#youth4peace

The youth, peace and security agenda, towards sustaining peace and preventing violent extremism

Launch of the full version of The Missing Peace:
Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security

Ministerial side-event to the 73rd session of the General Assembly
Friday 28 September, 10am-12pm, Trusteeship Chamber, United Nations Headquarters

Background

In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted, under the leadership of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). SCR 2250 is the very first resolution by the Security Council that recognizes that young women and men play an important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. It also notes the important role young women and men can play as positive role models in preventing and countering violent extremism, thereby also preventing terrorism.

In January 2016, the Secretary-General presented his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, which acknowledges the importance of youth empowerment, participation and inclusion (A/70/674). In June 2018, the General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution A/RES/72/284, after the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The resolution highlights the linkages between youth, peace and security and preventing violent extremism. Without the full involvement of young people, there will be no sustainable peace, Agenda 2030 will not be achieved, and violent extremism will not be curtailed.

SCR 2250 mandated the Secretary-General “to carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels”, and to present the results of the Study to the Security Council and Member States.

The Secretary-General appointed, in August 2016, an independent lead author, Graeme Simpson, to develop the Study, as well as an Advisory Group of Experts, including 21 scholars, practitioners and young leaders. UNFPA and PBSO jointly provided secretariat functions for the development of the Study, working in close collaboration with the Office of the Envoy on Youth. A Steering Committee, composed of 34 partners from the UN system, civil society and non-governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations, foundations, etc. oversaw the development of the Progress Study.
In September 2017, Jordan and Norway co-hosted a Ministerial event on youth, peace and security, as part of the high-level week of the General Assembly. Entitled “Reaffirming Commitments to the Youth, Peace & Security Agenda”, the meeting offered an opportunity to discuss the implementation of SCR 2250 and to announce officially the establishment of a “Group of Champions” of SCR 2250 and discuss the development of the Progress Study on Youth, Peace & Security. Jordan and Norway also co-chair the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism, which has facilitated the sharing of lessons learned and good practices for including youth and civil society in national strategies to prevent violent extremism.

A summary version of the Progress Study (A/72/761–S/2018/86) was presented to the Security Council in an open debate organized on 23 April 2018, under the presidency of Peru. 73 Member States took the floor during the open debate, expressing their views on the Study’s findings and recommendations, as well as their commitment to ensuring the operationalization of SCR 2250.

On 6 June 2018, under the leadership of Peru and Sweden, the Security Council adopted a second resolution on youth, peace and security, resolution 2419, which was co-sponsored by 75 Member States. Resolution 2419 reaffirms the important contribution of young people to the maintenance of international peace and security and relates the youth, peace and security agenda to the approach of ‘sustaining peace,’ as outlined in the twin General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016).

A full version of the Progress Study is now ready for presentation to the General Assembly during its 73rd session. This full version (about 150 pages) provides further information, data, country examples and testimonies from young people on the key findings and messages included in the shorter version submitted to the Security Council. This full version also includes multiple voices from the over 4,230 young people engaged in what has been hailed as one of the most participatory research processes ever undertaken by the United Nations.

Objectives

The Ministerial event will have two key objectives:

- Facilitate a substantive and inclusive discussion for Member States and young people on the core directions and way forward for the youth, peace and security agenda, on the basis of the suggested recommendations from the independent Progress Study; and

- Discuss concrete steps and the ownership of Member States for the operationalization of the YPS agenda and implementation on the ground, on the basis of local needs, legislation and specificities.

Issues and significance

This Ministerial-level discussion on YPS is strategically timed to maintain the momentum and galvanize interest and commitment to the role of young people as agents of peace and development in their communities to prevent conflict and violent extremism, tackle their root causes and contribute to sustainable peace, an agenda focused on inclusivity, rights and participation that directly support the Secretary-General’s vision on prevention. This event will also be a direct complement to the launch of
the UN Youth Strategy, which includes, as one of its five priority areas, a dedicated focus on “supporting young people as catalysts for Peace and Security & Humanitarian Action”.

PROGRAMME

Welcome:
H.E. Mr. Ayman Safadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan
USG Ana Maria Menendez, Senior Advisor on Policy, on behalf of the Secretary-General
H.E. Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway
H.E. Ms. Annika Söder, Deputy Foreign Minister of Sweden
H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Permanent Representative of Peru to the UN

Spoken words performance by Roxy Azari

Round table:
- Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth (moderator)
- Mr. Graeme Simpson, lead author for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security
- Ms. Ilwad Elman, Elman Peace Center, member of the Advisory Group for the Progress Study
- Mr. Christian Leke Acheleke, Pan-Commonwealth Coordinator of Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network, Cameroon
- Mr. Dejan Bojanic, Vice-President of the European Youth Forum
- ASG Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Peacebuilding Support Office

Remarks from the floor by Member States and partners

Closing remarks by Ms. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA

Logistics note

Member States wishing to make a statement from the floor are kindly requested to RSVP to mazzacurati@un.org by Monday 24 September.

A speakers list will be circulated on Tuesday 25 September.

Kindly note that given time constraints, priority will be given to Member States represented at Ministerial-level. Member States are encouraged to limit their interventions to 2 minutes. Delegations are kindly informed that interpretation will not be provided at this meeting.

Secondary passes are required to attend this event: please RSVP here by 21 September.