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# Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security

Final report

21-22 August, 2015  
Amman, Jordan

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Global Forum on  
**Youth, Peace and Security**

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## Executive Summary

On 21-22 August 2015, young people gathered together with representatives of Member States, UN agencies, donors, non-governmental organizations and academia, as well as practitioners, to define and commit to a new global agenda on youth, peace and security. The participants overwhelmingly agreed to promote and support meaningful youth involvement at all levels of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and preventing and countering violence and violent extremism, recognizing that it is a demographic and democratic imperative to include young people in issues of peace and security and that youth participation in shaping peace is an effective way to counter violent extremism.

At 1.8 billion, the current generation of young people aged 10-24 years old is the largest ever known. Global discourse on young people has for a long time predominantly considered the “youth bulge” as a threat to a country’s stability, and tended to see young people as a demographic easily driven into violence and extremist ideologies. However, this conception critically fails to note young people’s vast and largely untapped capacity for peacebuilding. While young people are generally excluded from formal efforts to prevent and resolve conflict, there is a quiet but growing trend to harness the youth bulge for sustaining and building peace.

The Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security marked a turning point in recognizing young people’s role for peacebuilding through a multi-level, intergenerational conversation that defined a new international agenda on youth, peace and security.

The Global Forum was attended by nearly 600 participants, including 200 young people representing 80 nationalities. Participants discussed a wide range of topics in depth: first establishing the current state of youth and peace, participants then discussed the most urgent issues, such as youth movements and inclusion of young women in peace processes. The Forum concluded with participants determining the next steps, partnerships, and commitments needed for the way forward.

There are four main outcomes from the Global Forum:

- The Amman Youth Declaration, which describes young people’s commitment to forging peaceful societies, and presents a common vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework to support youth in transforming conflict.
- A growing coalition of youth networks to collaborate on youth, peace and security efforts.
- An expanded evidence base to demonstrate young people’s effective contribution to peacebuilding and conflict prevention and transformation.
- Social media tools, such as #youth4peace and the I Declare Campaign, designed to promote and communicate the efforts of the young people in the expanded evidence base.

The Amman Youth Declaration included a call for the United Nations to establish a global policy framework on youth in conflict and post-conflict scenarios, and suggests a UN Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace and Security as the ideal outcome. Jordan committed to bringing the Amman Youth Declaration to the UN Security Council.

## 1. Background

Many young people face violence and armed conflict in their daily lives. At present, 1.5 billion people live in fragile and conflict-affected states, and almost 60 million<sup>1</sup> are forcibly displaced. About half of the refugee population is under 18 years. Only a small percentage of young people turn to violence in a conflict situation, yet a disproportionately large percentage of global attention is paid to them. Focusing only on young people as a threat neglects to engage the majority of young people, including those who actively contribute to the resilience of their communities and the inclusiveness of their societies.

In recent years, youth organizations, civil society organizations, international nongovernmental organizations, and the United Nations have helped raise awareness of young people's potential for and contribution to peacebuilding.

A Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding was created in January 2012 to offer a platform for coordination, information-sharing, joint advocacy and policy discussions to UN entities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and youth organizations working to promote youth participation in peacebuilding. The Working Group is co-chaired by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office and Search for Common Ground, with the recent addition of the United Network for Young Peacebuilders, and is placed under the umbrella of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth and Development (IANYD).

Recognizing the challenge posed by the lack of a policy framework on youth, peace and security, the Working Group led the development of the [\*Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding\*](#), through a consultative process involving key UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Women, UNDP, etc.) and NGOs (Mercy Corps, Women's Refugee Commission, the Girl Scouts, World Vision, Save the Children, etc.). These principles were launched in April 2014 and designed to offer guidance to key actors in peacebuilding and associated negotiations, including Governments; UN entities, funds and programmes; national and international non-governmental organizations; civil society actors; and donors. They aimed at enabling participative, inclusive and inter-generational peacebuilding strategies and programmes that systematically promote and ensure participation and contributions of young people.

On 23 April 2015, the Security Council held an open debate on "The Role of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism and Promoting Peace," under the presidency of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The session was chaired by the H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Jordan – who at the age of 20 was the youngest person to ever preside over the Security Council. Sixty-seven Member States took the floor in the day-long session, starting with the 15 members of the Security Council. Most interventions focused primarily on countering violent extremism and counter-terrorism, highlighting the increased radicalization of young people and reflecting on the root causes of the phenomenon. However, most States did acknowledge, with different degrees of nuances and emphasis, the fact that young people are a force for peace and against violent extremism.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html>

In opening the debate, the Crown Prince announced that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan would host a Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security in August 2015, with support from the United Nations and civil society partners. H.E. Ms. Dina Kawar, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations, noted Jordan's dedication to empowering young people to transform conflict and stated that "Jordan believes that young people are essential partners in countering violent extremism and promoting peace."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/04/jordan-convene-security-council-ministerial-debate-role-youth-countering-violent-extremism-promoting-peace/>

## 2. Organization of the Forum

The Global Forum was hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II. It was co-organized by the United Nations represented on behalf of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), by the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with Search for Common Ground and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY). The format of the Global Forum mixed high-level and technical-level participants in plenaries, panels, round tables, and breakout sessions, to incite meaningful intergenerational dialogue. Young people were systematically included as a speakers, moderators, facilitators, and rapporteurs throughout the forum events.

### a. Selection of Youth Participants

The process to select youth participants reflected an extensive effort to involve young peacebuilders from diverse backgrounds. In order to do this, an open call for applications – in English, Arabic and French, open to young people aged 15-35 who could showcase their experience in the youth, peace and security field. Ultimately, 130 open-call youth participants were selected from over 11,000 applications.

The goal of the selection process was to ensure the participation of a diverse group of young peacebuilders who could help to fulfil the outcomes of the Global Forum. Applications were chosen on merit, while maintaining a gender and regional balance and giving preference toward those from and currently residing in conflict-affected countries. The applicants needed to be able to contribute substantively to the conversation and to describe the work they are already doing in peacebuilding. The participants were chosen based on their ability to contribute to the ‘expanded evidence-base,’ along with their ability to prove to policymakers, media, and other non-youth participants that youth are capable peacebuilders. In particular, the applicants’ knowledge of the challenges, achievements, and potential of youth in peacebuilding were essential to crafting the Amman Youth Declaration.

**“I don’t think I’ve ever been to an event like this, where every young person I’ve talked to [...] is involved in incredible projects.”**

- *Erin Saltman, Senior Counter Extremism Researcher, Institute for Strategic Dialogue*

### b. Drafting of the Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security

The drafting of the Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security was coordinated by the United Network of Young Peacebuilders. A drafting group of 9 young peacebuilders from Australia, Brazil, Jordan, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, and Venezuela, developed a zero draft based on the *Guiding*

*Principles for the Participation of Young People in Peacebuilding*, the application forms and the hundreds of responses collected through an online survey. The application forms and survey shed light on how young people imagine the role of youth in peace and security, along with what they considered to be the most pressing issues for the youth, peace and security field.

Contributions were also solicited by social media and through youth networks via an online questionnaire. The zero draft was then opened for comments from the youth participants, who provided input directly on the Google document draft. Their comments were later incorporated into the document by the drafting team. UNOY also coordinated four open Skype calls with the youth participants, where they had the opportunity to discuss each section of the Declaration in more detail.

On the first day of the Global Forum, representatives of the drafting committee received additional inputs from participants in the booth dedicated to the Declaration drafting. Additionally, summaries from sessions on day one of the forum were sent to the drafters, who worked long into the night to incorporate them into the final draft.

### 3. Main Outcomes

#### a. Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security

The first outcome of the Forum was the adoption of the “**Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security**” (see annex), which presents young people’s vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework in support of young people’s roles in preventing and transforming conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace. The Amman Youth Declaration was widely supported by all the Forum’s participants, including, most importantly, Jordan officials, who committed to using it to engage high-level decision-makers towards the adoption of a new international framework.

The Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security describes young people’s commitment to forging a peaceful global society, and presents a common vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework to support youth in transforming conflict. It highlights the present needs of youth so that they can sustainably contribute to building peace and designates the local, national, and international actors who can create the required change.

To that end, the Declaration calls on local authorities, national governments, international agencies, donors, civil society and other actors to step up to the plate on four urgent issues : youth participation and leadership; youth preventing violence and building peace; gender equality; and young people’s socio-economic empowerment. The last section of this report details efforts to promote adoption and implementation of the Declaration after the Forum.

#### b. Coalition of Youth Networks, Youth-Led Organizations, and Young Leaders

The Forum created an opportunity for young peacebuilders from all over the world to meet, discuss common regional and thematic issues, and form partnerships and plans for future collaboration. In particular, the regional Commitment Round Tables at the end of the Forum allowed participants to connect and begin forming partnerships to address peace and security issues specific to their part of the world.

Prior to the Forum, youth participants began connecting to form these relationships on Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, and other social media platforms, so that when they arrived at the Forum itself they were already connected on the basis of established mutual interests and goals. These social media groups have remained in place after the Forum as spaces for the youth participants to share information and collaborate on various projects. After the Forum, intense networking has continued and the partnerships created at the Forum are turned into interventions to strengthen youth participation in peacebuilding.

UNOY, as the leading global network of youth peacebuilding organizations, is presently heading the effort to establish regional coalitions to bring the Amman Youth Declaration to Member States and other policy- and decision-makers, to lobby them to raise discussion of youth, peace and security issues to the Security Council and other high-level fora.



### c. Expanded Evidence Base

Day 1 of the Forum gave participants the opportunity to showcase the research and programmatic evidence of young people's effective contribution to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and transformation.. Among other sources, evidence of youth peacebuilding could be found in the Practice Note on Youth and Peacebuilding, 3M Evaluation (multi-agency, multi-country, multi-donor), literature review on youth, education, and peacebuilding, and the presentations by young people of their work in the field and at every level of decision-making.

This evidence base allows the demonstration of youth capability, and shows where youth have reacted positively to violent circumstances by sharing policy models, programmatic experiences, stories of community and individual resilience and resistance to violence and incitement to hatred. The evidence base is a resource to draw from for more targeted and youth-inclusive interventions, showing donors and international organizations that young people are effective and essential partners for peace.

**"The best thing about the online engagement was that we shared our thoughts [...] introduced each other's field work [and] met each other prior the forum."**

- *Luka Gotsiridze, youth participant from Georgia*

### d. Social Media Tools to Promote the Youth, Peace & Security Agenda

Social media played a large part in publicizing the Forum during and after the event. Throughout the week of the Forum, the #youth4peace hashtag had 39.5 million digital impressions, and was used 5,820 times. On the days of the Forum, #youth4peace trended in many cities. Both pre-and post-Forum communication were greatly facilitated by the Forum website, [youth4peace.info](http://youth4peace.info), which provided information on the agenda, concept notes, speakers' biographies, and other pertinent information. Prior to the Forum, youth participants engaged in activities such as the drafting of the Amman Youth Declaration, the promotion of the UN Security Council resolution on youth and peace, and the "I Declare" campaign, in which youth posted on social media phrases beginning with "[I Declare](#)", followed by an issue relevant to youth, peace and security. For example, one youth posted a picture of himself on Twitter holding a sign stating, "I declare that youth are qualified to LEAD." Many other youth leaders and organizations posted similar signs. A [Storify page](#) was also created.

# "I Declare" Campaign

<p><b>Milky Way Movement</b> @milkyw... a month ago</p> <p>A young activist with a visionary statement #YouthDay #youngpeople #youth4peace #YouthNow #MilkyWay pic.twitter.com/NQUviWav6p</p>	<p><b>JoMUN</b> a month ago</p> <p>Organizer of #JoMUN Faris Samhoury participating in #Youth4Peace شباب_قتاد #What's your declaration?</p>	<p><b>JoMUN</b> a month ago</p> <p>Organizer of #JoMUN Sara Haha participating in #Youth4Peace شباب_قتاد #What's your declaration?</p>
<p><b>Crepeaholic</b> @Crepeaholic a month ago</p> <p>We declare that we'll continue to serve the best #Crepes &amp; #Waffles in the whole world 🍩🍩 #Ideclare #Youth4Peace #A... pic.twitter.com/iQ9kbnvLRO</p>	<p><b>UNOY Peacebuilders</b> @unoy_p... a month ago</p> <p>I declare #gender #equality. What do you declare? #youth4peace شباب_قتاد pic.twitter.com/Zj7nGB1pon</p>	<p><b>Anas Al-Madanat</b> @AnasMadanat a month ago</p> <p>I declare to support youth in utilizing their social platforms to affect change. What is your declare? #Youth4Peace pic.twitter.com/zOCxt94D4</p>
<p><b>JoMUN</b> @Jordan_MUN a month ago</p> <p>Deputy secretary General of #JoMUN Hanna AbuJodum participating in #Youth4Peace شباب_قتاد pic.twitter.com/apRUPbMasy</p>	<p><b>مغربو_الاردين</b> @TweethKJ a month ago</p> <p>I Declare..... #Youth4Peace شباب_قتاد #مغربو_الاردين #JoMUN pic.twitter.com/HGbSK4V1t2</p>	<p><b>مغربو_الاردين</b> @TweethKJ a month ago</p> <p>I Declare..... #Youth4Peace شباب_قتاد pic.twitter.com/Czlfh2YSI2</p>
<p><b>Yousef Assidiq</b> @yassidiq a month ago</p> <p>I declare youth empowerment for peace #youth4peace pic.twitter.com/jhxvk1sAu3</p>	<p><b>Umniah</b> @Umniah a month ago</p> <p>We support the youth to utilize their efforts and make an effective change #youth4peace pic.twitter.com/SyRcuTnqFz</p>	<p><b>Valéry SOB MOUAFO</b> @Mouafo... a month ago</p> <p>#youth4peace wé thés once... Only youth can vive thè solution .... pic.twitter.com/vyMBqE2AwD</p>

## 4. Forum Discussions

### a. DAY 1

The first day of the Global Forum aimed to shed light on the current state of the youth, peace and security field. Throughout the day, speakers and participants described present needs, efforts and opportunities for growth. They emphasized the connection between research and practice, and explored the diverse approaches and platforms used by participants.

