

The President of the Security Council presents his compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 29 April 2020 addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council**, and its enclosures.

This letter and its enclosures will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2020/346.

30 April 2020

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Postal Address - Adresse Postale: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
Cable Address - Adresse Télégraphique: UNATIONS NEWYORK

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
LE PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL DE SÉCURITÉ

29 April 2020

Excellency,

I have the honor to refer to the Security Council video teleconference convened on 27 April 2020 regarding Maintenance of international peace and security: Youth, peace and security. Enclosed herewith is a copy of the briefings provided on that occasion by the United Nations Secretary-General; Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth; Ms. Olla Al-Sakkaf, Project Coordinator of Youth Without Border Organization for Development, Yemen; and Mr. Gatwal Augustine Gatkuoth, Founder of the Young-adult Empowerment Initiative, South Sudan/ Uganda; as well as copies of the statements delivered by the representatives of Council members Belgium, China, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet Nam.

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members for this video teleconference, the following delegations and entities submitted written statements, copies of which are also enclosed: Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, and Uruguay.

His Excellency
Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations

-and-

All Permanent Representatives of the Security Council Members

Pursuant to the letter by the President of the Security Council addressed to Permanent Representatives of Security Council members dated 2 April 2020 (S/2020/273), which was agreed in light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the enclosed briefing and statements will be issued as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a cross-like flourish.

José Singer Weisinger
President of the Security Council

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

REMARKS TO SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN VIDEO- TELECONFERENCE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY TOWARDS THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA: ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2250 AND 2419

New York, 27 April 2020

[as delivered]

I welcome this opportunity to present my first report on youth, peace and security.

Since this report was issued, our world has been shaken by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Young people are feeling the impact acutely, from lost jobs to family stress, mental health and other hardships.

Over 1.54 billion children and youth are out-of-school.

Young refugees, displaced persons and others caught up in conflict or disaster now face even more vulnerability.

Persons with disabilities may face new hindrances in access to the services and support to which they have a right.

Even before the current crisis, young people were facing enormous challenges.

The numbers are startling:

One of every five young people was already not in education, training or employment.

One of every four is affected by violence or conflict.

And every year, 12 million girls become mothers while they themselves are still children.

These frustrations and, frankly, failures to address them by those in power today, fuel declining confidence in political establishments and institutions.

And when such a cycle takes hold, it is all too easy for extremist groups to exploit the anger and despair, and the risk of radicalization climbs.

We can already see such groups taking advantage of the COVID-19 lockdowns, intensifying their efforts on social media to spread hatred and to recruit young people who may be spending more time at home and on line.

Yet, despite these hurdles and despite these risks, young people are still finding ways to engage, support each other, and to demand and drive change.

We see it in our battle against COVID-19.

In Colombia, Ghana, Iraq and in several other countries, young peacebuilders and humanitarians are delivering supplies to frontline health workers and people in need. They are keeping communication open within communities to maintain social cohesion despite physical distancing. They are supporting my call for a global ceasefire.

We see it every week in our battle against climate change. The Fridays for Future movement continues, because young people know that their prospects and aspirations are at stake.

And, as illustrated in this report, we see youth engagement in their efforts to bring about lasting peace and security.

Just five years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250, encouraging steps are being taken to enable young people to play their essential role in building peaceful and just societies.

From prevention to mediation, humanitarian assistance to post-conflict healing and reconciliation, young people are stepping up through formal and informal mechanisms, and by using traditional platforms and new technologies.

Many of you have taken steps to facilitate this.

In Colombia, young leaders played a critical role throughout the peace process and had a direct impact on the content of the 2016 peace agreement.

In the Philippines, Young Women Peacebuilders organized interreligious dialogues to strengthen local ownership of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

In South Sudan, young people used the online campaign #SouthSudanIsWatching to assert their rights as observers of the High Level Revitalization Forum.

In Syria, young medical students are supporting engineers to build medical supplies and teaching others with special needs through online messaging.

And in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Sudan, more than 6,500 former combatants, mostly young people, have benefited from programmes supported by peacekeeping missions.

I am encouraged to see that global networks have emerged to support young peacebuilders.

The African Union has begun to develop a Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security.

The Security Council meets often with young people during its country visits.

The Peacebuilding Commission has provided young peacebuilders a platform to present their work and policy recommendations.

Young refugees helped shape the Global Compact on Refugees. And countries including Finland, the Gambia and Nigeria are developing national road maps for youth and peace and security.

The United Nations, for its part, is striving to integrate this agenda across the Organization, guided by the United Nations Youth Strategy.

Notwithstanding this progress, the Youth, Peace and Security agenda still faces formidable challenges.

Participation opportunities remain inadequate. Many young peacebuilders report that their participation is not welcomed by the public or those in positions of power. This is especially evident for young women. Exclusion from political decision-making further increases their vulnerability to discrimination, sexual violence and exploitation, trafficking and child marriage.

