



Youth,
Peace &
Security

Summary Report
East and Southern Africa Regional Consultation
For the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security
Johannesburg, South Africa
1 – 3 August, 2017



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Acknowledgements

Author: Gabrielle John, Secretariat for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security

Contributors:

Pamela Birungi, UNFPA
Regev Ben Jacob, UNDP
Renata Tallarico, UNFPA
Wouter Theibou, UNV

Facilitators:

Ilwad Elman
Janvier Ndizeye
Meg Villeneuve

Thank you to all the participants who provided their feedback and inputs.

Introduction

In December of 2015, the Security Council adopted ground-breaking Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). For the first time, the UN Security Council dedicated a full resolution to the positive role young people can and do play in conflict prevention, the prevention of violent extremism and peacebuilding. The Resolution was championed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and adopted unanimously.

UN SCR 2250 mandates the Secretary-General “to carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels”, and to present the results of the Study to Member States of the United Nations. The Study will provide evidence of young people’s contribution to sustaining peace, through an independent and participatory research process. An independent Lead Author, as well as an Advisory Group of 21 experts, were appointed by the Secretary-General to undertake the Study. Consultations with young people and youth-led civil society organizations offer an essential contribution to the Study, in order to gather the views, aspirations and demands from young people for peace and security issues. For more information about the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, please [click here](#).

The East and Southern Africa regional consultation, held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 1 to 3 August 2017, was the fifth in a series of regional consultations for the Progress Study. It was organized by UN Volunteers, UNFPA, UNDP and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). A total of eighteen participants took part in the 3-day consultation, and were selected through an open call for applications that was posted online and disseminated to and through youth networks.

The selection process guaranteed equal opportunities to participants regardless of their status or origin, and assured the balanced representation of all countries in the region. All efforts were made to ensure the equitable and inclusive presence of young people from diverse backgrounds including young women, young people from rural and urban environments, and refugee, displaced and stateless youth.

Participants came from: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Due to logistical barriers participants from the following countries were unable to participate: Djibouti, Eritrea, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, the Seychelles and Somalia. The precise number of participants from each country is listed in Annex A. Participants were selected on the basis of their engagement in peace and security issues, their involvement with youth-led organizations, youth-focused organizations and/or their affiliation with peacebuilding networks. Consideration was given to ensure a diverse age range and gender balance.

The consultation was organized into three parts: the first day was dedicated to young people’s discussions on youth, peace and security as concepts, as well as to a conversation on the

relevance of UNSCR 2250 in their context; the second day involved participants describing their peacebuilding work and the partnerships and relationships they have built as a result of their work; and the third, and final day was set aside for participants to discuss some of their challenges and priorities and develop recommendations in relation to these. These consultations were facilitated by 3 co-facilitators, from civil society and the UN. The list of organizations that attended are included in Annex B.

This report provides an analytical summary of the main issues discussed by the young people who attended the meeting, as well as their recommendations for peace and security in East and Southern Africa. In order to ensure objectivity and accuracy in the reflection of participants' views, prior to its finalization this report was shared with participants for their inputs and feedback. The consultation was held under Chatham House rules, hence no comments or views expressed will be attributed.

1. Defining youth, peace and security

Youth

“We are the present, to sustain the future.”

The potential of youth in the present: Participants highlighted the way in which young people are often referred to as the future but described the importance of recognising the potential and ability of young people to contribute to the present.

Vulnerability and opportunity: There was a significant amount of discussion on the particular vulnerabilities that are experienced by young people, and how this impacts youth identity. Many participants identified the lack of access and control over resources as a factor that contributes to feelings of vulnerability. As a result of their limited access to resources, young people are made vulnerable to exploitation by the State and forced to partner with government actors who have little legitimacy within their community, in order to gain access to the resources they require for their work. Young people’s exclusion from decision-making compounds these feelings of vulnerability, making some young people with limited opportunities more susceptible to State manipulation. However, participants also described the complexity of acknowledging this vulnerability and the potential for such a label to put young people at a further disadvantage.

“If we had opportunities to exercise our power and agency, then our potential could be transformed. What’s making us vulnerable is that lack of opportunity.”