#### i. Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony affirmed the importance of youth in peacebuilding, while acknowledging young people's disproportionate vulnerability to extremism through both recruitment and physical danger. The ceremony was moderated by Ahmad Alhendawi (Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth), who emphasized the strength of the youth bulge and the importance of capitalizing on young people for development, and thus for peace, stating that "*there is no development without peace, and there is no peace without development.*"



H.R.H. Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II of Jordan noted that most of the population of the Arab world is currently under 25, and encouraged decision-makers to use this as an opportunity to mobilize youth to influence the future of the region. The Crown Prince announced that Jordan would continue to use its remaining tenure at the UN Security Council to promote youth, peace and security issues.

The other speakers indicated the necessity to include youth in peace efforts, noting the uniqueness of the Global Forum as a vehicle to promote youth participation, and commended Jordan for its well-founded reputation of hospitality. H.E. Nasser Judeh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, spoke of the necessity of providing appropriate platforms for youth to be able to give their perspective, which is all the more necessary considering the 600 million youth who presently live in the midst of conflict-affected areas. Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA, speaking on behalf of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, called on Member States to support valuable youth initiatives, offering a reminder that the current generation of youth is often referred to as the "SDG youth", as they will have come of age by the deadline of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, encouraged the education and inclusion of youth, stating that "we are in a race for the hearts and minds of youth," and that the ingenuity of youth can and should be harnessed as youth are natural entrepreneurs and change-makers.

In a [special video message](#), H.E. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States, quoted Robert Frost, saying "now that I am old, my teachers are the young." Kerry noted that the world now has the largest and most connected generation, and while there are no simple answers to challenges faced, it is important never to underestimate the power to change.

### **3x5 Youth Speakers**

*Three youth speakers had five minutes each to share their personal stories of building peace as part of the opening ceremony.*



“Syrian youth- not all youth, or anyone else- are the only ones who can save Syria.” - **Alaa Totonji, Volunteer, Syrian Red Crescent**

“I could have chosen revenge. But I chose peace [...] the solution is within us. It’s us!” - **Victor Ochen, Founder, African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET)**



“We are united here to work together, to find ways toward peace, so that our generation and the coming ones can be less affected by those who endanger our freedom and ability to transform our world into a safer place.” - **Brenda Torres Garcia, Board Member, National Movement of Children, Adolescents and Youth Peacebuilders, Colombia**

A representative from each organizing partner took part in a High-Level Panel to showcase the urgency for the Forum. Matilda Flemming, Leading Coordinator, United Network of Young Peacebuilders talked about how the Forum is a start of a much larger movement. Babatunde Osotimehin (UNFPA) focused on the desire of young people in the developing world for good jobs, education, health and the ability to shape their own future. Sima Bahous, Assistant Secretary-General, on behalf of the UNDP Administrator, spoke on the importance of harnessing the potential of young people in order to carry out the Sustainable Development Goals. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for PBSO, referenced the *Guiding Principles for the Participation of Young People in Peacebuilding*, and noted that the empowerment of youth is crucial, as leaders in mediation and reconciliation.



to violence by balancing rights and good governance.

Shamil Idriss, President of Search for Common Ground, remarked that investment in youth-led peacebuilding can foster a culture of collaboration across differences – a critical ingredient for any society to manage conflicts before they deteriorate into gridlock or violence. The opening session was concluded by H.E. Abdelkader Messahe, Minister of Maghreb Affairs of Algeria, who affirmed that youth belief in social inclusion and requested international cooperation to counter hate speech. He also noted Algeria’s good track record of responding

At the end of the Opening Ceremony, the lead facilitators of the Forum were introduced: Meg Villanueva (a specialist and strategist in sustainable peace and youth work, from the Philippines) and Chernor Bah (a leading youth advocate for global education, a girl champion and former refugee from Sierra Leone).

## ii. Opening Plenary

The first plenary panel of the Forum set out to define concepts of peace and security, peacebuilding, and youth, present the current state of affairs, and lay the groundwork for a vision for change highlighting how the demographic dividend can lead to peaceful societies.

Matthew Scott from World Vision moderated the panel, taking the time to urge youth to consider what initiatives they could use to create peace, and to use SDG 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies as a valuable tool. Marc Sommers, from Boston University’s African Studies Center, recommended that youth, especially young women, should be empowered as dynamic actors, not passive recipients of peacebuilding, to transform the youth bulge into a “peace bulge”. Numbers are not the issue: alienation is. He left the participants with three ideas: 1) never forget: youth includes women; 2) youth don’t want to be manipulated; and 3) you need humility to gain trust of outcast youth.



Nousha Kabawat from the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution noted the wide lack of psychosocial support in violent areas, predicting that youth are in danger of following the violence of their parents if they do not have access to such support, for example, through sports, music, arts, etc. Nousha also indicated the need for targeted, predictable funding for the right projects, and the mobilization of faith-based elders to encourage youth tolerance, inter-religious engagement, and social inclusion.

Noëlla Richard from UNDP referred to important processes and dialogues offering opportunities for a paradigm shift and a focus on the positive role of youth –the SDGs, the peacebuilding architecture review, the women peace and security agenda, the PVE agenda. She referred to promising policy and programming practices in line with existing youth strategies and action plans in the UN (support to youth employment, youth leadership and youth-led accountability, youth participation in peace talks and efforts to bring data and evidence on the status on youth). She highlighted the importance of ensuring the participation of young women, as well as marginalized and hard-to-reach youth in peacebuilding interventions. In line with the Guiding Principles, she suggested the involvement of young people in all stages of peacebuilding and an institutionalization of their participation.

### iii. **Parallel Panels I: Sharing the Evidence, Exploring the Narratives and Shaping the Practice**

The first set of parallel panels explored current evidence, narratives, and practice in the field. The panels shared lessons learned and offered advice from researchers, practitioners and experts in youth, peace and security. It highlighted effective practices in programme design, management and evaluation, on ensuring accountability, using technology, and curating dialogue.

#### **Panel 1: Emerging Research Trends, Gaps and Opportunities**

In the first panel, Cécile Mazzacurati, PBSO, led a discussion to identify research gaps and how research findings can influence programmatic practice. The panelists highlighted the shortage of data in relation to youth, peace and security, as well as the need for comprehensive and integrated programmatic approaches to be fully conflict-sensitive and context-specific.

Panelist Mieke Lopes Cardozo from the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research of the University of Amsterdam spoke on analyzing youth agency, and encouraged enabling youth to move beyond the restrictive dynamic of perpetrators and victims. To engage in meaningful youth inclusion and address real youth needs, Cardozo recommended context-sensitive, content-specific programming, specifying that, *“this means surveying the youth to hear from them what they need.”* Cardozo suggested engaging youth through their communities and youth peer educators, using educational strategies and youth participation in policymaking, tying all these dimensions together with an integrated programmatic response for coordination of action.

Panelists also pointed out the importance of combatting young people’s disillusionment through active engagement in the political sphere, as well as listening to young people’s concerns and grievances. *“Radicalism isn’t always a bad thing,”* noted panelist Akil Awan from Royal Holloway, University of London, pointing out that this means the youth desire political agency and an outlet for their passion. As an alternative to automatically attempting to shut radicalization down, Awan suggested resorting to debate instead, in order to win youth hearts and minds. Debate would prove to youth that their struggle is recognized at a higher level, and can be legitimized. *“Youth civic engagement is crucial in helping to build human capital in society and to help people understand themselves and who they are as citizens.”*

Regarding research, panelist Lalaina Randriarimanana from Liberty 32 in Madagascar encouraged the involvement of youth as researchers as a way to give hope as well as experience to a new generation of researchers and peacebuilders. But first, she noted, it is necessary to make it financially possible for youth to have careers in research. There is a need for much greater data and evidence on youth and security-related issues, as well as much greater involvement of young people in shaping the research.

## **Panel 2: Programme Quality and Impact**

In the second panel, Nada Al-Nashif (UNESCO) moderated panelists Andras Beszterczey (Mercy Corps), Jim Rogan (Exterior, LLC), and Bibhuti Bista (Nepal Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding). The speakers acknowledged the importance of evidence-based data examples as well as good quality policy and programming. It was recommended to prioritize interventions that were specifically designed to target youth. In addition, panelists recognized the problem of supply versus demand in terms of opportunities for youth, noting that training and education do not always translate into employment. Yet, that jobs would be equal to stability is a myth. Injustice and grievances often play a role, rather than poverty. Also, it is necessary to call on all agencies to further support efforts to increase the number of youth who are informed and active, and ensure that they are equal partners in decision-making processes.

Overall, youth were encouraged to organize in new and different ways, particularly through social media, as a way to tackle difficult issues and find innovative solutions that reach across regions. One major part of this organization should be evaluating and planning next steps, tracking activities and their successes and challenges. The panelists also encouraged more effective policies and strategies that resonated with donors, noting that donors need to listen to real advice, but it is important to consider how the strategies are presented.

## **Panel 3: Measuring Progress and Enhancing Accountability**

Ruxandra Tanase (Peace Action Training and Research Institute – a member of UNOY) moderated the third panel, composed of Layne Robinson (Youth Division, Commonwealth Secretariat), Zahra Lohdi (UNDP), and Hirotaka Koike (UN Major Group for Children and Youth). The panelists recommended reporting on progress and taking personal accountability for work done. Governments are moving from ideological to rational approaches. Therefore, data evidence is critical for stating that *“there is no sustainable development without youth development.”* One example of this is the Commonwealth Youth Development Index. The evidence cycle is data → policy → actions → data, so claims must always be substantiated by data.

It was additionally suggested that strong evidence, especially evidence showcasing youth, can inform the best policy or programming options to (1) shape the agenda and influence decision makers;(2) conduct more targeted practical work; and (3) avoid wasteful implementation practices by addressing the true needs of a given project.

Panelists noted that youth must keep governments accountable for their work, and should push for the implementation of mechanisms for youth participation, as these really do enhance progress in youth, peace and security processes. Panelists also recommended that project implementers maintain transparency and open communication with donors.

#### **Panel 4: Innovation and Technology for Peacebuilding**

Cindy Chugong (Search for Common Ground) moderated the fourth panel, composed of Tamar Zalk (Lapis Communications), Marianne Perez de Fransius (Peace is Sexy), and Shpend Qamili (UN Kosovo Team). The speakers emphasized person-centered programming, indicating that an effective use of technology is when storytelling helps people define a common narrative. Panelists spoke about the importance of understanding the audience from the ground level before starting any initiative on peacebuilding. This can be done through research, testing, and feedback loops, which give people a voice and allow youth to participate.

The inclusion of youth voices is particularly significant given the discouragement many young people face with regard to taking part in public discussions with adults and stakeholders. As young people spend most of their time in informal settings, engaging in formal settings can be intimidating. But it is possible to engage with youth and others despite cultures of distrust and conflicts of interest. People are generally able to connect emotionally through things that are very simple and commonly enjoyed, like cooking and sports. It is often best to use these means to put aside the state, and focus on the people.

Additionally, research does not have to be costly. For example, researchers were able to get the input they needed by asking people to fill out forms on Facebook. Today's technology makes it possible to conduct more digitized research, with lower costs and quicker feedback.

#### **Panel 5: Speech and Counter-Speech**

In the panel on Speech and Counter-speech, moderator Agnès Callamard (Columbia University) led a discussion amongst speakers Edith Schlaffer (Women without Borders/SAVE), Yousef Assidiq (JustUnity), and Father Bernard Kivi (Catholic Mission of Bossemptélé). The panelists discussed how freedom of expression has decreased, and censorship has increased, within the past decade. But rather than explicitly countering extremist speech, it is better to listen and meet individual needs, focusing on comprehensive support for youth, rather than simple opposition to terrorism. Persuasion against radicalization is only effective when youth feel they have first been listened to and their needs met, which requires engagement on a personal level. However, timing is important, as counter speech should begin before the recruitment process has started.

Panelists also emphasized the importance of highlighting the voices of marginalized people in the battle against restrictive ideologies. In countering speech, emotional anchoring works through deconstructing feelings of anger and confusion. This is only effective if the message is made personal, and is transmitted through political, ideological, and religious angles.



#### iv. Moderated Conversations

The Moderated Conversations offered a chance for participants to gather in small groups to dialogue on the sixteen most relevant and urgent aspects of youth, peace and security issues, which were chosen by young people via social media. The small groups were a particularly successful format, as they created an assured outlet for participant voices, and youth participation in particular. Topics covered the range of ways youth intersect with peace and security, from formal peace processes to non-formal peer-to-peer education for a culture of peace.

