



# Implementing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, A Guide for Public Officials

*Examples on Advancing Youth,  
Peace and Security*



# ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document lists and describes the initiatives referred to in Output 1.2. of the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes, 20-21 January 2022:

**“Implementing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, A Guide for Public Officials”.**

Examples are listed **per continent** and **per country** in **alphabetical order** followed by global level examples.

Examples aim to support the suggestions provided in the guide and illustrate the kinds of implementation strategies of the YPS agenda.

These examples have been selected via a mapping exercise conducted between March and October 2021 sourcing information via a) a survey (30 Member States completed it), b) consultations with relevant stakeholders, including UN agencies, Regional Organizations, civil society, and specially youth-led organizations, and c) public information related to activities implemented in the period between January 2016 and October 2021.

The selection criteria was based on relevance and specificity to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, thematic and geographical balance.



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# AFRICA

## Cameroon

### 1. CREATIVE SKILLS FOR PEACE (PRISON-PRENEURS)

This is a youth-led initiative that supports transformative justice and community reintegration processes of young violent offenders across 8 prisons and correctional facilities in Cameroon, providing them with better alternatives to violence and crime. The initiative builds on youth-led evidence-based research we conducted; Youth Positive Practice Memoire on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Offenders in Cameroon

The work focuses on five areas: entrepreneurship development, vocational training (transformation of tires to shoes, greenhouse farming, fashion design, etc), peacebuilding training, civic education, and sports for social cohesion and peace. The project has been extended to train prison staff.

Over the past 5 years of implementation, the CS4P Initiative has empowered over 5000 inmates and has trained more than 400 young offenders among which 10 became trainers themselves within the prisons; 3 upon release successfully used their skills to reintegrate their communities and contribute meaningfully to the economy/youth empowerment.

Ebot Jean Sanyi, assistant research officer for cooperation at the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education of Cameroon explained that the initiative was highly innovative. "This project has gone beyond the usual financial and material support to prisoners, to teaching and reinforcing their skills with the aim of ensuring their independence once they leave prisons and curbing the rate of recidivism among young people in Cameroon," he said.



**More information:**

[www.loyocameroon.org](http://www.loyocameroon.org)

### 2. YOUTH-LED EFFORTS IN NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

This initiative was set up to improve on the active participation of youths in responding to peace and security issues in Cameroon, through the development of a National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security as well as a National Coalition on Youth Peace and Security. Within the scope of this work, from the 28th -30th October 2021, LOYOC and other Peacebuilding CSOs co-organised a national symposium on Localising the AU Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security in Cameroon. The Youth-led symposium mobilised over 50 young people from across the 10 regions of Cameroon and more than 150 development stakeholders, policymakers, and government to build capacity, raise awareness and develop a roadmap for the localisation of the AU Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security (CFYPS) in Cameroon.

The National Symposium led to the development of a youth-led policy guide on developing a National Action Plan (NAP) for the YPS agenda in Cameroon, taking into consideration the 5 pillars of the YPS Agenda (Participation, Partnership, Prevention, Protection, Disengagement, and re-integration. It also paved the path for youth engagement in regional level consultations to sample perceptions towards the development and implementation of the national action on youth peace and security in Cameroon as well as setting up Cameroon's National Coalition on Youth Peace and Security.



**More information:**

**Local Youth Corner Cameroon**

[www.loyocameroon.org](http://www.loyocameroon.org) and [www.facebook.com/loyocameroon](https://www.facebook.com/loyocameroon)

## Democratic Republic of Congo

### 3. YOUNG MEN'S CLUBS AGAINST VIOLENCE

This is a civil society initiative that promotes gender equality and violence prevention by working with young men and addressing stereotypes related to masculinity.

The Young Men's Clubs Against Violence (YMCAV) project was launched in 2017 under the patronage of the Governor of Kinshasa and with support from the Swedish Embassy. Living Peace Institute (LPI) in DRC and Promundo-US were the co-authors of the methodology. It was based on research that examined how to reduce violence-supportive norms and promote gender-equitable attitudes among young men; as well as how to effectively create environments, programs, and policies that prevent young men's involvement in violent groups.

Through the Young Men's Clubs, facilitators carried out gender-transformative group education for young men, challenging them to redefine what it means to be a man; created supportive environments in schools and youth centers; and worked to expand program and policy support from other Congolese stakeholders.



[More information:](#)

[Promundo](#)

[promundoglobal.org/programs/young-mens-clubs-against-violence](http://promundoglobal.org/programs/young-mens-clubs-against-violence)

#### **4. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO'S NATIONAL TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY**

The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, through the Ministry of Youth, Initiation to New Citizenship and National Cohesion created and detailed functioning and mission of a Technical Secretariat in charge of the implementation of the YPS agenda at country-level through executive order Nr. 051/CAB -MIN/J&INC/2021. The mission of this governmental institution is to

- implement and localize UNSCR 2250 in the country;
- make proposals to the government and other decision-makers so that they can take into account the specific needs of youth among their national priorities;
- advocate in favor of improving the living conditions of young people at all levels;
- Sensitize young people in issues related to civic responsibility, voluntarism so that they can participate in nation-building.

The secretariat works in collaboration with the coalition of organizations working on the YPS agenda.



[More information:](#)

[Technical Secretariat to implement UNSCR 2250](#)

[Democratic Republic of Congo's Ministry of Youth, Initiation to New Citizenship and National Cohesion](#)

[E-mail: secretariat.2250@gmail.com](mailto:secretariat.2250@gmail.com)

## **Kenya**

#### **5. PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH FOR ADVANCING YOUTH-LED PEACEBUILDING**

In 2017, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) launched a project entitled "Participatory Action Research for Advancing Youth-led Peacebuilding in Kenya" to increase young people's role in decision-making processes in Kenya, together with young leaders of local and youth-led organizations: Lonamac, Women in Democracy and Governance, National Movement of Catholic Students, Manyatta Youth Entertainment, and Integrated Initiatives for Community Empowerment.

The project was part of the Generation Change Fellows Program, an initiative that strengthens youth leaders' capacity to build peace and contribute to social change in their communities. Working with six Generation Change Fellows from Kenya, USIP brought together young people from different marginalized communities across the country, training them in participatory action research skills that could produce original research. In Nairobi alone, more than sixty youth participated in the inception workshop and more youth were engaged in the data collection process, seeking to answer the question: "what is the most pressing issue affecting you and your community?"

Participants were then invited to join subsequent workshops. Youth researchers participated in twelve formal workshops over the course of ten months, and numerous other neighborhood and data collection meetings were held throughout the period. The results of the research were used to engage key stakeholders, ranging from county commissioners to policy officials. One female Fellow was subsequently hired by the Mombasa government to create

and implement a new countering violent extremism strategy for the county.

The project used an approach that was inherently participatory and youth-led. With USIP's support, the Generation Change Fellows trained and prepared teams of researchers, which then trained other young researchers who led participatory action research activities using a wide range of methodologies. Ultimately, young participants were part of all aspects of the project: design, planning, implementation, data collection and analysis, and reporting.

The main takeaway from this initiative is how a bottom-up, participatory approach made it possible for youth to be seen as knowledge producers through competent research and facilitation, and therefore increased their engagement in decision-making processes



**More information:**

**United States Institute of Peace**

[www.usip.org/publications/2018/10/participatory-action-research-advancing-youth-led-peacebuilding-kenya](http://www.usip.org/publications/2018/10/participatory-action-research-advancing-youth-led-peacebuilding-kenya)

## Liberia

### 6. THE CONFLICT PREVENTION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the Swedish government agency for peace, security, and development, launched the Conflict Prevention Leadership Program (CPLP) in 2018 in Liberia. Its aim was to strengthen the capacity of young peace leaders and their peacebuilding organizations in designing and facilitating conflict prevention and transformation initiatives, such as dialogue and mediation efforts. The CPLP was a program that wanted to respond to the fact that, 17 years after the end of the country's civil war, Liberian youth were still mostly seen as a security issue, rather than an asset. The program took direct inspiration from United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419 and involved four Liberian youth-led civil society organizations: the Mano River Union Youth Parliament, Messengers of Peace Liberia, the Youth Wing of the West Africa Network in Peacebuilding (WANEP), and Young Ambassadors for Peace Liberia.

It was designed as a long-term capacity strengthening and network-building program, which sought to achieve changes both at the individual and at the organizational level. Importantly, the program used an adaptive approach: analysis was conducted regularly during implementation, and key activities were modified accordingly. Young peace activists from all 15 counties were brought together regularly in capacity-building workshops and supported through a system of accompaniment, which aimed at increasing their own self-confidence, capacities, and skills for peacebuilding, and also those of their organizations. An important part of the program was the continuous relation-building and dialogue between the young participants engaged at the community level, and national and local decision-makers and stakeholders in the area of peace and security.



**More information:**

**Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA)**

[fba.se/en/how-we-work/our-partner-countries/fba-in-liberia](http://fba.se/en/how-we-work/our-partner-countries/fba-in-liberia)

[fba.se/en/newspress/nyhetsarkiv/2018/fba-launches-leadership-programme-for-young-peacebuilders-in-liberia](http://fba.se/en/newspress/nyhetsarkiv/2018/fba-launches-leadership-programme-for-young-peacebuilders-in-liberia)

## Nigeria

### 7. THE NIGERIA COALITION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

The Nigeria Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (NCYPS) is a multistakeholder and intergenerational space co-chaired by representatives of the federal government, civil society, and youth groups. Its main aim is to help coordinate and implement the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Nigeria, including the domestication of UNSCR 2250, and the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security, adopted in November 2021.

This space was important in the process of developing this plan, also building on and in the context of the African Union Continental Plan on Youth, Peace and Security. This process included online and in-person awareness-raising activities, consultations, validation meetings, and an affirmation meeting.