Only 2.2 per cent of the world's parliamentarians are under 30 years of age. So it is not surprising to see declining levels of turnout on the part of young voters in the world, reflecting growing dissatisfaction with political establishments.

Young women and men forced from their homes owing to conflict and violence remain highly vulnerable. Reports of threats and human rights violations against young peacebuilders and human rights defenders are also of grave concern.

And, behind all of this, lies insufficient investment in prevention and in ensuring young people have opportunities to advance in life.

Even before COVID-19, a global learning crisis already threatened to undermine long-term prospects for development and social cohesion, in particular in conflict-affected settings. Now that crisis is multiplying, coupled with massive increases in poverty and unemployment.

It is in this context that I am issuing a call to action on youth, peace and security.

First, we must do more to address these challenges, guided by the findings of the Independent Progress Study on Youth Peace and Security.

Second, we must invest in young people's participation, organizations and initiatives. The Peacebuilding Fund is an invaluable tool, and I urge you to ensure it has the resources it needs.

Third, we must strengthen human rights protections and protect the civic space on which youth participation depends.

And fourth, we must emerge from the COVID-19 crisis with a determination to recover better – massively increasing our investment in young people's capacities as we deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.

Across this work, our efforts must reflect a fundamental understanding: Young people are not subjects to be protected, but should be seen as citizens with equal rights, as full members of our societies, and as powerful agents for change.

The world cannot afford a lost generation of youth, their lives set back by COVID-19 and their voices stifled by a lack of participation.

Let us do far more to tap their talents as we tackle the pandemic and chart a recovery that leads to a more peaceful, sustainable and equitable future for all.

Thank you.

**Remarks by the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth
at the debate of the Security Council on Youth Peace and Security
27th April 2020**

We are in the midst of an unprecedented **global** challenge: the COVID19 pandemic has swept through our world leaving everyday life as we know it at a standstill.

Schools, businesses, markets, and bus stations deserted; entire cities transformed into ghost towns overnight.

While decision makers are trying to navigate uncharted waters, we have seen an image grow from the media, of the worlds' young people acting irresponsible and reckless, not understanding the gravity of the situation, putting the lives of others' in danger by going to beaches, pubs and parties.

As usual, we have seen a focus on the small minority of young people who disregarded guidelines and instructions risking their own health and the safety of others, completely sidelining the thousands of young people who were already fighting in the frontlines of the crisis.

Nowhere in the news did we hear about young peacebuilders in Kenya and Cameroon who immediately adapted their peacebuilding organizations and networks to prepare their communities to face COVID19.

The news didn't focus on the many young health-workers and medical students attending to patients in China and Italy.

The news didn't tell us about the Scouts, Girl Guides and red cross volunteers running awareness and handwashing campaigns in Haiti and Jordan.

The headlines didn't recognize young people 3D printing face masks and fundraising in support of charities here in the US.

Therefore, allow me to dedicate my statement today to all the young people who are putting their communities ahead of them-selves, within war zones, refugee camps, favelas and settlements showcasing grit and leadership that sometimes we fail to see in our own political leaders.

**President of the Security Council,
Excellencies
Secretary General
Fellow Young people**

Public discourse often portrays young people as an irresponsible, self-interested group. We quickly categorize young men as easily attracted to violence, and part of gangs and extremist groups. Young women always as victims of these scenarios.

But contrary to these popular narratives, if we care to take a closer look at the communities most affected, what conflicts, disasters and crises teach us over and over again, is that young people are not only the most resilient but also the most innovative and resourceful during turbulent times.

Born in to and growing up in an exceedingly interconnected world, young people understand very well that solidarity is the name of the game. They understand that just like the COVID-19 pandemic - conflict, violence, inequality and climate change, - do not stop at national boundaries. That none of us is safe, unless we all are.

Excellencies,

This year we mark the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 2250. We are also marking 20 years of resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security. With unprecedented global challenges surrounding us all, the United Nations is getting ready to celebrate its 75th birthday reflecting on its past but most importantly looking into its future.

This is an opportune moment to take stock of the Youth Peace and Security Agenda; its progress & wins and its challenges & gaps. I'm sure we all agree that the future of our communities, countries and entire world depend on building peaceful and resilient generations.

This is also a strategic moment to further increase synergies among these various agendas so young people in all their diversity can contribute as equal partners and stakeholders in deciding what kind of a future they will inherit.

Therefore, allow me to thank the Government of the Dominican Republic for its leadership in convening this Security Council Briefing.

I am pleased to join the Secretary General and two young peacebuilders, Olla from Yemen and Gatwal from South Sudan, as we reflect on the key messages and recommendations of the first-ever Secretary General's report on Youth Peace and Security.

