

**SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 2250**

ANNOTATED AND EXPLAINED



Security Council

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Resolution 2250 (2015)

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The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015) on Women, Peace and Security and all relevant statements of its President, its resolutions on Countering Terrorism 2178 (2014) and 2195 (2014) and the Statement of its President [S/PRST/2015/11](#), and the Statements of its President on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding [S/PRST/2012/29](#) and [S/PRST/2015/2](#),

By recalling previous resolutions adopted by the Security Council and statements of its president, the resolution reaffirms the commitments made in the past and references the content of these commitments without having to repeat them. It also sets the tone for the present document. In this case, resolution 2250 references the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which deals with the role of women in conflict, the impact of conflict on women's lives and security and women's participation in peacebuilding. Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, was a landmark for the inclusion of women in issues of peace and security, therefore the Youth, Peace and Security agenda can learn a lot from the Women Peace and Security agenda.

Likewise, as part of the Security Council's efforts to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, the Security Council adopted the resolutions related to Countering Terrorism. In adopting such measures, the Security Council delivered a clear message to the international community: Member States must take active measures to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. Such measures are of relevance because they also constitute a path to addressing violence and establishing long-lasting peace.

Statement S/PRST/2015/11 approaches the issue of foreign fighters and how Member States should try to counter it. In this regard, it is worth to emphasize the Council concern for the strategic recruitment of youth and women by terrorist organizations and it *“stresses the need for Member States to more effectively identify and work with relevant local communities and civil society leaders to develop comprehensive solutions to the threat of recruitment and radicalization to violence”* (p. 4). In the two statements that deal with the issue of peacebuilding, the Council once again reiterates the importance of *“inclusivity in advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account”* (S/PRST/2012/29, p. 1); using existing civilian expertise and further develop them, and *“investing in the economic capacities of women and youth for stable post-conflict recovery”* (ibid, p. 3). It also emphasizes the primary responsibility national governments bear in leading peacebuilding processes and local actors, including the civil society (S/PRST/2015/2, p.1).

Recalling its resolutions 1265 (1999) and 1894 (2009) on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,

Today civilians comprise the vast majority of the casualties in armed conflict. In the first resolution on the protection of civilians, Resolution 1265 (1999), the Security Council affirmed that certain situations of grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law constituted a threat to peace and security, and therefore, an issue to be addressed by the Security Council. On 11 November 2009, the Security Council further adopted resolution 1894 on the protection of civilians. This resolution reaffirms the Security Council’s determination to remain seized of the issue and covers several issues at stake for the protection of civilians. Resolution 1894 asserts the Security Council’s willingness to respond to situations of armed conflict where civilians are being targeted or humanitarian assistance to civilians is being deliberately obstructed.

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

According to Chapter V of the Charter of the United Nations, negotiated in 1945, which states that in order to ensure immediate and effective action by the United Nations, its members delegate the Security Council to predominantly be in charge of maintaining international peace and security. Additionally, members also consent that while the Security Council carries out this responsibility, it will be acting on their behalf. *“In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security*

Council acts on their behalf.” For instance, the Security Council is the body that determines when and where a UN Peacekeeping operation should be deployed. The responsibilities of the Security Council are outlined in the Chapters V, VI, VII, VIII and XII of the Charter.

***Noting* that the term youth is defined in the context of this resolution as persons of the age of 18-29 years old, and further noting the variations of definition of the term that may exist on the national and international levels, including the definition of youth in the General Assembly resolutions [A/RES/50/81](#) and [A/RES/56/117](#),**

One of the challenges when addressing youth is the age range that is used to define the term “youth”. Several different definitions are used by UN bodies, intergovernmental agencies and national governments.

***Recognizing* that today’s generation of youth is the largest the world has ever known and that young people often form the majority of the population of countries affected by armed conflict,**

The resolution addresses here the democratic and demographic imperative of involving youth on issues of peace and security, especially in conflict-affected countries, where they comprise an even larger part of the population.

***Expressing concern* that among civilians, youth account for many of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and that the disruption of youth’s access to education and economic opportunities has a dramatic impact on durable peace and reconciliation,**

Armed conflict takes a heavy toll on civilian populations, however it affects youth in very particular ways. During conflict, young people are at risk of displacement, forced or voluntary recruitment in armed groups, physical and sexual violence, among others things. Under these circumstances, young people are often forced to take up responsibilities usually attributed to adults, such as raising the younger children and supporting the household. On the other hand, the lack of access to (adequate) education and employment blocks the transition to adulthood and leaves lifelong effects, such as political, social and economic exclusion. The impact goes beyond the individuals as it jeopardises the possibility of reconciliation and durable peace.