Participant discussions on vulnerability were interwoven with young people’s limited access to opportunities including their exclusion from social, political and economic life. This exclusion was perceived by some participants as a lack of agency, contributing to feelings of vulnerability. Young people need access to opportunities and platforms that support and promote their inclusion, otherwise they may be forced to choose less positive alternatives.

Identity formation: The concept of youth was also described as a time for self-discovery and determining one’s place in society, but participants described the challenges of this in highly gerontocratic societies where elders determine your role and what is expected of you – leaving little room for young people to carve out their own path. Participants also highlighted the importance of recognising youth as a heterogeneous concept that considers the diversity of identities which exist among young people.

“There’s this notion that we are the future. That’s what encourages us to wait. We are the leaders now, we should be doing things now. We are the present.”

“...it’s engrained in our culture to follow what your elders have done. If you don’t follow that path, it won’t be a good path for you.”

Chronological definitions: Participants engaged in meaningful debate on the topic of defining the concept of youth according to chronological age. To some participants defining youth in such a way is important for policy design and implementation, however many participants felt this way of defining youth was restrictive and unresponsive to context and country-specific social norms that play a larger role in defining youth (where the concept is less defined by age and more so by life events). For example, the idea that youth are not viewed as mature and therefore, unable to meaningfully contribute to political discussions and not worth listening to.

Peace

Inner peace: A number of participants described the need for inner peace before being able to achieve 'external peace'. However, some participants disagreed explaining that "sometimes you have to fight for external peace" and therefore, you may not feel inner peace as a result.

Social cohesion: For many participants, peace as a concept is about communal and collective harmony, "a lack of tension" and "not inflicting harm on others".

"There is no development and progress with no peace..."

Development: Providing for the socioeconomic needs of young people, including meaningful employment and quality education, in order to enhance their development and the development of the broader society were described as critical to peace.

"...if you don't have the things you need, you will fight to get them..."

Constructive conflict: Participants were eager to emphasize that peace is not the absence of conflict, and that conflict is a normal and natural part of any society that can help build consensus and contribute positively to society, i.e. it is important to build a culture of peaceful protests and dissent within their communities.

Prevention: Some participants raised the idea that peace should be viewed as a preventative concept, and not simply as something we wish to restore once violence has erupted, i.e. peacebuilding in different stages of the conflict cycle is crucial for sustaining peace.

Justice: Respect for human rights and democracy, as well as strong judicial mechanisms that hold individuals to account were viewed as key contributors to peace.

"Our intelligence needs to be fed...if we have an intellectual want, that needs to be fulfilled."

Security

Lack of trust: Insecurity arises when young people are unable to trust law enforcement and their governments, therefore in order for young people to feel safe and secure they must be able to trust these individuals and institutions.

"Youth are not involved in security measures. We are being used politically, but not listened to."

Personal safety: For participants, the concept of ‘security’ means feeling safe in public spaces (particularly for marginalised communities), and living a life unaffected by crime and the threats of violent extremism.

“During the elections unrest two years ago, the education system shut down for 6 months and youth couldn’t attend school. Now unemployment rates are peaking and there is little prospect...” –
Burundi, Female Participant

Ethnicity and tribalism: Strong ethnic divisions and tribalism threaten security for many young people, as such promoting diversity, equity and inclusion is key to creating a secure environment where people from different ethnic backgrounds and tribes can coexist peacefully.

Access to opportunities: In order for young people to feel secure they must have access to opportunities including meaningful employment and quality education; this will help reduce the insecurity that arises when young people are forced to migrate and put themselves at risk in order to access these opportunities in other regions or countries.¹

Freedom of expression: To feel secure, young people must be able to freely express themselves and their ideas without fear of repercussions.

¹ This discussion is reflected in participant discussions on peace, demonstrating the way in which the concepts of ‘peace’ and ‘security’ are interlinked.