This Report saw daylight at a vital time when the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic were emerging. In order to adjust to the current realities, innovative and new approaches to translate youth peace and security policy into practice are needed.

While the Report documents important practices, lessons, and commitments that have emerged from the implementation of the YPS Agenda, a clear strategy co-led by young people and member states, especially at the country level is needed.

Since 2015, the Secretary General's reports presented to the security council have increasingly discussed the situation of young people, with an increase from 21 percent of reports in 2016 to 39 per cent in 2019. However, we still have a lot to do in mainstreaming and embedding Youth Peace and Security across UN efforts. As an example, out of 253 resolutions adopted by the Security Council since 2015, only 16 percent include meaningful references to youth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to note that the Secretary General's report on Youth Peace and Security is grounded in the five pillars of the Resolution 2250 and draws from the strategic and comprehensive recommendations formulated in "*The Missing Peace; Independent Progress Study on Youth Peace and Security*" presented to this Council in April 2018.

Based on the report, my key recommendations today echo the voices of young people who I have interacted with during my country missions around the world, and those who participated in the survey I carried out online, just before this briefing, as well as in the wider consultations carried out by UN partners, member states and civil society in preparation of the Secretary General's report.

Firstly, young people believe that there is a need to create more meaningful partnerships between youth, civil society organizations, and government institutions that work on the YPS Agenda.

To date, there are no National Action Plans on YPS. But I am pleased to note that in some countries these are in the process of development. For a national roadmap to be successful, a participatory, transparent, and youth led process and adequate resources are needed.

Since resolution 2250 was adopted, we have seen an increase in the creation of national coalitions on youth, peace and security. I encourage all Member States to establish multi-stakeholder mechanisms to meaningfully engage youth in planning and decision-making on peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as in discussions on resource allocations.

Secondly, meaningful participation of all young people towards building sustainable peace should be ensured.

Participation is recognized as a human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All young people have the **right to participate** in the conduct of public affairs and thus are entitled to rights and freedoms.

Such participation encompasses a wide range of actions, from formal participation in political, electoral or peace processes to informal participation at the community level and in digital spaces. Enabling spaces should be created for young people, where they are seen and respected as citizens with equal rights, equal voices and equal influence.

Although inclusion has shown to positively impact the sustainability of peace agreements, young people continue to be excluded from decisions that directly impact their present and future prospects for peace. The key outcome from the first International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, hosted in Helsinki in March 2019, demonstrated that young people will either inherit a peace agreement's long-term benefits or long-term consequences.

Therefore, I call on all Member States to create meaningful opportunities for young people to participate both informally and formally in peace processes. As the Policy Paper "We are here" I presented to the council last year recognizes, this can be inside, around and beyond negotiation rooms.

Finally, young people believe that strong mechanisms should be developed to protect young activists and peace builders.

Young activists are facing various threats from state and non-state actors for building peace in their communities, and reprisals for cooperating with the United Nations. These threats include physical, legal, political, sociocultural, digital and financial threats. In the times of COVID-19, with lockdowns, curfews and increased surveillance offline and online, civic space has continued to shrink world-wide risking progress to stall.

To date, no data is systematically collected on human rights violations of young peacebuilders and human rights defenders throughout the world, and in most cases, these violations remain undocumented or uninvestigated.

Therefore, I call on Member States support to facilitate an inclusive, safe, enabling and gender-responsive environment in which young peacebuilders and young human rights defenders are recognized and provided with adequate support and protection to carry out their work independently and without undue interference.

Excellencies,

What do we see as the collective way forward?

As you are aware, operationalizing the Youth Peace and Security Agenda requires coordination, coherence and integration, as well as political will and commitment. These recommendations cannot be implemented without sufficient **funding** and **accountability** from the UN-system, and its member states.

Flexible and easily accessible funding for youth-led and youth-focused organizations and for the United Nations and other civil society partners, is urgently needed to further advance the YPS Agenda.

I strongly recommend the Council to consider regular and systematic reporting on the implementation of Resolutions 2250 and 2419 to ensure sustainability and continuity of these important agendas. Tracking progress is vital to ensure accountability.

Shifting to a meaningful, partnership-based approach, especially with civil society and youth-led organizations is critical not only for this agenda, but for youth

engagement and participation in all aspects of life, as outlined in the UN Youth Strategy; Youth2030.

In conclusion excellency, if the UN and the Security Council fail to translate agreed Resolutions into action; in a nutshell if this agenda is not brought down from a global policy level to a regional and country level with programmatic action; young people will lose opportunities to meaningfully participate and **their trust** in institutions and multilateralism will further erode.

We cannot afford to lose the trust of young people, the greatest asset and greatest hope we have for a better future.

