El informe bienal del Secretario General Antonio Guterres sobre Juventud, paz y seguridad, de marzo de 2022, enfatiza en la importancia de promover la participación de la juventud como un socio estratégico en la tarea de imaginar y construir un futuro mejor y más incluyente para todos los grupos que conforman las sociedades.

Señor Presidente:

5. El Consejo de Seguridad debe instar a que en los contextos nacionales y regionales se incremente la participación de los jóvenes en los procesos de negociación, construcción y mantenimiento de la paz. Es menester capacitarlos para que puedan ser sujetos activos en la prevención de la violencia; y es urgente implementar políticas y programas para erradicar el reclutamiento forzoso y garantizar la reintegración de los jóvenes involucrados arbitrariamente en conflictos armados.
6. La celebración de la *Conferencia Mundial de Alto Nivel sobre Procesos de Paz Inclusivos* para los Jóvenes, llevada a cabo en enero de 2022, así como la *Cumbre de la Transformación de la Educación*,

son espacios de participación que deben seguir promoviendo lecciones aprendidas para ser incorporadas en la agenda de Juventud, paz y seguridad.

7. El Ecuador considera que es el momento de mejorar los sistemas de interacción con los jóvenes, profundizar la solidaridad intergeneracional y apoyar su participación significativa, equitativa y con enfoque de género. Lejos de ser un tema más del que debemos ocuparnos, la agenda de Juventud, paz y seguridad es una valiosa oportunidad para repensarnos desde la mirada de aquellos que llegaron más tarde y que merecen ser copartícipes de las acciones hacia un mundo más pacífico y seguro.

¡Muchas gracias!



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



Malta
2023-2024
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

Arria-formula Meeting Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, 12 December 2022

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Chair

Malta thanks Ireland, Ecuador, and Ghana for convening today's Arria-formula meeting, which provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon the report of the Secretary-General and explore ways in which we can strengthen the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda seven years after its inception.

We also thank the Executive Director of UNFPA for her important contributions to this discussion, and Ms. Nynar Koul for inspiring us to do better.

We have taken good note of your ideas and recommendations and will make sure to find ways to implement them when serving on the Council.

Chair

As highlighted in the SG's report, over the past few years youth around the world have had to deal with multiple challenges. From violent conflict to the coronavirus pandemic; from climate change to socioeconomic challenges; from sexual and gender-based violence to discrimination. These are all issues that are having a real and detrimental impact on their quality of life and jeopardising their future.

Meanwhile, young people around the world continue to demand free and peaceful societies. In recent months, we have seen numerous cases of youth standing up to fight for their rights and opposing injustice and oppression. They often do this at great personal risk, especially in view of the shrinking civic space, making their efforts more commendable. Nevertheless, such negative trends are disconcerting and must be addressed.

Supporting young people's participation in conflict-prevention, peace processes, conflict-resolution, and peacebuilding is fundamental for achieving sustainable peace.

Contemporary challenges like climate change must be dealt with in a holistic manner, and the effect of this global phenomenon on youth must be one of the central elements of our considerations. To do this, we must listen carefully and understand their concerns. We must give them hope through our actions and include them in a meaningful manner when devising solutions.

Chair

Although 'youth' is used as an umbrella term, we must never lose sight of the fact that this is not a homogenous category, but a diverse and complex group of individuals.

Strategies to engage young people must be both gender and age appropriate. This concept was recognised by the Secretary-General who highlighted the vulnerabilities of young women and young people with intersectional identities, 'young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+)'.

Young people, in all their diversity, face different structural and institutional barriers and cultural biases that limit their participation in peacebuilding. The gender specific threats facing young women in Iran and Afghanistan have violently curtailed their rights to peaceful assembly, association, and freedom of expression. We must increase our support to young women and youth-led peacebuilding organisations and ensure their protection.

At the same time, the digitalisation of civic space has created new opportunities to engage a broader diversity of young people in peace dialogues and reconciliation processes. However, it also presents new protection challenges. The safe and inclusive use of technology will require new norms and increased access to digital resources and infrastructure. This is why digital literacy is a priority for Malta, as a tool for peacebuilding, and to prevent the marginalisation of young people.

I thank you.

Remarks by Mr. MAGOSAKI Kaoru
Minister for Social Affairs, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting on
“Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda”
12 December 2022

Thank you very much Mr. Chair and thank you very much indeed for holding this valuable meeting with Ghana and Ecuador.

Sustained peace can take root where the youth has confidence that they own a better future, free from fear and able to unleash their potential in society. That is what we are trying to achieve in implementing the YPS.

The youth has every right to be ambitious, but ambition does not always have to be lofty. It can start at the doorsteps. This is why local community matters. In this regard, Japan contributed to a very unique project at refugee camps in Palestine. There, we facilitated a program that conducted a series of workshops to give opportunities for people to come up with their initiatives to improve their living conditions. This program allowed young people to go through leadership training, which generated lively intergenerational communication and collaboration.

The youth also needs to build their lives on their own. Access to quality education and job training opportunities is an essential element for young people to kindle a light of hope in crisis. Therefore, Japan is committed to providing quality education, job training opportunities, even in times of conflicts. For instance, Japan has been providing technical assistance to improve the quality of vocational training facilities in conflict ridden places such as in Somalia and the DRC. The international community must also embrace the ambitions of a global scale. On this part, Japan's run a unique program that couples master degrees education with internship opportunities for African students.