***Recognizing* the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,**

Youth are often portrayed either as victims or perpetrators of violence. The recognition of the positive contributions of youth in conflict is a very important step forward towards their full participation in issues of peace and security. If young people are engaged as peacebuilders, they must be regarded as stakeholders in this process.

Affirming the important role youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

Including young people and building their capacities to prevent and resolve conflict is a key aspect in the sustainability of peace efforts. This generation will grow up to be peacemakers and solve conflicts without turning into violence.

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

Once again, this part reaffirms the need to engage young people in issues of peace and security not only for a democratic and demographic prerogative, but also because their participation is essential to ensure the sustainable peace and economic prosperity. However, this untapped potential can only be accessed through inclusive and youth-friendly policies.

Recognizing that the rise of radicalization to violence and violent extremism, especially among youth, threatens stability and development, and can often derail peacebuilding efforts and foment conflict, and stressing the importance of addressing conditions and factors leading to the rise of radicalization to violence and violent extremism among youth, which can be conducive to terrorism,

The rise of political, ethnic and religious radicalism and violent extremism challenge global peace and security. The Security Council defends that the increasing involvement of young men and women in extremist groups must be addressed by tackling the driving factors, not persecuting young people.

Expressing concern over the increased use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters of new information and communication technologies, in particular the Internet, for the purposes of recruitment and incitement of youth to commit terrorist acts, as well as for the financing, planning and preparation of their activities, and underlining the need for Member States to act cooperatively to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology,

communications and resources to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law,

Once again, the document references Statement of its President S/PRST/2015/11 (p.4-5) on Countering Terrorism, regarding the role of technology to recruit and support young people's involvement in terrorist activities. But it also emphasizes the responsibility of Member States to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms when drafting and implementing policies aimed at preventing and countering terrorism.

Noting the important role youth can play further as positive role models in preventing and countering violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, and fuels conflict, inhibits socioeconomic development and fosters regional and international insecurity,

Empowering youth to act as peacebuilders is a key step to prevent their involvement in violent extremism. Young people, including previously radicalized youth, are already working as role models and engaging their peers in peaceful conflict resolution and addressing grievances in their communities. Their work must be supported in order to have an impact.

Noting that the Secretary-General is finalizing a Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism to integrate youth's participation, leadership and empowerment as core to the United Nations strategy and responses,

On 20 December 2015, the Secretary-General presented the [Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism](#). In this document, the Secretary-General re-states the connection between violent extremism and terrorism and emphasizes the need to go beyond military responses towards a more comprehensive approach that addresses the driving factors behind violent extremism. The focus on prevention requires cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders in the field of peace and security and it becomes a cross-cutting issue. In the Introduction of the Plan, youth is described as an "untapped resource" that must be empowered to make a positive contribution to the development of their nations. The Plan also outlines how Member States can include the empowerment of young men and women into their national plans to prevent violent extremism (p. 17-18). In summary, the plan portrays young people as important partners in the prevention of violent extremism.

[Letter from Ban](#)

[Fact sheet](#)

[Policies and programming involving youth](#)

Noting the World Programme of Action for Youth, the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding, the August 2015 Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, the Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security, the September 2015 Global Youth Summit against Violent Extremism and the Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace, and acknowledging their role in creating a foundation that promotes young people's inclusive participation and positive contribution to building peace in conflict and post-conflict situations,

In the past years, the Youth, Peace and Security agenda has consolidated a number of important steps. The mentioned documents and events demonstrate the state-of-the-art of the agenda: the main recommendations, guidelines, policy framework documents for the inclusion and meaningful participation of young people on issues of peace and security. The [World Programme of Action for Youth](#) is a guideline for policy and action in 15 different areas related to youth development. The [Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#) was developed by the Subgroup on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding of the United Nations Interagency Network on Youth Development. The [Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security](#) and Security was organized by Jordan during its presidency in the Security Council and it brought together 500 participants, including government officials, policy experts, youth-led organizations and, most importantly, young peacebuilders from all over the world. The outcome document of this event, the [Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security](#), presents a common vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework to support us in transforming conflict, preventing and countering violence and building sustainable peace. The [Global Youth Summit against Violent Extremism](#) gathered hundreds of youth activists engaged in sharing new ideas on how to best build resilience against extremism. The outcome document, the [Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace](#), outlines what young people are already doing to prevent and counter violent extremism on their communities and how other stakeholders in the field can partner with youth to support their work.