Therefore, I urge the Council to put young people at the heart of its efforts to bring global peace and security. Young people are ready and up for the challenge. The question is – are national, regional and international actors ready to bridge the inter-generational divide?

Thank you.

Remarks by Ms Olla Al-Sakkaf
Security Council Briefing on Youth, Peace and Security
Monday, 27 April 2020 at 10:00am

(As prepared for delivery)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and fellow young people, I hope you are doing well during these difficult times. Thank you, Mr President, for your kind invitation to present before you and the UN Security Council members.

My name is Olla Alsakkaf. I am a 25 year old peacebuilder. I was born and I grew up in difficult circumstances in my country, Yemen.

I am here today as a representative of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, a global network working to end the violence of youth exclusion, transforming power structures to enable meaningful youth participation, and offering a platform for youth to act together on decisions that affect them.

The world is scared because of the outbreak of Corona Virus. All day, you are following the news about the increasing number of victims. You are afraid of losing people you love or even losing your own life. Your children cannot go to school. You do not trust the health system any more.

In Yemen, there are few recorded cases of the Corona Virus. However, my fellow citizens and I understand what the world is going through. We feel you and we pray for you. What you are experiencing has been our reality since the beginning of the war in 2015. People are asked to stay at home, but have you thought about millions of displaced people around the world, who don't have houses to take shelter in?

I live in Taiz, which is a city under the siege since 2016. People are forced to travel for 5 to 6 hours from one part of a city to another, when it used to take us 10 minutes. I have attended the funerals of my friends more than attending their weddings. I wake up every morning staring at the sun, not knowing if I am going to see it again or if this is going to be my last day. When I meet my friends I cannot enjoy my time with them, because I am afraid it will be the last time I will see them. I walk in the streets feeling scared to be killed by a landmine, airstrike or stray bullets. We face death everywhere and at every moment.

The situation in Yemen is at its worst. Five years of ongoing armed conflict have exhausted not only the infrastructure and systems of health, education, economy, etc. but also the people. For the second time, Yemen is the home of the worst humanitarian crisis around the world with 3.65 million IDPs, a massive cholera outbreak, recent floodings, and widespread hunger.

In all this darkness, there is a glimmer of hope. Although we lack support, opportunities and recognition, young people in Yemen are doing our best to survive and build a better future for our children. Across Yemen, we are cleaning public places, informing people how they can protect themselves against Covid19, and risking our lives to save victims from the floods in Aden and Sanaa. Youth organizations are working with their communities and authorities

Remarks by Ms Olla Al-Sakkaf
Security Council Briefing on Youth, Peace and Security
Monday, 27 April 2020 at 10:00am

(As prepared for delivery)

to enhance the capacities of the health care system by restoring health facilities, provide them with sanitizers, and train medical staff.

Our efforts are not only in response to the Corona Virus, but also to build peace and re-normalize the public life. Youth-led organizations are playing an important role in bridging humanitarian work and the peacebuilding process, as reported by the Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace, and Security.

Youth Without Borders Organization for Development is an example of such a youth organization, which I am a part of. It believes in the energy and power of young men and women to build and sustain peace. Youth Without Borders is working to rebuild the social fabric, peaceful coexistence, and security in our communities through capacity building, awareness raising, advocacy and research. We do not only target young men and women, but also other community members, state institutions, local authorities, community initiatives, private sector.

We, young people, can't bring peace and prosperity to Yemen alone. We need the international community to support, invest in, and strengthen our work:

1. Promote and enable youth participation and inclusion in all phases and tracks of the peace talks on Yemen, and all other UN-supported peace processes;
2. Believe in young people. Trust us. Invest in our peacebuilding work, through increased resources for the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, including accessible funding for youth organisations;
3. Ensure that Youth, Peace, and Security remains on the agenda of the UN Security Council, beyond today's debate through regular reporting and inviting youth briefers to country-specific and thematic discussions;
4. UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths briefed your council on 16 April and concluded that "Yemen cannot face two fronts at the same time: a war and a pandemic." We call upon this council to support the call for a truly upheld ceasefire in Yemen and beyond.

Mr President, as young people, we stand ready to support all actors in pursuing and upholding the Secretary General's call for a global ceasefire, in order to focus on the response to the current pandemic. When under a global threat, the time to act on peace is now.

Remarks by Mr Gatwal Gatkuoth
Security Council Briefing on Youth, Peace and Security
Monday, 27 April 2020 at 10:00am

(As prepared for delivery)

[START]

My name is Gatwal Gatkuoth. I come from South Sudan - the world's youngest nation.

Your Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency Mr. President of the Security Council,

Distinguished representatives of Member States,

Dear colleagues and fellow young people,

I would like to start by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Presidency of The Security Council, for inviting me.