We look forward to more initiatives aimed at youth realizing and upholding peace and believe that this meeting would serve to that end. Thank you very much Mr. Chair.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Conseil de sécurité

Réunion informelle selon la formule Arria

A l'occasion du septième anniversaire de l'agenda jeunesse, paix et sécurité

“Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda”

New York, le 12 Décembre 2022

Déclaration de la Suisse, lue par Zelda Métraux, stagiaire académique de la Mission Suisse à New York

Monsieur le Président,

Nous remercions l'Irlande, l'Équateur et le Ghana d'avoir convoqué cette séance ainsi que les intervenantes pour leurs contributions.

Les jeunes femmes et les jeunes hommes sont en première ligne des mouvements démocratiques et pacifiques. Ils se mobilisent pour un monde plus juste et plus durable, ils dénoncent les abus de pouvoir et luttent contre le changement climatique.

Dans les mots d'un délégué suisse à la jeunesse « le récit selon lequel seuls certains thèmes sont pertinents pour les jeunes est faux. Les plus jeunes générations sont parties prenantes de *tous* les sujets qui préoccupent l'ONU ».

En adoptant la résolution 2250 ainsi que les résolutions ultérieures en relation avec cet agenda, le Conseil de sécurité s'est doté d'un cadre permettant d'accroître la participation des jeunes de manière significative et inclusive dans les efforts de consolidation de la paix.

A cet égard, permettez-moi les trois propositions suivantes :

Premièrement, les jeunes doivent disposer **d'un espace nécessaire et d'un environnement sûr pour participer** aux discussions relatives à la paix et la sécurité. Les jeunes sont confrontés quotidiennement à des insécurités, des menaces et des violences. Leur crédibilité est souvent remise en cause et leurs droits de l'homme violés. De plus, ils se heurtent à des obstacles pour accéder aux espaces décisionnels, que ce soit hors ligne ou en ligne. En invitant des jeunes à partager leurs expériences, le Conseil peut mieux comprendre leur rôle, leurs besoins et leurs activités dans les contextes figurant à son agenda. Inviter les jeunes doit aller de pair avec leur protection contre de représailles.

Deuxièmement, les **opérations de paix et les missions politiques spéciales** doivent tenir compte de la jeunesse dans la mise en œuvre de leur mandat, y compris dans la planification des transitions. Les jeunes sont en effet des acteurs clés dans la stabilisation et la consolidation de la paix. En République démocratique du Congo, par exemple, les jeunes sont inclus dans les réflexions en relation avec la mission de paix. Les contributions des jeunes doivent être reconnues de façon plus systématique. A cet égard, nous saluons le plan d'action dont s'est doté la Commission de consolidation de la paix et soutenons sa mise en œuvre.

Troisièmement, **nous devons impliquer les jeunes dans toute leur diversité**. Les jeunes femmes et les jeunes hommes ne sont pas confrontés de façon identique aux risques et vulnérabilités. Nous devons comprendre comment interagissent différents facteurs afin de promouvoir une analyse différenciée. Sur ce point, les agendas jeunesse, paix et sécurité et femmes, paix et sécurité sont étroitement liés.

Monsieur le Président,

La Suisse soutient la mise en œuvre de l'agenda jeunesse, paix et sécurité. Au Conseil de sécurité, nous veillerons à accorder une place importante aux opinions, aux besoins et au pouvoir transformateur des jeunes femmes et des jeunes hommes dans nos délibérations.

Je vous remercie.

Unofficial translation

Mr. President

We thank Ireland, Ecuador and Ghana for convening this session and the speakers for their contributions.

Young women and men are at the forefront of democratic and peaceful movements. They are mobilizing for a more just and sustainable world, denouncing abuses of power and fight climate change. In the words of a Swiss youth delegate, "the narrative that only certain issues are relevant to young people is wrong. The younger generation is a stakeholder in all issues of concern to the UN."

By adopting resolution 2250 and subsequent resolutions related to this agenda, the Security Council has provided a framework to strengthen the participation of youth in peacebuilding efforts in a meaningful and inclusive way.

In this regard, allow me to make the following three proposals:

First, youth must be given the necessary space and safe environment to participate in discussions related to peace and security. Youth are confronted with insecurity threats and violence. Their credibility is often questioned and their human rights violated. In addition, they face barriers to accessing fora where decisions are made, both offline and online. By inviting youth to share their experiences, the Council can gain a better understanding of their role, needs, and activities in the contexts on its agenda. Inviting youth must go hand in hand with protecting them from retaliation.

Second, peace operations and special political missions must take youth into account in the implementation of their mandates, including in transition planning. Youth are key actors in stabilization and peacebuilding. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, youth are included in the reflections related to the peace mission. The contributions of youth need to be recognized more systematically. In this regard, we welcome the action plan of the Peacebuilding Commission and support its implementation.

Third, we need to involve youth in all their diversity. Young women and men do not face the same risks and vulnerabilities. We need to understand how different factors interact to promote a differentiated analysis. In this respect, the Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security agendas are closely linked.

Mr. President,

Switzerland supports the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda. In the Security Council, we will ensure that the views, needs and transformative power of young women and men are given an important place in our deliberations.

Thank you.



Misión Permanente de la República Dominicana
ante las Naciones Unidas

Reunión del Consejo de Seguridad en formato Fórmula Arria sobre Juventud, Paz y Seguridad

Misión Permanente de la República Dominicana ante las Naciones Unidas Naciones Unidas, Nueva York

Agradecemos a Irlanda, Ghana y Ecuador por la realización de esta reunión del Consejo de Seguridad en formato Arria Fórmula en conmemoración del 7mo aniversario de la adopción de la resolución 2250 sobre Juventud, Paz y Seguridad.