**More information:**

**Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports**  
[youthandsports.ng](http://youthandsports.ng)

**Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA)**  
[csdea-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YPS-NAP-RS.pdf](http://csdea-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YPS-NAP-RS.pdf)

**Building Blocks for Peace Foundation**  
[bbforpeace.org/ypslibrary/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YPS-NAP-RS.pdf](http://bbforpeace.org/ypslibrary/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YPS-NAP-RS.pdf)

## 8. NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

Nigeria is the first country in Africa and second in the world, behind Finland, to adopt a National Action Plan on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

The National Action Plan on YPS was developed by the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution under the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA).

The National Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding which was renamed the Nigerian Coalition on YPS has been part of the process by providing inputs and taking part in consultations and validation meetings. This process engaged stakeholders via a national youth forum; in-person consultations in the form of workshops, community-level focus group discussions, and national conferences; online consultations and meetings; national validation meetings, and an affirmation meeting.

The document includes strategic objectives and outcomes according to the pillars of UNSCR 2250 and lists key recommendations based on those pillars.



**More information:**

**Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports**  
[youthandsports.ng](http://youthandsports.ng)

**Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA)**  
[csdea-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YPS-NAP-RS.pdf](http://csdea-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YPS-NAP-RS.pdf)

**Building Blocks for Peace Foundation**  
[bbforpeace.org/ypslibrary/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YPS-NAP-RS.pdf](http://bbforpeace.org/ypslibrary/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YPS-NAP-RS.pdf)

## South Sudan

### 9. SOUTH SUDAN'S CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Young people under the South Sudan Civil Society Forum (SSCF) used social media platforms to put pressure on parties to the conflict as outside observers.

The SSCF launched a social media campaign on the first day of the South Sudan High-Level Revitalization Forum in 2018. Young people wore glasses, took photos of themselves, and then shared them on social media platforms with the hashtag #SouthSudanIsWatching. Altiok and Grizelj (2019: 22-23) explain:

*"Although this type of participation did not have a direct impact on the discussions inside the room, it was symbolically powerful in sending a message to the conflict parties on the unity among civil society members of South Sudan. Youth, civil society, and women representatives who were participating in the peace talks inside the negotiation rooms also used the Internet and social media as an important tool to inform broader constituencies."*



**More information:**

Ali Altiok, and Irena Grizelj, **WE ARE HERE: An Integrated Approach to Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes** (April, 2019, pp. 22-23, 31).

## Regional initiatives

### 10. AFRICAN UNION'S WORK ON YOUTH PEACE AND SECURITY

The relevance of youth to socio-economic development, peace and security in Africa has been recognized by African institutions at continental and sub-regional levels. This is evidenced in the evolution of youth-centered normative frameworks such as the African Youth Charter and the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS) as well as initiatives including the Youth for Peace Africa Program and the African Union Chairperson's Special Envoy on Youth. These normative frameworks and initiatives, amongst others, aim to engage African youth in peace and security decision-making spaces at all levels, including those of the African Union, such as the work of the African Commission (AUC) and its affiliate organs.

The work of the African Union on Youth, Peace and Security is guided by the CFYPS. The objective of this Framework is to "facilitate the meaningful engagement and participation of African youth in all spectrums of peace and security at national, regional and continental levels". This framework has been operationalized through a 10-Year Implementation Plan 2020-2029 with specific targets. For example, setting the target that 25% of Member States should develop "youth-led and centered NAPs on YPS by 2024, and 50% by 2029.



**More information:**

**African Union Commission**

**Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security**

[au.int/en/paps](https://au.int/en/paps)

[au.int/en/documents/20200821/continental-framework-youth-peace-and-security](https://au.int/en/documents/20200821/continental-framework-youth-peace-and-security)

[au.int/en/documents/20200821/10-year-implementation-plan-y-ps-2020-2029](https://au.int/en/documents/20200821/10-year-implementation-plan-y-ps-2020-2029)

# ASIA AND PACIFIC

## India

### 11. THE INDIAN COALITION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

The Indian Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) was launched at the end of 2019 with the aim of mobilizing young people across the country around the YPS agenda, and of creating a common platform for action. The creation of the Coalition came about from the realization that there are not enough youth-led initiatives focusing on peacebuilding in India today.

The Indian Coalition has primarily worked on mobilizing young people to support the implementation of the UNSCR 2250 and to engage the Indian government in integrating the key features of the YPS agenda. The Coalition's first activity was a mapping of the role and participation of young people in their own communities, which led to the recruitment of 60 members, young men, and women who came from all of India's states. As their engagement is voluntary, and they come from many different backgrounds, the Coalition then sought to increase their capacity for using the Resolution and create awareness about the YPS agenda. The Coalition also organized a consultation among young people, which led to recommendations that were fed into the development of India's National Youth Policy, in 2020. A significant achievement, completely self-funded and organized, was then the translation of UNSCR 2250 into several of India's official languages, to make it more accessible to young people who might be more at ease using their local language. As India has 22 official languages, this work is still ongoing.

The Coalition is completely youth-led when it comes to decision-making, governance, and the implementation of activities. It started with 60 individuals, all of whom were selected with a strong emphasis on inclusivity. And indeed, they represent all of the country's states and territories, all religious groups, genders, and languages. Most members participate in their personal capacity, but some also have their own organizations. Lastly, the Coalition is

also engaging non-youth groups, including from the government. This work is indeed seen as necessary to scale up the work of the Coalition in a country where only the government can reach all young people.

The key takeaway from the experience of the Indian Coalition is the value of representativeness, not just to ensure inclusivity, but also to promote access to UNSCR 2250 and the YPS agenda, as indeed the Coalition is doing by, among other things, translating the resolution into local languages.



**More information:**

**Indian Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security**

[www.facebook.com/watch/Youth4peace.India](https://www.facebook.com/watch/Youth4peace.India)

## Indonesia

### 12. INDONESIA COALITION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

The Indonesian Youth Coalition for Peace and Security (*Koalisi Anak Muda Indonesia untuk Perdamaian dan Keamanan* in Bahasa) is a forum of more than twenty youth-led and youth-focused civil society organizations aiming to support the implementation of UNSCR 2250, 2419, and 2535. The forum seeks to optimize youth participation in peace and security issues, particularly in preventing violent extremism by challenging the negative narratives about the roles of youth in violent conflicts, terrorism, development, and highlighting the constructive roles of youth as important actors in building and maintaining peace and security from the smallest community.

The main strategic lines of this forum consist of:

- building dialogue and partnerships with the government and decision-makers (community leaders, religious leaders, social media influencers, etc.);
- increasing youth participation through outreach activities in the community by involving them as peer-educators for addressing the root causes of grievance and violence; and
- encouraging advocacy and strategic cooperation with local governments in programs related to the restoration of peace, security, and inclusive local development through the recognition of the role of youth as one of the main stakeholders and decision-makers.



**For more information:**

**Email: [workinggroup.yps.indonesia@gmail.com](mailto:workinggroup.yps.indonesia@gmail.com)**

## Kyrgyzstan

### 13. YOUTH PARTICIPATION TO MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES TO REDUCE VIOLENT EXTREMISM

In Kyrgyzstan, the international non-governmental organization Search for Common Ground (SFCG) has been supporting a dialogue between young people and representatives of state security agencies, in an effort to bridge divides and lack of trust, especially in relation to the issue of violent extremism.

Through the initiative, SFCG engaged young people, representatives from several civil society organizations, and government officials from the Kyrgyz Ministry of the Interior in several dialogue meetings, which led to the establishment of a National Consultative Working Group. The Group brought together representatives from all those groups, as well as religious organizations, academics, and women, to discuss and develop recommendations to help decision-makers from state security agencies tackle radicalization and extremism.

As such, the project featured a multi-stakeholder approach, while also building the capacities of participating young people specifically. Because the project addressed very sensitive issues, dialogues were initiatives and facilitated by SFCG with the aim of creating trust through information sharing. The effort was successful thanks in particular to the positive response from security state agencies, which saw the concrete benefits from engaging young people and taking on board their perspectives on security challenges.

This is an example of a civil society-led initiative that sought to promote youth engagement on security processes, as partners to governmental agencies. The project increased youth participation by strengthening their skills for working on violent extremism, and by creating opportunities for them to engage with national government officials,

including from security agencies. It was facilitated to make it an inclusive process, sensitive to the needs of all stakeholders and this was crucial for forging trust and collaboration.



**More information:**

**Search for Common Ground**

[www.sfcg.org/jashstan-youth-as-agents-of-peace-and-stability-in-kyrgyzstan](http://www.sfcg.org/jashstan-youth-as-agents-of-peace-and-stability-in-kyrgyzstan)

## Papua New Guinea

### 14. MULTISTAKEHOLDER AND INTERGENERATIONAL TRAINING

With the support of the UN Peacebuilding Fund Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative, UNFPA, IOM, and UN Women conducted three 4-days inter-generational and multi-stakeholder workshops in July 2019 on the YPS agenda (UNSCR 2250) and conflict transformation. In groups of 20-35 participants, the workshops equipped 87 government officers, community leaders, women leaders, religious actors, UN officials, and youth leaders from Bougainville, Southern Highlands, and Hela Provinces with the skills they needed to initiate community peacebuilding and partnerships for the implementation of the YPS agenda.



**More information:**

**United Network of Young Peacebuilders**

[unoy.org/education-is-not-only-for-youth-training-in-papua-new-guinea](http://unoy.org/education-is-not-only-for-youth-training-in-papua-new-guinea)

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

[png.unfpa.org](http://png.unfpa.org)

## The Philippines

### 15. NATIONAL YOUTH PEACE TABLES TOWARDS A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Since 2017, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) has been partnering with young leaders from various regions involved in peacebuilding to gather their recommendations and insights in the drafting of the youth peace agenda. A series of regional peace tables and training sessions were organized introducing UNSCR 2250.

In 2018, a National Youth Peace Table brought together 80 representatives of the regional youth tables in Pasay City (Great Manila). This activity was organized in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, together with the National Youth Commission, Teach Peace Build Peace Movement (TBPBM), Miriam College's Center for Peace Education, Generation Peace, and Peace Tech.