My father was born during The first Sudanese civil war in a small village in Southern Sudan. My father cannot write and read. He spent most of his youthful life doing two things: hiding for safety and herding his cattle in relative peacetime. The second Sudanese civil war forced me out of my parents' care as early as 11, in 2002. 8 years later, in 2010, I returned to South Sudan to be reunited with my parents.

Even though the experience for me was so traumatic, I could not possibly imagine the pain it had caused them. I was lucky to end up in a refugee camp in Uganda where I found education that changed my life positively.

Excellencies,

For me, peacebuilding has become a necessity. I want to break the cycle of conflict experienced by my father and myself, and contribute to a peaceful future where my own children don't have to experience violence.

To serve the purpose, I founded The Young-adult Empowerment Initiative in 2015, to strengthen the operational capabilities of young men and women in South Sudan to create a peaceful society and drive social development in their local communities.

From the first, through the second Sudanese civil war; to South Sudan's post-independence political unrest, young people have always been at the heart of peace and security, as recognised by UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

Distinguished member states,

Young people in South Sudan shaped the peace process through their participation in the High Level Revitalization Forum and alliance-building with women groups, which resulted in the inclusion of young

Take into consideration: 1. Refugee youth | 2. Internally displaced youth in UNMISS' PoC | 3. Rural youth in cattle camps | 4. Youth in armed factions and child soldiers

Remarks by Mr Gatwal Gatuoth
Security Council Briefing on Youth, Peace and Security
Monday, 27 April 2020 at 10:00am

(As prepared for delivery)

refugees in the negotiations and increased youth participation in broader governance structures.

Youth outside the negotiation room were also key in monitoring the peace talks and putting pressure on the conflict parties, for example through a social media campaign called #SouthSudanIsWatching, which was launched by the South Sudan Civil Society Forum (SSCF).

In Uganda's refugee settlements, refugee-led youth initiatives including my own organization are unlearning violence and negative stereotypes through peacebuilding. We are identifying our concerns and aspirations jointly as South Sudanese youth; not as members of 64 different tribes.

Recent developments include the creation of a coalition of youth-led civil society organisations in Juba, the appointment of the first national minister in charge of youth affairs in the Unity Government, bringing young people's concerns an inch closer to the decision making circle.

Despite these significant achievements, young people continue to face structural barriers to political, social and economic processes, as mentioned by the Secretary General in his report. I will now highlight three challenges felt by my peers in South Sudan:

1. Even with relative peace today in South Sudan, inter-clan revenge killing, cattle raiding and child abduction remain our key peace and security issues, with violence intensifying due to small arms and light weapons being readily available. We need to Silence The Guns, as called for by the African Union.
2. In a patriarchal society like South Sudan, young women face exclusion from peace efforts and political participation because of their age and gender. We must build on 20 years of the Women, Peace and Security agenda to overcome exclusionary processes and transform harmful masculinities.
3. Already restricted civic spaces for youth participation are even more shrinking with the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with lack of access to technology for young peacebuilders.

What must be done to make the youth demographic dividend, a peace dividend for South Sudan?

Mr. President,

Here are four ways in which the international community can support young people's contributions to peace and security in South Sudan and beyond:

1. The UN Security Council and stakeholders should support the South Sudan Unity Government to enable meaningful youth participation in decision making including political processes, and democratic practices.

Take into consideration: 1. Refugee youth | 2. Internally displaced youth in UNMISS' PoC | 3. Rural youth in cattle camps | 4. Youth in armed factions and child soldiers

Remarks by Mr Gatwal Gatkuoth
Security Council Briefing on Youth, Peace and Security
Monday, 27 April 2020 at 10:00am

(As prepared for delivery)

2. Member States, international organizations and human rights actors must respect, protect and uphold young people's universal rights of freedom of organization, peaceful assembly, expression, and participation in public affairs and civic space, ensuring that young peacebuilders do not face reprisals for their work.
3. International organizations should partner with youth-led organizations to design and implement responsive Disengagement, Disarmament and Reintegration programs, and establish youth-led ceasefire monitoring networks, in consultation with young combatants as appropriate.
4. Member states of the African Union need to strengthen their support to young people's efforts to silence the guns, transform conflict, and build peace across the African continent.

South Sudanese youth are not asking for more policy documents and resolutions.

We are asking for proactive involvement of youth in all levels of decision making levels.

We are asking for full operationalization of resolutions 2250 and 2419 on youth, peace, and security.

Thank you, excellencies, for your diligent attention.

[END]

Dear Mr. President,

Dear colleagues,

I am taking the floor today on behalf of Belgian youth. Exceptionally, our intervention has been drafted by the Belgian “UN Youth delegates.” This programme helps to raise young people’s voices within the UN, but also serves as a channel to get them involved in our national decision making. We can only recommend it.

As youth delegates, we welcome the Secretary General’s report and especially its call for continuous and meaningful youth participation. That we have the opportunity to address the UN Security Council, shows what shape participation can take.