Mientras el mundo enfrenta crisis y conflictos que exacerban las desigualdades y otras amenazas a la paz, la Agenda Juventud, Paz y Seguridad viene a asegurar que los jóvenes participen activamente en los procesos de consolidación de la paz. La participación plena, significativa e igualitaria de los jóvenes es fundamental para lograr una paz sostenible.

Y en tal sentido, debemos abordar las normas sociales que exacerban las desigualdades y abogar así por una transformación sistemática que reduzca la discriminación y aumente las oportunidades para los jóvenes.

El último informe del Secretario General sobre JPS, considera que la falta de datos sobre los jóvenes como participantes en los procesos de paz, y las raras disposiciones en los acuerdos de paz que tienen en cuenta a los jóvenes, hacen evidente que la inclusión de los jóvenes sigue siendo marginal.

Para hacer frente a estos datos preocupantes, creemos que estamos en un momento cumbre en la implementación de la agenda JPS, cuando la resolución 2535, presentada por Francia y República Dominicana, asegura un informe regular sobre Juventud, Paz y Seguridad y proporciona una mayor operacionalización de la agenda.

Por ejemplo, a dos años de su adopción, las misiones de paz aumentaron su coordinación e involucramiento con la implementación de la agenda JPS, y de 4 puntos focales sobre JPS ahora contamos con más de 120, lo que se traduce en mejor implementación. Sin embargo, al menos en lo

referente a las Misiones, para República Dominicana sigue siendo una prioridad que haya capacidad dedicada solamente a JPS y no combinar estas designaciones con otras funciones.

Asimismo, contamos con diferentes herramientas como la Guía Programática sobre Juventud, Paz y Seguridad y las Guías para Estados Miembros para operacionalizar la agenda.

En términos generales, se ha avanzado en la financiación accesible para los jóvenes, incluida la consolidación de la paz. Sin embargo, el desafío sigue siendo garantizar que el dinero llegue a las organizaciones lideradas por jóvenes que se encuentran en primera línea, enfrentando barreras que obstaculizan el desarrollo organizacional. Tenemos que apuntar hacia una financiación flexible, a largo plazo y orientada al impacto, de la que pueden beneficiarse los jóvenes constructores de paz.

Ahora bien, ningún esfuerzo es promisorio si no se vela por la protección de la vida y los derechos humanos de los jóvenes, quienes en ocasiones enfrentan represalias por su trabajo e incidencia. Las recomendaciones del Informe “Si desaparezco” lanzado por la Oficina de la Enviada del Secretario General para la Juventud y la Coalición Global sobre JPS, nos debe servir de referente en este sentido.

Romper los silos en el Consejo de Seguridad es crucial.

Tomamos la oportunidad para reiterar la urgencia de que las renovaciones de mandatos aseguren provisiones en materia de implementación de la agenda de acuerdo al contexto específico, como estipulado por la resolución 2535.

Igual de importante que los informes del Secretario General, sobre países específicos, incluya información sobre la implementación de la agenda y que se invite a jóvenes a informar al Consejo de Seguridad.

Esperamos que el Consejo de Seguridad realice un Debate Abierto sobre Juventud, Paz y Seguridad a la brevedad posible, en aras de que podamos, de manera unificada, reflexionar sobre el progreso realizado, identificar obstáculos e impulsar aún más el apoyo hacia la implementación de la agenda de Juventud, Paz y Seguridad.

Creemos que el establecimiento de la Oficina de Juventud de las Naciones Unidas servirá como catalizadora para la implementación de la agenda Juventud, Paz y Seguridad.

República Dominicana continúa convencida de que para lograr una paz sostenible, los jóvenes son parte fundamental de la ecuación y reiteramos nuestro pleno apoyo a la Agenda de Juventud, Paz, y Seguridad.

Statement by Finland

United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda on Monday, 12 December 2022

Chair,

Finland is grateful to Ghana, Ireland and Ecuador for organizing this Arria-formula meeting to highlight the importance of the Youth Peace and Security agenda and mark seven years since the adoption by the Security Council of the landmark resolution 2250 on Youth Peace and Security.

We hope this will lead to a formal meeting of the Security Council to discuss the biennial report of the Secretary-General on Youth, Peace and Security submitted in March 2022 and requested by the Council in resolution 2535 in July 2020. We encourage the Security Council to continue to lead on implementation of the Youth Peace and Security resolutions.

As the number of violent conflicts is now at a record high since the end of the Second World War, the important contribution of youth in the promotion of sustainable peace and security is now needed more than ever. Finland is strongly committed to promoting full, effective and meaningful participation of youth in all decision-making processes including in particular at the United Nations and we have had an instrumental role in advancing the YPS agenda from the beginning.

As highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on Youth, Peace and Security, young people all around the world have faced unprecedented challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Young people are frequently among the most affected in conflict-situations globally and the growing impact of climate change threatens the humanity itself, and jeopardizes aspirations of intergenerational equity.

Finland can wholeheartedly subscribe to the Secretary-General's recommendations on how to accelerate implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. In particular, we should take stock of the positive and transformative role of young people and prioritize inclusive partnerships with young peacebuilders.