During the event, the roadmap for the crafting of the National Action Plan for Youth, Peace, and Security (NAPYPS) was presented. This plan continues to be developed through processes of consultations with young people in different regions of the country.

The Philippines National Action Plan is being developed with inputs from regional and national consultations with young people of a variety of backgrounds. This allows the plans to be rooted in the concerns and ideas of young people.



**More information:**

**Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)**

[peace.gov.ph/2018/09/opapp-gears-for-youth-participation-in-peacebuilding](http://peace.gov.ph/2018/09/opapp-gears-for-youth-participation-in-peacebuilding)

[peace.gov.ph/2021/08/youth-leaders-throw-support-behind-crafting-of-national-plan-on-youth-peace-and-security](http://peace.gov.ph/2021/08/youth-leaders-throw-support-behind-crafting-of-national-plan-on-youth-peace-and-security)

[www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1124200](http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1124200)

## Sri Lanka

### 16. SRI LANKA'S YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY COALITION

In 2018, following national consultations on United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2250, the UN Populations Fund (UNFPA) and UN Volunteers (UNV) established the Sri Lankan Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Coalition to ensure a continued collective impact on YPS through multi-sectoral and cross-cutting partnerships between young people, youth organizations, government, multilateral organizations and civil society actors at the country level. Currently, Sri Lanka's YPS Coalition comprises 29 member organizations including UN Agencies (UNV, UNFPA, FAO, and UNICEF), several local and international civil society organizations (CSOs), and youth-led organizations.

The Coalition was created after national consultations on UNSCR 2250 were held in 2017. These consultations were extensive, touching all parts of the country and generating an understanding of what young people need and want, in order to become active agents of change in Sri Lanka. It was based on these consultations that the Coalition was created, and that it featured all the members it did, including governmental agencies such as the National Youth Services Council. The Coalition, which is youth-led, presently works on a voluntary basis in four areas: advocacy, capacity building, research, outreach, and visibility. It organizes several activities, including workshops and awareness-raising events. In late 2019, for example, it developed and published a YPS recommendation Paper for Presidential Candidate on policy for youth peace and security (Sept 2019)

The role of UNFPA and UNV was crucial in forming the coalition. Following the national consultations, these agencies developed a project, together with UN Women, which was funded from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, and allowed the organizations to train cadres of young leaders, both men and women, and create the Coalition. It was then also important to make sure that the Coalition would be steering by entities present in Sri Lanka, and for this reason, governance mechanisms were created so that the Coalition was, and remains, youth-led.

This experience shows the need to ensure that efforts to implement the YPS agenda are adequately resourced, and also that they are effectively owned by those institutions, be they government agencies or CSOs, that are most invested in the success of the agenda. In the case of the Sri Lankan coalition, the role of consultation was also crucial, as they clarified the needs and the priorities that in many ways guide the Coalition's work to date.



**More information:**

**Sri Lanka Youth Peace and Security Coalition**

[www.facebook.com/Youth4PeaceSL](https://www.facebook.com/Youth4PeaceSL)

[Email: yps.coalition.sl@gmail.com](mailto:yps.coalition.sl@gmail.com)

## Timor-Leste

### 17. TIMOR-LESTE'S NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

The National Youth Policy encompasses interventions under education, economic development, health, and social cohesion and it includes a focus on conflict resolution. East Timor's specific experience is important because of the participatory approach used in developing its youth policy, and its significance given the country's ongoing social and political transition.

In 2016, East Timor's Council of Ministers approved the National Youth Policy (NYP), which had been developed by the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sport (SEJD). The NYP "recognizes young people as resources for socio-economic transformation within the society".

The NYP has several objectives, including the strengthening of youth organizations' institutional capacities, promoting youth participation in democratic processes and, reducing youth unemployment. It features several youth-centered programs, including civic education and conflict resolution, and places a strong emphasis on the role of sports and the engagement of young women.

The development of the NYP was participatory and youth-led as it was developed through a series of youth conferences. The preparation of these conferences was the responsibility of a youth-led organizing committee. Several municipal conferences were thus organized, leading to a national one, where young people were able to identify, work together, and use common tools, the problems that they felt most affected them. Strategies to address these were discussed in the national event and were integrated into the NYP.

Following the NYP's approval, its implementation was put under the responsibility of the national council of youth development (CNDJ), which responds directly to the Office of the Prime Minister. CNDJ has an advisory role on all youth programs and seeks to ensure that these are adequately incorporated in the annual plans and budgets of different ministries.

The policy development process afforded young people the space, opportunities, and financial support to be able to operationalize the policy.



**More information:**

**Secretariat of State for Youth and Sport**  
**Democratic Republic of Timor Leste**  
[timor-leste.gov.tl](http://timor-leste.gov.tl)  
[www.sejd.gov.tl](http://www.sejd.gov.tl)

## Regional initiatives

### 18. E-MODULES ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY FOR YOUNG PUBLIC SERVANTS FROM ASEAN COUNTRIES

Asian Youth Peace Network (AYPN) developed three e-modules for young public servants, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, youth council members, and ministry officials from across ASEAN member states, who want to learn more about the YPS agenda. The modules include practical tools for youth leaders to facilitate meaningful youth engagement with young peacebuilders on the ground.

AYPN staff members facilitate these online learning activities, which have the overall aim of enhancing not only understanding but also cross-border exchange of ideas in South-East Asia. The E-modules specifically target young public and civil servants under 40 years of age, who AYPN sees as key stakeholders for the national implementation of the YPS agenda, and also as a nexus. Young public and civil servants are, in fact, able to reach inter-generational and cross-sectional partnerships. They themselves are building their own movements, honing new skill sets, and collecting innovative ideas. Organizing them into conversations and workshops can increase efficiency and inclusivity of implementation, especially of youth-focused policies and programming in the long run.

The e-modules are designed using a micro-learning approach: they can be completed, in other words, as a short experience, tied to the achievement of a small number of learning outcomes, which are themselves linked and cross-referenced with many other micro-learning activities. This approach allows learners to cherry-pick the bits they need the most while providing a complete learning experience if they are interested in accessing additional material.

This initiative is valuable because of its specific target and accessibility. The reliance on e-modules, free to access and use, is novel and effective to ensure that those interested in learning more about Youth, Peace and Security, can do so without any geographic or financial barriers.



**More information:**

**Asian Youth Peace Network**  
[asean-aipr.org/resources/youth-peace-security-for-young-public-servants-e-modules](http://asean-aipr.org/resources/youth-peace-security-for-young-public-servants-e-modules)

### 19. THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN ASIA PACIFIC

The thematic Working Group on Youth Peace and Security in Asia-Pacific is part of the Asia-Pacific Interagency Network on Youth (APINY) and serves as a coordinating and supporting mechanism to UN Agencies working on the YPS agenda. It is also a mechanism to strengthen youth participation through information and opportunity sharing, alongside discussions with youth-led organizations, youth networks, and other stakeholders working on peacebuilding and YPS. It is co-led by UNFPA and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders.



**More information:**

**Asia-Pacific Interagency Network on Youth (APINY)**  
[asiapacificyouth.net/about-us](http://asiapacificyouth.net/about-us)

# EUROPE

## Cyprus

### 20. YOUTH CHAMPIONS FOR PEACE AND ENVIRONMENT

In May 2020, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) launched the Youth Champions for Peace and Environment initiative. Through the program, 24 young persons from across Cyprus, undertook their own environmental campaigns on the island. The goal of the program was youth empowerment and peacebuilding, through a topic that already poses major challenges in the region.

In 2021, the program was repeated and built on the outcomes of the first year. They organized in September 2021 a two-week online training for 35 selected youth activists who learned about issues such as migration, gender, and peacebuilding. It has the participation of several UN agencies, including UN Women, UNEP, UNDP.



**More information:**

**United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus**

[unficyp.unmissions.org/apply-now-become-un-youth-champion-environment-and-peace-0](https://unficyp.unmissions.org/apply-now-become-un-youth-champion-environment-and-peace-0)

**E-mail: [unficyp-youthchampions@un.org](mailto:unficyp-youthchampions@un.org)**

## Finland

### 21. FINNISH YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

This is an example of a government-led initiative that seeks to mainstream youth within relevant domestic and foreign policies in line with the commitments made under United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250. It is an example of a policy or law, in this case, developed on the model used to implement the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

The Government of Finland has adopted the first-ever National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). This is the result of a process that was launched in 2018 with the deliberate goal of adopting a NAP.

Soon after the adoption of UNSCR 2250, Finland saw a NAP as the most appropriate and effective way to support the implementation of the Youth, peace and Security (YPS) agenda, given the wealth of experiences accrued, at national and international levels, with developing, adopting and implementing NAPs on WPS. In 2018, the Finnish Government thus launched the process of developing a NAP on YPS, partnering with Finland's 2250 Network, an open platform comprising both individuals and organizations, to start a consultative process aimed at youth.

The process of developing a NAP on YPS has been coordinated by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and relies on the same coordinating mechanisms and best practices used for developing NAPs on WPS. In the case of the YPS NAP, there is, however, very strong participation of youth organizations. The Ministry coordinates the process overall, convening meetings and coordinating inputs from other ministries. Finland's 2250 Network coordinates the participation of young people. Overall, the consultation and design process has been designed to be inclusive and ensure synergies with domestic policies relevant to youth participation and wellbeing. Notably, the NAP is adopted as a whole-of-government policy.

Strong involvement of Youth throughout the process is a key factor in building trust and ensuring a high-quality NAP as well as a strong buy-in from everyone. Experiences and mechanisms for developing NAPs in the context of the WPS Agenda can be useful and expedite the process of developing NAPs on YPS also—for example by clarifying the mandate for action. At the same time, it is important to take account of the differences that exist between the two agendas, recognizing that consultation and engagement mechanisms should be designed on the specific needs, barriers, and priorities of young people.