Young people are faced with multiple challenges. For our contribution we have opted to focus on climate change & hate speech.

To start we would like to echo our Government’s commitment to put the topic of Climate and Security on the UNSC’s agenda. The climate crisis, just like the COVID-19 pandemic, is not only a direct threat to the livelihoods of billions of people, it also aggravates factors that contribute to conflict. Given fragile states frequently have younger demographics, young people are specifically vulnerable and sadly, often the first victims of conflict. UN Member States need to address this issue, especially since the youth population across the world is set to increase drastically.

Our generation, will be the first heavily impacted by global warming. As such, should we not be the first group to be consulted? It is only natural for the younger population, especially those most affected, to get a seat at the table when far-reaching adaptation and mitigation policies are being detailed. Our worldwide actions of 2019 have proven that we are a considerable and positive force for change. Young people stand ready to be structurally involved through frequent invitations for concerned thematic and country-specific UNSC briefings.

Secondly, social exclusion, intolerance and racism all contribute to “hate speech”. Hate speech often addresses the young, as victims or as the subjects of indoctrination. Extremism and violent acts following from these discourses could be prevented by more inclusive societies; young people should be offered opportunities to fulfill

their aspirations. In addition, we point to the efficiency of campaigns like the Council of Europe's project "No hate speech" and its dedicated national activities.

To us the Internet is a double-edged sword. Wisely used - it allows free access to information and it serves as a tool of empowerment. However, without adequate governance, it gets fake news to spread, contributes to radicalization, and heightens the risk of misuse of personal data. We appeal to governments, on all levels, to cherish individual freedom while ensuring the safety of young users. This requires a coalition between governments, private businesses and civil society. Platforms gathering relevant material for young people and the attribution of labels that testify to the quality of information are potential tools. The Internet's global nature requires a global approach. We think the UN constitutes the right forum.

Let us conclude by repeating our call for continuous and meaningful youth participation. The vital role of young people in the making and maintenance of peace has been acknowledged. We note the progress made on the implementation of resolutions 2250 et 2419, but challenges remain. We urge UN Member States and donors to support young peacebuilders' work and to protect their human rights. We hope adequate attention will be paid to how climate change & hate speech affect our future security and that member states stand ready to create jointly with younger generations a society that guarantees sustainable peace and security. The challenges we face require - now more than ever - a strong and efficient multilateralism. Let us turn the year 2020 – the year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the UN – into an example for this matter.

Finally, we thank the Dominican Presidency for its leadership, and the briefers for their personal engagement.

Remarks by Amb. Zhang Jun at the Security Council Video Conference on Youth, Peace and Security

(27 April 2020)

Mr. President,

China appreciates the Dominican Republic for its initiative to convene this meeting. I also thank the Secretary-General and his Envoy on Youth Mrs. Jayathma Wickramanayake for the briefings. We have listened tentatively to the remarks of the briefers. We thank them for sharing with us their thoughts.

Young people account for 16 percent of world population, and they are playing important role in promoting sustainable development, maintaining international peace and security , and strengthening global solidarity and partnership.

China attaches great importance to the agenda of Youth, Peace and Security. We are pleased to note the progress made in the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions including Resolution 2250 and 2419.

Meanwhile, it is also worrisome that young people in a number of countries and regions are still suffering from armed conflicts. As a result, they are facing hardships of poverty, unemployment, and marginalization etc. Some of them even fall prey to terrorism. Currently, the spread of COVID-19 pandemic also poses great challenges, putting the health, education and employment of young people at

risk. The impact should not be neglected.

The international community should fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions, stay attentive on the development of youth, help them to tackle challenges arising from the pandemic, and support them in playing a bigger role in advancing world peace and development.

First, step up our efforts to protect the youth, by preventing conflicts, and shielding them from the harm of terrorism and extremism.

To that end, the Security Council should uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, promote political settlement of hot-spot issues, work towards conflict prevention and resolution through peaceful means.

Moreover, the international community should resolutely fight against all forms of terrorism and violent extremism with unified standards, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. In particular, we need to combat the terrorism and extremism ideologies that corrode the mind of young people, take necessary de-radicalization measures, and crack down the infiltration of terrorist and radical groups among youth through Internet.

Secondly, acknowledge and support the important role of youth in advancing peace and security, and to further unleash their potentials in this regard.

It is important to take into full consideration youth-related factors in the political settlement of hot-spot issues, ensure the constructive participation of young people in peace process of their home countries, and draw on young

people's strengths and listen to their views.

Youth should also be enabled to participate in conflict prevention and resolution, contribute to social stability and development, and take active part in post-conflict reconstruction.

The UN should enhance exchange and coordination on youth-related agenda and achieve synergy, with the African Union, the League of Arab States, the ASEAN, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and other regional and sub-regional organizations.