We should also address financing gaps for youth-led initiatives and youth organizations by making flexible, fluid, small, and quick-access funding more accessible for them and provide facilitated safe spaces for dialogue and connection. Finland continues to support the work of the UN Peacebuilding Fund, and in particular participation of youth in peacebuilding through its Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives (GYPI).

Another key priority moving forward is developing and promoting participatory peace and security strategies and approaches both within the United Nations and at the national level. Finland has recently published our first National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security for 2021-2024, as the first country in the world. We organized a first workshop in Helsinki in November for sharing best practices and lessons learnt with several international partners based on our commitment in the Doha High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace in January 2022.

Finland hopes the establishment of the UN Youth Office will advance participation of youth in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security in across the UN System. Finland is supporting the Youth Peace and Security portfolio in the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and its transition to the Youth Office.

To sum up, Finland would like to encourage all members to accelerate implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in broad and constructive dialogue with all relevant stakeholders across the UN System as well as nationally and regionally.

بيان المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية

اجتماع مجلس الأمن التابع للأمم المتحدة

بمناسبة الذكرى السنوية السابعة لجدول أعمال الشباب والسلام والأمن

الاثنين الموافق 12 كانون أول 2022

السيد الرئيس،

إن قرار مجلس الأمن رقم 2250 الذي تم تبنيه بالإجماع في مجلس الأمن بتاريخ 9 كانون أول 2015 بمبادرة من المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، قد جاء لتشجيع مشاركة الشباب في عملية بناء السلام والأمن وصنع القرار، ولجعل منهم ومن المؤسسات القيادية الشبابية شريكاً أساسياً للمواجهة التطرف والعنف، والانتقال من النزاع لبناء السلام على المستويين المحلي والدولي، وهو القرار الأول من نوعه الذي يعطي الشباب الفرصة للعمل على تحقيق السلام والأمن حول العالم.

السيد الرئيس،

لقد جاء هذا القرار ضمن خمسة محاور أساسية هي: ضمان مشاركة فاعلة للشباب في صنع القرار، وتفعيل الشراكة لضمان تفاعل الشباب مع الحكومات، وضمان الحماية للشباب من خلال تفعيل آلية لحماية المدنيين، وضمان الوقاية من خلال إتاحة المجال للشباب لإقامة أنشطة لبناء بيئة تنبذ التطرف وتعزيز ثقافة التسامح، وأخيراً التركيز على نزع السلاح وإعادة إدماج الشباب من خلال إخراجهم من الميليشيات وتوفير فرص أفضل لهم، ولا بد لنا أن نضع معايير لقياس مدى نجاح المجتمع الدولي في تحقيق أهداف القرار 2250.

السيد الرئيس،

اننا في هذه الأوقات نعيش ظروفاً صعبة فالحروب تعددت، وزادت نسبة انتشار العنف والتطرف في مناطق واسعة من هذا العالم، ويبدو واضحاً أن المنطقة العربية ومنطقة الشرق الأوسط الأكثر تأثراً مع ظهور الجماعات الإرهابية التي كانت سبباً في تدمير المدن وتشريد أهلها وظهور مشاكل عديدة كالفساد والبطالة والهجرة ومشكلة اللاجئين والتعليم والصحة وانتهاك حقوق المرأة والطفل، وإغراق الشباب في مستنقعات التطرف والإرهاب، وغياب دورهم في تحقيق السلام والأمن أو حتى أن يكون لهم دور فاعل في تحقيق التنمية المستدامة، خصوصاً وأن غالبية منتسبي الجماعات الإرهابية هم من الشباب لأنهم الأكثر تضرراً من خلال ما يعانونه في مجتمعاتهم وعدم إشراكهم في الحياة السياسية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية.

وهنا جاء القرار 2250 الذي يؤمن بدور الشباب الهام ويعمل على إشراك الشباب في عملية التنمية واتخاذ القرارات ووضع السياسات والبرامج في مختلف المناحي، الأمر الذي يحتم علينا حمايتهم من جميع أنواع التطرف الذي نراه الآن من خلال توفير البيئة المحفزة لهم ووضع سياسات وآليات لتمكينهم من المساهمة بشكل فاعل في بناء السلام وتعزيز ثقافة التسامح واحترام الأديان، الأمر الذي يتطلب إدماج الشباب في مجتمعاتهم بشكل فاعل ومؤسسي، والنهوض بمستوى التعليم وتوفير فرص العمل التي تلبي احتياجاتهم وتترجم أهداف التنمية المستدامة لجعل الشباب كوادراً لبناء وليس أدوات هدم.

السيد الرئيس،

إن الأردن ومن منطلق ضمان تنفيذ جدول أعمال الشباب والأمن والسلام وضمن المشاركة الفاعلة للشباب في حالات النزاع وما بعد النزاع، ليكونوا ركيزة أساسية في جميع مسائل السلام والأمن، فإن الأردن يتشارك معكم المقترحات التالية:

- أن يكون هنالك احصائيات حقيقية عن الوضع الذي يعيشه الشباب حول العالم مع التركيز على مناطق الصراع والنزاع، وذلك بالاستماع إليهم مباشرة وبناء الدراسة على شهادات حقيقية وقصص من أرض الواقع لنضمن إيجاد حلول حقيقية ودراسة تعكس الواقع.
- العمل على انصاف الشباب ومنحها الدور الحقيقي لتكون أحد صناعات التغيير.
- حماية حقوق الأطفال وتوفير البيئة الملائمة لنموهم بشكل طبيعي يضمن مستقبلهم بعيداً عن العنف والتطرف، حيث تعمل الحركات الإرهابية والمتطرفة على استثمار الظروف الصعبة التي مر بها الشباب عند نشأتهم لجذبهم إلى الدعايات الإرهابية والمتطرفة.
- مشاركة الشباب في صنع القرارات ورسم السياسات على المستوى المحلي والدولي ودعم مبادراتهم وأنشطتهم الداعية لنشر السلام وتحقيق الأمن وتقديم الدعم لمنظماتهم وعقد الشراكات معهم.
- العمل على تنمية مهارات الشباب القيادية بمختلف المجالات لخلق بيئة إيجابية مترابطة لتغيير الخطاب والمنظور السلبي والنظر إليهم كشركاء في بناء المجتمعات وتحقيق التنمية المستدامة.
- التأكيد على أهمية القرار الذي اعتمدته الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة بخصوص إنشاء مكتب الأمم المتحدة للشباب، ودوره الفاعل والأساسي لتحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة خصوصاً ما يرتبط منها في تنمية الشباب، ومجالات التعليم والتوظيف باعتبار ذلك من العوامل الرئيسية للتنمية الشاملة للشباب، ومبدأً أساسياً لخطّة عام 2030 في التأكيد على أنه "لن يتخلف أحد عن ركب تحقيق أهداف التنمية".

السيد الرئيس،

يؤكد نهج الأردن إيمانه المطلق بأن بناء المدن المتحضرة التي تلبي احتياجات مواطنيها وتعطي الشباب والمرأة الفرص الحقيقية للمشاركة في مختلف مناحي الحياة هي أحد أهم العناصر لتحقيق الاستقرار والسلام والأمن وثقافة التسامح وحب الآخرين، وتوفير مكان ملائم للجميع باختلاف أديانهم وعاداتهم وحضاراتهم وألوانهم.

السيد الرئيس،

إن العالم الذي نعيش فيه يستحق منا الكثير من العمل الجاد والدؤوب لتحقيق السلام وحفظ الأمن لنعيش في عالم نخدم فيه بعضنا البعض وننشر المحبة والخير بين الجميع، ومما لا شك فيه أن الشباب هم ركيزة البناء لعالم أفضل.

وشكراً سيدي الرئيس



REPUBLIC OF POLAND
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**United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting
Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the
Youth, Peace and Security Agenda**

Written statement by Poland

New York, 12 December 2022

Young people and their involvement in peace processes are the matters that have always remained high on Poland's agenda. Poland, also as a member of the UN Champions of Youth Group since 2020, actively supports international efforts to ensure continuous and meaningful participation of the young people during all stages of policy shaping as well as during actual implementation of the outlined strategies. Nevertheless, regardless of all efforts structural barriers that prevent young persons from fulfilling their true potential still exist.

Poland recognizes the importance of involvement of young people in political processes. For these reasons Poland has undertaken systematic efforts to increase the role and positive contribution that youth can play in shaping domestic policies. Main role of newly established (in 2020) Office of Government's Plenipotentiary for Youth Policy is to coordinate the dialogue between government administration, social and economic partners, non-governmental organizations and local and regional authorities in matters related to the formulation of youth policy.

Since 2012 Polish Foreign Ministry participates in the UN Youth Delegate Programme. Every year (with the exception of 2017), at least one Polish young delegate represents Poland at the UN forum on issues related to youth policies and peace and security matters. For the current 77 UNGA session three people were elected as Youth Delegates.

In the light of the above, Poland supports efforts to increase the participation of young people in the workings of the General Assembly, including through the ongoing initiative to establish a United Nations Youth Office. Their participation and voice can be also of particular importance in the process of implementing the Our Common Agenda report, as well as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. We also believe it is important for the UN to take steps to promote the Youth Delegates to the UN programmes and to seek to expand the list of countries running them, so that the voice of young people can be represented by a greater number of Member states.

Last December Poland organized the UN Digital Summit – IGF 2021. Knowing how crucial it is to involve young people in cooperation with decision-makers we included the Youth IGF as one of its side events. Also, the 11th session of the UN World Urban Forum which Poland organized this year established the Youth Council. We gave young people an opportunity to have a real impact on the final shape of both events.

In countries affected by conflict and violence, young people are often seen as either perpetrators or victims. The rise of terrorism and violent extremism in recent years is also associated with the role of young men and, increasingly, young women. In reality, however, the role of young people in relation to peace and security is poorly understood and much more complex than these stereotypes suggest.

Poland recognizes and supports the important and positive role young people play in the construction of more peaceful and secure societies. UNSCR 2250 (2015), and subsequent 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020) Resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security have been crucial in recognising youth as an important positive group and drivers of change in peace-making processes and helped to identify their needs. The processes initiated by the Agenda make it easier to target the youth and devise projects and initiatives that address their needs in a more precise and effective way. This processes, ushered in necessary changes required for youth inclusive peace processes.

The most constructive way to empower young people and ensure that they are not radicalized in situations of conflict and fragility is to invest in high-quality education, vocational training and employment. While in times

of peace, education is generally treated as a significant investment and a fundamental right, in war-torn regions education is often side lined.

We can build sustainable peace if partnerships for peace become greater than the military ones. Thus, national capacity-building should be prioritized in conflict situations. To that end, Poland provides assistance to students from developing countries, including students from conflict-affected territories.