2. Young People's Work

Education and Awareness-raising

- Awareness-raising, civic education and promoting critical thinking with young people around election periods on political issues to prevent them from being manipulated by different political parties.
- Using peer-to-peer education and creating safe spaces for young people to engage in discussions on why they might join violent extremist groups, through the use of: media and literacy, countering violent extremism (CVE) innovation labs where young people identify existing problems and propose solutions and virtual exchanges.
- Working with young women in juvenile detention centres to provide them with mentorship and basic education.
- Empowering and supporting young people to advocate for their rights by educating them on their rights.
- Working with youth organizations to counter online hate speech and negative messaging in the mainstream media.
- Providing civic education to young people and promoting the role they can play in social and economic development.
- Developing early response systems with communities to help them report signs of election fraud, extremism or hate speech in their communities before the outbreak of violence.
- Supporting young people and their right to freedom of expression by encouraging them to speak out against all forms of violence, in particular gender-based violence and underage marriage, through the use of petitions.
- Encouraging young people to engage in politics.

“We believe young people are capable of solving their problems...we don't just have to be beneficiaries...”

Malawi: Preventing violent conflict

“What we are actually working on in our organization is a proactive approach...We are trying to cultivate a generation of young people who engage in proactive service. ‘Violence is a me thing.’ We are trying to create a sense of thinking about the community, to think of what we are doing as part of the community as a whole.” – *Malawi, Male Participant*

Vocational Training

- Developing youth leadership skills through providing young people with practical experience and opportunities for cross-cultural exchange.
- Providing youth, particularly those living in informal settlements, with vocational skills and digital platforms.

Burundi: Promoting peace through arts and sport

“...with the 2015 crisis there were divisions in the country. A group of youth was supporting the government within the country and other youth were supporting the opposition. So what we did with this initiative was to organize football games, drama and other games. We invited youth from both camps using these initiatives to promote dialogue...[before] these camps were in different locations but now they can visit each other. This was not happening before.” – *Burundi, Female Participant*

Arts and Sport

- Using sports and theatre to bridge political division and bring young people together to engage in discussions.
- Promoting and supporting young people to engage in traditional craft activities as a way to connect to their heritage and community traditions.
- Providing young people with a space to record their own music, as a means to give them a creative outlet and prevent them from engaging in violence.

Zimbabwe: Engaging young people in peacebuilding at the local level

“In Zimbabwe, young people were not actively engaging in peacebuilding initiatives, so we came up with a stand alone youth organization. What we are doing as an organization is we are looking at national, regional and international policies that look at youth and peace and then we bring them to the local level...The government was going to launch national reconciliation but youth weren’t involved in the discussions, they were excluding youth and now the government are focusing on amending this [national reconciliation] bill.” – *Zimbabwe, Male Participant*

Intergenerational and Intercommunal Dialogue

- Working with young people to identify their needs at the community level and relaying this information to community leaders through intergenerational dialogue.
- Bringing young people and decision-makers together to share their knowledge and experiences.
- Supporting intercommunal dialogue with young people through in-person meetings, film and radio.

Influencing Policy and Decision-making

- Translating national, regional and international policies related to youth and peace to the local level and engaging with policy- and decision-makers.

- Supporting district youth working groups to go into communities and listen to young people’s needs and challenges to inform decision-makers of the key issues facing young people.
- Capacitating political organisations and decision-makers on conflict, governance and peacebuilding through the presentation of key research findings.

Ethiopia: Redefining masculine identities...

“One of my projects is called ‘Arif Wond/Cool Man’. We work on violence prevention by redefining masculinities. It came about as a result of a particularly bad streak of violence in Addis. We meet every week and discuss norms of masculinity and how they affect us. It took a while for people in the group to acknowledge that some masculinities are toxic...we have developed a conceptual framework to redefine what masculinities are and...how they affect violence against women. Wife beating and intimate partner violence is the norm.

My father told me about a colleague that came into University saying that he beat his wife. And he asked people to ask him why he did it. He said his neighbour was beating his wife and he felt bad because he was not a man, so he woke up and did it too.

We also speak about men’s roles in the family and childrearing, street harassment, etc. The men reflect and teach us a lot. You get a whole new perspective when you hear it from the men’s side.” – *Ethiopia, Female Participant*

Gender

- Redefining masculinities through group discussions with young men to combat gender-based violence and promote gender equal, healthy masculinities.
- Conducting awareness-raising and addressing gender-based violence on university campuses.
- Supporting young people to lead discussions with other young people on their sexual and reproductive health rights.
- Working with young men on civic empowerment and engaging them in discussions on a positive youth identity.
- Partnering with Ministries of Health to train young people as facilitators to lead discussions on healthy relationships and supporting young girls to advocate for their sexual and reproductive health rights.