The **Education for Peace** discussion (moderated by Imre Veeneman, United Network of Young Peacebuilders) defined the challenge for peace education as the development of competencies that contribute to nonviolent conflict transformation, while also changing the entrenched intolerance often perpetuated by formal education systems.

The conversation on **Youth Involvement in Peace and Reconciliation Processes** (moderated by Mohammed Mahir, Search for Common Ground) recognized that youth, especially young women, must be engaged, not simply enabled, at every level of the peace process by governments and non-governmental organizations. It is their right. This platform gives youth a voice to demonstrate that they are not a threat to stability.

The **Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment for Peacebuilding** (moderated by George Okutho, International Labour Organization) conversation shed light on a possible discrepancy between the entrepreneurial skills youth learn in school, and what is demanded in the marketplace. Apprenticeships, internships, vocational training, and mentorships were all described as potential solutions.

The **Peacebuilding through Youth Leadership Programming** (moderated by Kobi Skolnick, UNFPA) discussion defined leadership as supporting people to engage in peaceful initiatives, but acknowledged that youth may have difficulty gaining trust as peacebuilding leaders due to their age. Nevertheless, youth can show that peacebuilding activities make a difference by articulating a future via small activities showing incremental growth and change.

The conversation on **Identity and Violence: What is the Role of Ethnicity, Religion and Nationalism** (moderated by Tobias Bütow, Centre International de Formation Européenne) recognized the suffering of victims of collective violence as well as the individual responsibilities, noting this as crucial in the reconstruction of human, peace-fostering principles in post-conflict societies. The space to develop multiple identities (for example: Christian creed plus Croatian and Serbian heritage) was noted as a method to prevent escalation of violence, as it emphasizes common bonds among disparate groups.

While more research is needed, **the Urban Violence** (moderated by Douglas Ragan, UN-Habitat) discussion conceded that insecurity and fear primarily drive youth decisions to adopt violent behaviour in urban settings, while support and engagement increase their resilience and resistance to radicalization.

In the conversation on **Youth Social Movements** (moderated by Snezana Bačlija Knoch, The Youth Dialogue Programme), participants agreed that such movements are typically not intrinsically political, and in fact signify a desire to criticize existing political structures. Youth movements, however, risk both criminalization of their often legitimate complaints by these power structures, and also targeting by extremist groups. One alternative to these dangers may be securing the support of, and acknowledging the legitimate aims of these movements, while at the same time allowing them to remain independent.

The discussion on **Gender-Based Violence** (moderated by Sangeet Kayastha, Youth Peer Education Network) described several solutions, including the creation of non-discrimination laws and environments, youth inclusion in rewriting and restructuring laws, and a youth panel to monitor decision-makers' accountability towards implementing gender justice policies.

At the conversation on **The Role of Religion, Faith-based, Traditional and Community Leaders in Promoting Youth and Peacebuilding** (moderated by Martine Miller, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers), participants noted that youth must demand accountability from religious leaders and positive action toward peace consolidation. Additionally, religious leaders must offer vocal support of youth initiatives for peace and peaceful tenets of religion, and stand against violent action.

At the **Young People Building A Culture of Peace** (moderated by Oliver Rizzi Carlson, UNOY), discussion, participants highlighted the need for governments to provide support and financing for programmes ensuring youth participation in a culture of peace, and to make sure youth are not prevented from coming to the table because of poverty, inequality, or other unmet basic human needs.



The conversation on **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Humanitarian Settings** (moderated by Nabila Nasir, Championing SARA, and Aiza Baldonado, Youth Peer Education Network)

centered on the difficulty of measuring SRHR in conflict, particularly in societies where discussion of the subject is taboo. Peer programmes in arts and sports were proposed as one avenue to open the dialogue.

The conversation on **Youth Consultation for the World Humanitarian Summit** (moderated by Moa Herrgård International Federation of Medical Students Associations / International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations) emphasized the necessity for platforms for young people of diverse identities to meet and discuss peace. Moreover, young people need resources and recognition to maintain and enhance their contributions to humanitarian settings.

The discussion on **Harnessing the Power of Arts and Culture for Peacebuilding** (moderated by Sarah Al Ghazou, Youth Peer Education Network) reflected on the different backgrounds and experiences of the participants, emphasizing the interests of communities and the need for positive change as reflected in the Amman Youth Declaration.



Other Moderated Conversations were held on: Protecting Young People’s Human Rights: Justice, Rule of Law and the Security Apparatus of the State (moderated by Rashid Zuberu, UNOY); the Role of Social Media and Other Communication Platforms in Spreading Hatred versus Building Peace (moderated by Jessica Murrey, Search for Common Ground); and The Portrayal of Young People in the Media (moderated by Maher Nasser, United Nations Department of Public Information).

#### v. **Day 1 Closing Plenary**

Day 1 of the Global Forum ended with a video message from H.E. Sebastian Kurz, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Integration of Austria, who commented positively on Austria’s welcoming response to the country’s high number of refugees. . On reflection from the first day of the Forum, it was noted that it is time to take action; that young people are at the frontline of the process of building peaceful and prosperous societies. The first day concluded with a read-out of the poem “I Belong to You” facilitator Chernor Bah and youth participant Wissam Samhat.

## I BELONG TO YOU (SOLIDARITY SONG FOR YOUTH)

No matter how far away you are  
I will be strong for you  
Even when you can't see me  
I will carry on for you  
Because I belong to you  
I belong to you  
I belong to you!  
This is our song for you  
For my cousin Abdul whose hands were hacked off  
And every child I grew up with, who lost our childhood to the horrors of war  
This is for my family fighting fires still raging in Iraq, and for my friend who goes to bed frightened that tomorrow might be stolen by the strike of a drown  
This is a song for you.  
I keep Fatima's smile on the back of my neck  
Because its only that type of gentle love that can protect-  
Me from the brutality of civil war in Syria  
My heart is displaced  
I hold  
The strength of the entire globe when I feel my mother's arms  
Wrapped like a blanket to keep me warm- to stay alive  
Believe me when I say I belong to you  
I belong to you  
The three billion young people  
Living, loving, laughing  
Hurting, working, hoping  
You, the 1.5 billion youth struggling to stay standing on less than 2 dollars a day  
And you, the 100 million who can't even go to school today!  
who are marching tired feet through Northern Uganda  
Crossing another border in South East Asia  
Setting sail for survival out of Somalia-Who hear the shhhhh-Boom in the night time,

Intertwined with the rattle of AK 47s,  
I belong to you not yet ready for heaven  
Believe  
Every time I see news of a bombing the throbbing in my chest will not rest—  
For you-I 'll rise early and work late, I'll respect children and listen to the youth- For you  
I will laugh, for You  
I will...FOR YOU  
Be brave, be bold, be humble, be open, be kind, be peace, be change, be rain, be fruit, be You!  
When it's cold, I'll hold your hands  
I need your lifeline to touch mine  
And grow longer-Feel you  
Tell the warlord-They can't steal us  
Tell the parliaments-They can't silence us  
Tell the United Nations... They Need Us...  
Brother, bless me with your desperation  
Sister, touch me with your terror and your terrible love  
When I wanna run, stop me,  
When I wanna sing, rock me,  
When I wanna give up, tell me: You have not forgotten me  
And I will belong to you  
I belong to you. I'll be a song for you, I'll be a roof for you,  
I'll be the truth for you- I'll be Ruth for you  
-who saw war bury ma and pa in Liberia- scraped by abuse and rape-  
Who did more than escape  
I see her face-bright eyes studying medicine,  
You are too human to be stolen by sorrow  
You are designing tomorrow...  
And because we know that, Because we feel that  
WE  
belong  
to you.

## b. DAY 2

Day 2 of the Forum aimed to set the way forward for the youth, peace and security agenda by capitalizing on Day 1's discussion of the status of youth, peace and security. Participants discussed young people's role in preventing and countering violent extremism, in governance, and in the security sector, as well as the specific contributions of youth movements, young women, and refugees and internally displaced youth. The Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security was presented and adopted, and participants made concrete commitments to promote the Declaration as well as other follow-up activities on youth, peace and security in their various regions.

### i. Opening Plenary

#### 3x5 Youth Speakers

*Again, the opening plenary included three young peacebuilders personal stories:*



"I was never a bad person; I was just in a bad place."  
- **Yousef Bartho Assidiq, Co-Founder, JustUnity**

"We are building bridges through listening and dialogue, to understand that our differences make us stronger together. By listening to conflicting parties, we are able to increase trust and find our common humanity." - **Hardya Pranadipa, Programme Officer, Search for Common Ground**



"I really do believe that if we empower marginalized children, it is a way to transform their lives [...] so, we are committed to include more and more marginalized children in our trainings and other events." - **Jihad Zahir, International Coordinator, Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER), Morocco**

## Youth in Jordan

Nisreen Abu Dyeh moderated a session that focused on youth in Jordan. The panelists included Saeb Al Hassan of the King Abdullah II Fund for Development; Omar Masarweh, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Queen Rania Foundation; Mustafa Abu Sway, Professor of Philosophy and Islamic Studies at Al Quds University-Jerusalem; Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth; Father Nabil Haddad, Director of the Jordanian Interfaith Co-existence Research Center; and Rawan Barakat. Rawan Barakat, who is blind, told her inspiring live story and talked about the listening skills that she developed and the important role of theatre in her life. Other panelists highlighted the long history of peaceful coexistence of Muslim and Christian communities and the economic opportunities for young people in Jordan.

## Presentation of Amman Youth Declaration

The finalized Amman Youth Declaration was read out aloud in English by a group of youth participants, constituting the drafting committee, with simultaneous translations into Arabic, French and Spanish.. The drafting committee described the preparation of the Declaration, noting in particular the feedback culled from the 11,000 applicants, a number reflecting the breadth and diversity of the issues represented in the document.



The Declaration was adopted by Forum participants by acclamation. At the Commitment Round Tables that afternoon, participants were requested to state how they would promote the implementation of the Declaration at every level and use all possible resources. UNOY, as a global network of youth peacebuilding organizations, indicated that they were wholly committed to this Declaration, and were prepared to bring it to the UN and other entities. Jordan in particular committed to promoting the Declaration throughout the rest of its tenure in the Security Council, until December 2015.

## ii. Parallel Panels II: What Are the Building Blocks of Change

Capitalizing on Day 1's discussion of practical advice for effecting positive change in youth, peace and security, the second set of parallel panels aimed at analyzing the building blocks needed to generate international recognition of and support for the positive role of young people for peace. In particular, the panels focused on the key programme and policy recommendations required to move the field forward.

### **Panel 1: Young Women, Peace and Security: Unlocking the Potential for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding**

Alaa Murabit (The Voice of Libyan Women) moderated the first panel, composed of Mavic Cabrera- Balleza (Global Network of Women Peacebuilders), Sotheary You (Life of Women Human Rights Defenders), Mohammad Naciri (UN Women), and Mohamed Abdel-Ahad (UNFPA). Panelists discussed the necessity of involving women and girls as well as men and boys to empower young women to move from the role of victim to peacebuilder. This could be done through enhancing women's leadership in peacebuilding capacities, and facilitating communication with politicians, community leaders, and other decision-makers. Panelists called for all constituencies to come together to place women and girls at the center of their collective efforts, in particular, to reach out to marginalized or otherwise underprivileged young women through grassroots efforts and programming.



The panel addressed the significance of social, cultural, and religious barriers that prevent women from participating fully in society, especially sexual violence, child marriage, and female genital mutilation. Panelists noted the need to create a dialogue with conservative communities and older generations, in order to build programmes that will be supported by the larger community.

### **Panel 2: Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism**

Erin Saltman (Institute for Strategic Dialogue) moderated a panel composed of Michael Shipler (Search for Common Ground), Scott Atran (Oxford University), a representative from the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), and Jeanne Abdulla (Human Security Collective). The panelists described how youth voices and youth involvement in countering violent extremism (CVE) and preventing violent extremism (PVE) strategies must be facilitated systematically. Safe mechanisms must be put in place to ensure youth can meet with organizations and government officials without being put at risk, and safe spaces must be created for youth to express grievances in their own words, which may be different from PVE or CVE standard language.

Furthermore, youth must be trained to talk effectively to politicians. Liberal democracies have a disadvantage though as they offer little in terms of spiritual force with which young people can identify.

In addition, government and civil institutions must collaborate on CVE and PVE strategies. Youth-to-youth approaches to CVE/PVE are necessary and effective. Youth organizations have a significant effect on their peers, and thus when connected with institutions in communities and national governments can enable well-rounded strategies on PVE/CVE. Human development, safety



and communities must be at the core of CVE in the aspect of prevention. National strategies would be more effective if done in consultation with local organizations and grassroots initiatives like youth organizations.

### **Panel 3: Youth Movements Building Peace**

Simone Filippini (Cordaid) moderated a panel consisting of Ali Fayez (Afghans for Progressive Thinking), Mehdi Ben Youssef (Al Bawsala), Johnny Mack (Communities without Boundaries), and Benoit Kalasa (UNFPA). The speakers described the importance of building youth involvement through identity and belonging. Youth are most prone to take action and this energy can be utilized, but it is important to recognize that social alienation can push youth to join movements that are counterproductive. An attitude of “no one left behind” and the creation of platforms for people to meet will prevent isolation and lack of understanding.