We are also assisting our neighbouring countries. The largest group of foreign students in Poland are citizens of Ukraine and Belarus. An example of such assistance would be scholarships for students from Belarus who - as a result of political repression - come to Poland with the purpose of temporary or permanent emigration. In 2020 as a part of the Solidarity with Belarus assistance package Poland launched two scholarship programmes - the Konstanty Kalinowski Scholarship Programme and the Solidarity with Students Scholarship Programme. Those who receive the scholarships in the first place are the students persecuted by the Belarusian authorities' actions. These young people were detained, arrested, beaten, tortured, dismissed from work or were subject to economic or psychological pressure, which made it impossible for them to continue their studies or work in Belarus. Both programmes made it possible for a group of ca. 2,000 Belarusians to start studying at Polish universities.

In this vein, we also support the youth and young adults from Ukraine who due to Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression were forced to leave their homes and seek help in foreign countries. Depending on parents' preferences, children and the youth may enrol in Polish schools or be provided with the necessary equipment for distance learning within the Ukrainian educational system. While students who were pursuing higher education in Ukraine before the outbreak of war can also continue their studies at Polish universities. Moreover, we have launched several programs offering institutional and financial support for academics from Ukraine to enable them to continue their research projects.

Support for less privileged young people, students and children is also an important part of the Polish Aid. Youth and young people are the beneficiaries of certain number of programs. The objective of those projects is to foster education, provide skills and promote youth economic empowerment and employment via vocational training, with special attention given to young women, migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees. These projects promote young people social and economic inclusion, enhance their resilience and fight marginalization.

Sustainable peace depends heavily on constant engagement of the youth in all dimensions of peacebuilding processes. To unlock young people's full potential we must provide them with access to quality education, economic opportunities and ensure young people meaningful political participation. We can and we need to build strong social structures and solid partnerships by giving a voice to young people in decision-making processes at all levels. We need to hear youth voices more clearly at the UN forum. Poland calls for equal and full participation of young people in peace and decision-making processes at all levels. We are committed to make the provisions and objectives of the YPS Agenda a reality.



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

Arria Formula Meeting

**“Marking the Seventh Anniversary
of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda”**

Written contribution by Portugal

12 December 2022

Portugal commends the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Ghana and Ecuador for convening this meeting and for celebrating the 7th anniversary since the adoption of the landmark UNSC Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

Youth policies in general, and the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda in particular, are fundamental instruments for the promotion of youth participation and leadership, further strengthening their contribution towards conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Therefore, Portugal highlights the role of the above-mentioned Resolution, as well as the Youth 2030 Strategy, in the pursuit of this Agenda.

The inclusive engagement of young persons is key for the coordinated implementation of the Resolution 2250 and the previous Resolutions on youth, peace and security. Young persons play an essential role in identifying pressing issues and areas of concern, putting forward valuable strategies and solutions, and actively fighting for peace, justice, inclusion, gender equality and human rights.

Moreover, young persons are key participants in intergenerational dialogues – and the importance of these dialogues cannot be overstated.

Not only will young persons be dealing with the future consequences of the decisions and actions taken today, but they also currently face significant challenges that must be addressed in order to protect and fulfil their human rights.

In this context, we reiterate the importance of the full implementation of the five pillars outlined by Resolution 2250: i) participation, ii) protection, iii) prevention, iv) disengagement and reintegration, v) and partnerships. Youth engagement and active participation are fundamental for the protection of young persons' rights – it could not be otherwise.

However, core challenges remain, namely barriers to young persons' participation and lack of investment in education and youth-led programmes. As a result, the participation gap is usually reflected in lack of confidence in political institutions and in the marginalization of young persons. In this sense, supporting youth initiatives involves promoting a youth-friendly environment and seeking to increase the support towards youth-led organizations working at the local level.

Further collaboration between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission on the implementation of the YPS Agenda could be an important contribution towards ensuring a holistic and integrated approach to the multidimensional challenges that today's – and tomorrow's – young persons face across all pillars of the UN system.

In that regard, it is also important to highlight that the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the YPS Agenda are complementary. As such, gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of young women is an important component of the Portuguese National Plan for Youth.

Portugal would like to highlight that, in 2019, the Portuguese Government, in cooperation with the UN, organized the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the Youth Forum *Lisboa+21*. The outcome was a renewed Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (Lisbon+21 Declaration). This Declaration recognized young persons' contribution to peace processes and conflict prevention and resolution, thus further contributing towards concrete steps for the implementation of the YPS Agenda.

The annual resolutions on "policies and programs affecting youth" adopted by the UN General Assembly and by the Commission for Social Development – which Portugal facilitates – and the HRC resolutions on "youth and human rights" should also be brought to the fore for their crucial synergies with the YPS Agenda.

You may count on Portugal's continued support towards this objective.



**STATEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA DURING THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL AR-
RIA-FORMULA MEETING MARKING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUTH, PEACE,
AND SECURITY AGENDA**

12 December 2022

Mr President,

Young people present a valuable and potential resource for the World, not only through their active participation in global affairs but also through the need to include them in peace and security initiatives. In Africa, young people, represent a significant number of those affected by armed conflict whilst, sadly, also being the core constituent of the combatants.

It is for these reasons that South Africa advocates for the full, effective and meaningful participation and involvement of young people at all levels of policy formulation and decision making. We also support the participation of the youth in the implementation and monitoring of peace and security decisions and agreements as envisioned in the Security Council Resolution 2250, and its subsequent Resolutions 2419 and 2535.