“When young people are empowered to engage in activities it can help them develop themselves, so that they have something to lose when there’s violence...”

Mentorship

- Promoting youth empowerment through a “Big Brother/Sister” programme where young people receive mentorship from an older peer to help them identify their capabilities and the different opportunities available to them.

Youth Work and Partnerships

Participants were asked to unpack and discuss the partnerships they have built through their work, the role those partnerships play in their ongoing work, stakeholders they would like to continue to work with or build new relationships with going forward and some of the challenges they face in creating partnerships (see Section 3 on Challenges for the latter discussion).

Existing Partners

Participants described partnering with a wide variety of stakeholders including: multiple levels of government (local, provincial/regional and national), civil society organizations, private sector, donor countries, international organizations, youth associations, youth councils, youth parliaments, student councils, development agencies, multilateral organizations, UN entities, the European Union, government ministries, social workers, psychologists, elders and leaders in the community, and communities themselves.

Partnerships Going Forward

In order to support their continued peacebuilding efforts, participants described wanting to work with the following stakeholders:

- **UN Entities:** The large platform, legitimacy and resources that UN entities have and can provide makes them a valuable partner for youth peacebuilding organizations and young peacebuilders.
- **Governments:** Working closely with governments (local, provincial/regional and/or national) is important for institutionalising these strategic relationships.
- **Local NGOs:** Developing strong partnerships with local NGOs, which are more accessible than larger international NGOs.
- **Intelligence Agencies:** Building relationships with intelligence agencies could help provide youth peacebuilding organizations with valuable information and data that would support their work.

How do youth organizations develop partnerships?

A number of key factors emerged in participant discussions on the ways in which they identify, foster and strengthen partnerships with various stakeholder groups, including:

- **Mutual interests:** Identifying a mutual interest, common agenda, strategic priorities and/or a shared vision.
- **Reciprocity:** Reinforcing the reciprocal nature of the relationship by highlighting the way each party will benefit from the partnership.

- **Pre-existing relationships:** Developing partnerships based on pre-existing relationships with individuals or institutions.
- **Networking:** Attending networking events.
- **Research:** Researching potential partners online.
- **Advocacy:** Using targeted advocacy to demonstrate how youth organizational priorities overlap with potential partner's priorities.

How Partnerships Help Youth Organizations

Participants identified a number of ways in which partnerships with different stakeholders were beneficial to the work that they do, which they categorised based on whether they were partnerships with civil society, government or international organizations.

Civil Society

For participants, partnerships with members of civil society were beneficial in a number of ways including:

- The process of identifying potential partners requires the stakeholders involved to recognise their shared goals and common vision in order to reach a memorandum of understanding, which in turn helps all those involved to coordinate their efforts and avoid duplication.
- Partnering with civil society members helps pool limited resources.
- Larger NGOs may be able to provide smaller youth peacebuilding organizations with training opportunities, and in return youth peacebuilding organizations can provide larger NGOs with access to information on local issues and innovative ideas.
- Other local NGOs can help provide youth peacebuilding organizations with access to communities they may not have pre-existing relationships with.
- Developing partnerships with larger local and national NGOs can support and create opportunities for knowledge exchange and mentorship.

Government

For the participants, partnerships with different levels of government could help in a number of ways, including:

- Through direct sponsorship of youth peacebuilding work.
- Local governments deeply embedded in the community can provide information on the local context and guide youth peacebuilding work towards priorities that are important to that community.
- With their experience in implementing policy, governments can assist youth peacebuilding organizations in understanding how to more effectively implement their work.

International Organizations

Similar to some of the reasoning provided in the discussion on future partnerships, participants described the importance of maintaining and building relationships with international organizations for the following reasons:

- Campaigns led by UN entities create an opportunity for youth peacebuilding organizations to engage with them on relevant topics, enhancing their ability to build relationships.
- Partnerships with UN entities and multilateral organizations lend credibility and legitimacy (in the eyes of their government and local community) to youth peacebuilding organizations.
- International organizations have resources (material, financial, technical, information, etc.) that youth peacebuilding organizations gain access to when partnerships are created.
- The credibility youth peacebuilding organizations gain by working with international organizations helps them recruit and mobilise other young people to join their cause.