Thirdly, promote inclusive development, create favorable environment for youth development, and strive for lasting peace.

The international community should make youth a key driver in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and pursue peace through development. As the Secretary-General pointed out in his report on youth, peace and security, the 2030 Agenda is a cornerstone of long-term prevention. Investing in young people and transforming systems of exclusion to inclusion represents a central component of the 2030 Agenda commitment.

Countries also need to invest more in education and vocational training for young people, create more employment opportunities, support entrepreneurship, lift young population out of poverty and help them achieve all-round development, so as to lay solid foundation for peace.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we must take very

seriously the possible disruption in education, employment, accessibility of health services for youth, and address the risks with concrete measures. Meanwhile, we should also call on young people to join the pandemic response efforts, help the most vulnerable, and contribute to social prosperity.

Mr. President,

China has been actively engaged in international youth programs. We are carrying out youth exchanges and cooperation with many countries and international organizations, including establishing the China-Africa Innovation Cooperation Center to promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship, helping the Arab League with training young professionals, launching the China-Latin American Young Scientist Exchange Program, among other things. Besides, we have been providing government scholarships to young students from all over the world to study in China. We has also deployed excellent young peacekeepers, including female peacekeepers to various UN Missions.

It is the sincere hope of China that with our joint efforts, we can shape a brighter shared future for all, including our younger generations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Open VTC on Youth, Peace and Security
27-4-20020

We would like to thank the Secretary General for his briefing and the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth for sharing her perspectives and challenges in the implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419.

Our deep appreciation to you, Gatwal and Olla. We have listened carefully to your views and recommendations and I must say that you are both an inspiration.

We had envisioned to hold a Ministerial Open Debate with the participation of young people from all over the world. But the circumstances did not allow that.

I want to thank all youth organizations, young peacebuilders and activists that have been actively supporting this debate and who are watching us through UN Live TV and social media. **This is for you.**

This year marks the 5th anniversary of resolution 2250. Mr. Secretary General, we welcome your report on YPS, and echo your demand for an accelerated implementation of resolutions 2419, 2250 and the Council's Presidential Statement adopted last year.

These documents, along with the Progress Study "The Missing Peace", lead us to **concrete action at the national, regional and international levels.**

The 2030 UN Youth Strategy and initiatives by the African Union, as highlighted by Gatwal, are important examples of this course of action.

However, much more is needed to **institutionalize and increase implementation of the YPS agenda:**

First, the creation of a regional young mediators network and a focal point network within the UN system, including in peacekeeping and political missions, **is essential.**

Annual reporting by the Secretary General on youth, peace and security, backed by a global set of indicators to track progress on its implementation, **is crucial.**

Strategies and active engagement on YPS by UN Missions in Colombia, Kosovo, Somalia and Iraq, **are inspiring examples.** We encourage other peacekeeping and political missions to emulate these efforts.

More mandate renewals and reports must include specific references pertaining the implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419.

We concur with today's briefers. An increasing number of young people are proactively combating the COVID-19 pandemic. But we must recognize its specific impact on young people. Young people must be included in the development and implementation of its response and their specific needs must be addressed.

Excellencies, now and always, the protection of young people's lives and human rights must be a priority, including young peacebuilders and human rights defenders, who sometimes face reprisals for their work.

The Policy Paper "We are Here" concludes that "young people continue to be excluded from peace processes, inheriting peace agreements". But when agreements don't prosper, young people bear the burden of doing damage control. **Is this fair?**

Their meaningful participation in peacebuilding and sustaining peace and security is essential in achieving just, inclusive and peaceful societies. **It is also their right.**

The report emphasizes that "their participation requires unrestricted civic space and breaking with practices of tokenism". To that end, the Dominican Republic launched, its National Youth Plan to guarantee young people's participation in all stages of decision making, including on access to justice

and citizen security, under the principle of equality and non-discrimination.

The SG report also makes more evident the need for WPS and YPS complementarity, particularly regarding the importance of **young women's** participation in building and sustaining peace.

Hence, it is vital to invest in young people's initiatives, capacities and agency, as well as youth organizations', especially at grassroots levels, through substantial funding support.

In this regard, I'd like to applaud the Peacebuilding Fund for its support to youth-led projects and the Peacebuilding Commission for strengthening youth engagement in its work, including the discussion to develop a youth, peace and security strategy.

Opening communication channels with youth must continue.

There's thousands of young people, such as Santiago, who briefed this Council on Colombia last April 8, and Olla and Gatwal today that are working tirelessly on building and sustaining peace and in support of SG's call for a global ceasefire. We must continue to invite them to brief this Council.

I want to recognize the SG Envoy on Youth and her office, as well as UNFPA and PBSO, for their tenacious work in promoting this agenda.