We cannot ignore and neglect that many decisions and actions we take during our deliberations, both involve and certainly impact on youth. We need to adopt conscientious decisions and actions that protect young people from the ill-effects of violent conflict and insecurity, whilst promoting and supporting their contributions to peace efforts in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Consequently, South Africa is committed to the African Union Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security. This framework has identified key areas, though which the role of Youth in Peace and Security is supported; namely **Participation, Prevention, Protection, Partnerships and Coordination** as well as **Disengagement and Reintegration**. These key elements all seek to actively centralize the role of youth in the Peace and Security environment, such that we are able to recognise their invaluable contribution and, therefore, establish more sustained peace. In addition, South Africa also calls for an increased role of youth in formal peacebuilding initiatives, including peace support operations, election observation, humanitarian relief and post-conflict reconstruction programmes at the nation, regional and international level.

It is our view that the Peacebuilding Commission can also play a critical role here by mainstreaming youth into the work of the PBC to increase this engagement and in promotion of youth peacebuilding efforts on the ground. A good starting point would be through the operationalization of the Peacebuilding Commissions Implementation Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding. Building the capacity of young people as leaders and peacebuilders not only enables them to continue their roles as agents of change but enhances their capacity and skills as mediators and negotiators in their respective areas of work and expertise.

Mr President,

We also recognise that the process toward sustaining Youth Peace and Security needs greater support, particularly for the organisations that promote youth development. This will require greater attention needed to address the weakened organisational and technical capacities of youth groups necessary to implement their programmes and track their progress. In this regard, South Africa will continue to seek and support youth development through the recognition of the youth development professionals that continue to serve the youth community within grass-roots organisations that support youth development, despite limited resources and economic insecurity. This is a key target area of support as articulated in the South African National Youth Policy and forms the basis for much of our youth engagement, including peace and security.

I thank you

Written Statement

on behalf of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO)

Arria Formula Meeting on Youth, Peace and Security

12 December 2022

The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) would like to thank Ireland, Ghana, and Ecuador for hosting this Arria Formula Meeting on youth, peace and security (YPS).

Noticeable progress has been made towards the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020) on YPS, which recognize young people's key and positive contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as towards the success of UN's prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. Nonetheless, the second report of the Secretary-General on YPS published in March 2022 highlights that challenges remain to the full implementation of the related Security Council Resolutions. Addressing them requires enhanced financial and political investment. Drawing from the report, DPPA and DPO would like to put forward four recommendations for the consideration of the Security Council:

First, special political missions and peacekeeping operations are committed to strengthening their engagement with youth at all stages of the political and peace processes, enabling their contribution to consolidate peace and prevent conflict, including during and after UN transitions. We welcome the Security Council to ensure that the importance of youth in the maintenance of peace and security is reflected in the mandate renewals of all UN field missions, and to call upon the missions to integrate youth engagement in political, civil, human rights, protection, rule of law, and gender equality initiatives and in all other relevant mandated areas.

Second, UN field missions should be enabled to provide age-and-gender responsive protection and support to young human rights defenders and peacebuilders at risk, both online and offline. As noted by the Secretary-General, the UN will explore establishing rapid response funds for the protection of young peacebuilders and human rights defenders at risk.

Third, the Security Council can help advance the institutionalization of the YPS agenda by encouraging and supporting the development and implementation of dedicated frameworks, or the integration of the agenda into regional, national and local peace policy frameworks, in partnership with civil society and youth organizations.

Fourth, ensuring more opportunities for young people to safely engage directly with the Security Council, and ensuring that their recommendations are reflected in Security Council action, is key. The Security Council could consider ensuring that YPS is a standing topic in its agenda in December, corresponding with the anniversary of the Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).

United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting
Marking the Seventh Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda
Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
Written Statement

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

I am pleased to address this Arria-formula meeting on Youth, Peace and Security, and I would like to recognize the efforts of young people here today and thank the organizers for convening this discussion.

Since 2015, the historic adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, the YPS agenda, has gained momentum and we have witnessed promising progress on the narrative and approach toward young people in peace and security.

However, occasions such as this one are still rare. The UN Secretary-General's recent report on *Our Common Agenda* emphasizes the need for concrete recommendations for more meaningful, diverse and effective youth engagement in the UN deliberative and decision-making processes, including the Security Council.

Advancing meaningful youth engagement within the Security Council needs to come hand in hand with the institutionalization of the YPS agenda at regional and country level as well.

Aligned with the UN Youth Strategy, Youth2030, and its fifth priority on peace and resilience building, we have worked collaboratively at the UN to develop tools and resources such as the *Guide for Public Officials* to advance the practical implementation of these international frameworks and the first-of-its kind *Five-year Strategic Action Plan on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes*.

Globally, four countries have adopted National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security, and political statements from governments have been made on advancing the YPS agenda, as well as its integration in regional frameworks.

I welcome those milestones and I would like to take this opportunity to share three key recommendations to ensure that young people are supported as equal and powerful actors in peacebuilding:

- **First:** As partnerships are key to institutionalizing the YPS agenda, I call on Member States to develop dedicated local and national YPS roadmaps, by meaningfully engaging youth. These roadmaps should spell out concrete commitments on the main pillars of the YPS agenda, and include dedicated budgets.
- **Second:** The YPS agenda was created by youth all over the world, thus I encourage all Member States to support the establishment of multi-stakeholder national coalitions on YPS. This should include youth-led organizations in a leadership role and with equal access to all phases of policy and programming, as well as discussions on resource allocations.