Participants identified a cross-cutting benefit of these partnerships for youth peacebuilding organizations in the way they are able to help burden share and mitigate some of the risk that exists for youth peacebuilders.

3. Challenges

Partnerships

- Competition for resources and spaces to speak results in organizations being less willing to collaborate with one another.
- Forming strategic partnerships with others who have access to resources but a poor reputation in the community, potentially damaging a youth organizations reputation and legitimacy within that community.
- Not being able to form relationships with certain stakeholders because they view your work as a threat to their agenda, ideals, norms, etc.
- When champions of the partnership leave (i.e. a youth leader is no longer a youth, or the government changes over) the relationship risks dissolution.
- Larger NGOs often want to partner with more experienced organizations.
- Existing stereotypes surrounding young people make it challenging for them to forge meaningful partnerships, i.e. they lack credibility.
- Some communities seek remuneration for partnering with youth organizations that don't have the resources to support this.
- Youth organizations are fearful of partnering with government actors and the potential repercussions for speaking out against some government actions.
- Partnerships with other youth can sometimes be difficult as they are heavily influenced by the views of their elders.
- It is challenging to know who to partner with.
- Finding partners whose goals and strategic priorities align with youth organizations at the right moment in time.
- Forging partnerships with stakeholders on particularly sensitive topics.

Stereotypes and Cultural Norms

- Young people from rural communities feel less confident and experience more discrimination when they work with young people from urban communities.
- Members of the LGBTI community experience stigma and discrimination and feel unable to fully participate in peace and security spaces.
- Young women experience more discrimination for speaking up and voicing their concerns on the topic of peace and security.
- Young people feel oppressed and unable to lead due to the highly traditional and gerontocratic societies that they live in.
- Young people find it challenging to engage in peace and security issues due to the negative stereotypes and low expectations older members of society have of them.
- The stigma that exists around certain issues (i.e. violent extremism) makes it difficult to engage young people, whose families refuse to let them participate for fear of them being linked to violence.
- Strong tribal divisions that are deeply engrained in society make it challenging to work with and bring together different tribes.
- Young people's views on peace and security are viewed by older generations, who experienced violent conflict directly, as irrelevant.

Reach and Institutional Memory

- Gaining access and building connections to youth in rural areas limits the reach of youth peacebuilding work.
- Young people are often not compensated for the work they do to contribute to peace and security and are therefore resistant to becoming involved in youth peacebuilding work.
- Creating institutional memory in youth organizations is challenging due to high turnover rates, making it difficult to retain knowledge and build organizational capacity.
- The long-term and perceived abstract nature of peacebuilding makes it challenging to engage people and communities who want to see immediate results.

Governance, Bureaucracy and Politics

- High levels of mistrust exist in all facets of society, between young people and their governments, and within the youth community itself.
- Mobilising other young people is challenging because they see peace and security as highly politicised and therefore are hesitant to become involved.
- Political issues are not seen as youth issues.
- Young people are skeptical of participating in political processes that they view as marred by corruption.
- Young people are unable to enter into and participate in political systems.
- Lack of freedom of speech and fear of reprisals makes it difficult for young people to safely engage in peace and security.
- If youth peacebuilding issues do not align with the government's roadmap, youth initiatives will not receive their political or financial support.
- Bureaucratic processes are unclear, lengthy and lack transparency making it challenging for young people to engage with.
- Young people have limited access to information making it difficult to engage in peace and security in an informed manner.
- Youth peacebuilding initiatives are viewed with little credibility by government actors resulting in their limited engagement in youth work.
- Young people are invited to participate in political spaces in a tokenistic way and are not able to offer up their opinions freely.

Data

- There is an overall lack of gender and age-disaggregated data, particularly in the youth, peace and security field, which makes it challenging to provide decision-makers with evidence to support youth-related issues, that is also gender sensitive.

Protection

- The notion of protection is often coopted by governments and used as a means of control.
- High levels of impunity mean there is little recourse for justice when young people experience violence at the hands of the State.
- Young people often do not fully understand and know their rights making it difficult for them to seek justice when the State fails to protect them from violence.
- There are limited legal mechanisms in place to protect young people from violence.
- Young people must be protected from misinformation.