Acknowledging the on-going work of national governments and regional and international organisations to engage youth in building and maintaining peace,

The Security Council recognizes that there is a current and continuous effort of some governments and organisations working at the national, regional and international levels to involve youth in peacebuilding efforts. Examples may include peace education programmes, trainings, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and interaction programmes, civic action and community building, government policies, etc.

Encouraging Member States to consider developing a UN common approach to inclusive development as a key for preventing conflict and enabling long-term

stability and sustainable peace, and highlighting in this regard the importance of identifying and addressing social, economic, political, cultural and religious exclusion, intolerance, as well as violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, as drivers of conflict,

In this paragraph, the Security Council emphasizes the need for all Member States to elaborate and adopt a united attitude which equally values and integrates the contributions of all stakeholders in addressing development issues. 'Inclusive development' promotes transparency, accountability and cooperation engaging collaboration between the civil society, governments and the private sector. This approach strengthens the view that development fails when the needs of the people it is designed to help are neglected. Therefore, taking into account the views of all stakeholders is vital to prevent conflict in societies and hence, promoting sustainable peace.

Sustainable peace is not only about the absence of war; *inter alia*, it entails zero tolerance to violence, equal participation of all citizens, social justice and social cohesion, access to productive resources, economic recovery and reconstruction and the embracement of diversity and tolerance.¹

In order to achieve long-term stability and sustainable peace, the Security Council stresses the need for Member States to address a variety of issues: social, economic, political, cultural and religion (including violent extremism). Such issues may lead to terrorist acts and conflict in general. Hence, when developing a common approach to prevent conflict and enable sustainable peace, it is vital that Member States address such issues.

Recognizing that the protection of youth during conflict and post-conflict and their participation in peace processes can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, and being convinced that the protection of civilians, including youth, in armed conflict should be an important aspect of any comprehensive strategy to resolve conflict and build peace,

Once again, the role of youth in shaping lasting peace and security is further emphasized. Here, the Security Council stresses the importance of both protecting youth and regarding youth as important stakeholders with a vital contribution in peace processes. Protecting and empowering youth to be involved in peacebuilding is a key step of strategies aiming to resolve conflict and build peace.

¹Statement by UN Women Deputy Executive Director, Lakshmi Puri at the High-Level debate organized by UNESCO on the occasion of the International Day of Peace. 21 September 2012.

Noting relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

The Rome Statute of the ICC was adopted in 1998, establishing the first permanent international criminal court. The ICC, based in The Hague, has the power to exercise its jurisdiction over persons for the most serious crimes of international concern, i.e. genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Participation

1. Urges Member States to consider ways to increase inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict, including institutions and mechanisms to counter violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, and, as appropriate, to consider establishing integrated mechanisms for meaningful participation of youth in peace processes and dispute-resolution;

Once again, the Security Council places pressure on governments to increase the number of youth involved in decision-making at all levels on prevention and conflict resolution. Before the resolution, the motivation to incorporate youth in issues of peace and security was born primarily out of a perception of youth as a potential security threat, instead of a desire to work with youth as equal partners. There is also a tendency by decision makers to talk about youth, rather than work with youth. Here, the Security Council emphasizes how institutions and mechanisms need to acknowledge the needs and aspirations of youth to ensure meaningful youth participation in peacebuilding processes, and to offer meaningful avenues for young people to shape the future of their countries.

2. Calls on all relevant actors, including when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to take into account, as appropriate, the participation and views of youth, recognising that their marginalisation is detrimental to building sustainable peace in all societies, including, inter alia, such specific aspects as: (a) The needs of youth during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction; (b) Measures that support local youth peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve youth in the implementation mechanisms of peace agreements; (c) Measures to empower youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution;

Once again, the Security Council places pressure on governments to increase the number of youth involved in decision-making peace processes. Emphasis is given to the particular needs of youth in post-conflict reconstruction, and the importance of involving youth in

deciding and implementing measures supporting peace initiatives and processes, further empowering youth. It is clear that ensuring the active, systematic, and meaningful participation of youth is imperative for long-term sustainable peace.