- **Third:** To further institutionalize the YPS agenda in the peacekeeping context, I urge the UN-system and its political missions to establish a network of YPS focal points at the country, regional and headquarters levels, and build on existing human resources to ensure dedicated capacities.

Excellencies,

Investing in young people is key to achieving lasting peace, especially in fragile contexts where youth are not only the majority of the population but also are at risk of bearing the biggest brunt of crises, despite often being at the frontlines of solution-driven action. Working with and for youth is not only the right and smart thing to do, but also the most sustainable way to turn policy into practice.

Thank you.

UN Women Statement – Arria-formula Meeting of the Security Council on the Implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

12 December 2022, New York - Written statement by UN Women submitted for the United Nations Security Council Arria-formula meeting on the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

Excellencies,

UN Women welcomes Ireland, Ecuador and Ghana's initiative to convene this Arria-formula meeting for the seventh anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

Seven years of implementation have continued to shed light on the tireless work that young women and men peacebuilders are doing around the world to prevent conflict in their communities, strengthen dialogue and social cohesion, respond to humanitarian crises and advance social justice and gender equality.

We are increasingly seeing young women lead change and peace efforts. In Colombia, they have advocated for a cessation of hostilities and led sustained demonstrations to protest corruption. In Bangladesh, young women are working to provide support to refugee communities and foster social cohesion in an increasingly fraught environment.

Yet young people continue to be largely excluded from peacebuilding processes. Young peacebuilders and human rights defenders are at risk, too often targeted – including by their own governments – for speaking up and defending core human rights principles. Young women are particularly exposed, and many face reprisal and harassment, including sexual and gender-based violence.

If we are to achieve and sustain peace, as both the Women, Peace and Security and the Youth, Peace and Security agendas set out to do, we must recognize, support and nurture young people as key actors in building and sustaining peace efforts. The time has come to move from commitments to action. We need to do more, we need to do it better, and we have to do it faster.

It is critical that we continue amplifying young men and women's voices in decision-making, including international fora such as the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, ensuring that young briefers from diverse backgrounds are systematically invited to thematic and country discussions. Inviting young people to the table should no longer be an option.

It is urgent to establish flexible, predictable, and accessible funding mechanisms for young peacebuilders and youth-led organizations, with a specific attention to young women-led peacebuilding efforts.

Finally, we must pay serious attention to the protection of young peacebuilders, and set up mechanisms to ensure they can safely continue their work, as they are facing increased threats and reprisals – whether protesting peacefully or leading online advocacy.

On this seventh anniversary, UN Women acknowledges that these needs are not new; however, we urge the international community to do more. We cannot ignore young women and men's needs and agency; we must work alongside them as full partners.



Written Statement to the United Nations Security Council Arria-formula meeting marking the 7th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

Submitted by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)

The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) launched the [Young Women+ Leaders for Peace](#) (YWL, formerly known as Girl Ambassadors for Peace) program in 2014.² This program focuses on young women's leadership in promoting the synergy between the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas in Bangladesh, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Georgia, Indonesia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Ukraine. In 2020, the United Nations (UN) [Secretary-General's first report to the Security Council on YPS](#) recognized the role of the YWL-Philippines as a peacebuilding best practice.

In 2021, GNWP and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) initiated the Civil Society Working Group on YPS to strengthen the representation of young people in the UN and the Security Council processes. Furthermore, a protection protocol was developed and cited by the [UN Secretary-General in his second report to the Security Council on YPS](#). These initiatives, combined with GNWP's pioneering "[Full cycle implementation of WPS](#)" strategy, inspired the creation of YPS Coalitions and contributions to National Action Plans (NAPs) on YPS in several countries. GNWP and the YWL networks supported the creation of the regional YPS Coalition in Central Africa and national-level YPS Coalitions in the DRC, Kenya, and Uganda. In the DRC and Nigeria, GNWP and the YWL were instrumental in integrating young women's perspectives in the first National Action Plans on YPS in Africa.

Despite these advances, youth peacebuilders implementing the YPS resolutions continue to face several challenges. Young people are often considered a homogenous group, which diminishes the diversity of their experiences. They continue to experience tokenization, political reprisals, and physical and cybersecurity concerns. The current efforts of Member States, supporting civil society and youth peacebuilders, have brought greater recognition to the role and experiences of young people in building peace. However, further action is needed to sustain and accelerate the implementation of the YPS resolutions.

GNWP presents the following recommendations to Member States:

1. Institutionalize the YPS resolutions into national and local action plans in partnership with youth peacebuilders, and guarantee equal and meaningful participation of young women in these processes;
2. Ensure dedicated and sustained funding for the national and local action plans on YPS;

² In addition to young women, some YWL networks also include young men and LGBTQIA+ youth who identify as gender equality allies.

3. Institutionalize the synergy between the YPS and WPS resolutions, including but not limited to the equal and meaningful representation of young women in national and local coordination mechanisms of action plans;
 4. Ensure consistent, accessible, and adaptable funding for youth networks and organizations contributing to the implementation of the YPS agenda;
 5. Invest in translating the YPS resolutions into local languages and forge partnerships with the media to popularize them;
 6. Provide adequate information and rapid response services to young people experiencing crises and humanitarian disasters; and
 7. Facilitate intergenerational dialogues to ensure cooperation among diverse peacebuilders working to advance peace and security.
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