**More information:**

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Unit for UN and General Global Affairs**

[www.2250finland.fi/en/national-process](http://www.2250finland.fi/en/national-process)

## Germany

### 22. GERMANY'S GENDER, AGE AND DISABILITY MARKER

The GAD-Marker (Gender Age Disability Marker) was introduced in 2018 to evaluate project proposals and reports and to identify risks and barriers. It functions as a measuring tool and controlling mechanism to demand inclusion and equality in all humanitarian projects financed by the Federal Government of Germany.



**More information:**

**Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development**

[www.bmz.de/en](http://www.bmz.de/en)

### 23. GERMANY'S ACTION PLAN "AGENTS OF CHANGE, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S RIGHTS IN GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION"

The Action Plan "Agents of Change - Children's and Young People's Rights in German Development Cooperation" (2017) was developed in consultation with youth representatives and refers to UNSCR 2250 as one of its guiding frameworks. At the same time, the policy paper "Preventing Crisis, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace" also refers to UNSCR 2250, especially focusing on the protection of young people from violence.



**More information:**

**Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development**

[www.bmz.de/resource/blob/23760/9d7a288b7c7bbf86d93197724cadf2de/Strategiepapier410\\_agents%20of%20change](http://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/23760/9d7a288b7c7bbf86d93197724cadf2de/Strategiepapier410_agents%20of%20change)

## Ireland

### 24. YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN IRELAND'S THIRD NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Ireland has integrated elements of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda into other policies, including its National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

Ireland's current NAP on WPS, its third, was approved in 2019 and remains valid until 2024. The aim of the current NAP is to advance gender equality in all endeavors and to further examine the gendered impacts of poverty, inequality, and climate change. The NAP refers to youth specifically, in particular under its pillar on participation, whereby Ireland commits to "Improve synergies between the WPS and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agendas." (objective 2.2.3.) through specific measures: "Support organizations building the voice of young people, (...) including a focus on intergenerational dialogue" and related indicators: number of quality YPS/WPS events engaging young women and girls; increased resources and support for programs that empower adolescent girls and the level of reported inclusion of young women who meaningfully take part in decision-making, conflict prevention and peacebuilding at all levels.

This commitment has also been confirmed by the addition of a specific outcome in the Plan's Monitoring Framework. Practically speaking, this has translated into a focus, at the level of actions supported in the framework of the WPS agenda, on young women.

The plan was developed by a dedicated working group, which included government officials, civil society representatives, and members of academia. It includes actions both under domestic and foreign policies. The approach to mainstreaming the YPS agenda was rooted in UNSCR 2250, UNSCR 2419, and UNSCR 2535, and also took the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security as an important reference. Furthermore, specialized inputs were also sought out by inviting youth organizations and youth representatives, including Ireland's UN Youth Delegates and a young peacebuilder was included as a member of the group that was created to oversee the implementation of the NAP.



**More information:**

**Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland**

[www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)

[www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/ourpolicies/womenpeaceandsecurity/Third-National-Action-Plan.pdf](http://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/ourpolicies/womenpeaceandsecurity/Third-National-Action-Plan.pdf)

## Italy

### 25. THE ITALIAN NETWORK ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

The Italian network on YPS (*Rete Italiana Giovani Pace e Sicurezza* in Italian) was founded in 2017 by three Italian peacebuilding organizations and individual young people. Its aim is to mainstream the YPS agenda and to advocate for a constructive role of civil society in the design and implementation of the YPS agenda in Italy.

The network has an informal structure, with no legal status itself but operating through its member organizations legally registered in Italy. It is composed of both organizations and individuals. It is an intergenerational space yet only young people aged 16-35 can be members of the management committee. Members above this age adopt a support role. The Italian network is also a member of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders.

The main objectives of the network are to create awareness about the resolution and to support its implementation at country level. Under the second objective, the group wants to advocate for the development of a National Action Plan on YPs in Italy through a participatory bottom-up process.



**More information:**

[www.facebook.com/RetelitalianaGiovaniPaceSicurezza](https://www.facebook.com/RetelitalianaGiovaniPaceSicurezza)

## Kosovo<sup>1</sup>

### 26. KOSOVO'S ROADMAP ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

In 2017, The United Missions in Kosovo (UNMIK) supported a series of meetings that resulted in the organisation of the country's first ever UN Youth Assembly and the adoption of the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS).

The Youth Assembly, which was inspired by UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250, brought together over 140 young people from all over Kosovo to share ideas, concerns and develop joint solutions and recommendations to the UN, to other international organizations and Kosovar institutions. It was during the event itself that participants decided to develop and adopt a roadmap in order to maintain the process as inclusive as possible. The Roadmap included 50 recommendations to increase the role of youth in society and represented a catalytic step in the process of implementing the YPS agenda nationally. Following the adoption of the Roadmap, a Youth Task Force, comprising 24 young participants to the Youth Assembly, was formed to follow-up and to promote the implementation of recommendations.

While the process of developing the Roadmap was initiated by UNMIK, it involved multiple stakeholders and sought to give young participants not just a voice but an opportunity to decide how to shape the implementation of UNSCR 2250 in the country. Government institutions were invited to take part and joined the initiative. Once invited to the Assembly, young people led the proceedings and facilitated discussions among peers, with financial and logistical support from UNMIK.

A roadmap represents a creative way to create momentum for the implementation of the YPS agenda, one that had youth at its center. The choice of a roadmap was, in fact, particularly appropriate in order to create a space where substantial discussions could happen under the leadership of youth and in the face of deep societal divisions. The nature of the document, which was adopted by the Youth Assembly, also made it easier for it to be supported by governmental and intergovernmental institutions.

This is an example of a United Nations-led initiative that sought to increase youth engagement in decision-making processes related to peace and security. It is an example of a strategy, in this case developed by young people with support from the United Nations (UN), to create momentum and inform the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda nationally.



**More information:**

**UN Mission in Kosovo**

[unmik.unmissions.org/kosovo-roadmap-youth-peace-and-security](https://unmik.unmissions.org/kosovo-roadmap-youth-peace-and-security)

<sup>1</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

## North Macedonia

### 27. MANUAL FOR LOCAL YOUTH COUNCILS

The manual is intended for the young members of the Local Youth Councils and the employees of the municipalities and serves as a guide for the establishment and functioning of the Local Youth Councils. The Manual includes practical tips, steps, but also recommendations on how to establish a functional youth council in the municipalities in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The manual was developed and published by the North Macedonia's Agency for Youth and Sport, and OSCE'S Mission Skopje.



**More information:**

[www.osce.org/mission-to-skopje/491132](http://www.osce.org/mission-to-skopje/491132)

## Serbia

### 28. EMPOWERING YOUTH TO PROMOTE SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

The Belgrade Center for Security Policy (BCSP) implemented the project "Empowering Youth to Promote Security Sector Reform" from September 2020 to April 2021. The project was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and supported by the OSCE Mission to Serbia in the framework of the program "Consolidating the democratization process in the security sector in the Republic of Serbia".

The project aimed to empower young people and contribute to increasing public awareness of security sector reform concepts. Nine selected interns, students of either final year of bachelor studies or master students at the Faculty of Political Sciences and the Faculty of Security Studies of the Belgrade University, participated in different activities, some of which were: a) Online thematic workshops about security sector reform, cybersecurity, public policy research, communications in public policy and data visualization, advocacy organized by BCSP; b) Drafting 12 articles on community policing, emergency situations, communal militia, facial recognition technology, cyber security, total defence, hybrid war, independent regulatory bodies, transparency of security sector, gender equality in security sector, and military exercises that were published on Wikipedia (the first entries on this topic in Serbian language) and c) Publishing six short research products such as: infographics on independent regulatory bodies, oversight of security sector, protection from video surveillance, types of cyber-attacks; timeline about communal militia; background on total defence; blog about hybrid warfare that were published on BCSP website and promoted on BCSP Twitter and Facebook accounts.

This is an example of how young people can be empowered to engage in security sector reform dialogues through training and research and at the same time, contribute to public awareness through their role as researchers and content developers both via online resources and social media.



**More information:**

**Belgrade Center for Security Policy (BCSP)**

[bezbednost.org/en/](http://bezbednost.org/en/)

**OSCE Mission to Serbia**

[www.osce.org/mission-to-serbia](http://www.osce.org/mission-to-serbia)

## Slovak Republic

### 29. IUVENTA'S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOUTH WORKERS

Iuventa, Slovakia's youth agency, implements the country's youth policy. One of its lines of work is related to promoting health among young people and youth workers. In 2020, it implemented special activities to address mental health-related issues among young people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

From October to December 2020, IUVENTA organized 75 webinars for young people and youth organizations in

connection with the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. The topics of the activities ranged from a healthy lifestyle and culture to the prevention of socio-pathological phenomena and pedagogical communication. Many of them are still available in the video archive on Iuventa's Facebook page. Additionally, in cooperation with the Institute of Stress, prepared a series of professional webinars for youth workers on four topics: Stress, Burnout, Work-Life Balance, Healthy Sleep. 90 youth workers participated in these webinars.

Mental health services for young people and youth workers contribute to creating an enabling environment by strengthening the capacities of the youth sector to address the psycho-social well-being of young people in relation to stress, trauma, and others related to the various forms of violence affecting them.



[More information:](#)

**IUVENTA**

[www.iuventa.sk](http://www.iuventa.sk)

## Sweden

### 30. FUNDING MECHANISM FOR YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY SWEDISH CIVIL-SOCIETY PROJECTS

The FBA Support to Civil Society initiative is a governmental funding program with an aim to raise awareness and promote dialogue and debate in Sweden about issues related to peacebuilding, security, and development. Youth, Peace and Security is one of the thematic areas included in the program in 2018. The financial support provided through the program is small scale and exclusively for Swedish civil society organizations (CSOs).

The FBA's Support to Civil Society opened up for YPS as a new thematic field in 2020. The program is run by the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the Swedish government agency for peace, security, and development.

In line with the commitments expressed in UNSCR 2250, a series of other provisions aimed at ensuring that youth could also take part in decision-making processes: the Swedish government appointed a youth representative to FBA's advisory council, and YPS was integrated into the FBA as an area of expertise.