During conflict and post-conflict situations, the acts of sending people back to their countries (repatriation), moving people to another country (resettlement), returning someone back to a good, healthy or normal life (rehabilitation) and the process of transitioning an individual back to a state which he was not being a functioning member of society (reintegration) are all processes which have very strong implications on youth. It is, therefore, fundamental to consider the needs of youth throughout these processes when negotiating and implementing agreements.

3. Stresses the importance of Security Council missions taking into account youth-related considerations including, as appropriate, through consultation with local and international youth groups;

Since 1999, the UN Security Council has significantly increased the number of missions to conflict areas. Such missions allow the UN to acquire a ground's eye view on the gravity of the situation in the conflict or post-conflict areas, enabling the Council to better assess the action to take and to evaluate the work of the UN and NGOs in the field. The adoption of Resolution 2250 hopefully pressures Security Council missions to include consultations with local and international youth groups.

Protection

4. Calls upon all parties to armed conflict to comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international law relevant to the protection of civilians, including those who are youth, including the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977;

The Four Geneva Conventions adopted in 1949 and their additional Protocols adopted in 1977 shape the main core of international humanitarian law. Each of the four Conventions focuses on a different aspect of armed conflict: the first one is concerned with the treatment of the sick and wounded on land; the second one relates to the sick, wounded and shipwrecked at sea; the third concerns prisoners of war; the fourth relates to civilian non-combatants. Protocol I further expands the protection of victims of international armed conflicts. Protocol I expands protection for the civilian population as well as military and civilian medical workers in international armed conflicts. Additionally, special protections are provided for women, children and civilian medical personnel, and measures of protection for journalists are also specified. Protocol II relates to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts. Such protection relates to internal conflicts such as civil wars. It does not apply to such internal disturbances as

riots, demonstrations and isolated acts of violence. While some of the guidelines specifically relate to the protection and treatment of women and children, no specific mention is given to the youth.

5. *Further calls upon states to comply with the obligations applicable to them under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugee and the Protocol thereto of 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 1999 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;*

The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugee, constitutes a landmark in establishing standards for the treatment of refugees. Article 1 provides a general definition of the term 'refugee'; a refugee constitutes any person who "as a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling, to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it". The Convention proposes, as a minimum standard, that refugees should receive at least the treatment which is accorded to aliens generally. Besides identifying the essential characteristics of refugees, States party to the Convention also accepted specific obligations crucial to achieving the protection of refugees. Inter alia, is the principle of non-refoulement; broadly, this principle prescribes that no refugee should be returned in any manner whatsoever to any country where he or she would be at risk of persecution. Additionally, States have also agreed to provide certain facilities to refugees, including administrative assistance (Article 25); identity papers (Article 27), and travel documents (Article 28).

The Convention is sometimes portrayed today as applicable during the Cold War and as inadequate in the face of "new" refugees; this view stems from the fact that the Convention only benefited persons who had become refugees due to events occurring before 1 January 1951 (namely the Second World War and its aftermath). Nevertheless, events post-1951 demonstrated that refugee movements were not only the result of WW2. New refugee groups began to emerge, particularly in Africa, who needed protection and did not comply with the definition of the 1951 Convention. Henceforth, the 1967 Protocol extended the Convention to cover "new" refugees. The Protocol recognizes that it is desirable that equal status should be enjoyed by all refugees covered by the definition in the Convention irrespective of the dateline 1 January 1951.

For more information: [OHCHR Fact Sheet on Human Rights and Refugees ; Convention and Protocol relating to the status of refugees](#)

The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), is often referred to as an international bill of rights for women. The Convention defines what constitutes discrimination against women and outlines an agenda for national action to combat such discrimination. Discrimination against women is defined as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." States parties to the Convention commit to undertake all appropriate measures to end discrimination against women in all forms.

The CEDAW's Optional Protocol of 1999 establishes complaint and inquiry mechanisms for the CEDAW. The Protocol establishes a communications procedure whereby State parties to the Protocol allow the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to hear complaints from individual women or groups of women and an inquiry procedure whereby the Committee can inquire into "grave and systematic violations" of the Convention.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an international human rights treaty which was adopted on 13 December 2006 and it entered into force on 3 May 2008. The Convention addresses a wide categorization of persons with disabilities, reaffirming that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. State parties to the Convention commit "to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity" (Article 1).

