

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 13 April 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of the Dominican Republic, the Security Council plans to hold an open video teleconference entitled “Towards the fifth anniversary of the youth and peace and security agenda: accelerating implementation of resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#) and [2419 \(2018\)](#)” on 27 April 2020.

In that regard, the Dominican Republic has prepared the attached concept note and guidelines (see annexes). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) José **Singer Weisinger**
President of the Security Council



Annex I to the letter dated 13 April 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note

Youth and peace and security: towards the fifth anniversary of the youth and peace and security agenda: accelerating implementation of resolution 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018)

Background

Five years ago, the Security Council, under the leadership of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, unanimously adopted resolution 2250 (2015). That groundbreaking resolution was the first fully dedicated to the vital and positive role that young people play in international peace and security. Three years later, in its resolution 2419 (2018), initiated by the Governments of Peru and Sweden, the Security Council called for an increased role for young people at all levels of decision-making relating to security, conflict and peace, including peace agreements. Those resolutions represent critical milestones in the recognition and prioritization of youth in international peace and security.

The essential role of young people in peace and security was also recognized in a statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2019/15), presented by South Africa and adopted in December 2019, on the role African 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 on the continent.

The study mandated under Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), *The missing peace: independent progress study on youth and peace and security*, which was submitted to the Council in 2018, eloquently illustrates the multiform contributions made by young people to peace and security and provides useful examples of how young women and men can be meaningfully included. In the study, Governments and international actors are called upon “to undergo a seismic shift and recognize young people as the ‘missing peace’”.

In 2018, the Secretary-General launched *Youth 2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth*, the first strategy of its kind, with the aim of scaling up global, regional and national actions to meet the needs of young people, realize their rights and tap their possibilities as agents of change, with a key priority being support for them as a catalyst for peace and security and humanitarian action. Furthermore, on 5 and 6 March 2019, the First International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes was held in Helsinki, Finland, with the objective of deliberating on steps to foster the meaningful participation of young people in peace processes and to make progress on the implementation of resolution 2419 (2018).

The year 2020 marks the fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, offering an opportunity to reflect on progress made in the past five years, identify bottlenecks and share lessons learned and good practices.

Context

The first ever report by the Secretary-General on youth and peace and security (S/2020/167), requested in Security Council resolution 2419 (2018), was issued in March 2020. In the report, the Secretary-General affirms that the youth and peace and security agenda is an accelerator towards the realization of the sustaining peace approach and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report

demonstrates that, while there is growing awareness of the role young people can play in peace and security, core challenges remain: structural barriers to their participation and capacity to influence decision-making; attacks against their human rights; and insufficient investment in systems to facilitate their inclusion, particularly education. The report concludes that, since 2015, the engagement of young women and men has been increasingly recognized by Member States, the United Nations system and partners as central to inclusive and sustainable peacebuilding efforts and that resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#) and [2419 \(2018\)](#) represent a major contribution to the work of the Council. Young people are a central component in supporting national efforts to build and sustain peace, but awareness still needs to be translated into concrete action, including measures at the national level, institutional priorities and dedicated funding and accountability measures, to ensure that all actors can deliver on the substantive pillars of resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#) and [2419 \(2018\)](#).

Young people are key stakeholders in sustaining peace, resolving conflict and preventing violence. They contribute to social cohesion by building peace from the most local levels, including their communities, to national, regional and international levels, working on different conflict scenarios and types of violence, such as violent crime, gender-based violence, political violence, and extremism.

An integrated and inclusive approach that involves empowering young people as decision makers is crucial for them to continue to participate actively and meaningfully in processes related to peace and security. That is indispensable for enhancing the inclusivity and equality of societies.

The human rights and fundamental freedoms of young people should be respected and protected, including those relating to their freedom of movement and expression, participation in political and civic spaces, and peaceful assembly. Therefore, an enabling and safe environment should be guaranteed in order for young people that are working on peace and security, including peacebuilders, to continue to carry out their work without fear of threats or reprisals.