Behavioral innovations, tolerance, and empowerment through education were also listed as solutions to such isolation, and a way to tackle pockets of instability. Youth were encouraged to “recognize your diversity” and use social media as a vehicle for peace movements. Nevertheless, the sustainability of youth movements was noted as a challenge, and resilience was encouraged for communities and individuals.



#### **Panel 4: Young People’s Participation in Governance in Peacebuilding Contexts**

The governance-focused panel was moderated by Patrick Keuleers (UNDP), and was composed of Abou Fassi-Fihri (Search for Common Ground), Pradip Pariyar (Nepal Policy Center), Nader Atta (UNDP), Francine Muyumba (Pan-African Youth Union), and Aleida Patarroyo (Juventud con Voz). The speakers emphasized the importance of directing young people’s energy and enthusiasm to solve social problems through legitimate conduits as an alternative to radicalization. Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that young people are not a homogeneous group; they are from different backgrounds, have different needs and also have various ways to participate. Youth should



not only participate in government policy dialogues, but also influence governance through different social movements.

Panelists noted that the future is about managing diversity, as societies are becoming more diverse with different cultures, opinions, views, and ideas. Managing this diversity is the core of participation and governance. Additionally, youth work

should be linked with the Sustainable Development Goals, and used as an opportunity to develop the sense of global citizenship that strives for peaceful and inclusive societies.

#### **Panel 5: Inclusive Security: The Role of Young People in Strengthening the Security Sector**

Victor Ochen (African Youth Initiative Network) moderated a panel consisting of Lena Slachmuisjlder (Search for Common Ground), Saiful Haque (MOVE Foundation) and Ana Glenda (Interpeace). The panelists discussed the importance of building trust between security forces and civilians, and youth in particular, in order to be more effective. The cases included Central America, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon and Nepal. It was highlighted how a better understanding of young people can help the security sector, and how young people can be part of building community security, if they’re seen as part of the solution and not just part of the problem. When security forces in post-conflict environments are weak, they not just need technical support, but also require help in rebuilding trust with the communities.



## **Panel 6: The Role of Refugee and Internally-Displaced Youth in Peacebuilding**

Moderated by Peter Mahfouz (Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center), the sixth panel was composed of Baruani Ndume (The KidsRights Youngsters), Amanda Melville (UNHCR), Laila Baker (UNRWA), Heba Ashrifa (young refugee from Syria), and Agnes Igoye (Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control, Uganda). The panelists noted the difficulties of youth in conflict zones to find opportunities, and recommended increased education and protection by international organizations. Heba Ashrifa noted the absence of women in youth groups inside the camp. Adding women to these groups led to action addressing the specific needs of women, like the abandonment of young, pregnant brides due to lack of marriage licenses. Next, Baruane Ndume described the lack of resources for refugee youth, stating that “Millions of young and child refugees are forced to stay and grow up inside the camps and this is not acceptable.”

Laila Baker dissected refugee marginalization, stating that youth are an opportunity, not a liability, but that there must be a mechanism for integrating them into society. Continuing this message, Agnes Igoye, listed the themes of different projects the UN is working on with youth refugees, including increasing social cohesion through governmental programmes with UN support, ensuring that refugees are treated equally and have free movement.

### **iii. Commitment Round Tables**

The Commitment Round Tables occurred after the adoption of the Amman Youth Declaration, and served as an opportunity for youth and non-youth participants to voice action-oriented resolutions to promote the implementation of the Declaration, as well as further recommendations for good practices in youth, peace and security. The Commitment Round Tables were divided by region, with an additional Global Round Table, in order to focus the discussion on commitments and practices, and allow participants the chance to begin planning concrete steps after the Global Forum.

#### **Round Table 1: Middle East & North Africa**

Participants at the Middle East and North Africa Round Table committed to stop discussing problems and start discussing solutions. Participants also emphasized that funding must be sustainable in order for projects to be sustainable, and there must be mechanisms to increase collaboration across Arab states, as it is important to increase networking among participants. Specifically, the Arab League noted the importance of involving youth in decision-making due to their numbers in the region. The Arab League and UNDP also offered full support to the Amman Youth Declaration.

#### **Round Table 2: The Americas**

The Americas Round Table discussed dominant issues, concrete tools and advice for peacebuilding practitioners working in the region. Issues included violations of human rights of journalists; unemployment and trafficking; how to determine the right way to release people from jail and get them back into society; and how to change the culture of violence in mass media, which can be seen as an example for people to follow.

Considering these pressing issues, participants noted a number of good practices to improve the system. With regard to violence, participants recommended to change national budget objectives toward alliances with civil groups and allies, to positively influence target populations. Next steps include, improving programme quality, gathering evidence, calling on international partners, improving content and calling on young people in an effort to better understand their needs.

With regard to follow-up to the Forum, participants recommended a timeline for United Nations engagement, to turn the Declaration into a Security Council resolution. For grassroots work, participants recommended developing an evidence base of successful theories of change to trigger donors and partners to develop further mechanisms. James Rogan, from Experion LLC, specified that youth need to be included in these mechanisms: “We need to develop a systematic mechanism to include youth in the situation analysis process of country programmes [government and international partners].”

### **Round Table 3: Sub-Saharan Africa**

Participants in the sub-Saharan Africa Round Table committed to comprehensive dissemination of the Declaration at local, regional, national, and international levels. Participants will propose the Declaration to the African Union Youth Council. If this is then adopted, any subsequent document on youth would have to be in line with the Declaration. Participants then committed to taking the Declaration from the African Union to the national or local level.

Participants also requested that the UN system demonstrates how to partner with governments, and provide avenues to do so through advocacy tools on how to deliver the Declaration. Another issue addressed was the factor of politicians manipulating the youth.

To promote the Declaration and other follow-up activities, many participants will work closely with their ministries of sports and youth to design projects according to the Declaration action points. Additionally, participants will use media to launch youth programmes and disseminate messages for young people and stakeholder's awareness on the Declaration. On a wider level, many participants committed to developing unity for Africa and combining their resources to work on common big issues for youth in Africa, including democratization.

### **Round Table 4: Europe**

The Europe Round Table began with participants sharing possible cooperation points with other international and European inter-governmental organizations, and discussed cooperation practices. One request for ease of coordination was for UNOY to become an information point for European peacebuilding efforts.

Participants committed to advocating for the document in the UN system and working with Member States to mainstream the Declaration into youth policies. One great opportunity for this will be the upcoming EU Youth Conference. However, it was noted that it will be necessary to advocate for instruments for implementation of the Declaration in the field.

Participants will also use social media (#youth4peace) to promote the document. In addition, the participants will try to connect on the topic at the UNOY young peacebuilders forum at The Hague in November 2015. The round table participants agreed to look into the possibility of using Erasmus+ funding (from the European Commission) to further strengthen the youth and peacebuilding agenda in Europe.

### **Round Table 5: Asia & the Pacific**

At the Round Table on Asia & the Pacific, participants recommended building on existing national, sub-regional and regional structures to develop action plans on the Amman Declaration. Participants will return to their countries and investigate the policies in place to determine how best to fit the Amman Declaration into policies at the local, national and regional levels. Participants

also suggested establishing country-specific UN policy frameworks on youth inclusion to include a monitoring and evaluation framework with accountability for implementation.

South Asia and East Asia regional groups exist, but they need to be activated. Therefore, increased interaction on regional levels is recommended. Advocacy groups in regional blocks on youth, peace and security can be established and then used to share good practices. This will allow for the cross-fertilization of knowledge on programming in addition to advocating for the principles of the Amman Declaration. Participants will share their experiences by writing up and publishing their Global Forum stories.

Participants committed to dialogue with national governments and youth, and will translate the Amman Declaration into their home country languages and contextualize it for their country or community. Additionally, participants will incorporate peace education into school curriculums and adjust history book content.

Country representatives committed to engage with donors, urging increased funding to youth projects. National government policies do not tend to have subtopics like peace and security incorporated within youth policy language. Organizations working on youth issues can propose these additions.

Finally, participants committed to mainstreaming and localizing the Amman Declaration on regional, national and organizational levels by linking existing youth activities and youth policies related to peacebuilding.

### **Round table 6: Global**

At the Global Round Table, many participants committed to spreading the youth, peace and security agenda, including within their own organizations; to creating more research and evidence; to supporting youth-led organizations; and to supporting Security Council engagement. Participants also called for regular financing for peacebuilding efforts. Many youth leaders requested support for their initiatives and organizations, as increased resources and funding would facilitate their ability to fully promote the Forum follow-up. Numerous participants committed to partnering with each other, particularly with UNOY, and to building and maintaining youth networks. Search for Common Ground highlighted that civil society organizations will be committed to strengthening the evidence-base on what works and does not work in youth and peacebuilding programmes, and will continue to support networks and coalition so that collective voices increasingly become stronger.

Organizations such as the Commonwealth, PBSO, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNCHR committed to promoting youth participation and inclusion at all levels. UNESCO in particular will promote the policymaking capacities of young people for design and implementation. PBSO committed to coordinating with entities to finish the Practice Note on Youth and Peacebuilding, build up the evidence base, and support engagement with the Security Council.

#### iv. Closing Plenary

The final plenary for the Forum included statements from H.E. Nasser Judeh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan and several organizing partners. Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary-General Envoy on Youth, committed the UN system to step up its support to young people's peacebuilding work. The Amman Youth Declaration was handed over to H.E. Judeh. He described the Forum as a milestone, but stated that words were not enough; action was needed as well. He encouraged youth and policymakers to work together, because *"It is up to all of us to ensure that youth are truly tools of peace."* H.E. Judeh expressed confidence in the ability of youth, stating that *"[Youth] will eventually show us the way forward in a very strong, confident way."*

Saji Prelis (Search for Common Ground and co-chair of the IANYD Working Group on Youth & Peacebuilding) concluded the Forum with the parting wisdom that to improve knowledge it is imperative to improve practice. Prelis encouraged participants to measure progress and implementation over time, particularly with regard to sharing the Declaration with others. Finally, Prelis emphasized the importance of freedom of expression for youth, so that youth can express themselves regardless of government or other interference, and called on decision-makers to enable youth to lead the way themselves.



## 5. Follow-up to the Global Forum

### a. Declaration Dissemination

After the Forum, youth and non-youth participants took the Declaration back to their home countries and began distributing it through their networks as a means of jumpstarting the global conversation on youth contributions and needs regarding global stability. As part of the follow-up to the Global Forum, participants are encouraging the implementation of the Declaration in their own organizations as well as affiliate organizations. Additionally, they are encouraging adoption and implementation of the Declaration's action points in their local, regional, and national governments, as well as in international organizations and other high-level fora such as the OSCE, Council of Europe, and African Union.

**"Nothing close to the Amman Youth Declaration has ever existed, and I'm very sure that nearly all youth surviving war and fighting for peace have never, ever had the kind of recognition of their lives and experiences that the Declaration provides."**

- *Marc Sommers, Visiting Researcher,  
African Studies Center, Boston  
University*

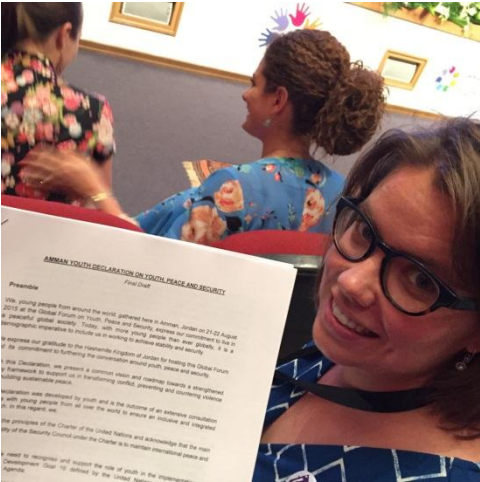
Many participants are also sharing the Declaration at youth and peace events all over the world, in conferences and other events. Additionally, a number of participants are organizing trainings and public workshops to promote the Declaration. In particular, a number of participants shared the Declaration at International Day of Peace events on 21 September 2015, such as in Liberia.

UNDP shared the declaration with its senior management at both global and country level, covering more than 170 countries and territories, highlighting the historic nature of the outcome and encouraging country teams to mainstreaming youth in conflict

prevention and peacebuilding programmes and projects and encouraging them to prioritize youth participation in peacebuilding with specific targeted initiatives. UNDP has also included references to the Amman Youth Declaration in a number of official speeches and informal discussions around governance and peacebuilding, goal 16, conflict prevention and social cohesion.

At the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2015, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon encouraged governments to empower young people in their contribution to peace, saying, *"These young people have all the talent to fight violent extremists and forge humanistic understanding. But, they do not have enough resources. They do not have real political backing. The older generation has to empower and work with these young people."* The Secretary-General underscored his commitment to reach out to young people by inviting the assembled youth to connect with the UN through social media applications, including Snapchat and Instagram.

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) is coordinating participants to disseminate the Declaration in a number of ways. UNOY is encouraging Forum participants to hold national launch



events of the declaration, bringing together policy makers, media, and civil society; setting up an advocacy toolkit to support national and regional level advocacy; and organizing a “launch pack” for the declaration, with key messages and ideas for how to launch the declaration in diverse settings.

