

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 22 April 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that Mozambique, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of May 2024, will hold a ministerial debate on the subject “Maintenance of international peace and security: the role of women and young people” on 28 May 2024, at 10 a.m. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Verónica Nataniel Macamo Dlhovo, will preside over the event.

In order to guide the discussions, Mozambique has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Pedro **Comissário**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 22 April 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Concept note for the Security Council debate on the subject “Maintenance of international peace and security: the role of women and young people”, to be held on 28 May 2024**

#### **I. Introduction**

A ministerial debate on the subject “Maintenance of international peace and security: the role of women and young people” will be held on 28 May 2024, as a signature event of the presidency of Mozambique of the Security Council.

The event will be chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique, Verónica Nataniel Macamo Dlhovo.

The debate offers a vital opportunity to recentre and identify synergies between the women and peace and security agenda and the youth, peace and security agenda, with an emphasis on young women, particularly as civic space for these crucial groups continues to contract in conflict-affected areas.

While highlighting the complementarity of the two agendas, the debate is intended to promote a nuanced and intersectional approach to peace and security, which recognizes the diverse experiences, roles and needs of young people, especially young women. This is particularly central to the New Agenda for Peace and the Summit of the Future.

Applying a gender lens in youth, peace and security interventions can help to prevent a new generation from replicating the same patterns and patriarchal power structures that limit gender equality but benefit young men. Initiatives benefiting young women can contribute to more equal and stable societies. Similarly, the women and peace and security agenda should also address young women’s age-specific needs and experiences and proactively address their priorities and concerns.

This is especially pertinent at a time when global cooperation in peace and security is under immense pressure and the post-Second World War governance structures appear increasingly unresponsive to the concerns of young people and women. Moreover, conflict-related deaths are on the rise and there has been a surge in the number of forcibly displaced individuals, with women and young people disproportionately affected.

In addition, the third report of the Secretary-General on youth and peace and security ([S/2024/207](#)) will be presented during the debate. Participants are invited to share remarks on the report while reflecting on the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

The debate is intended to gather views and perspectives from Member States, United Nations briefers and representatives of civil society organizations. The focus is on how women and young people can contribute more effectively as major actors to the promotion of peace and security on a global scale.

In addition, the debate provides a platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned at both national and regional levels. This collaborative approach seeks to enhance the roles of women and young people in peacebuilding processes, emphasizing their critical contributions to sustainable peace.

## II. Background

Women and young people are pivotal in maintaining international peace and security, a role acknowledged in key Security Council resolutions: resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) on youth, peace and security.

In these landmark resolutions, the Security Council calls on Member States to establish mechanisms to enable these critical groups to participate meaningfully in peace and security matters, urgently address the impacts of conflicts on their lives, and ensure their involvement in decision-making processes that affect their communities.

Going forward, the sustainability of peace depends on consistently engaging young people, especially women, in peacebuilding, governance, peace processes, reintegration efforts, security sector reform and so forth. There is a critical need for a more systematic approach to implementing the youth, peace and security and the women and peace and security agendas and to preventing the marginalization or exclusion of these still underrepresented groups.

Such exclusion can lead to instability and conflict and, in some cases, may result in recruitment by criminal, terrorist or extremist groups. Therefore, it is crucial that Member States solidify strategies to tackle the issues surrounding the recruitment of young people, as well as their disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration.

Evidence from conflict-affected areas indicates that young people, in particular young women, continue to bear the brunt of conflict and wars as their vulnerability predisposes them to the negative effects of war, terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and trafficking in human beings. On the other hand, their level of resilience allows them to play a fundamental role in the search for durable solutions to these security challenges.

In this regard, enabling the meaningful participation of young people and young women in decision-making processes at national, regional and international levels can certainly make a difference in efforts aimed at the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the promotion of peace and stability. Involving young people in security sector reform and in the provision of security services is also crucial as it allows Member States to leverage broadened skill sets and improves operational effectiveness by reflecting the communities that security services serve.

The essential role of young people and young women in maintaining international peace and security was strongly echoed in the third report of the Secretary-General on youth and peace and security ([S/2024/207](#)).

The report was mandated by Security Council resolution [2535 \(2020\)](#), in which the Council requested a biennial report on the implementation of resolutions [2535 \(2020\)](#), [2419 \(2018\)](#) and [2250 \(2015\)](#). The report highlights examples of institutionalizing the youth, peace and security agenda, including initiatives to promote the inclusion and meaningful participation of young people in peace and security issues.

Importantly, the report highlights that the Security Council has a vital role to play in continuing to strengthen the youth, peace and security agenda in the work of United Nations field missions. One of the key recommendations of the report is that the Council should “continue to integrate and strengthen youth and peace and security elements as part of mandate renewals of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, and call upon missions to integrate youth in all relevant mandated areas”.

A discussion on the implementation of this recommendation is vital as the inclusion of concrete and mission-specific youth, peace and security language in the

mandates of field missions is an important tool to ensure that missions prioritize young people across all relevant mandate tasks; to enhance accountability for the more systematic implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda across missions; and to ensure that commitments translate into the mobilization of the financial and human resources required for the effective implementation of the agenda, including data-driven and gender-sensitive approaches across mandated tasks and priorities.

The persistence of challenges in the relationship between young people and governments, along with discriminatory laws and practices based on gender and age, remains prevalent in many countries and hinders the meaningful participation of young people and women – one of the largest demographics globally. These issues deserve the sustained attention of the global community.

### **III. Guiding questions**

1. What role can the Security Council play in ensuring the meaningful participation of women and young people in maintaining peace and security, including on strengthening youth, peace and security elements in the mandates of United Nations field missions?
2. How can international partnerships be strengthened to support Member States in integrating women and youth into peace and security frameworks?
3. What concrete measures, such as national action plans, can be implemented by Member States to enable the meaningful participation of young people, particularly young women, in maintaining peace and security?
4. How can the technological, digital and social media skills of young people be leveraged to enhance the synergies between the youth, peace and security agenda and the women and peace and security agenda?
5. How can young people contribute to conflict prevention, management and resolution efforts and what can be done to build confidence and trust between young people and those in leadership, authority positions and law enforcement?
6. What mechanisms are in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at increasing the participation of young people and women in peace and security efforts?
7. How can communities and institutions in Member States harness and mobilize the empathy and resilience of young people and women as essential values to address peace and security and technological and environmental global challenges?

### **IV. Briefers**

The following speakers will brief the Security Council:

- Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (to be confirmed)
- Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs
- Sima Bahous, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
- Representative of the African Union (to be confirmed)