- The scope, nature and definition of protection varies and is often undefined making it challenging to implement.

4. Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed in response to the challenges identified by participants in an earlier session (as detailed in the previous section (3)). In their discussions on possible recommendations, participants were asked to think about four key areas: actions, actors, resources and results.

Governance, Bureaucracy and Politics

- Streamline and centralise bureaucratic processes that better support young people's ability to navigate the system.
- Create a central government office dedicated to youth issues and a concomitant online platform.

Mozambique: Interacting with bureaucracy

“Marches for peace are hard because the bureaucracy gets in the way, it's a long process even though the law says we can do marches...everything gets delayed because you have to wait for all the signatures. On the day of the march there are so many police it looks like a war zone. So the solution is to create one office that you can submit all your paperwork to, to allow you to march peacefully and therefore we won't need all the police.” – *Mozambique, Female Participant*

- Make political processes more open and transparent so that young people can more easily participate.
- Encourage government and multilateral actors to use easy-to-understand language, less jargon and fewer acronyms.
- Implement youth quotas in parliament, government ministries and electoral commissions.
- Encourage national governments to openly support UNSCR 2250 to promote youth participation and enhanced engagement of young people on peace and security.
- Support trust-building activities, projects and initiatives between the government and youth peacebuilding organizations (and civil society more broadly).
- Advocate for and support youth-friendly government policies.

Botswana: Avoiding jargon

“...using language that everyone can understand. They [government and multilateral actors] use ambiguous words like SDGs, policy language. If it is written in simple terms, then we can all understand. Adjust the language organizations use when sharing policies and information to youth.” – *Botswana, Male Participant*

Partnerships

- Promote partnerships between youth organizations and the private sector to advocate for peace and security.
- Provide incentives to community leaders and elders to better involve young people in decision-making and peacebuilding work.
- Support knowledge sharing and better exchange of information between youth organizations, UN entities, government actors, community leaders and members of civil society to assist young people's work on peace and security, enhance collaboration and eliminate overlap.

Ethiopia: Building new partnerships

"The UN and government need to sensitize the youth on how to approach partners. By [learning from] people that already know how, we can better understand how to reach the community." – *Ethiopia, Female Participant*

- Provide training to young people on how to develop and sustain strong partnerships with civil society and government actors.
- Government actors should encourage community elders to engage and work with young people on peace and security in their communities.
- Build and strengthen the relationship of youth organizations with the African Union.
- Create partnerships between youth peacebuilding organizations and other stakeholders based on a mentorship model, in order to help build the capacity and skills of youth peacebuilders.
- Support partnerships between youth peacebuilders and UN entities, in particular where youth are working in precarious and/or dangerous settings.

Uganda: Working with religious leaders

"In most of our communities the religious leaders are very influential. There is a challenge of age but if religious leaders are accepting us, there will be more trust. What we want to see from religious leaders is a written commitment to include youth." – *Uganda, Female Participant*

Training, Education and Dialogue

- Create opportunities for intergenerational dialogue and for young people to learn about their country's history.
- Support peer-to-peer education to young people on leadership and mentorship and provide incentives to encourage them to participate.
- Support young people to engage in intercultural dialogues that bring together a diverse array of actors including religious leaders, community elders, youth organizations, media, youth from different ethnic backgrounds, etc.
- Bridge the gap between local level and national level actors and organizations (including but not limited to youth and youth peacebuilding organizations) working on peace and security.

- Provide young people with civic education, and help them understand the electoral process and the importance of their vote.
- Develop a consortium of youth peacebuilding organizations in order to raise awareness, support dialogue and mobilise other young people to participate in peacebuilding.
- Include young people as observers and mediators in peace dialogues.
- Support the capacity-building of youth living in remote and/or rural communities and provide them with training to train other young people.
- Use the arts (film, theatre, etc.) and storytelling (via social media, etc.) to educate communities and government actors and eliminate stereotypes to support social cohesion.
- Engage the media to address the negative stereotypes of young people that are often portrayed.
- Support pedagogical approaches that encourage critical thinking, respect for diversity and are gender-sensitive.

Data, Information and Tools

- Increase young people’s access to information by creating online tools and supporting awareness-raising campaigns.
- Civil society actors should demonstrate their commitment to open, transparent relationships with youth organizations by sharing data and information on peace and security, and making their reports publicly available.