The Declaration is currently being translated into many different languages in order to facilitate dissemination. In addition to the English and Arabic versions translated at the Forum, youth participants are planning Declarations in Malagasy, Somali, Russian, French, Spanish, Nepalese, Georgian, Sango (national language of the Central African

Republic) and Ngakarmojong, (a local Ugandan language), with plans for translation into many more languages. Many of the participants have noted that translation into local languages gives young people a chance to read and understand the document, so that they can disseminate its messages as well.

### **b. Programming**

International Peace Day was also used by participants as an opportunity to highlight new or continuing programming on youth, peace and security. Participants are organizing camps, dialogues, peace trainings, and other interactive events to engage youth and non-youth on the relevant themes. Many are using peacebuilding initiatives learned from other Forum participants. Thinking outside the box, youth participant Peter Mahfouz, from Caritas International, has coordinated a torch relay composed of Lebanese and Syrian refugee youth to increase social cohesion between refugees of the two countries.

Youth participants are also organizing dialogues among youth from different countries on youth, peace and security to increase social cohesion. These dialogues are planned for a number of different topics on pressing issues, including inter-religious relations, and will take place both in person and online. Separately, other participants are arranging educational institution-based group consultations and policy dialogues based on the Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding. At these events, participants are implementing themes highlighted at the Forum, most notably the inclusion of young women and girls.

Another common theme of youth participant follow-up activities is preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). Participants have committed to awareness-raising initiatives from at all levels

Participants are also engaging in conflict transformation by creating peace and leadership trainings for youth. Prevalent among these efforts are trainings focused on youth leadership, capacity building for conflict management, intercultural competency, intergenerational partnership building and conflict transformation on an interpersonal level.



Finally, participants have pledged to take the youth, peace and security agenda to a number of thematically relevant events in the coming year, including the World Peace Forum and the Climate Change Summit.

### **c. Coalition of Youth Networks**

UNOY has taken the lead in coordinating regional advocacy teams to organize Forum follow-up activities. These teams will be linked to global level advocacy efforts, and will be formed and led by Forum participants. The Youth Advocacy Team will link local youth peace organizations to policymakers on a global level.

To keep participants connected after the Forum, UNOY is maintaining the participants' Facebook group. Participants will also continue to communicate through social media and other fora for discussion, which will facilitate planning common events and initiatives.

Participants have also begun to coordinate initiatives for maintaining regional networks. The sub-Saharan Africa participants, in particular, used their regional Commitment Round Table at the Forum as a launchpad to connect their organizations and coordinate promotion of the Declaration, using Facebook and other means.

### **d. Social media**

Many participants are writing articles, giving interviews and being interviewed about the forum and Declaration. Participants are also active on social media, continuing to tag their peacebuilding efforts on Twitter with #youth4peace, in addition to other efforts. Sudanese youth participants have started the #Iadopt campaign in Sudan and South Sudan to get more youth to adopt and act on the Declaration.

There are also efforts to prepare youth to advocate for themselves in the media, and represent their own peacebuilding work. Erin Saltman, from the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, is working with the Youth Civil Activism Network to hold regional Innovation labs to bring young activists together with campaign experts, social media experts and creatives to help them create counter-narratives and facilitate them scaling up their efforts and voices.

## 6. Annexes



# AMMAN YOUTH DECLARATION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

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Adopted in Amman, Jordan, on 22 August 2015

We, young people from around the world, gathered here in Amman, Jordan on 21-22 August 2015 at the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, express our commitment to live in a peaceful global society. Today, with more young people than ever globally, it is a demographic imperative to include us in working to achieve stability and security.

We express our gratitude to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein Bin Abdullah II for his concerted efforts and leadership, and for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting this Global Forum and its commitment to furthering the conversation around youth, peace and security.

With this Declaration, we present a common vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework to support us in transforming conflict, preventing and countering violence and building sustainable peace.

This Declaration was developed by youth and is the outcome of an extensive consultation process with young people from all over the world to ensure an inclusive and integrated approach. In this regard, we;

*Build on* the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and acknowledge that the main responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter is to maintain international peace and security;

*Refer to* the need to recognise and support the role of youth in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 defined by the United Nations in the Post-2015 Development Agenda;

## Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace & Security

*Recall* the importance of the [Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#) in creating a foundation that ensures young people's participation and contribution to building peace, including in conflict and post-conflict contexts;

*Recognise* that we, youth, are engaged in shaping lasting peace in our communities as positive contributors to peace, justice and reconciliation;

*Acknowledge* the ongoing work of national and international governments and organisations to engage youth in building peace;

*Recognise* the vulnerable status of many young people including refugees and internally displaced persons;

*Call on* governmental and non-governmental organisations, associations and agencies including youth-led civil society to partner with us to ensure the implementation of the following action points:

### 1. Youth Participation and Leadership in Issues of Peace and Security

We, young people, are highly engaged in transforming conflict, countering violence and building peace. Yet, our efforts remain largely invisible, unrecognised, and even undermined due to lack of adequate participatory and inclusive mechanisms and opportunities to partner with decision-making bodies. We implore policy makers to develop meaningful mechanisms for youth participation and leadership in decision and policy-making from the local to national and international levels. We must also foster young people's leadership skills, creating an interdependent virtuous cycle to shift the negative perceptions and discourse on young people to that of partners in building peaceful and sustainable communities.

- The United Nations must establish a **global policy framework** recognising and addressing the specific needs, assets, potential and diverse identities of youth in conflict and post-conflict scenarios by 2017. A United Nations Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace and Security is the most appropriate option to recognise the role of young people and institutionalise their participation at all levels. We call on the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution on Youth, Peace and Security.
- International agencies, national governments and local authorities urgently need to establish **policy dialogue processes** with young people on issues of peace and security. This engagement must go beyond symbolic consultation.
- International agencies, national governments and local authorities must establish mechanisms to meaningfully involve youth in current and future **peace processes, including formal peace negotiations** from the local to the global levels. These mechanisms need to ensure youth are engaged as equal partners and promote youth leadership.
- International agencies and national governments need **to provide support to, and partner with, youth-led organisations engaged in building peace** with a focus on capacity development.
- National governments must **mainstream context-specific, quality education for peace** that equips young people with the ability to engage constructively in civic structures;
- Donors must **allocate long-term, sustainable funding and material support** to youth-led organisations and networks, formal and informal youth groups, and individual youth initiatives.

## Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace & Security

We, youth, must be included in donor's decision making structures to ensure that funding is accessible and appropriate in amount and duration. Donors need to work with youth organisations to assess to what extent current funding structures meet real needs for youth in peacebuilding.

### 2. Youth Preventing Violence and Building Peace

Within international and national contexts, the discourse on violence and violent extremism frames young people as potential perpetrators of violence despite the fact that most young people are not involved in armed conflict or violence. This framing is a harmful reduction of the role young people play in preventing violence and transforming conflicts.

- National Governments, local authorities, private sector and civil society organizations, including faith based organizations and faith leaders, must **recognise and support what young people are already doing in preventing violence and violent extremism**. They should build upon the existing capacities, networks and resources of young people in their countries and communities, as well as at the international level.
- We, young people, must continue to **p, therevent violence and violent extremism**. National governments and local authorities should **facilitate an enabling environment** in which youth actors are recognised and provided with adequate support to implement violence prevention activities. This space must be inclusive of youth from different social, political, economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds,
- International agencies and national governments must ensure that young people enjoy **full provision of their fundamental human rights**, without exception.
- National governments, local authorities and researchers should ensure that **contextual research is conducted in collaboration with young people and youth organizations** to identify the drivers and enablers of violence and extremism in order to design effective responses at local, national and international levels.

### 3. Gender Equality

The challenges faced by young people when engaging in building peace, transforming conflicts and countering violence remain highly gender-dependent. In several parts of the world, the political participation of young women in particular is jeopardised. Thus, it is necessary to create mechanisms that not only ensure equality among genders, but also address the hardships that are gender specific.

- Local authorities and national governments must ensure that young men and women have **equal opportunities and access to education and employment** and create **mechanisms to tackle gender discrimination** in those environments, recognising that the marginalisation of particular groups such as women is detrimental to building sustainable peace in all societies.
- International agencies, national governments and donors must **identify and support youth-led organizations** which address gender inequality and empower young women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution as those are crucial partners in peacebuilding efforts;

## Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace & Security

- International agencies, national governments and local authorities must implement internationally agreed commitments to **promote and protect the rights of girls, prevent gender-based violence and end impunity** for crimes such as child, early and forced marriage, sexual and domestic violence, femicide and female genital mutilation. Gender-based violence hinders the development and meaningful participation of young people in peacebuilding processes. Additionally, sexual and gender based violence is linked to broader issues of insecurity and hampers negotiations in the context of peace agreements and ceasefires.
- Local authorities and national governments should establish **temporary special measures, including minimum quotas, for the participation of girls and women in all decision- and policy-making** levels by 2018. Such measures ensure that women's perspectives and interests will be represented and they effectively combat the persistent exclusion of women from the political environment;
- Youth-led peace organisations must continuously **be gender sensitive** in all their actions and strive to ensure inclusiveness.

### 4. Young People's Socio-Economic Empowerment

Around the world we, young people, are disproportionately affected by limited access to social and economic opportunities. Limited or inadequate employment opportunities and a lack of educational empowerment can contribute to economic isolation, political disillusionment and social unrest. This hinders social cohesion and our ability to engage in peace processes as it limits our capacity to organise and act. Societies will not enjoy peace without economic development, and they will not enjoy economic development without peace. To be active agents for building peace, we need to be able to see that we have an ongoing stake in society.

- National governments must **prioritise youth employment opportunities and inclusive labour policies** by adopting a national youth employment action plan, working together with the private sector, and allocating budget to its implementation. The plan must be evidence-based, developed in partnership with young people and recognise the interrelated role of education, employment and training in preventing the marginalisation of young people.
- National governments and local authorities must collaborate to create social and economic opportunities for young people, **in both rural and urban locations**. They must **invest in building young people's capabilities** and equip them with skills to meet the labour demands through relevant education opportunities designed in a manner which promotes a culture of peace.
- International organisations, national governments, donors and the private sector need to support **youth-led and youth peacebuilding organisations as partners in youth employment and entrepreneurship programs** as those organisations are uniquely placed to engage marginalised young people.
- Local authorities and national governments must **fund and develop policies, laws and programs on health**, for the life cycle of all young people. This is a prerequisite for social and economic empowerment of young people.

## Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace & Security

Highlighted above are some of the key requirements for a policy framework supporting youth participation in peacebuilding. To this end, local authorities, national governments, donors, civil society and other actors, must take urgent measures to support young people as actors in preventing and transforming conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace by implementing the action points in this Declaration.

As young people attending the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security we commit to work together with all stakeholders in order to build peace around the world. We commit to monitoring the implementation of these action points.

The **Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security** was held in Amman, Jordan, on 21-22 August 2015. The forum brought together over 400 young people, representatives of youth-led organizations, non-governmental organizations, governments and UN entities and experts.

The forum was hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, and co-organised by the United Nations represented, on behalf of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, by Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Peacebuilding Support Office, UNFPA and UNDP, in partnership with Search for Common Ground and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders.

**Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security**

**Jordan, 21-22 August 2015**

**BACKGROUND**

Today's generation of young people (10-24 year old), at 1.8 billion, is the largest the world has ever known. The growth in youth population is particularly prominent in developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and in the Arab States. While a predominantly young population offers a country an unprecedented opportunity for innovation, development and economic growth, today's young people live with a growing threat and reality of violence and armed conflict.

More than 1.5 billion people live in fragile and conflict-affected states, or in countries where levels of criminal violence are very high. Over 51 million people are forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations<sup>3</sup>. While the numbers of interstate and civil wars have declined in the last quarter of a century, wars are still waged and many more countries are still grappling with multiple and often interlinked and cyclical forms of violence – terrorism, political violence, criminal gangs, organized crime, etc. This violence extracts enormous and long-lasting human, social and economic costs (*World Development Report 2011*).

The discourse on such conflicts over the past decade, including on recent violent extremism in different parts of the world, has unfortunately reflected the role of young people – particularly young men, but also increasingly young women who make up 10-30% of armed forces and armed groups worldwide– as members of terrorist and extremist groups, leading to a popular depiction of young people as a threat to global security and stability. Yet, research shows that the vast majority of young people have nothing at all to do with violence, and only a minority of young people turn to violence in any context. And throughout history, young men have always been the “rank and file” of both regular and irregular armies – this is nothing new.

Nonetheless, global patterns and growing incidence of violence, extremism and instability challenge the world community to look for more innovative solutions and approaches that will better contribute to the resilience of communities and the inclusiveness of societies, and will respond to the demographic and democratic imperatives to offer meaningful avenues for young people to shape the future of their countries. Focusing attention and investments only on the small proportion of young men and women who commit violence risks neglect of the majority who don't, and certainly fails to engage strategically those who might.

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<sup>3</sup>UNHCR, Global Trends 2013.