The objective of the broader initiative is to increase knowledge, commitment, and dialogue in Sweden on issues that relate to international peace and security, with YPS having been included as a thematic priority already in 2018.

While relatively new and with limited resources, the support that FBA has provided to Swedish CSOs working on YPS through the program has had a positive impact: the grants have made it possible for Swedish CSOs to strengthen their own knowledge and capacity to contribute to the national implementation of the YPS agenda; the projects have also contributed to strengthening and widening the Swedish Coalition on UNSCR 2250, thanks to both funding and networking events that were organized among participating organizations.

Financial resources are a key limitation for the effective implementation of the YPS agenda. Sweden's scheme has used available resources and, by putting them at the disposal of civil society organizations, it has contributed to operationalizing UNSCR 225 not just within individual projects, but also at the systemic level.



[More information:](#)

**Folke Bernadotte Academy**

[fba.se/en/how-we-work/support/](http://fba.se/en/how-we-work/support/)

[fba.se/sa-arbetar-vi/stod/](http://fba.se/sa-arbetar-vi/stod/) (in Swedish)

## Turkey

### 31. YOUNG VOLUNTEERS PLATFORM

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey has been running the Young Volunteers Platform since 2015 with the aim of strengthening the volunteering culture in the country. Platform provides the opportunity of overcoming the barriers to the participation of young people, who are living in rural and difficult to reach areas of Turkey in particular, through technology.

Volunteering is considered as important with respect to strengthening mutual trust, solidarity, and citizenship consciousness, easing tensions, and settling disputes. Using the online platform the Ministry can more effectively acknowledge and respond to the needs and priorities of young people, by allowing them to influence both the demand and supply for volunteering opportunities. Through the platform, volunteers seeking organizations are able to create and disseminate announcements, and young people seeking to be volunteers can simultaneously reach and apply for all announcements made under six categories which are sports, culture and tourism, environment, disaster and emergency, education, health, and social services.

Platform has distinct advantages such as providing the institutional members with the opportunity of setting their preferences and administration systems. In this way, announcements made by institutional members can reach through every corner of the country and the organizations can seek young volunteers who have different skills and experiences across Turkey.

Young Volunteers Platform is an example of a government-led initiative that seeks to increase the effective participation of youth in social and civic life through volunteering.



**More information:**

**Ministry of Youth and Sports**

**Directorate General of International Organizations of Foreign Relations**

**Republic of Turkey**

[www.gsb.gov.tr](http://www.gsb.gov.tr)

[gonulluyuzbiz.gov.tr](http://gonulluyuzbiz.gov.tr)

## Regional initiatives

### 32. DNIESTER RIVER YOUTH SUMMER SCHOOL

This project was organized by the International Association of River Keepers Eco-TIRAS in Moldova and supported by different donors and organizations including the OSCE in the framework of the “Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Dniester River Basin” Project. The Youth Summer School brings together around 70 participants from Moldova (including Transnistria) and Ukraine. Activities such as open-air workshops and discussions are organized with a view to familiarize young participants with the challenges in the basin, but also to increase awareness of how they could contribute to environmental protection. Furthermore, around 30-45 university students, journalists, NGOs, academics from both banks of the Dniester usually take part in kayak expeditions along the Dniester (150-170 km) to learn about the situation of the river ecosystem and the impacts of human activities on it.

The project motivated young people to work on environmental protection and developed new friendships and cross-border collaboration among young people.



**More information:**

**International Association of River Keepers Eco-TIRAS**

[www.eco-tiras.org](http://www.eco-tiras.org)

### 33. EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

It is a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide financial and educational support for European youth activities. It offers grants to youth NGOs from its member states as well as the European Cultural Convention Signatories: Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the Holy See. A key feature of the fund is that grants are provided based on priorities defined through a co-management system, that is, governments and youth organizations representatives co-decide these priorities in the Joint Council on Youth.

In supporting the activities of non-governmental youth organizations and networks, the EYF follows the Council of Europe’s main policy lines. In this way, it has become a key instrument in ensuring the voices of young people are heard and enabling them to take part in decision-making.

The Foundation has an annual budget of approximately 3.7 million euros, which is mainly made up of obligatory contributions from each Council of Europe member state, all of which are automatically considered member states of the Foundation.

For 2022-2023, the Joint Council on Youth agreed on four key priorities 1) Revitalising pluralistic democracy, 2) Young people's access to rights, 3) Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies, 4) Youth work. These priorities are reflected in the number of projects funded with aims in line with these four priorities.

The EYF supports youth projects organized according to nonformal education principles and encourages the integration of a gender perspective in all the projects it supports.

This is an example of a co-managed regional funding mechanism that makes resources accessible to youth organizations in Europe that promote its priorities. The funds have supported youth peace work, cross-border collaboration, and intercultural dialogue.



**More information:**  
**European Youth Foundation**  
[fej.coe.int](http://fej.coe.int)

### 34. GLOBAL EDUCATION NETWORK EUROPE

This is a network composed of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Development Agencies, Ministries of Education, and other public entities including some responsible for youth which implements global education (which includes peace education, global citizenship education, education for sustainable development) in formal and non-formal settings in 29 European countries. Youth is recognized as one of the key stakeholders in Global Education policy and practice. From June 2021 to November 2022, GENE is engaging with stakeholders towards a new Declaration on Global Education to 2050, and youth is an integral part of this process.



**More information:**  
[www.gene.eu](http://www.gene.eu)

### 35. THE OSCE GROUP OF FRIENDS ON YOUTH AND SECURITY

The Group of Friends of Youth and Security, initiated by the Serbian Chairmanship in 2015 and subsequently chaired by Spain, holds meetings twice a year since 2017. It serves as a platform for inclusive dialogue among delegations, youth participants, and OSCE Executive Structures, in particular the youth focal points, to discuss youth-related initiatives and share best practices.



**More information:**  
**Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**  
[www.osce.org/youth](http://www.osce.org/youth)

### 36. THE REGIONAL YOUTH COOPERATION OFFICE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) is an independently functioning institutional mechanism, founded in 2016 by the Western Balkans six participants (WB 6): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>2</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, aiming to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in the region through youth exchange programs.

RYCO's program focuses on creating opportunities for young people to engage in activities that build mutual understanding and reconciliation in the civic, social, educational, cultural and sports domains. RYCO initiates and participates in policymaking and advocates for reform. It supports the development of a political and social environment that empowers and facilitates youth exchange. In pursuing its mission, RYCO demonstrates its commitment to human rights, human dignity, and the building of peace based on mutual respect and trust.

The organization is led by a governing board of 12 members, two representing each Contracting Party, one representing the participating government, and one, young people of that Contracting Party. Representatives of youth organizations, as well as experts, donor community, civil society, international organizations, and other relevant institutions, are also part of the Advisory Board.

<sup>2</sup> For the UN, all references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). For RYCO, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with Security Council Resolution 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

One of its projects “Building Capacity and Momentum for RYCO” was implemented between 2018 and 2020. supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund and in partnership with UNFPA, UNDP, and UNICEF. The project built capacities of schools and youth organizations to organize intercultural exchanges, develop peacebuilding activities and address the past in educational activities. The project also developed a regional manual on youth peer education on peacebuilding, established a group of youth peer trainers in the field of peacebuilding, and trained 300 youth, and supported 12 innovative ideas of and for youth in the region, as well as promoting their success stories from the Western Balkans. The project also supported youth-led networks, cross-border exchanges, and workshops as a tool for youth engagement in peacebuilding and reconciliation and produced online information with the aim of encouraging knowledge sharing and awareness-raising among youth in the region.

Governments and young people are able to cooperate at a regional level to implement a future-oriented vision for their region, learn how to address a past of conflict, and build a culture of cultural exchange and reconciliation.

This is an example of a regional cooperation mechanism focused on promoting reconciliation and cultural exchange in which young people play a meaningful role in its decision-making structures and actions.



**More information:**

**Regional Youth Cooperation Office**

[www.ryciowb.org](http://www.ryciowb.org)

[Email: office@rycowb.org](mailto:office@rycowb.org)

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Colombia

### 37. THE NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL

Colombia’s National Council for Peace, Reconciliation and Coexistence was originally created by law in 1998 and subsequently modified in 2017 to become a central body for the implementation of the National Peace Accord that ended the decades-long conflict between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP). It is an advisory and consultative body, whose central tasks are to advise on the policy of peace, reconciliation, coexistence and non-stigmatization, and to facilitate the harmonious collaboration of state entities and bodies on the subject.

The National Council’s official aim is to “achieve and maintain peace, generate a culture of reconciliation, tolerance, coexistence and non-stigmatization, and facilitate the harmonious collaboration of State entities and bodies, giving priority to political alternatives for negotiating the internal armed conflict.” It indeed has two main functions. The first is in relation to the implementation of the National Peace Accord, where it acts as an advisor and collaborator of the Colombian government in, among other issues, “the promotion of non-stigmatization of groups in conditions of vulnerability or discriminated against such as women, ethnic peoples and communities, the LGBTI population, young people, children and the elderly, people with disabilities, political and religious minorities.” The second function is to act as a counselor to the government on all policies related to peace and facilitate dialogue between the government’s various entities and agencies in relation to peacebuilding.

Importantly, the role and functioning of the Council changed significantly in 2017, as it officially assumed the role of the National Council for Reconciliation and Coexistence, which was a key provision of the final Peace Accord, which, among other things, was meant to ensure the participation of non-state entities to the implementation of the Accord itself. The Council is made up of 105 representatives: 35 from the institutions (from the executive, legislative branches, and control bodies at the national, departmental, and municipal levels) and 70 from civil society. The executive body of the Council is the National Peace Committee, which includes 13 representatives (7 from civil society, 3 from State entities, and 3 from free choice). Young people have been involved as members of both the Council and the Committee, including the election of a representative of the National Student Movement for the period 2020-2021.