South Africa: Access to information

“Access to information [is important]. One of the ways is through transparency. We have many CSOs and NGOs working on these issues. We will ask them to share their data and information...and publish their reports to the public.” – *South Africa, Female Participant*

- Develop universal tools (including indicators, frameworks, etc.) that can be used to demonstrate the state of the field in youth, peace and security.
- Support research on youth, peace and security and encourage researchers, governments and civil society to disaggregate data by age and gender.
- Map youth organizations throughout the East and Southern Africa region to enhance collaboration and promote synergy.
- Establish independent monitoring and evaluation bodies that will oversee government youth programming and policies.
- Generate baseline research on the Youth, Peace and security field and create a central repository for this information that is open to the public.

Youth Leadership

- Recognize and award young people for their positive contributions to peace and security.
- Create a network of young leaders from the region who can advocate on behalf of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

Annex A: Participant Information

Countries Present		Age Range	
Country	Number of Participants	Age	Number of participants
Angola	1	21	2
Botswana	1	22	2
Burundi	1	23	4
Comoros	1	24	3
Ethiopia	2	25	4
Kenya	2	26	0
Madagascar	1	27	1
Malawi	1	28	1
Mozambique	1	34	1
South Africa	1	Gender Balance	
South Sudan	1	Male	8
Swaziland	1	Female	10
Tanzania	1		
Uganda	1		
Zambia	1		
Zimbabwe	1		

Annex B: List of Participating Organizations

Organization
Ministry of Sports, Youth and Peace
Organization for the Promotion of Women's Rights
National Youth Leaders for Peace Network
UNFPA Youth Board
AIESEC
UN Volunteers
Global Alliance of Youths Countering Violent Extremism
African Youth and Adolescents Network (AfriYAN)
Maestros Leadership Team
Youth Parliament
Lethabo La Africa
Eye Media South Sudan
Zanzibar
Restless Development
International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – Levy Mwanawasa Regional Centre (ICGLR-LMRC)
Action for Peace and Development

Annex C: Concept note and Agenda



Programme: Regional Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security Voices of youth in East and Southern Africa Johannesburg August 1 - August 3, 2017

Time	Monday 31.07	Tuesday 01.08	Wednesday 02.08	Thursday 03.08	Friday 04.08
7:30-8:45	Arrivals	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00-10:30		Opening and official welcome	Youth initiatives in peace and security: An overview	Recommendations: Challenges for youth, peace and security	Departures
10:30-10:45		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
10:45-12:30		Teambuilding	Youth initiatives in peace and security: Sharing in thematic groups	Recommendations: Priorities for youth, peace and security	
12:30-13:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
13:30-15:00		Exploring the concepts of youth, peace and security	Youth initiatives in peace and security: Partnerships	Recommendations: Solutions for youth, peace and security	
15:00 - 15:15		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
15:15-16:30		UNSCR 2250: presentation and reflection	Youth initiatives in peace and security: Innovation	Recommendations: Solutions for youth, peace and security	
16:30-17:30		Reflections and Agenda for Next Day	Reflections and Agenda for Next Day	Reflections and Closing	
19:00		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	



Youth consultations for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace & Security

- CONCEPT NOTE - East and Southern Africa Consultation August 1 – 3, 2017

In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). Resolution 2250 requests the Secretary-General “to carry out a Progress Study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels”, and to present the results of the Study to Member States of the United Nations (scheduled for December 2017).

CONTEXT:

Young women and men in conflict and post-conflict settings have been commonly perceived as either perpetrators or victims of violence. Young men, in particular, tend to be seen as trouble makers who disrupt rather than contribute to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Yet, the lived realities of young women and men in conflict-affected countries are often significantly more complex and positive than these stereotypes suggest. In fact, the role of young people in conflict settings has been widely understudied and their particular role in armed conflicts and peacebuilding settings poorly documented and understood.

One of the most critical challenges faced by young people is armed conflict. Many young people live amidst violent conflict and see their chances for a healthy and productive development compromised. Adolescent boys and girls, young women and men suffer in unique ways from the consequences of violence - poverty, unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, poor governance and the disintegration of families and communities. Additionally, young people, both male and female, are uniquely vulnerable to forced and voluntary recruitment by armed State and non-State actors.