6. *Further calls upon Member States to comply with their respective obligations to end impunity and further calls on them to investigate and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against civilians, including youth, noting that the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes by the International Criminal Court, ad hoc and mixed tribunals and specialized chambers in national tribunals;*

Amnesty clauses in peace treaties enable some parties to remain unpunished for atrocities committed during conflict situations. Such clauses are normally included in agreements to incite State parties to negotiate and cease hostilities. This paragraph highlights one of the challenges of transitional justice: the balance between achieving justice and reconciliation and allowing impunity for gross human rights violations. Here, the Security Council reaffirms the obligations of States to put an end to impunity and

thereby uphold the rule of law. By doing so, States must investigate and prosecute those serious crimes of international concern committed against civilians, specifically including the youth. Peace agreements with amnesty clauses are difficult to uphold against the goal of putting an end to impunity which actually inspired the UN to create the ad hoc Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court.

7. *Calls on all parties to armed conflict to take the necessary measures to protect civilians, including those who are youth, from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence;*

International humanitarian law's core purpose is to limit and prevent human suffering in armed conflicts. All parties to armed conflicts have to take the necessary and appropriate measures to protect and meet the basic needs of the conflict-affected population. Grave violations are committed against children and youth in war-affected countries around the world. Children and youth are not only exposed to sexual and gender-based violence but are also, inter alia, killed, injured, orphaned, abducted, deprived of education and health care. Children and youth are also vulnerable to recruitment processes which have grave implications for their physical and psychological well-being. Much focus has been placed into the situation of children in war whereas less has been placed into also protecting the youth. In fact, children and armed conflict is at the centre of the UN Security Council's peace and security agenda.

For more information: [Factsheet on Youth and Armed Conflict](#)

8. *Reaffirms that states must respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals, including youth, within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction as provided for by relevant international law and reaffirms that each state bears the primary responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity;*

The origins of international human rights are a matter of philosophical discussions which have evolved through the centuries. The UN Charter, in 1945, was the first international instrument to acknowledge 'human rights'. However, no comprehensive system for ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights was enshrined. The first fundamental step taken by the UN with respect to human rights was the establishment of a body of international human rights, the so-called "International Bill of Rights". The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and the two subsequent International Covenants of 1966 (The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESC)) form the foundation of international human rights law. The UN has subsequently adopted several other international instruments which further strengthen the International Bill of Rights (some of which have been previously mentioned, for example: the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in 1951 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities). The Universal Declaration is not technically legally binding but it has been widely accepted and has a strong moral force.

9. Urges Member States to consider specific measures, in conformity with international law, that ensure, during armed conflict and post conflict, the protection of civilians, including youth;

This paragraph urges governments to implement and/or increase the measures aimed to protecting civilians, specifically including youth, in times of armed conflict and post-conflict.

Prevention

10. Urges Members States to facilitate an inclusive and enabling environment in which youth actors, including youth from different backgrounds, are recognised and provided with adequate support to implement violence prevention activities and support social cohesion;

Here, pressure is put in governments to ensure that the youth in their countries form part of an inclusive and enabling environment whereby they are recognised and provided with support to contribute to peacebuilding.

Life skills programmes, anti-violence activities and therapeutic interventions can play an important role in contributing to peacebuilding efforts. For instance, a number of recent HIV and gender-based violence prevention programmes have successfully used small group participatory learning and critical reflection techniques to shift the knowledge and behaviours of young men and women. A key example is the Stepping Stones programme in India.

Instructive insight into violence prevention efforts here: [Regional Report on Youth Policies and Violence Prevention in the Great Lakes Region](#)

11. Stresses the importance of creating policies for youth that would positively contribute to peacebuilding efforts, including social and economic development, supporting projects designed to grow local economies, and provide youth employment opportunities and vocational training, fostering their education, and promoting youth entrepreneurship and constructive political engagement;

A growing body of evidence suggests that young women and men can and do play active roles as agents of positive and constructive change. Yet, in order to have a real impact they need to be supported by the appropriate policies, as well as easy access to quality education and employment opportunities. Hence, policymakers need to adopt policies

aimed for youth and their participation in peacebuilding. A very useful resource for policymakers is: [Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding: A Practice Note](#). The main objective of this Practice Note is to inform policymakers and donors of key strategic and programming considerations for supporting young people's participation in peacebuilding.

12. Urges Member States to support, as appropriate, quality education for peace that equips youth with the ability to engage constructively in civic structures and inclusive political processes;

Here, governments are further encouraged to support good education for youth so that they can positively contribute to peacebuilding efforts.