The Council provides an example for the engagement of young people in formal peace-making and peacebuilding efforts. In this case, by ensuring the participation of youth representatives to the main body delegated with ensuring the participation of all social stakeholders in peacebuilding in Colombia, the Council features direct access to this key demographic group, and the ability to include young people’s perspectives on peace in the country.



**More information:**

Colombia's National Council for Peace, Reconciliation and Coexistence, @ConsejoPaz #ConstruimosPaz.

### **38. REINTEGRATION PROCESS YOUTH STRATEGY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT**

The Reintegration Process Youth Strategy is being developed in the framework of the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the national policy for the Social and Economic Reintegration of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP). It is being developed collaboratively by the Colombia Agency for the Reintegration and Normalisation (ARN, for its acronym in Spanish), and the FARC team.

Its aim is to contribute to the protection of human rights and to peacebuilding through the implementation of specific and differentiated actions that respond to the needs and interests of young men and young women in the process of reintegration. UNSCR 2250 (2015) is part of the normative framework which guides the strategy. The strategy recognizes the role of young people as peacebuilders and agents of transformation of the local traditional visions and of the structural conditions for peace. It also identifies in its formulation, opportunities to develop innovative and effective actions for the strengthening of youth leadership.

One of its specific objectives is to “Strengthen the role of young people as builders of peace through youth participation and in collaboration with other competent actors, contributing to reconciliation, reconstruction of the social fabric and coexistence.”

An intersectional lens is central to the strategy, including dimensions such as sex-gender, belonging to an ethnic group, disability, stage in the course of life, and the situation of being in process of reintegration. This lens was also applied to the process of consultations with young people which contributed to the development of the strategy.



**More information:**

Colombia's Agency for the Reintegration and Normalisation  
(Agencia para la Reincorporación y Normalización (ARN))

[www.reincorporacion.gov.co/es](http://www.reincorporacion.gov.co/es)

## **Costa Rica**

### **39. NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY OF THE YOUNG PERSON**

The Government of Costa Rica developed and adopted, in the context of its National Youth System, a Public Policy of the Young Person, which functions as a strategy that articulates and coordinates the youth-centered services and programs of public institutions, across all sectors.

The National Public Policy of the Young Person was approved in 2010 and set out legal commitments that the Government of Costa Rica has to abide by, as laid out, for example, in the General Law of the Young Person, adopted in 2002, and the Iberoamerican Convention on the Rights of Youth. The strategy coordinates the work of several government agencies— primarily the Ministry of Culture and Youth, but also the Council of the Young Person and other ministries—and across the local and national levels.

The policy has YPS dimensions. The Council of the Young Person, in coordination with the Vice Ministry of Youth, coordinates the work of Civic Centers for Peace as spaces of youth participation and peace education. These seek to generate spaces for participatory interaction with young people of different identities and backgrounds, including young people with disabilities, with the aim of preventing violence that affects young people. This program, as well as others, is all based on the approach focused on youth participation and social integration, and human rights.

The Public Policy was also developed using a participatory approach tailored for young people: over 40 workshops were developed with the participation of young people from various groups, including indigenous youth, Afro-descendants, young people from both rural and urban areas, disabled, migrants, and from the LGBTQ+ community. In the workshops, young people used problem and objective trees, and also a technique called “From My Region”, whereby they were able to assess the extent to which they felt the state was being effective in respecting their rights. A National Youth Survey, the third that the Government of Costa Rica has implemented, complemented the workshops, and all the information served to develop the final document.

Importantly, young people were protagonists in the process, as the human-rights-based approach underpinning the consultations required that they be treated as rights-holders and therefore agents with authority over their own development.



**More information:**

Vice-Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Culture and Youth of Costa Rica  
[mcj.go.cr](http://mcj.go.cr)

Costa Rica's Young Person Council (Public Policies Unit)  
[cpj.go.cr](http://cpj.go.cr)

## Ecuador

### 40. NATIONAL AGENDA FOR INTERGENERATIONAL EQUALITY

The National Agenda for Intergenerational Equality is designed as a tool to protect and guarantee the rights of young people and the elderly and reduce gaps in economic equality that exist between generations. The National Council for Intergenerational Equality is the governmental body charged with developing and implementing the Agenda.

The agenda includes interventions and actions around five main axes: healthy life, education, protection, participation and spaces, housing and habitat, and employment. These proposals and actions are aimed at solving the social, economic, and cultural inequalities existing in the different generations to promote the relationship, inclusion, and exercise of rights of the whole of society in conditions of respect and equality.

The Agenda is part of Ecuador's "Opportunities Creation Plan" 2021-2025, which consists of five programmatic axes: economic, social, security, ecological, and institutional transition. Ecuador's experience in implementing the agenda shows the need to focus on intergenerational relations and equity in the context of existing policies and laws.



**More information:**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador  
[www.gob.ec/mremh](http://www.gob.ec/mremh)

## El Salvador

### 41 COALITION ON YPS "GRUPO IMPULSOR 2250"

"Grupo Impulsor 2250" means literally "driving group". It is a civil society group that coordinates actions in relation to the implementation of UNSCR 2250. They defined it as an intercultural and intergenerational space as they are linked to different expressions of civil society such as indigenous and women groups.

Their main objective is to strengthen community-based and youth-led local agendas for peace ("territorialización" in Spanish). They facilitated the development of these local agendas which are based on the priorities as defined by youth, and through their interpretation of peace and security. They coordinated processes and youth-led local coalitions in four locations of the country: Sonsonate (West); Ciudad Delgado (sub-urban context, near the capital); Tecoluca (East), and Jiquilisco (East). These local groups have support from civil society leaders, leaders of indigenous communities, religious leaders, and local leaders at the community and municipal levels. They provide spaces to meet and counsel. They also worked in schools, and at the public university

One of its first actions was to support the Progress Study, in coordination with UNFPA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2018. In 2020 they engaged parliamentarians and promoted a "Social Agreement for Salvadoran Youth for post-Covid-19 Recovery", which refers to UNSCR and Agenda 2030 commitments. It is a moral commitment by candidates for the legislature period 2021-2024 to integrate these issues and proposals into their legislative agendas. Young people could lead when they felt supported and trusted, building their own understandings of peace and security and developing their own priorities for agenda-setting. Through local-national connectors, they managed to bring forward the local agendas to the national level and engage parliamentarians.



**More information:**

Grupo Impulsor 2250 El Salvador

Email: [grupoimpulsorr2250sv@gmail.com](mailto:grupoimpulsorr2250sv@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/GR2250SV](http://www.facebook.com/GR2250SV)

## Mexico

### 42. NATIONAL STRATEGY OF ADDICTIONS PREVENTION “TOGETHER FOR PEACE”

The Federal Government of Mexico implements a National Strategy of Addictions Prevention, entitled “Together for Peace”, with a clear youth perspective. It is part of the overall National Development Plan (2019 – 2024), and is being implemented by the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with other ministries and agencies. Some of the programs stemming from the strategy are coordinated by the Mexican Youth Institute.

The Strategy aims to shift the traditional focus for addiction prevention programs, which has focused mainly on addressing the production and commercialization of drugs, to an approach that puts the people affected by addictions at the center, as bearers of rights who need support, inclusion, and connection. It places great importance on young people’s mental health, with its emotional and social dimensions, and as such it addresses issues of self-esteem and whether young people feel that they are being valued by society. The strategy aims to guarantee young people’s human rights and has a central gender and intersectional approach as evidence showed that the issue of addiction affects young people differently depending on their gender, social and economic conditions.

The strategy has four areas of action: education, well-being, culture, and communication. It is implemented through a number of programs and activities, including informal educational curricula. There is then the Urban Rehabilitation program, entitled “Mi México Late”, which aims to improve the living conditions of marginalized communities through the renovation of public spaces and housing, and involves young people in these actions. Lastly, the Strategy creates Youth Territory Centers and Clubs for Peace, which aim to be local spaces to strengthen community coexistence, foster artistic expressions and youth participation in social and political life.



**More information:**

Mexican Youth Institute

[www.gob.mx/imjuve](http://www.gob.mx/imjuve)

## Perú

### 43. LIMA’S METROPOLITAN AREA YOUTHS STRATEGY

Lima’s Metropolitan Area Youths Strategy (2020) includes as one of its 8 strategic axes “Culture of peace and violence prevention” having as its main objective to promote awareness of the importance of a culture of peace among young women and young men, and that they contribute to public safety through actions of violence prevention and rejection of all forms of violence.



**More information:**

[emj.gpvlima.com/](http://emj.gpvlima.com/) (in Spanish)

## Regional initiatives

### 44. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF YOUTH FOR IBEROAMERICA (OIJ) PROGRAM “TRAVESÍAS” (JOURNEYS)

The program “OIJTravesías”, supported by the International organization of Youth for Iberoamerica (OIJ) created a training and cultural exchange initiative to allow young filmmakers from Mexico City (Mexico) and Colón City (Panama) to address violence through cinema. The project was called “Building peace through cinema” and was developed in 2018.

Young people were part of training sessions on documentary film-making and on the youth, peace and security agenda. The main feature of the approach was that young people led the whole creative process, from writing the script, producing the film, being actors in it, and engaging their peers as viewers. Through these short films, they could express their views on issues related to peace and security in their local environment.

The project partnered with local cultural associations and actors. Other five projects have been supported by this program in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Perú, and Spain.

This is an example of a non-formal and informal educational and cultural program, which allowed meaningful youth participation at the local level and of cultural exchange. Young people were engaged in all aspects of the project. While improving their filmmaking skills, they created awareness of the peace and security issues in their cities from a youth perspective. Young people were given a platform to voice their concerns through the use of cinema creating an impactful tool of awareness-raising.



**More information:**

**Iberoamerican Organization of States – Iberoamerican Youth Organization**

[www.oij.org](http://www.oij.org)

## 45. YOUTHS FOR PEACE (JUVENTUDES X LA PAZ - REDES DE PAZ)

“Youths for peace”(Juventudes x la Paz in Spanish) is a youth-led online community of 400+ members active in the implementation of the YPS agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. The space is used to share experiences and information on the work of the different youth peace groups and networks and coordinate regional actions. The work is guided by the values of respect, empathy, and non-violence.