## Concept Note: Global Forum on Youth, Peace & Security

A growing body of field evidence and academic research<sup>4</sup> shows that, in reality, the vast majority of young people can play active and valuable roles as agents of positive and constructive change. In fact many already do, but such contribution is often unseen or simply overlooked. Young men's and young women's participation in peacebuilding is a largely untapped resource. Their actual contribution and further potential should be valued, recognised, and supported by all actors, including the international community, as a key to durable and inclusive peace, stability and economic prosperity. Youth-led and youth-engaging interventions aimed at countering extremists' narratives, promoting tolerance and non-violent conflict resolution and building peace can help draw on the innate resilience of communities and underpin the strengthening of democratic, inclusive governance.

Recent efforts by civil society organizations (including youth-led organizations), international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations have helped raise awareness of these issues, and of the need for increased coordination and collaboration of actors actively engaged in supporting youth participation in peacebuilding. An inter-agency group on youth and peacebuilding, including over 60 UN entities, international NGOs, civil society organizations and donors, has been leading the efforts to deepen collective attention to the positive role young people can play for international peace and security. [Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#) were formulated to support the necessary substantive shift in approach. Overall, however, these efforts are incipient and not yet reflected in public policies. International and national dialogue about youth development may be on the rise, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, as is the global dialogue on peacebuilding, countering violent extremism, and preventing conflict. But these two streams of policy consideration – youth development on one side, peacebuilding/ countering extremism/ preventing conflict on the other – are more often conducted in parallel, disconnected from each other and occurring with little mutual reference. Nevertheless, partnering with young people will be the key to building sustainable and inclusive peace.

### VISION

The Global Forum, to be hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, is envisaged as **a turning point towards a new international agenda on youth, peace and security**. Stemming from the thematic debate organized by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during its presidency of the Security Council in April 2015, the Forum will build on continuing efforts by a multiplicity of actors to decisively step-up global attention to young people's contribution to peace and chart a common agenda. For the first gathering of this kind, young people, youth-led organizations, non-governmental organizations, governments and UN entities will come together to agree on a **common vision and roadmap to partner with young people to prevent conflict, counter violent extremism and build lasting peace**.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

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<sup>4</sup>See for example research by Marc Sommers, Jason Hart, Siobhan McEvoy-Levy and Gary Barker.



## Concept Note: Global Forum on Youth, Peace & Security

- 1) At the policy level, the “**Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security**”, which will present young people’s vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework in support of young people’s roles in preventing and transforming conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace. This Amman Declaration will be entirely developed by young people, building on the [Guiding Principles for Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding](#). The “**Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security**” will be used in the months following the Forum to engage high-level decision-makers towards the adoption of a new international framework.
- 2) An **enhanced coalition of existing youth networks, youth-led organizations and young leaders** to lobby Member States and decision-makers, on the basis of the “Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security”, to elevate discussions to the Security Council and other high-level fora. The Forum should also lead to the identification of concrete avenues to support young people working on conflict prevention and transformation, on countering violent extremism and on peacebuilding to help them expand current interventions, projects and programmes – in order to decisively enhance the support provided locally, nationally and internationally to young people and their networks. The Forum will also help consolidate youth organizations’ partnership with existing coordination platforms such as the Working Group on Youth & Peacebuilding and the Global Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding, as way to deepen the relationships between youth civil society organizations and other stakeholders.
- 3) An **expanded evidence-base** demonstrating the positive contribution of young people to conflict prevention and transformation and peacebuilding, by offering a platform to share policy models, programmatic experiences and stories of community and individual resilience and resistance to violence and incitement to hatred. This will ultimately contribute to **improved programming quality** of interventions, better informed youth friendly policies as well as greater accountability from donors and international organizations towards young people.
- 4) The launch of a **global multimedia and communication campaign (#youth4peace)** aimed at highlighting the important efforts of young people who are shaping their communities constructively despite the violence and risks they face; creating a space for youth to share opinions on the role of youth in countering violent extremism and promoting peace; and curating an online global conversation on the role of youth in peacebuilding conflict transformation and countering violent extremism.

### FORMAT

The Forum will gather a mix of high-level participants and technical-level participants who will engage through an array of panels, round-tables and breakout sessions. The driving principle for the full duration of this Forum will be to create the space for meaningful **intergenerational dialogue**: it will create the conditions for common understanding and respect between generations and increase dialogue and cooperation between young people and adults to work together to prevent and resolve violence, extremism and conflict locally, regionally and internationally. Between 150 and 200

## Concept Note: Global Forum on Youth, Peace & Security

participants in the Global Forum will be young people (age 15-35). Young people will be represented as speakers, moderators, rapporteurs, etc. throughout all plenary discussions, panels and working groups.

### KEY TOPICS

The Forum will cover a wide range of topics related to countering violent extremism, conflict prevention, violence reduction and peacebuilding, in order to reflect on young people's contribution to these fields. The three key overarching themes to be addressed, each with a select set of sub-topics, include:

#### 1. Young People's Participation: An Untapped Resource for Peace and Security

- **Young people's resilience: stories from conflict-affected zones**

*Young people from all regions of the world will share their personal stories of resistance to hatred, violence and conflict and the work they have undertaken to support tolerance, inclusiveness, peace in their communities and peaceful coexistence with other communities.*

- **Youth leadership, engagement and organizing**

*In violence- and conflict-affected situations, youth activism and youth organizations and associations play a vital role in building social cohesion. However, formal institutions and organizations tend to only be accessible to more privileged, educated, and urban youth. Supporting grassroots youth groups that are not formally structured can be challenging, and yet policy-makers and civil society need to partner with hard-to-reach, marginalized youth. How can the right partnerships be built? And how can grassroots groups be supported when they are not set up to respond to donors' or international actors' working methods?*

- **Young women shaping peace**

*The narratives on the role of young people in peacebuilding, and the programmes developed in response tend to be very schematically gendered, and to de facto focus on young men. Yet young women are also in the frontlines demanding participation and democracy, expanding the rule of law, holding governments accountable, and actively shaping the course of conflict and peace. Peacebuilding policy and practice need to engage young women much more systematically and strategically.*

#### 2. Speech and Counter Speech

How can we counter war/conflict narratives that attract young people with their easy solutions and simplified world view? How do we make the narrative of peace attractive?

- **Religion/inter-religious/culture-related speech and counter speech**

*Religion and faith often play a central role in the lives of young people. Throughout history, youth have drawn on spiritual inspiration to contribute to their families, communities and societies. Religion-based and inter-faith initiatives by young people can contribute to community cohesion and mutual understanding.*

- **The role of young people in countering violent extremism**

*It is essential to reflect on the push and pull factors at play in young women and men's involvement in both violence and resistance to violence, and find ways to nurture and amplify factors that keep more young people involved as constructive and responsible citizens. These factors are context-specific and may be complex. Simplistic, generalized, and out-of-context*

## Concept Note: Global Forum on Youth, Peace & Security

*explanations fuel inadequate policies and ineffective programmes. But promising initiatives can link at-risk youth with responsible influencers and leaders in their communities.*

- **Media and Communication**

*Young people are adept at utilizing technology and different media platforms in ways that can both foment instability and promote non-violence.*

### **3. The Role of State and the International Community**

- **Investing in youth capacities for peace and stability**

*It is the responsibility of States and of the international community to make the right investments which will enable young people to contribute to peace, by ensuring that they have meaningful avenues to engage in social and political life and can access quality education and vocational training and economic opportunities. Government donors, multilateral agencies and private foundations will highlight how they can invest in youth as partners in peacebuilding rather than only as victims of conflict or troublemakers that need correction and assistance. This session will also discuss how young people can join forces and speak with one voice when approaching policy-makers and donors.*

- **Governance and participation**

*Young people's participation in political processes and public administration is essential to shape how government and communities can increase social cohesion and prevent conflict. Young people have an important role to play in holding institutions accountable to the people.*

An **exhibition space / cultural program** will run throughout the Forum and will feature art and other forms of expression by young people from conflict-affected and post-conflict countries. An internet / social media platform will also be developed.

**Background documentation** will be made available to participants in advance of the Forum, including the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding and the Practice Note on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding.

## **ORGANIZATION**

The Global Forum will be hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, and co-organized by the United Nations represented, on behalf of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), by the Office of the Secretary-General Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), UNFPA and UNDP, in partnership with Search for Common Ground and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders.

The co-organizing UN entities and civil society partners will represent the IANYD Working Group on Youth participation in Peacebuilding, which is co-chaired by PBSO and Search for Common Ground. This Working Group will be the primary platform to consult and engage a wider constituency of organizations working on youth and peacebuilding in the preparation and follow-up to this Forum. The broad Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, bringing together 42 United Nations entities, will be instrumental in securing the United Nations' engagement in and follow up to this Forum.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

## Concept Note: Global Forum on Youth, Peace & Security

400 to 500 participants from all regions of the world, including:

- Senior representatives from Member States
- Young people, primarily representing youth organizations and youth groups
- UN entities
- INGOs
- Foundations and donor agencies
- Academics
- Media

### **DATES:**

21-22 August 2015, Amman

### **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

The host country will cover the international travel costs and accommodation for 150 participants. The partnering United Nations agencies will cover the travel costs and accommodation for 50 experts and resource persons from the UN system and other partner organizations. 100 participants are expected to join locally (no travel/accommodation costs). Up to another 200 participants could attend if fully self-funding their participation (travel, accommodation).

The host country will cover local transportation for all participants.

### **CONTRIBUTION FROM THE UN SYSTEM AND CIVIL SOCIETY:**

The co-organizing UN entities and civil society partners will provide the necessary technical and substantive support, in line with their mandates, including the design of the event and specific sessions, identifying speakers and participants, online promotion and coordination with the rest of the UN system, INGOs and civil society organizations. The IANYD Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding will ensure follow-up on the Forum outcomes.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Please check [www.youth4peace.info](http://www.youth4peace.info) for updated information on the Forum.

## Agenda: Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security

### AGENDA

Thursday, 20 August 2015 (Amman)	
11:00 am- 3:00 pm	Informal Youth Gathering - Venue: Al Husseinieh Offices <i>Optional session, open to youth participants only (lunch will be served)</i>
6:30-8:30 pm	Dinner at restaurant Abu Jbara ( <i>authentic Jordanian local restaurant, dress code: casual</i> )

Friday, 21 August 2015 (King's Academy, Madaba, Jordan)	
<i>Main objective: Understanding the youth, peace &amp; security field. Where do we stand, what are the opportunities?</i>	
8:00-9:00 am	Registration
9:00-10:30 am	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b>
<i>Plenary session</i>	<i>Moderator: Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth</i>
<i>Venue: Main Auditorium</i>	<b>Opening Remarks (20mn):</b>
<i>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– H.R.H. Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II of Jordan</li> <li>– H.E. Nasser Judeh, Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Jordan</li> <li>– Statement of the United Nations Secretary-General (delivered by Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA])</li> <li>– Special Address by Madam Irina Bokova, Director-General, United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO)</li> </ul>

## Agenda: Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security

	<p><b>3x5 Inspiring stories of extraordinary young people (15mn)</b></p> <p>3 youth speakers sharing their work or personal story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Alaa Toutounji (Syria)</li> <li>– Victor Ochen, Founder, African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET) (Uganda)</li> <li>– Brenda Torres Garcia, National Board Member, National Movement of children (Colombia)</li> </ul> <p><b>Video message</b></p> <p>H.E. John Kerry, Secretary of State, United States of America</p> <p><b>High-level Opening Panel (45 mn):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Matilda Flemming, United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)</li> <li>– Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</li> <li>– Sima Bahous, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator, and Regional Director for Arab States at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</li> <li>– Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UN PBSO)</li> <li>– Shamil Idriss, President, Search for Common Ground</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>H.E. Abdelkader Messahel, Minister of Maghreb Affairs, African Union and League of Arab States of Algeria</p>
	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>11:00-11:10 am</p> <p><i>Plenary</i></p>	<p><b>INTRODUCTION OF LEAD FACILITATORS</b></p> <p>Introduction of Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace &amp; Security</p> <p>Mythbusting! <i>Dispelling popular misconceptions about the role of young people in conflict</i></p>

## Agenda: Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security

<p>11:10 am- 12:20 pm</p> <p>Plenary</p> <p>Venue: Main Auditorium</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</p>	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION 1</b></p> <p><i>This plenary session will define concepts (peace and security, peacebuilding, youth), present the current state of affairs (youth under-prioritized, underfunded, seen as a threat) and start proposing a vision for change highlighting how the demographic dividend can lead to peaceful societies.</i></p> <p><b>Interactive panel (70mn)</b></p> <p>Moderator: Matthew Scott, Director of Peacebuilding, World Vision International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Marc Sommers, Visiting Researcher, African Studies Center, Boston University</li> <li>– Nousha Kabawat, Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution</li> <li>– Representative from Somalia Federal Republic</li> <li>– Noëlla Richard, Youth Policy Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</li> </ul>
<p>12:25-2:00 pm</p>	<p>Prayer time (<i>King Abdullah II Spiritual Center</i>)</p> <p>Lunch</p>
<p>2:00-3:30 pm</p> <p>Parallel panels</p>	<p><b>PARALLEL PANELS I: SHARING THE EVIDENCE, EXPLORING THE NARRATIVES AND SHAPING THE PRACTICE</b></p> <p><i>This series of parallel panels will offer the space to share, understand and discuss lessons learned and promising practices in the field of youth, peace and security. It will help strengthen the nexus between research and practice based on evidence, as well as highlight programme design, management and evaluation efforts that have quality results. Each panel will identify policy and programme recommendations for improving the quality of programmes related to youth, peace and security.</i></p>
<p>Venue: Lecture Hall</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French</p>	<p>PANEL 1: <u>EMERGING RESEARCH TRENDS, GAPS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</u></p> <p>Moderator: Cécile Mazzacurati, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UN PBSO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mieke Lopes Cardozo, Assistant Professor, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam: <i>Reviewing Recent Debates on Youth Agency, Education and Peacebuilding</i></li> <li>– Akil Awan, Associate Professor in Modern History, Political Violence and Terrorism, Royal Holloway, University of London: <i>Explaining the Nexus between Youth, Radicalization and Media</i></li> <li>– Lalaina Randriarimanana, Co-founder &amp; Executive Coordinator, Liberty 32: <i>From Policy to Practice</i></li> </ul>

