Today’s generation of youth is the largest the world has ever known, and young people often form the majority of the population of countries affected by armed conflict. Disruption of youth’s access to education and economic opportunities has a dramatic impact on durable peace and reconciliation.

Youth should actively be engaged in shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation. A large youth population presents a unique demographic dividend that can contribute to lasting peace and economic prosperity if inclusive policies are in place.

1. PARTICIPATION
- Member States should consider ways to increase inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels for the prevention and resolution of conflict.
- All relevant actors should take into account, as appropriate, the participation and views of youth when negotiating and implementing peace agreements.

2. PROTECTION
- All parties to armed conflict must take the necessary measures to protect civilians, including those who are youth, from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.
- States must respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals, including youth, within their territory.

3. PREVENTION
- Member States should facilitate an enabling environment in which young people are recognised and provided adequate support to implement violence prevention activities and support social cohesion.
- All relevant actors should promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue that involve youth.

4. PARTNERSHIP
- Member States should increase their political, financial, technical and logistical support, that take account of the needs and participation of youth in peace efforts.
- Member States should engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative.

5. DISENGAGEMENT AND REINTEGRATION
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities must consider the needs of youth affected by armed conflict, including through evidence-based and gender-sensitive youth employment opportunities and inclusive labour policies.
- All relevant actors should invest in building young persons’ capabilities and skills through relevant education opportunities designed in a manner which promotes a culture of peace.

NEXT STEPS
- The United Nations will work to improve the coordination and interaction regarding the needs of youth during armed conflicts and post-conflict situations.
- The UN Secretary-General will carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels and make the results of the study available.

For more information, please visit www.youth4peace.info.