**More information:**

[www.facebook.com/JuventudesXLaPaz/](https://www.facebook.com/JuventudesXLaPaz/) (in Spanish)

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

## Bahrain

### 46. YOUTH PROGRAMS TO ENABLE YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

The Kingdom of Bahrain's Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs develops programs to enable youth participation and empowerment. One of its main programs is the creation and running of youth centers. There are 38 youth empowerment centers, as well as two model centers and three specialized centers, all of which provide a safe environment and serve as incubators for youth initiatives.

Two other programs that specifically aim at promoting youth participation are a) the Youth Parliament, which consists of simulations of parliamentary sessions, which are headed by H.E. Mrs. Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, Speaker of the Council of Representatives. Students and participants of the youth centers take part in this activity, and b) the Youth Summit, a platform that brings together young people and officials from the public sector, to discuss the challenges of the country. The youth offer their opinions and pitch creative solutions to these problems.

Finally, to recognize the contributions of young people to the achievement of the SDGs, the Kingdom of Bahrain created the “King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award to Achieve the SDGs”, an international award that was launched in cooperation with the UNDP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom. The program aims to encourage young people and organizations around the world to achieve the SDGs through initiatives and programs with global features.

programs include both activities to develop civic competencies as well as enable infrastructures such as youth centres. These youth centres are spaces for young people to meet, learn, share and develop new projects. It is an example of how important youth spaces and recognition are to enable youth participation and contributions to achieve the SDGs.



**More information:**  
**Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs**  
**Kingdom of Bahrain**  
[www.mys.gov.bh/en](http://www.mys.gov.bh/en)

## Jordan

### 47. JORDAN YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY 2250 NATIONAL COALITION

This is an example of a joint government and civil society-led initiative that seeks to advance the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 nationally. It is a coordinating body that seeks to elevate youth voices, strengthen youth advocacy and interact with national authorities to support the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda. The Jordanian Coalition is particularly important because it is a unique model, whereby in the same body both governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as youth, are actively working together.

The Jordan Youth, Peace and Security 2250 National Coalition was launched in 2017 under the patronage of Jordan's Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah. At the time, the coalition was the world's first coalition of government, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, and youth to collaborate together on the implementation of UNSCR 2250.

The Coalition was launched under the aegis of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its founding members included several governmental agencies, including the Ministry of Youth, several civil society organizations—such as Generations For Peace, Mercy Corps, Search For Common Ground, and the British Council—and United Nations (UN) agencies like the UN Development Program (UNDP) and the UN Populations Fund (UNFPA). The Coalition also includes individual youth members, who work closely with member institutions. Its activities include awareness-raising on UNSCR 2250, capacity building for youth, and policy efforts to integrate the YPS agenda in other national policies, like Jordan's National Youth Strategy. Currently, the Coalition is also working towards the development of a Jordanian National Action Plan (JONAP) for the Implementation of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS).

The Jordanian Coalition works mainly as a catalyzer of efforts to integrate the YPS Agenda in existing national strategies and policies, including, for example, those of the Ministry of Youth and Jordan's NAP for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Its approach is participatory, as the Coalition has sought to engage young people from across Jordan. Part of this effort is also ensuring the diversity of participating young members, as this, in the Coalition's experience, is positively correlated with the quality of youth participation.

The key takeaway from this experience is the Coalition's inclusion of both governmental and non-governmental members, a novel model that supports a kind of collaboration and mutual engagement that is often seen as necessary for effectively advancing the YPS agenda nationally.



**More information:**  
[https://www.facebook.com/Coalition2250/?\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/Coalition2250/?_rdc=1&_rdr)  
<https://jordan.unfpa.org/en/video/jordan-youth-peace-and-security-2250-national-coalition>  
<https://jordan.unfpa.org/en/publications/jordan-youth-peace-and-security-2250-national-coalition-year-review>  
<https://www.generationsforpeace.org/en/minister-youth-announces-jordan-2250-coalition-youth-peace-security/>

### 48. TOWARDS A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

A National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security is being developed in the context of the Jordan Youth, Peace and Security 2250 National Coalition. The process will be facilitated by the secretariat co-chairs of the coalition; two member organizations and two youth members (gender-balanced: one female, one male) that are elected biennially through a democratic process where the youth members form the voting body.



**More information:**  
[www.facebook.com/Coalition2250/?\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr;](https://www.facebook.com/Coalition2250/?_rdc=1&_rdr)

## Iraq

### 49. IRAQ'S COALITION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

The Iraqi Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (Iraqi Coalition) is an example of a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together a diversity of young women and men, youth-led organizations, national and international entities, and governmental actors in Iraq. The Iraqi Coalition aims to contribute to increased coordination amongst youth actors, improved opportunities for partnerships and innovation, increased opportunities for dialog and youth participation in the field of peace and security, and overall decision-making processes.

In December 2020, on the fifth anniversary of the 2250 UN Security Council Resolution, the Iraqi Coalition was launched under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), with the support of UNFPA Iraq and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA, Sweden). Young women and men from across Iraq are members of the Coalition and constitute the "Voting Body".

The Iraqi Coalition bases its work on the UNSCR 2250 and its subsequent resolutions 2419 and 2535. Its overall objective is to increase youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels of society, to enhance coordination and partnerships between young women and men, youth-led actors, and governmental actors working on YPS while contributing to peace and security in the country. The Iraqi Coalition advocates for the implementation of the YPS agenda through policies and programs facilitate the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and information amongst Coalition members and YPS actors and supports the empowerment of youth to participate and take leading roles in peace-building processes.

No single entity or actor can implement the YPS agenda; it requires shared responsibility that responds to the varied priorities and needs of young women and men. The YPS agenda provides a common language, a framework, and guiding principles that YPS actors can gather around to initiate collaboration and explore synergies. However, the implementation of the YPS agenda can only be successful and have a long-lasting impact if it supports young peoples' meaningful participation and inclusion in decision-making processes.



**More information:**

**UNFPA Iraq**

<https://iraq.unfpa.org/en/news/iraq-launches-youth-peace-security-coalition>

## Qatar

### 50. QATAR'S YOUTH STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Ministry of Culture and Sports through its Department of Youth Affairs has developed a Youth Strategy (2018-2022) which includes goals and related programs related to the YPS agenda. These programs aim to promote a culture of peace among Qatari youth based on the values of respect, tolerance, rejection of all forms of violence and extremism, cooperation, and human dignity. For example, two of these programs are the "Peace values enhancement among the youth" program and the "International Communication program between the Qatari youth and international youth", which included a number of forums such as the Islamic Youth Forum and Arab-Europe Forum.

The strategy included a key performance indicator to be used in monitoring and evaluation activities: the tolerance indicator, which includes a number of sub-indicators, including keeping away from extremism and intolerance, acceptance of others, helping others, volunteering.



**More information:**

**Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Sports of Qatar**

<https://e.mcs.gov.qa/home.html#/>

### 51. QATAR'S EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

As education is considered one of the most important means of building peace, the State of Qatar launched many education initiatives at national, regional, and international levels, benefiting millions of youth and children deprived of education especially in areas of armed conflict. For example, the Education Above All Foundation has adopted

four main education programs: Educate a Child (EAC), Al Fakhoora, Reach Out to Asia (ROTA), and Protection of Education in Conflict and Insecurity (PEIC).



**More information:**

**Education Above All Foundation**

<https://educationaboveall.org/>

## Yemen

### 52. NATIONAL DIALOGUE CONFERENCE

Yemen's youth played a key role in the establishment of a national dialogue process in 2011. With the encouragement of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the parties accepted a 20 percent youth quota in the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) to shape the new Yemeni Constitution.

30 percent of participants had to be women (and 20 percent of the women's quota had to be young people). Forty "independent youth" (not party affiliated) out of 10,000 applicants were selected through the quota system, which meant that 7 percent of the total NDC members were young people who were politically independent (Women and Youth Forum, 2014 as cited in Altiok and Grizelj, 2019)

Independent youth representatives worked together with women and other civil society constituencies, which enabled this "non-political party" group to acquire a significant role in the decision-making process (Paffenholz and Ross, 2016 as cited in Altiok and Grizelj, 2019). Youth representatives also facilitated some of the technical working group sessions.

Despite youth being underrepresented in decision-making committees, their main outcomes of the NDC related to youth could be observed in three areas: political empowerment, economic empowerment, and education, for example, through the creation of a new independent authority named "Supreme Council of Youth with a mandate to supervise public policy, the State also agreed to guarantee a youth quota of 20 percent in various branches of government (Al-Akhali, 2014).

The participation of young people through a youth quota is an example of a measure to enable youth political agency and guarantee that young people's perspectives and needs are taken into account in decision-making processes.



**More information:**

**Al-Akhali, Rafat. (2014) What Yemen's Youth Got Out of the National Dialogue Conference, Atlantic Council (accessed 20 December 2021).**

**Ali Altiok and Irena Grizelj, WE ARE HERE: An Integrated Approach to Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes, (Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, 2019, pp. 22-23).**

**Graeme Simpson, The Missing Peace, Independent Study on Youth, Peace and Security (UNFPA – UN/DPPA-PBSO, 2018, p. 71).**

## Regional initiatives

### 53. THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA COALITION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security is a platform that brings together youth-led organizations from the region to dialogue, share experiences, take collective action and connect with other stakeholders at national and international levels. Created in 2020, the Coalition aims to bridge the gap between the global context related to Youth, Peace and Security agenda, and the region, and to push the agenda in the local context.

Members of the MENA Coalition are all youth-led or youth-serving organizations working on youth issues, whether formal or informal, whether they are large or small organizations. The Coalition has a decentralized approach that includes three co-chairs, who are elected every two years and work at a strategic level, and three sub-regional

coordinators representing the main geographic regions in the MENA region (the Levant, North Africa, and the Gulf). Thematic working groups also exist, including, for example, on Networking and Partnerships, Gender, and Protection.

