

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINAL REPORT: GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

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.

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 speakers, moderators, facilitators, and rapporteurs throughout the forum events.

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 – was held, 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.



More information: www.youth4peace.info