Peace education is a broad term with no single worldwide established definition. There are several approaches to peace education which have evolved over time. Broadly, 'peace education' is a holistic, multidisciplinary and transformative process which develops competences that contribute to nonviolent conflict transformation, respect for human rights and active participation. '[Mainstreaming Peace Education](#)' is a manual which aims to provide a framework for peace education in lifelong learning. It focuses on presenting the overall framework for peace education, sets out a strategic approach to mainstreaming peace education and provides examples of projects and initiatives in peace education implemented by European civil society organisations.

13. Calls on all relevant actors to consider instituting mechanisms to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue that involve youth and discourage their participation in acts of violence, terrorism, xenophobia, and all forms of discrimination;

Over the past decade, the involvement of some young people in violence and extremist groups has led some to regard youth generally as a threat to global security and stability. But research shows that youth who participate actively in violence are a minority, while the majority of youth – despite the injustices, deprivations and abuse they confront daily, particularly in conflict contexts – are not violent and do not participate in violence. In order to achieve a culture of peace it is of vital importance to invest on the youth and strongly discourage those young men and women from their participation in any act of violence.

Partnerships

14. Urges Member States to increase, as appropriate, their political, financial, technical and logistical support, that take account of the needs and participation of youth in peace efforts, in conflict and post-conflict situations,

including those undertaken by relevant entities, funds and programmes, inter alia, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, United Nations Peacebuilding fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, UN-Women, and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant bodies, and actors at regional and international levels;

This paragraph places pressure on governments to increase the resources employed in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, taking into account the needs and the participation of youth and also requests that they further support initiatives taken by specific UN bodies and other relevant actors and bodies at regional and international levels.

15. *Stresses the vital role the Peacebuilding Commission in addressing the conditions and factors leading to the rise of radicalization to violence and violent extremism among youth, which can be conducive to terrorism, by including in its advice and recommendations for peacebuilding strategies ways to engage youth meaningfully during and in the aftermath of armed conflict;*

The [Peacebuilding Commission \(PBC\)](#) is an intergovernmental advisory body supporting peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict. The Peacebuilding Commission brings together all of the relevant actors, including international donors, the international financial institutions, national governments, troop contributing countries, gathers resources and advises and proposes integrated post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery strategies.

16. *Encourages Member States to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including by empowering youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, and all other concerned groups of civil society and adopt tailored approaches to countering recruitment to this kind of violent extremism and promoting social inclusion and cohesion;*

Important documents on violent extremisms:

- [Youth Action Agenda To Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace](#)

It is an action agenda formulated by youth during the 2015 Global youth Summit against Violent Extremism which took place in New York. This agenda brings to the fore the efforts that are being made by young people and youth organizations around the world to prevent violent extremism and foster peace. Some of the activities that young people

engage in include: using dialogue, trust, mutual understanding, building cohesion and decreasing marginal injustice to prevent violence and recruitment into violent groups, facilitate young people's disengagement from violent groups through working with young people who have joined violent extremist groups and using peer empowerment to help them see prospects for a peaceful future for themselves. In this regard, youth and youth organizations also reach out to ex-combatants and former violent extremists and returned fighters to help them build and strengthen healthy relationships. Other activities in the agenda include producing and amplifying new narratives to counter the narratives about violent extremism and finally fostering effective and meaningful partnerships. This agenda also identifies possible opportunities for governments, civil society, businesses, the media and international and regional intergovernmental organizations to partner with young people to counter violent extremism by bringing all these actors together to jointly coordinate their efforts to addressing violent extremism.

- UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism(PVE)

It's an action plan developed by the UN which maps how different stakeholders can be engaged in the efforts to prevent violent extremism. Violent extremism which has been clearly linked to result into terrorism by the UN security Council Resolution 2178 (2014). As a result, they both pose a threat to peace, security and prospects of attaining sustainable development. This plan calls for the engagement of Women, Girls and Young people or youth in preventing violent extremism through supporting their efforts to PVE, integrating them in decision making at all levels, carrying out intergenerational dialogue and youth-adult confidence building training and activities. The plan also develops measures at the global level which aim at influencing and setting policies whereas at the national level the strategies adopted must be contextualized and engage state and non-state actors. Additionally, the national development policies should be aligned with the Sustainable development goals. Specifically Goal 1 which aims at ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 4 aims at ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all; Goal 5 aims at achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls; Goal 8 aims at promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 10 which aims at reducing inequality within and among countries; Goal 11 that aims at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; Goal 16 which aims at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. At the regional level, the plan of action calls for enhanced regional cooperation through strengthening sub-regional and regional organizations. The National and regional plans should address: dialogue and conflict prevention, strengthen good governance, human rights and the rule of law, engage communities, empower youth, gender equality and empowering women, education skills development and employment facilitation, strategic communications, the internet and social media. Again the plan also encourages the involvement of hard-to-reach young

people as laid out in [The Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#).

