



Youth,
Peace &
Security

Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security: Validation Consultation with Youth New York, 18 – 19 November 2017

Background

SCR 2250 and the Progress Study

In December of 2015, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2250, on Youth, Peace and Security, the first resolution fully dedicated to the positive role young people can and do play in conflict prevention, the prevention of violent extremism and peacebuilding.

Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2250 is premised on the fact that governments and the multilateral system have been challenged in effectively accessing, working with and fully including young people in peacebuilding, prevention efforts and decision-making at all levels.

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. A lead author and a group of 21 advisors were appointed by the UN Secretary General to develop the Study as independent report. The Study will provide evidence of young women and young men’s engagement on peace and security issues and help overturn the negative stereotypes surrounding youth in conflict by highlighting and promoting young people’s active and positive contributions to sustaining peace. The objective is to produce an operational and strategic report proposing a forward-looking agenda for the international community.

Participatory research strategy

At the heart of the methodology for developing the Study is a participatory research strategy: the Study aims at modelling an inclusive and participatory methodology, giving young people 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 Study is prioritizing a strategy for accessing the voice, as well as enabling the agency and leadership, of young people themselves, through consultations at the regional level as well as focus group discussions with young people who traditionally would not be involved in a global process. 7 regional consultations were organized with youth from civil society, as well as over 120 focus group discussions with “hard-to-reach youth” (about 1,500 total) in 12 countries.

Objectives of the Consultation

The Validation Consultation will be the final of series of consultations organized for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. The Validation Consultation will bring 2-4 outstanding participants from each of the regional consultation conducted for the Study between December 2016 and September 2017: Arab States, Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe & Central Asia, East and Southern Africa, Europe, Latin America-Caribbean, and West Africa.

The Validation Consultation will be the final discussion organized with young people from civil society. The objectives of the meeting will be to present key findings and recommendations from the Study to participants, to ensure they reflect what was discussed in the various regional gatherings

and the views and priorities of the young participants who attended. The Validation Consultation will create an opportunity to improve and confirm the key messages and recommendations of the Progress Study from young people’s perspective. Specifically, the meeting will be the opportunity to:

- Discuss and reflect on the overall research findings of the Progress Study, from diverse regional perspectives;
- Discuss and validate the key messages of the Progress Study to reflect the realities and priorities of young people;
- Refine the main recommendations of the Progress in a strategic way to serve the interest of young people;
- Discuss strategies and actions to move Youth, Peace and Security movement forward globally, including in the aftermath of the presentation of the Study.

In addition to selected youth consultation participants, a few selected young members of the Advisory Group of Expert for the Progress Study who have supported the regional consultations will also be invited to join the meeting.

Outcomes:

A series of key messages and recommendations for the Progress Study agreed upon by youth participants.

Location:

The meeting will take place in United Nations Headquarters New York City, on November 18-19. A logistics note will be shared.

The Validation Consultation is organized by Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the UNFPA/PBSO Secretariat for the Progress Study, with generous funding support from the Government of Canada.



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