Young people reflect a promise of revival and must be seen as equal and essential partners for peace. Therefore, it is essential to invest in the capacity, agency and leadership of young people and youth organizations in order to maximize their transformative potential for peace, put an end to structural barriers that limit youth participation in peace and security and collaborate with young people as an equal partner for peace.

However, young people are not a homogeneous or monolithic group. For example, due to the gendered perception of young people, peace and security interventions targeting young people, such as in efforts to enhance their participation, tend to prioritize young men. While there is no doubt that young women are engaged in a variety of activities in building and sustaining peace, their roles remain little recognized, underfunded and poorly researched.

The sustainability of peace depends on the consistency of the meaningful participation by young people in peace processes, politics, governance, institution-building, the rule of law, the security sector and economic recovery.

Objective

This open debate provides a platform for Member States to take stock of the progress made regarding the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#) and [2419 \(2018\)](#), share best practices and lessons learned at the national and regional levels and discuss recommendations and priorities for action and the five pillars of resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#), including with regard to the role of young people in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak in relation to peace and security.

Guiding questions

- What are examples of good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) at the local, national, regional and international levels?
- What concrete initiatives and measures, such as the development of dedicated national action plans on youth and peace and security, should Member States put in place to support contributions by young people to peace?
- What role can the regional and subregional organizations play in the effective implementation of the youth and peace and security agenda?
- How can the United Nations system ensure that young people's priorities are included in international responses regarding peace and security and the integration of the youth and peace and security agenda in its strategic and planning documents, conflict analyses, frameworks, initiatives and guidance tools?
- What actions can the Security Council take to ensure the meaningful participation of youth in peace and security efforts? How can peacekeeping operations and political missions, as well as special envoys, better support the implementation of resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018)?
- What measures should be developed to prevent and address reprisals against young peacebuilders, young human rights defenders and youth organizations?
- How can funding allocations to the implementation of the youth and peace and security agenda be significantly increased, so as to support actions by a wide range of partners, including youth-led civil society organizations, youth-focused non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and others?
- How do the women and peace and security agenda and the youth and peace and security agenda complement each other in addressing the growing challenges relating to conflict prevention and sustaining peace?
- How can the Peacebuilding Commission better support the advancement of the youth and peace and security agenda in the light of the upcoming peacebuilding architecture review?
- What is the role of young people in the COVID-19 outbreak response in relation to peace and security?

Format of the meeting

The open video teleconference will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 27 April. His Excellency Mr. José Singer Weisinger, Special Envoy of the Dominican Republic to the Security Council, will preside.

All permanent members and observers are invited to participate (see annex II).

The following speakers will brief the Security Council:

- His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General
- Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- Ms. Olla Al-Sakkaf, Project Coordinator of Youth Without Borders Organization for Development, Yemen
- Mr. Gatwal Augustine Gatkuoth, Founder of the Youth-adult Empowerment Initiative, South Sudan/Uganda

Expected results

It is expected that a resolution will be adopted.

Annex II to the letter dated 13 April 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

The Dominican Republic has assumed the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of April and, given the social distancing measures requested by the host country and the Secretary-General to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Dominican Republic has put forward guidelines designed to facilitate the continuation of the work of the Security Council to the greatest possible extent.

Therefore, for the open video teleconference on youth and peace and security, the President of the Security Council is inviting Member States and Observer States that are not members of the Security Council to participate in line with the principles of rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. The participation of non-members of the Security Council will be, until further notice, through written statements.

Member States and Observers are encouraged to send their written statements to the President of the Council (unsecpresidencydr@gmail.com), with a copy to the Security Council Affairs Division (dppa-scdocs@un.org).

The President of the Security Council will then circulate, as a document of the Council, a compilation document within at least 48 hours containing the statements of the briefers and Council members and non-members. To that end, we encourage all Permanent Members and Observers to send their statements to the Presidency in a timely manner.

The President of the Security Council will continue to hold discussions on ensuring that the work of the Security Council is more transparent and inclusive. Therefore, if improvements are made to these guidelines at any point before the open video teleconference on youth and peace and security is held, all Permanent Members and Observers will be informed accordingly.