The coalition is an independent entity, whose members all come from civil society. Its main interlocutors include not only governments but also intergovernmental agencies including the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security.

The MENA Coalition is regional, with members coming from multiple countries. As such it can operate at a level where other, nationally focused, coalitions can find it difficult to engage, and pursue opportunities for the advancement of the YPS Agenda that are regional in nature.



**More information:**

**Middle East and North Africa Youth, Peace and Security Coalition**

<http://www.mena4yps.org/>

# NORTH AMERICA

## Canada

### 54. THE CANADIAN COALITION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

Created in 2019, the Canadian Coalition for Youth, Peace and Security (CCYPS) is a network of individuals and organizations working or interested in Youth, Peace and Security with the primary purpose of uplifting each other's work, advocacy, and research.

The Coalition is fully youth-led. While members can be individuals or organizations, all those engaging in activities do so in their personal capacity. The Coalition has a Steering Committee made up of ten members, who manage its everyday work, and coordinate efforts. Members of the Committee are all under 30 years of age, as by statute older people cannot hold decision-making roles, although they can still remain members of the Coalition.

Currently, the main mandate of CCYPS is to mainstream the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Canada's domestic programs and policies. For this reason, it is developing strong ties with other national social justice movements.

A structured dialogue between the Coalition and relevant agencies in the Canadian Government is contributing to moving forward the implementation of UNSCR 2250 in line with young people's needs and priorities.



**More information:**

**Canadian Coalition for Youth, Peace and Security**

<https://www.canadayps.org/> and [https://twitter.com/Canada\\_YPS](https://twitter.com/Canada_YPS)

## United States of America

### 55. THE UNITED STATES' YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY ACT

In 2020, lawmakers in the United States' House of Representatives introduced a draft law entitled "the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Act", which, if passed, would require the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to coordinate the development and implementation of a whole-of-government strategy to promote the inclusive and meaningful participation of youth in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, management, and resolution, as well as post-conflict and recovery efforts.

The US YPS Coalition conceived the idea of the Act in collaboration with YPS champions in the U.S. Congress. The Coalition consists of over 70 non-governmental youth-led and youth-serving organizations from the humanitarian, peacebuilding and development fields working to mobilize young Americans in the global YPS movement; its leadership is made up of young leaders from the Coalition's members, and one of its aims is to educate policy-makers in the country on the importance of empowering and partnering with young peacebuilders.

In 2019, the Coalition started to engage lawmakers in Congress on the development of legislation and policies that would support the implementation of the YPS Agenda in the US and globally. The YPS Act is a result of these efforts.

The initiative to adopt a YPS Act is therefore based on a multi-stakeholder approach – one that focuses in particular on the relations between young leaders from civil society and elected government officials. Notably, the introduction of the Act in the House of Representatives was a bi-partisan initiative, supported by representatives of both the Democratic and Republican parties. The legislation is currently sitting with the House Foreign Affairs Committee for consideration of vote and has garnered 13 members of Congress’ official support through sponsorship. There are now efforts to increase support in the House of Representatives, introduce a sister companion bill in the U.S. Senate with a similar bi-partisan group of YPS champions in the Senate, and build more U.S. constituent advocacy for YPS. Adoption of the legislative act would make the U.S. the first country to mandate YPS as a foreign policy and assistance priority, setting the stage and impetus for other national governments to do the same.

This is an ambitious initiative that seeks to promote the implementation of the YPS agenda through legislative, rather than executive, means. The key takeaway from this experience is the need to think in innovative ways about implementing the YPS Agenda: the choice to build an inter-generational Coalition of YPS champions, harness widespread support for YPS across political divides, and advocate for a legislative initiative on YPS with the potential, if the Act is adopted, to create a strong mandate for government-wide action.



[More information:](#)

[STAND: The Student-Led Movement to End Mass Atrocities and Search for Common Ground](#)

<https://www.sfcg.org/youth-peace-security-act/>

## 56. THE U.S. YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY (YPS) COALITION

The United States Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Coalition consists of over 70 non-governmental youth-led and youth-serving organizations from the humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development fields working to mobilize young Americans in the global YPS movement; its leadership is made up of young leaders from the Coalition’s members, and one of its aims is to educate policy-makers in the country on the importance of empowering and partnering with young peacebuilders. The Coalition also serves as a collaboration platform for adult practitioners and policymakers and young peacebuilders to foster inter-generational collaboration for YPS and serves as an educational resource for youth and policymakers to learn more about YPS. In 2019, the Coalition started to engage lawmakers in Congress on the development of legislation and policies to support the implementation of the YPS Agenda in the U.S. and globally. The YPS Act is a result of these efforts.



[More information:](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/usypscoalition/>

## 57. USAID’S YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY UPDATE

In 2021 USAID drafted a Youth in Development Policy update which aims to seek a better connection between its Youth in Development Policy and other U.S. Government and USAID policies and initiatives and align its youth-focused peace and security sector work with the five-pillars framework in UNSCR 2250.



[More information:](#)

[USAID](#)

<https://www.usaid.gov/documents/draft-public-comment-usaid-youth-policy-update-2021>

# GLOBAL

## 58. YOUTH 360

It is a methodology to resource youth-led peacebuilding, developed by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and the **United Network of Young Peacebuilders** (UNOY) in collaboration with the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations** (UNAOC), and the **United Nations Peacebuilding Fund** (UNPBF).

The Youth 360 approach consists of three steps: (1) Collaborative conflict analysis; (2) Project design and participatory grantmaking; and (3) Youth-led project implementation with mentorship support. This approach has been used to support projects in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, and Sri Lanka, and regionally in Asia.



**More information:**

**Search for Common Ground**

<https://www.sfcg.org/youth-360/>

## 59. YOUTH SOLIDARITY FUND OF THE UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

The Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) is a program of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), which supports youth-led organizations that foster peaceful and inclusive societies. It provides seed funding for the realization of projects designed by young people, and for young people.

Established in 2008, the Fund predates the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2250 and remains fully aligned with the commitments therein. YSF responded to the need of establishing funding mechanisms for youth-led organizations as was later reaffirmed by the “Missing Peace” report commissioned by the UN Secretary-General under UNSCR 2250. A key element of the Fund is that it supports only projects that are youth-led and youth-focused, whereby young people are defined as people between the ages of 18 and 35. Yet, supported projects often impact entire communities, involving religious or community leaders, policy-makers, educational institutions and media organizations. Since 2008, nine funding editions have been launched, resulting in a total of 73 projects that have been funded, reaching more than 95,000 direct beneficiaries in 42 countries.

A critical part of YSF is comprehensive capacity building and mentorship support provided to the grant recipients, as well as access to networking opportunities. This capacity development component of the Fund is based on the “Youth 360” methodology developed by Search for Common Ground with UNAOC and other partners.

Resources are a key limitation for the effective implementation of the YPS agenda, as already recognized by different reports. UNAOC’s scheme has served to gather resources and make them available to youth-led organizations across the world. By putting these resources at the disposal of civil society organizations, it has contributed to operationalizing UNSCR 2250 not just within individual projects, but also at the systemic level.



**More information:**

**United Nations Alliance of Civilizations**

[www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org)

## 60. CITIES ADDRESS VIOLENCE THROUGH YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Youth participatory budgeting processes have been implemented in African, Latin, and North American local governments as recollected by the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD). The methodology consists of inviting young people at neighborhood level to engage in the process of deciding the use of the youth municipal budget together with municipal officials and in some cases, the mayor as well.

In several cities young people identified safety, mobility, and gang violence as major issues of concern, especially affecting young women, so projects were co-designed to improve public spaces, including better lighting at night and youth-friendly spaces for culture and sports activities. Projects proposed were voted for in neighborhood and district assemblies and co-managed by youth organizations, young people, and municipal officials.

Young people are engaged from the context-analysis phase, identifying issues they are concerned about at neighborhood level, to the implementation and evaluation phase, partnering with municipal officials.



**More information:**

**International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)**

<https://oidp.net/es/practices.php>

## **61. COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO) YOUTH GROUP**

The CTBTO Youth Group of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in short, CTBTO Youth Group (CYG), was launched at the symposium on “Science and Diplomacy for Peace and Security: the CTBT@20”, in 2016. The group is open to all students and young graduates under 35 years of age who are directing their careers to contribute to global peace and security and who wish to actively engage in promoting the CTBT and its verification regime. The CTBTO; through its CYG Task Force, proactively empowers its 1180-member CTBTO Youth Group (CYG), with young people from 117 countries, to advocate for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty’s (CTBT) entry into force. The CTBTO has also ensured that youth have a seat at the table in UN fora to make their voices heard, such as a briefing to the UN Security Council.

The current strategic priorities of the group are to a) Boost intergenerational dialogue; b) Create links and bridges with other organizations and youth programs; c) Foster dialogue between young scientists and young policymakers, and d) Promote regional dialogue.

Among the highlights of the CYG work in 2021 was the conduct of the CYG Citizen Journalism Academy training, designed to provide young YPS experts with communications tools to better spread their messages, and a highly visible youth capacity building program at the 2021 Science and Technology Conference. This conference brought together over 1000 scientists, academics, and students to present their research on topics related to scientific communication and disarmament. A unique feature of the event was a virtual mentoring session, organized by the CTBTO Youth Group Task Force and the CTBTO Group of Eminent Persons.

The group also organized the “Building Bridges, Nurturing Partnership, Embrace Dialogue” project, together with the government of Switzerland; designed to open the usually closed disarmament field to best practices and partnerships with youth-led programs on non-traditional threats, such as climate change. It consisted of a series of webinars in which representatives of youth-led NGOs/groups had a lead role in the program.

This initiative is an example of young people’s, especially students, young professionals, and scientists, meaningful participation in promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is a space for dialogue between young scientists and young policymakers with representatives of a UN system organization and prominent experts.



**More information:**

**@Youth4CTBT**