## Agenda: Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security

<p>Venue: Class 130</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French</p>	<p>PANEL 2: <u>PROGRAMME QUALITY &amp; IMPACT</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Andras Beszterczey, Project Manager, Mercy Corps: <i>Youth and Consequences, Unemployment, Injustice and Violence, Lessons from Afghanistan, Colombia and Somalia</i></li> <li>– Jim Rogan, Principal, Exterion, LLC / Lead Consultant, Peace Nexus: <i>Practice Note on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding: Emerging Findings</i></li> <li>– Bibhuti Bista, Nepal Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding: <i>Child Youth Participation in Peacebuilding</i></li> </ul>
<p>Venue: Gallery Hall</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</p>	<p>PANEL 3: <u>MEASURING PROGRESS &amp; ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Ruxandra Tanase, Director, Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Layne Robinson, Head of Programmes, Youth Division, Commonwealth Secretariat: <i>Commonwealth Youth Index</i></li> <li>– Zahra Lohdi, Young Professional Officer and Special Assistant to the Country Director, Crisis Prevention &amp; Recovery Unit, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan: <i>Support to National Accountability in Pakistan</i></li> <li>– Hirotaka Koike, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth: <i>Youth-led Accountability Initiatives for Social Cohesion</i></li> </ul>
<p>Venue: Class A/G01</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French</p>	<p>PANEL 4: <u>INNOVATION &amp; TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEBUILDING</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Cindy Chungong, Program Officer, West and Central Africa, Search for Common Ground</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tamar Zalk, Associate Director of Program Development, Lapis Communications</li> <li>– Marianne Perez de Fransius, Founder, Peace is Sexy and Digital Game Peace Superheroes</li> <li>– Shpend Qamili, UN Communications Analyst, Office of the United Nations Kosovo* Team, Office of the UN Development Coordinator</li> </ul>



## Agenda: Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security

	<i>*References to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the Security Resolution 1244 (1999)</i>	
<p>Venue: New Dining</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</p>	<p>PANEL 5: <u>SPEECH AND COUNTER-SPEECH</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Agnès Callamard, Director, Global Freedom of Expression &amp; Information, Special Adviser to the President, Columbia University</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Edit Schlaffer, Executive Director, Women Without Borders/SAVE</li> <li>– Yousef Assidiq, Co-Founder, JustUnity</li> <li>– Father Bernard Kinvi, Priest and Hospital Director, Catholic Mission of Bossemptélé</li> </ul>	
3:30-4:00 pm	Coffee Break	
<p>4:00-5:30 pm</p> <p>Parallel Breakout Sessions</p> <p>No translation</p>	<p><b>MODERATED CONVERSATIONS</b> - 16 moderated conversations of 25 participants maximum</p> <p><i>The topics of youth, peace and security intersect in a variety of ways. Youth engage in building peace and countering violence through diverse approaches ranging from participation in formal peace processes to non-formal peer-to-peer education for a culture of peace - and everything in between. These 16 themes have been chosen by young people and are an opportunity for open conversations between youth and non-youth actors on the practical side of youth, peace and security.</i></p>	
<p>Room 120</p> <p>English</p>	1. Education for Peace	Imre Veeneman, United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)
<p>Room 121</p> <p>English</p>	2. Youth Involvement in Peace and Reconciliation Processes	Mohammed Mahir, Search for Common Ground
<p>Room 122</p> <p>English</p>	3. Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment for Peacebuilding	George Okutho, International Labour Organization (ILO)
<p>Room 123</p> <p>English</p>	4. Peacebuilding through Youth Leadership Programming	Kobi Skolnick, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
<p>Room 124</p>	5. Identity and Violence: What is the role of Ethnicity, Religion and	Tobias Bütow, Centre International de Formation

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<i>French/English</i>	Nationalism	Européenne
<i>Room 125 English</i>	6. Urban Violence	Douglas Ragan, UN-Habitat
<i>Room 126 English</i>	7. Youth Social Movements	Snezana Bačlija Knoch, The Youth Dialogue Programme
<i>Room 127 English</i>	8. Gender-based Violence	Sangeet Kayastha, Youth Peer Education Network (YPEER)
<i>Room 128 English</i>	9. The Role of Religion, Faith-based, Traditional and Community Leaders in Promoting Youth and Peacebuilding	Martine Miller, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
<i>Room 129 Spanish</i>	10. Young People Building a Culture of Peace	Oliver Rizzi Carlson, United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)
<i>Room 221 English</i>	11. Protecting Young People’s Human Rights: Justice, Rule of Law and the Security Apparatus of the State	Rashid Zuberu, United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)
<i>Room 222 English</i>	12. The Role of Social Media and Other Communication Platforms in Spreading Hatred versus Building Peace	Jessica Murrey, Search for Common Ground
<i>Room 223 Arabic</i>	13. The Portrayal of Young People in the Media	Maher Nasser, United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)
<i>Room 225 Arabic</i>	14. Harnessing the Power of Arts and Culture for Peacebuilding	Sarah Al Ghazou, Youth Peer Education Network (YPEER)
<i>Room 226 English</i>	15. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Humanitarian Settings	Nabila Nasir, Founder, Championing SARA / Aiza Baldonado

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<p>Room 227 English</p>	<p>16. Youth Consultation for the World Humanitarian Summit</p>	<p>Moa Herrgård International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA) / International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)</p>
<p>5:30-6:00 pm <i>Closing Plenary</i>  <i>Venue: Main Auditorium</i>  <i>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</i></p>	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION 2</b></p> <p><b>Video Message</b></p> <p>H.E. Sebastian Kurz, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Integration, Austria</p> <p><b>Wrap-up</b> by lead facilitators</p> <p>Group photo!</p>	
<p>6:30-9:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Gala Dinner</b> at King's Academy</p> <p><i>(dress code: smart casual – national costumes welcome!)</i></p>	

## Agenda: Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security

Saturday 22 August 2015 (King's Academy, Madaba, Jordan)	
<p><i>Main objective: The way forward for the youth, peace &amp; security agenda</i></p>	
<p>9:00-10.00 am</p> <p><i>Plenary</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Main Auditorium</i></p> <p><i>Translation:</i></p> <p><i>Arabic, English, French, Spanish</i></p>	<p><b>WELCOME - Recap Day 1, Overview Day 2 (15 mn)</b></p> <p><i>Lead Facilitators</i></p> <p><b>3x5 INSPIRING STORIES</b> of young people (15 mn):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Yousef Assidiq, Co-Founder, JustUnity (Norway)</li> <li>– Hardya Pranadipa, Programme Officer, Search for Common Ground (Indonesia)</li> <li>– Jihad Zahir (Morocco)</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentation and Adoption of Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace &amp; Security</b></p> <p>United Network of Young Peacebuilders</p>
<p>10:00-10:45 am</p> <p><i>Venue: Main Auditorium</i></p> <p><i>Translation:</i></p> <p><i>Arabic, English, French, Spanish</i></p>	<p><b>Youth in Jordan: A Case Study</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Nisreen Abu Dyeh</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Saeb Al Hassan, King Abdullah II Fund for Development</li> <li>– Omar Masarweh, Deputy CEO, Queen Rania Foundation</li> <li>– Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, Professor of Philosophy and Islamic Studies at Al Quds University-Jerusalem</li> <li>– Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth</li> <li>– Father Nabil Haddad, Director, Jordanian Interfaith Co-existence Research Center</li> <li>– Rawan Barakat, Success Story</li> <li>– Feda Habis Breizat, Political Science Graduate from Mutah University</li> </ul> <p>Introduction to Parallel Panels and Round tables by lead facilitators</p>
<p>10:45-11:15 am</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>11:15 am- 12:45</p>	<p><b>PARALLEL PANELS II: WHAT ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF CHANGE?</b></p>

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pm	<p><i>As a new international agenda on youth, peace and security is defined, what are the main building blocks towards acknowledging, promoting and strengthening the positive role of young people for peace? Each of the following sessions will highlight these building blocks of change and the key programme and policy recommendations necessary to move this field forward.</i></p>
<p>Venue: Class A/G01</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French</p>	<p>PANEL 1: <u>YOUNG WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY: UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Alaa Murabit, Founder &amp; President, The Voice of Libyan Women</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, Founder and International Coordinator, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)</li> <li>– Ibrinke Martins, Benin (tbc)</li> <li>– Sotheary You, Cambodia</li> <li>– Mohammad Naciri, Arab States Regional Director, UN Women</li> <li>– Mohamed Abdel-Ahad, Arab States Regional Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</li> </ul>
<p>Venue: Main Auditorium</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</p>	<p>PANEL 2: <u>PREVENTING &amp; COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Erin Saltman, Senior Counter Extremism Researcher, Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Michael Schipler, Regional Director of Asia Programs, Search for Common Ground: <i>Youth Participation: An Alternative Strategy to Preventing Terrorism</i></li> <li>– Scott Atran, Director of Research in Anthropology, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Institut Jean Nicod-Ecole Normale Supérieure and Senior Research Fellow, Harris Manchester College, Oxford University: <i>Sacred Values and Dreams of Significance for Youth: Pathways to Violence or Peace</i></li> <li>– UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)</li> <li>– Jeanne Abdulla, Co-Founder and Programme Director, Human Security Collective: <i>Applying Human Security in Engaging Youth on Preventing Violent Extremism</i></li> </ul>

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<p><i>Venue: Class 130</i></p> <p><i>Translation: Arabic, English, French</i></p>	<p><b>PANEL 3: <u>YOUTH MOVEMENTS BUILDING PEACE</u></b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Simone Filippini, CEO, Cordaid</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Thevuni Kotigala, Programme Coordinator, Sri Lanka Unites</li> <li>– Ali Fayez, Programs Coordinator, Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT)</li> <li>– Mehdi Ben Youssef, Secretary General, Al Bawsala</li> <li>– Johnny Mack, Communities Without Boundaries</li> <li>– Benoit Kalasa, Technical Division Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Venue: New Dining</i></p> <p><i>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</i></p>	<p><b>PANEL 4: <u>YOUNG PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE IN PEACEBUILDING CONTEXTS</u></b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Patrick Keuleers, Director, Governance and Peacebuilding, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Abou Fassi-Fihri, Regional Director, Middle East &amp; North Africa (MENA) Programs, Search for Common Ground: <i>Supporting Youth Participation at Local Levels in the Arab Region</i></li> <li>– Pradip Pariyar, President, Nepal Policy Center: <i>Youth Participation in Politics and Constitution-Making</i></li> <li>– Nader Atta, Program Analyst, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Palestine: <i>Youth Civic Engagement in Palestine</i></li> <li>– Francine Furaha Muyumba, President, Pan-African Youth Union: <i>Formal and Informal Mechanisms for Youth Engagement at the Regional and National Levels</i></li> <li>– Aleida Patarroyo, Independent Expert and Juventud con Voz Coordinator: <i>Youth Engagement and Participation in Decision-Making in Latin America</i></li> </ul>
<p><i>Venue: Gallery Hall</i></p> <p><i>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</i></p>	<p><b>PANEL 5: <u>INCLUSIVE SECURITY: THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY SECTOR</u></b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Victor Ochen, Founder, African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET), Uganda</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lena Slachmuislder, Vice President of Programs, Search for Common Ground: <i>Shifting Perceptions, Building Trust - Experiences in Youth-Security Sector Collaboration from DRC, Nepal and Lebanon</i></li> <li>– Saiful Haque, Founder, MOVE Foundation: <i>Youth Engagement in Community Security, A Bangladeshi Perspective</i></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ana Glenda, Regional Director for Central America, <i>Interpeace: The Role of Youth Gangs in Violence Reduction in Central America: Evidence from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala</i></li> </ul>
<p>Venue: Lecture Hall</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</p>	<p><b>PANEL 6: <u>THE ROLE OF REFUGEE AND IDP YOUTH IN PEACEBUILDING</u></b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Peter Mahfouz, Educator, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Baruani Ndume, Winner of The International Children’s Peace Prize of 2009, Co-Founder, The KidsRights Youngsters (DRC): <i>Divided We Will Fail, United We Can Build</i></li> <li>– Amanda Melville, Senior Protection Officer, United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Regional Office</li> <li>– Laila Baker, Director of Relief and Social Services, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)</li> <li>– Heba Ashrifa, young refugee from Syria: <i>The Role of Women and Girls in Peacebuilding</i></li> <li>– Agnes Igoye, Training Manager, Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Deputy National Coordinator, <i>Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in Uganda: Refugee and IDP Youth Empowerment for sustainable Peace and Security: The Ugandan experience</i></li> </ul>
12:45-2:15 pm	Lunch
2:15-3:45 pm	<p><b>COMMITMENT ROUND TABLES</b></p> <p><i>The round tables will discuss priorities for the youth, peace and security agenda at the regional and global levels. The main objective is to secure concrete commitments from diverse stakeholders, on the basis of the Amman Youth Declaration, in order to: 1. shift the policy landscape; 2. improve programme quality; 3. step-up partnership and resource mobilization; 4. amplify advocacy and communication; and 5. boost civil society and youth-led organizations.</i></p>
<p>Venue: Lecture Hall</p> <p>Translation: Arabic, English, French</p>	<p><b>ROUND TABLE 1: <u>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</u></b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Ihab Moustafa, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UN PBSO) &amp; Narimene Dkhil, Tunisia</i></p> <p><i>Speakers’ list (2mn interventions focused on concrete commitments)</i></p>

