

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 27 April 2020 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the members of the Peacebuilding Commission, I have the honour to transmit the advice of the Commission to the Security Council on youth and peace and security (see annex).

I kindly ask you to bring the advice to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issue the present letter and its annex as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Marc-André **Blanchard**
Chair
Peacebuilding Commission



Annex to the letter dated 27 April 2020 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Advice of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council on youth and peace and security

1. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#), the first resolution to be fully dedicated to the role of youth in peace processes globally, the Peacebuilding Commission has actively sought to increase its engagement in support of young peacebuilders. Its engagement further deepened following the adoption of resolution [2419 \(2018\)](#), in which the Council recommended that the Commission include in its discussions and advice ways to engage youth meaningfully in national peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.

2. Recalling the independent progress study on youth and peace and security entitled “The missing peace”, issued in March 2018 ([A/72/761-S/2018/86](#)), and recognizing the indispensable role that young people can play in efforts to build and sustain peace, the Commission has engaged with a number of youth peacebuilders and representatives of youth-led institutions from around the world through its country-specific and regional visits and discussions, as well as during dedicated meetings on youth and peace and security.

3. Through such engagements, the Commission has heard directly from young people about their peacebuilding work in contexts as diverse as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d’Ivoire, El Salvador, the Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Solomon Islands and has experienced at first hand the resourcefulness and resilience of young people in the face of conflict and violence. The Commission is encouraged by those examples of positive contributions of young women and men in promoting peaceful and prosperous societies, building effective and accountable institutions and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Based on those engagements, the Commission would like to bring the following observations and advice to the attention of the Security Council:

(a) Young people have the right to participate in and make constructive contributions to decisions that affect them now and will affect them in the future. The participation of young people in political and decision-making processes and the conduct of public affairs is important for making our societies more inclusive, achieving sustainable development and building and sustaining peace. The full, effective and meaningful participation of young people in public debate and dialogue and in processes that aim to prevent and resolve conflicts should be further encouraged;

(b) Youth are an investment in our collective future, meaning that it is highly important for States to promote the rights of all young people and to create opportunities for their political, economic and social inclusion, with the aim of harnessing and investing in the capacities and resilience of young people as creative, intuitive and inspired peacebuilders;

(c) The Commission encourages the full, effective and meaningful participation of youth in peace processes, public decision-making mechanisms and national governing bodies, including in parliaments, in conflict-affected countries, in which the exclusion of youth from socioeconomic opportunities and political processes owing to, inter alia, nationality, disabilities, gender, underemployment, poverty and limited access to high-quality education, particularly in rural areas, is of particular concern;

(d) The Commission encourages the Security Council to consult youth and include their perspectives, when relevant and as appropriate;

(e) The Commission encourages the meaningful inclusion of youth representatives in partnerships that aim to support peacebuilding initiatives and processes;

(f) The Commission recognizes that a lack of adequate funding for youth-led organizations, including the challenges that youth organizations face in gaining access to existing funding streams, is limiting the contribution of young people to building and sustaining peace. In response to the need for adequate financing to help to empower youth to fulfil their potential as agents of positive change, the Commission welcomes the proactive measures taken by the Peacebuilding Fund to support the critical contributions of young people to peacebuilding at the local and national levels;

(g) The Commission acknowledges the need for the international community to better address the specific challenges faced by refugee youth and encourages the Security Council and other relevant United Nations bodies, in accordance with their mandates, to pay attention to this matter, as appropriate;

(h) The Commission is concerned by reports of threats against young peacebuilders and encourages the creation of safer environments for young women and men peacebuilders around the globe;

(i) In recognition of the fact that a number of successful peacebuilding initiatives around the world are led by youth, the Commission encourages relevant United Nations bodies to further consider ways to meaningfully include youth in peacebuilding efforts;

(j) In recognition of the importance of youth participation in peacebuilding, the Commission is developing options to strengthen its engagement in support of youth in that regard. The Commission will continue to advocate the meaningful inclusion of youth perspectives in its advice to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, and engagement with all relevant actors.
