



**Permanent Mission of Ghana to  
the United Nations  
New York**

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting Reinforcing the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda for a peaceful and stable Africa**

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Time: 1500hrs NYT

Location: **Conference Room 4**

#### **Introduction**

In December 2023, the United Nations will be marking the eighth anniversary since the ground-breaking Security Council Resolution 2250 recognized the important and positive contribution of the youth towards efforts in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolutions 2419 and 2535 on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) further reaffirmed the need to actively engage the youth in peacebuilding, emphasizing that the participation of young people in formal and informal peace processes, conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts remain key.

The Youth, Peace and Security agenda is particularly relevant to the African continent, which continues to confront new and emerging threats to peace and security. Africa is home to the youngest population in the world, with 70% of sub-Saharan Africans under the age of 30. Such a high number of young people holds immense potential for the continent's growth and development. Nonetheless, if the new generations are not fully empowered to realize their potential, the consequences would be dire. Young people are oftentimes excluded from political participation, lack economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods, and on top face protection issues in an ever more shrinking civic space. Despite these challenges, African youth and youth-led organizations are among the most resilient and active in their pursuit of justice, human rights, equality, and peaceful, sustainable development.

#### **Background**

In 2018, the African Union (AU) launched the Youth for Peace Program (Y4P) based on extensive consultations with youth peacebuilders on the continent. In the same year, the AU's first Special Envoy on Youth was appointed, with a mandate to enhance youth inclusion and mobilize youth for positive social change in Africa. Since 2020, five African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP) have been appointed on a two-year basis to work with the AU Youth Envoy. With each Youth Ambassador representing a sub-region, the AYAPs have made important contributions to the AU Peace and Security Council's (PSC) policy agendas on youth. They have contributed in implementing region-specific advocacy, capacity building, and policy initiatives to engage youth and promote the YPS agenda locally.

In June 2020, the PSC of the AU adopted the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace, and Security (CFYPS) and its Ten-Year Implementation Plan. Through its five priorities - participation, prevention, protection, partnership, and coordination - the framework acknowledges the significant contributions of young people to peace in Africa and aims at promoting their meaningful and active participation in peacebuilding processes, decision-making on peace and security, and policy formulation at the national, regional, and continental levels.

The YPS agenda has also seen a significant advancement at the national and local levels. Currently, two out of the four countries that have approved a National Action Plan (NAP) on YPS are from Africa -Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Furthermore, there are several countries that are currently working to develop their National Action Plans or other YPS frameworks. In addition, there is a vibrant Civil Society community localizing the YPS agenda at the grassroots and partnering with stakeholders through national coalitions on YPS.

Political stability and effective governance are crucial for creating an enabling environment that allows young people to actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute to sustainable peacebuilding. By ensuring the inclusion of youth perspectives in policy formulation and implementation, African governments can harness the potential of their young populations and address the root causes of conflict and violence. Moreover, the link between youth empowerment and development cannot be overstated. Investing in education, skills training, and employment opportunities for young people not only enhances their socio-economic well-being but also provides an enabling environment for the full and meaningful participation of young people in peacebuilding efforts. By aligning political and development strategies with the YPS agenda, African countries can create holistic frameworks that promote peace, prosperity, and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all.

At the critical juncture of the 2023 SDG Summit and the formulation of a New Agenda for Peace, this Arria-formula meeting provides an opportunity for Member States to review the achievements of the YPS agenda in Africa and beyond, exchange new thinking and identified best practices, while engaging in an open discussion about gaps, challenges, and the path forward.

## **Objectives**

Member states are encouraged to consider the following questions in their statements:

- How can the UN Security Council further advance the implementation of the YPS agenda and ensure the meaningful and full participation of the youth in conflict, post-conflict and transition settings, particularly in Africa?
- How can the Security Council and UN Missions and entities, including Peacekeeping and Special Political missions, better collaborate with regional institutions such as the African Union to advance the YPS agenda?
- What policy frameworks and best practices can the world learn from Africa's YPS architecture, and what lessons can Africa learn from the rest of the world?

## **Meeting Programme**

The meeting will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Harold Agyeman, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations. Due to time constraints, briefers will be limited to 5 minutes, & UNSC Members will be limited to 3 minutes. Briefers will include:

- Assistant Secretary-General, Khaled Khiari-DPPA/DPO(tbc)
- Ms. Chido Mpemba (VTC)African Union Youth Envoy
- Ms. Nina Mireille Yankinon, President, I Londo E Lekere (National NGO) + member of the Young Women Leaders Caucus AWLN-RCA
- Mr. Farhad Peikar, Acting Special Representative of the World Bank

## **Participation**

The meeting is open for participation by members of the Security Council and the wider UN membership.

Delegations are expected to restrict their statements to three (3) minutes for national statements and no more than five (5) minutes if a statement is made on behalf of a group. Additionally, member states are encouraged to submit their statements to the following email: [ghanaunsc.pm@mfa.gov.gh](mailto:ghanaunsc.pm@mfa.gov.gh) to be used in the preparation of a summary report, which will be distributed as an official Security Council document after the meeting.

## **Logistics:**

To register and to request further information please contact the Permanent Mission of Ghana at [ghanaunsc.pm@mfa.gov.gh](mailto:ghanaunsc.pm@mfa.gov.gh); [amaanima.anang@mfa.gov.gh](mailto:amaanima.anang@mfa.gov.gh); [bismark.anyanah@mfa.gov.gh](mailto:bismark.anyanah@mfa.gov.gh)