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<p><i>Venue: New Dining</i></p> <p><i>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</i></p>	<p>ROUND TABLE 2: <u>THE AMERICAS</u></p> <p><i>Moderator: Malena Fama, President, Foro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Juventudes (FLACJ)</i></p> <p><i>Speakers' list (2mn interventions focused on concrete commitments)</i></p>
<p><i>Venue: Class A/G01</i></p> <p><i>Translation: Arabic, English, French</i></p>	<p>ROUND TABLE 3: <u>SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</u></p> <p><i>Moderator: Francine Muyumba, Pan-African Youth Union and Forster Akuoku, Programme Specialist, Governance, UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa</i></p> <p><i>Speakers' list (2mn interventions focused on concrete commitments)</i></p>
<p><i>Venue: Gallery Hall</i></p> <p><i>Translation: Arabic, English, French</i></p>	<p>ROUND TABLE 4: <u>EUROPE</u></p> <p><i>Moderator: Shpend Qamili, UN Communications Analyst, Office of the United Nations Kosovo* Team, Office of the UN Development Coordinator</i></p> <p><i>Speakers' list (2mn interventions focused on concrete commitments)</i></p> <p><i>*References to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the Security Resolution 1244 (1999)</i></p>
<p><i>Venue: Class 130</i></p> <p><i>Translation: Arabic, English, French</i></p>	<p>ROUND TABLE 5: <u>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</u></p> <p><i>Moderator: Sangeet Kayastha, Youth Peer Education Network (YPEER), Nepal</i></p> <p><i>Speakers' list (2mn interventions focused on concrete commitments)</i></p>
<p><i>Venue: Main Auditorium</i></p> <p><i>Translation: Arabic, English,</i></p>	<p>ROUND TABLE 6: <u>GLOBAL</u></p> <p><i>Moderator: Matilda Flemming, United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) and Henk-Jan Brinkman, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UN PBSO)</i></p>



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<i>French, Spanish</i>	<i>Speakers' list (2mn interventions focused on concrete commitments)</i>
<b>3:45-4:15 pm</b>	Coffee break
<b>4:15-5:00 pm</b>	<b>CLOSING PLENARY</b>
<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Moderator: Saji Prelis, Search for Common Ground / Co-Chair Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding</i>
<i>Venue: Main Auditorium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Key commitments to Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace &amp; Security</li> </ul>
<i>Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</i>	<b>Closing Remarks by organizing entities and Jordan representative</b>
<b>8:00-10:00 pm</b>	Dinner at restaurant Tawaheen Al Hawa <i>(authentic Arabic food)</i>

## Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding

### Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding

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The UN Secretary-General highlighted, in his 2012 report on “Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict”, that, “a successful peacebuilding process must be transformative and create space for a wider set of actors — including, but not limited to, representatives of women, young people, victims and marginalized communities; community and religious leaders; civil society actors; and refugees and internally displaced persons — to participate in public decision-making on all aspects of post-conflict governance and recovery”.<sup>5</sup>

Fostering social cohesion and trust through an inclusive and participatory peacebuilding process during and after a transition or conflict is a challenging but necessary task. Many key stakeholders remain on the margins or excluded from the processes. In particular, the potential contribution and inclusion of young people<sup>6</sup> to effective peacebuilding has received little attention and support.

Yet, young people's leadership and roles in preventing and resolving conflict, violence and extremism are rich resources essential to building sustainable peace. Young people are valuable innovators and agents of change, and their contribution should be actively supported, solicited and regarded as part of building peaceful communities and supporting democratic governance and transition. Young people's participation promotes civic engagement and active citizenship.

Promoting the participation of young people in peacebuilding requires multiple approaches:

(1) A *human rights-based approach*, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the World Programme of Action on Youth;

(2) An *economic approach* that identifies young people as central to the economic development of their country, and promote their access to economic opportunities as essential for their own development;

(3) A *socio-political approach* that connects young people to civil society and the political arena, and provides them with opportunities, training and support for their active engagement and participation in public life; and

(4) A *socio-cultural approach* that analyses the roles of young people in existing structures and supports dialogue, including an intergenerational dialogue, about these structures.

The principle of “do no harm” is fundamental in all instances, and requires an awareness and active avoidance of the negative consequences that interventions can inadvertently create. In addition, all participation should be based on free will.

The following principles were identified to offer guidance to key actors, including governments, UN entities, funds and programmes, local, national and international non-governmental organizations, civil society actors and donors. These principles are designed to inform participative, inclusive and inter-generational peacebuilding strategies and programmes that systematically promote and ensure participation and contributions of young people in these challenging conflict contexts where violence has often become the norm. They are not listed in order of priority and are all of equal importance to consider.

#### **1 PROMOTE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION AS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR SUCCESSFUL PEACEBUILDING**

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General, Peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict, 8 October 2012 (A/67/499, S/2012/746), para.36.

<sup>6</sup> Defined by the UN as between the ages of 10 and 24.

## Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding

- 1.1 Prioritize regular, systematic, meaningful participation of young people as an essential condition for the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacebuilding efforts. This is of particular importance where young people constitute a majority of the population.
- 1.2 Promote and abide by the understanding that the majority of young people strive for peace and stability and that a number of them are actively engaged in peacebuilding efforts; only a minority of young people engages in violence.
- 1.3 Link young people's participation in peacebuilding to all sectors (social, economic, cultural and political) and levels (family, school, community, local, regional and national governance).
- 1.4 Promote sustainable, long-term and collaborative initiatives for and with young people, including joint initiatives that build on existing efforts and interventions at scale. Avoid short-term projects that will only benefit a few.

### **2 VALUE AND BUILD UPON YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIVERSITY AND EXPERIENCES**

- 2.1 Acknowledge that definitions of "young people" vary depending on social, cultural and political contexts and strive to understand the national and local contexts that young people have grown up in.
- 2.2 Value diversity among young people and develop targeted strategies to involve and include young people from different backgrounds, taking into account differences in age, gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, class, caste, education, social status, place of residence (rural/urban), sexual orientation, physical and intellectual abilities, interests, etc.
- 2.3 Involve hard-to-reach young people who belong to groups often disproportionately affected by conflict, including disabled young people and young people from minority and indigenous groups.
- 2.4 Make specific efforts to reach out to marginalized young people within all these groups; do not assume that elite youth leaders from civil society represent them.
- 2.5 Support young people and youth-led organizations to reflect on patterns of inclusion and exclusion, and to work pro-actively to address discrimination, which is often one of the root causes of conflict.
- 2.6 Respect the experiences of all, including those of young people associated with conflict, and make special efforts to facilitate the active participation of young people who are more vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups and/or otherwise involved in violence.

### **3 BE SENSITIVE TO GENDER DYNAMICS**

- 3.1 Avoid stereotypical assumptions about the roles and aspirations of girls, boys, young women, young men and young transgender people in conflict.
- 3.2 Recognize the specific grievances or vulnerabilities that young people might have as a result of the conflict and violence, and that these experiences are often gendered.
- 3.3 Identify strategies to reach out to young women, seek their engagement, and create a safe space to raise their specific issues and concerns and support their initiatives.

### **4 ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE'S OWNERSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PEACEBUILDING**

- 4.1 Identify young people and youth led-organizations involved in peacebuilding initiatives: find them, learn from them and support them.
- 4.2 Create opportunities for young people's sustained participation, ownership and leadership in local, national, regional and international mechanisms to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and maintain peace.
- 4.3 Foster trust and support power-sharing between decision makers and young people, especially through intergenerational dialogue and youth-adult trust building activities and trainings.
- 4.4 Work with young people who are influential among their peers and foster their leadership skills, while simultaneously ensuring participation of marginalized young people.
- 4.5 Facilitate mechanisms, both physical and virtual, for feedback and communication to enable young leaders to be accountable to their peers, communities and partners.

### **5 DO NO HARM**

- 5.1 Provide a physically, socially and emotionally safe and supportive environment for young people to participate in peacebuilding and post-conflict activities.

## Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding

- 5.2 Acknowledge the trauma that many young people have suffered, and offer a safe space to share experiences, including access to psychosocial support, justice and other support services for their rehabilitation and reintegration.
- 5.3 Be sensitive to divides and inequalities among and between young people, their peers and their communities, avoid exacerbating these, fomenting stereotypes, or creating potentially difficult or dangerous situations for young people before, during and after their participation.
- 5.4 Ensure that facilitators are specifically trained to handle difficult conversations and situations and know where to refer young people who might need specialized services.
- 5.5 Be cautious about offering too many opportunities and services to young people who have been involved in violence, to avoid incentivizing others to turn to violence or engage with armed groups to receive money or support.

### **6 INVOLVE YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALL STAGES OF PEACEBUILDING AND POST-CONFLICT PROGRAMMING**

- 6.1 Involve diverse groups of young people in identifying critical interventions that can change the dynamics of conflict and violence and in analysing the conflict and the roles of different actors.
- 6.2 Use tailored and age-appropriate methodologies for young people to contribute directly to designing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and following up on peacebuilding and post-conflict programmes and processes.
- 6.3 Advocate for and support institutionalizing young people's participation and representation in local and national governance processes so that they can influence practices and policies affecting them and ensure youth have the appropriate training and support to engage in these processes.
- 6.4 Promote and facilitate young people's civic engagement and volunteerism for peace.
- 6.5 Have relevant decision-makers, institutions and organizations commit to accountability to young people. Establish mechanisms to communicate with and receive feedback from young people, particularly as part of any youth-focused programme and policy framework.
- 6.6 Offer alternative sources of power to young people who have attained political, social and economic power using violent means.

### **7 ENHANCE THE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR PEACEBUILDING**

- 7.1 Nurture young people's skills in leadership, mediation, negotiation, conflict resolution, communication, life skills and positive social norms.
- 7.2 Create opportunities for young people to share goals and aspirations with adults as well as among each other, to capitalize on their experiences and assets, and to engage in multiple areas, including social, emotional, moral, spiritual, civic, vocational, physical, cognitive, personal and cultural development.
- 7.3 Identify young people who can be positive role models and provide guidance to younger individuals.
- 7.4 Promote positive relationships between young people and adult mentors who can help guide young people during life transitions and provide them with the vision and confidence to realize their goals.
- 7.5 Develop violence prevention strategies that go beyond simple security responses and encompass prevention of violence in the family, school, community, and which support reinsertion and rehabilitation.

### **8 INVEST IN INTER-GENERATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMUNITIES**

- 8.1 Increase dialogue, understanding and opportunities for cooperation among children, young people, parents and elders, in order to act jointly to prevent and resolve violence and transform conflicts.
- 8.2 Work with adults so that they see the empowerment of young people as a positive change, not a threat to their own power and position.
- 8.3 Recognize and promote the role of local, regional and national governments to support young people's participation in processes and decisions which affect their lives.

### **9 INTRODUCE AND SUPPORT POLICIES THAT ADDRESS THE FULL NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

- 9.1 Prioritize the development of youth-focused and youth-inclusive policies as an important peace dividend.

## Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding

- 9.2 Contribute to the establishment of or support existing local, regional and national fora and other appropriate channels of communication that can enhance young people's participation in development of public policies which affect the lives of young people.
- 9.3 Support research on youth and peacebuilding that can be used as a reference for policy.
- 9.4 Support the development of inclusive national policies that address the needs and aspirations of young people, contribute to young people's participation, development and empowerment, and that are fully aligned with international human rights, regional instruments and key policy documents.

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## Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding

These guiding principles were developed by the Subgroup on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding of the UN Interagency Network on Youth Development. The Subgroup on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding is co-chaired by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and consists of members representing a number of UN agencies, (I)NGOs, academics and youth-led organizations.

These guiding principles have benefitted greatly from inputs from over a 1,000 stakeholders and organizations, including Communities without Boundaries, ECOWAS, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, InterPeace, MercyCorps, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, Search for Common Ground, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN Office on Sports for Development and Peace, UN Peacebuilding Support Office, UN Programme on Youth, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNV, United Network of Young Peacebuilders, USAID, Women's Refugee Commission, World Vision International, etc. However, the ideas and opinions expressed in these principles do not necessarily reflect the views of these organizations.