Yet the largest youth cohort the world has ever seen offers an unprecedented opportunity for innovation, development and peace-building. Youth can be important active agents of a peaceful transition toward socially inclusive societies, for example when young women and men are successfully integrated into decision- making and given a chance to meaningfully contribute at the political, social and economic levels.

GOAL:

Consultations with young people and youth-led civil society organizations are an essential contribution to the development of the Study. If a key goal of UNSCR 2250 is the fuller inclusion

of young people in peace and security, then it is imperative that the Progress Study models this intent through an inclusive and participatory methodology. Young people must be given an opportunity to substantively contribute to the discussions on the main peace and security issues facing their communities, and to identify solutions for and indicators of progress for the YPS agenda. The participatory nature of the Study will reflect the value, importance and practice of consulting young people as a way to redress their historical marginalization and political exclusion. The Study is, overall, an opportunity to develop a strategy for inclusion through action-based research, in order to support the practical implementation of UNSCR 2250.

It is not possible to consult all of the world's youth, but it *is* possible to organize selective participatory research processes and consultations at regional and national levels, as well as enable those in civil society organizations to hold youth-based focus groups in the different countries in which they operate.

The Youth, Peace and Security Progress Study offers a unique opportunity to realize the UN's objective of improving its work with civil society organizations, and to pioneer and deepen their work with youth-led organizations.

OBJECTIVES:

The youth consultations for the Progress Study are intended to ensure that the Study itself models the forms of engagement it proposes and fully reflects young people's perspectives on peace and security issues.

The East African Youth Consultation aims to gather the views and priorities of young women and men directly affected by conflict and disasters in the region, and to discuss avenues for young people to positively contribute to conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. More specifically, the objectives of the consultation include:

1. Identify and prioritize the main peace and security-related issues that matter to and affect young people in the regional, national or local contexts; particularly in East Africa.
2. Discuss gaps, challenges and priorities in promoting and supporting young women and men's active involvement in conflict prevention, conflict transformation and peacebuilding in their communities, institutions, countries and the East Africa region;
3. Increase understanding of experiences, including gaps, and strategies on strengthening meaningful and effective participation of youth in peacebuilding and security processes in East Africa;
4. Identify substantive recommendations for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security and strategic guidance for the implementation and monitoring of UNSCR 2250; and
5. Develop a constituency of stakeholders to strengthen meaningful and effective participation of youth in peacebuilding and security processes in East Africa region.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Consultations should be:

- Participatory: use creative and inclusive methods to amplify the voices of young people, highlighting their agency and leadership
- Bottom-up: hear from grassroots organizations and capture young people's struggles, triumphs and realities
- Inclusive and accessible: reach out and involve young people whose voices are not typically heard and ensure everyone is heard during consultations; avoid jargon
- Illustrative: demonstrate the positive contributions of young women and young men in peace and security issues
- Youth-led: Youth-led is a concept which recognizes and advocates for the leadership of youth. This consultation will promote the leadership of youth throughout this process and the outcomes it produces – both individually and organizationally – whilst also drawing on the perspectives of those who work with youth

METHODOLOGY:

The East and Southern Africa Youth Consultation will follow the guidelines presented in the Youth Consultation Toolkit developed by the Study Secretariat (PBSO and UNFPA). The consultation will be led by youth facilitators and will lead to a written report that will be disseminated to consultation participants in the follow up to the consultation.

OUTCOME:

The consultation will produce a final report with specific issues and recommendations from the East and Southern African region. The summary report will be made available publicly on youth4peace.info and may be used for the purpose of future planning and advocacy in the region.

PARTICIPANTS:

The East and Southern Africa Youth Consultation will bring together young women and men between 18 to 35 (prioritizing 18-29 years old), from diverse backgrounds in terms of ethnicity, socio-economic status, urban/rural location, levels of education, etc. Majority of youth participants will represent a civil society organization or youth network, and, will be identified through an open call for applications.

Participants will be selected from: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and South Sudan.

ORGANIZERS:

The East and Southern Africa Regional Youth Consultation is being organized jointly by UNFPA, UN Volunteers and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

VENUE and DATES:

Johannesburg, South Africa 1 – 3 August, 2017