Disengagement & reintegration

17. Encourages all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the needs of youth affected by armed conflict, including, inter alia, such specific aspects as: (a) evidence-based and gender-sensitive youth employment opportunities, inclusive labour policies, national youth employment action plans in partnership with the private sector, developed in partnership with youth and recognising the interrelated role of education, employment and training in preventing the marginalisation of youth; (b) investment in building young persons' capabilities and skills to meet labour demands through relevant education opportunities designed in a manner which promotes a culture of peace; (c) support for youth-led and peacebuilding organisations as partners in youth employment and entrepreneurship programs;

During post-conflict situations, preventing further violence depends on the willingness of armed groups to lay down their arms (disarmament), disband military troops (demobilization), and return to civilian life (reintegration). Each of these process has strong implications on youth. It is, therefore, vital to consider the needs of youth in each of these processes. The key message of this paragraph is that to ensure long-lasting peace all relevant actors need to ensure to put down their weapons and provide opportunities for youth such as education, employment... Planners for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration should recognize that youth must play a vital role in planning such processes.

18. Notes its readiness, whenever measures are adopted under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, to consider their potential impact on the population, including youth;

Article 41 of the Charter of the UN states that the Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the UN to apply such measures. Examples of such measures include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.

The use of mandatory sanctions is a mechanism of applying pressure on a State or entity to comply with the objectives set by the Security Council without resorting to the use of force. Hence, sanctions offer the Security Council an important instrument to enforce its decisions. Further information: [Security Council Report on UN Sanctions](#)

Next steps

19. *Invites* relevant entities of the United Nations, Rapporteurs and Special Envoys and Representatives of the Secretary-General, including the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the Special Envoy for Youth Refugees, to improve the coordination and interaction regarding the needs of youth during armed conflicts and post-conflict situations;

This paragraph further engages relevant bodies of the UN to work to improve the coordination and interaction regarding the needs of youth during armed conflicts and post-conflict situations.

The [Envoy on Youth](#) has the task of harmonizing the efforts of the UN on youth issues and to bring the voices of young people to the UN System. The role of the Envoy on Youth is also described by the UN Secretary-General as a “harmonizer between all UN agencies” bringing them together to explore cooperation opportunities for working with and for young people.

20. *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 further requests the Secretary-General to make the results of this study available to the Security Council and all Member States of the United Nations;

The lack of comprehensive and reliable data on youth's positive contribution in the field of peace and security hampers the creation of context-specific policies and fuels the negative discourse of youth as troublemakers. This study would be a valuable source for policy-makers at all levels in order to best harvest the untapped potential youth represents. For now, the [Practice Note on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#), published by the UN inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, Sub-working Group on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding (2016), is an important source of evidence on this topic.

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his reports in the context of situations that are on the agenda of the Council the measures taken in the implementation of this resolution, including information on youth in situations of armed conflict and the existence of measures relating to the prevention, partnerships, participation, protection, disengagement and reintegration of youth under this resolution;

The Security Council is regularly informed by country specific and thematic reporting from the Secretary-General (the “chief administrative officer” of the UN), which influence the Security Council’s subsequent actions and deliberations. In this paragraph, the Security Council asks the Secretary-General to include in his reports the measures being taken by Member States to implement the resolution, including additional information on the situation of youth in armed conflicts and existing measures concerning the pillars of Resolution 2250: prevention, partnerships, participation, protection, disengagement and reintegration.

22. *Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.*

This is a standard ending of many Security Council resolutions. By remaining "seized of the matter," the 15-member Security Council is officially telling the 191-member General Assembly that it is engaged with the issue. When used in a thematic resolution, such as this one, the use of this phrase does not preclude other parts of the UN system addressing the issue, but indicates that the Security Council has recognized or elaborated the relevance of the issue to its particular mandate and responsibilities, and it remains on the agenda of the Security Council.