I would also like to thank the Permanent and Observer Missions that have submitted their statements for this meeting and encourage those that have not done so to submit theirs. This is an important moment for a unified voice and action by all States to accelerate implementation.

Lastly, I want to formally announce that together with France, we will present a draft resolution that we hope will have the support of all Council members. As the report of the Secretary General highlights, and in the midst of the 5th anniversary of the YPS agenda, it is time for an accelerated implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419.

Thank you Mr President,

I thank today's briefers for their excellent presentations and the Dominican Republic for their leadership in taking this topic forward in the Council.

We note with appreciation that for the first time ever we have a report of the Secretary General on youth, peace and security. We hope this can be a regular occurrence to ensure a consistent focus on this topic by the Security Council.

It is very simple - we cannot help build peaceful societies, if we do not include the youth. Right to participate in public life is a human right. Meaningful youth participation remains a challenge throughout the world and those in power do not always welcome it. As the Secretary-General's report points out, in 2020, there are 1.85 billion young women and men, 10 to 24 years of age in the world. 90% of them live in developing countries and many in areas of conflict. Providing young people with various backgrounds meaningful and genuine ways to participate and shape their societies is one way to avoid tensions and conflicts and to ensure peace instead. If we fail to do that, we risk alienating the ones who are to take our societies and our world forward. We all must do more to create an enabling environment for the youth.

It is important that we recognize the growing role youth play in peace and security. There are still visible barriers to youth participation in decision-making. Youth activists continue to be subject of human rights violations and abuses. Any threats, attacks and acts of intimidation made against youth peacebuilders, human rights defenders, especially women activists, are unacceptable. Young women often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization. In addition to harassment and acts of violence the young women participating in political and public life often suffer from, their economic and educational opportunities are often limited, which also leaves them more vulnerable in the long run.

We welcome the Secretary-General's recommendation for the meaningful participation of youth in peace and security efforts as well as for a greater interaction with youth representatives, young peacebuilders and young human rights defenders, including on its Security Council country visits.

Young people are a huge source of new ideas, solutions and innovation. During the current pandemic, however, they can be among the greatest victims. According to estimates, an additional 42-66 million children could fall into extreme poverty. UNESCO analysis shows that 91% of the world's students are affected by school closures, and more than 1.5 billion students

in 191 countries have trouble continuing their studies normally. This will lead to increased educational gaps, serious damage to the prospects for a better future and can potentially lay seeds of radicalization among young people, constituting a threat to peace and security.

Utilizing digital solutions and distance learning platforms is one way to alleviate the effects of school closures. Today, during the pandemic, these e-education capacities have helped us to avoid the paralysis of our educational system. Children and youth being able to stay connected and carry on studying is essential. A broader implementation of digital learning would make education more accessible for all groups and would help to limit the risk of increased social inequality. Bridging a gender digital divide in this regard is crucial.

We are glad to note that the EU has been a frontrunner in implementing the YPS agenda and remains strongly committed to realizing UNSCRs 2250 and 2419 on Youth, Peace and Security. The EU was among the first multilateral organizations to partner with the UN in the implementation of the YPS agenda. It is currently supporting close to 30 youth-oriented conflict prevention and crisis response actions on four continents.

The young people are there to remind us that we need to take a long term and forward looking approach in peace and security, as well as on climate and human rights. It is their right. I am sure that multilateralism has a lot to win from encouraging and supporting youth.

I thank you



**MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA FRANCE AUPRES
DES NATIONS UNIES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

**Vers le 5e anniversaire de l'agenda Jeunes, paix et sécurité:
Accélérer la mise en œuvre des résolutions 2250 et 2419
Intervention de Mme Anne Gueguen,
Représentante permanente adjointe de la France auprès des Nations unies
Conseil de sécurité – 27 avril 2020**

Monsieur le Président,

Je souhaite tout d'abord me joindre aux autres pour remercier la République dominicaine d'avoir organisé cette réunion opportune. Je remercie le Secrétaire général pour son briefing sur l'agenda "Jeunes, paix et sécurité". La France soutient ses recommandations et son appel à cet égard. Je souhaite également remercier l'Envoyée du Secrétaire général pour la jeunesse ainsi que les jeunes artisans de la paix qui sont avec nous aujourd'hui virtuellement pour avoir partagé leurs points de vue et leurs recommandations.

Monsieur le Président,

Les jeunes leaders sont déjà mobilisés et actifs dans toutes les régions du monde pour s'attaquer aux grands enjeux mondiaux. Ils n'ont pas attendu que nous agissions. Nous le voyons dans le rôle unique qu'ils jouent dans le renforcement de la réponse au changement climatique et à la pandémie de COVID-19. Vendredi dernier, j'ai eu l'occasion de participer à un échange animé et substantiel avec sept jeunes bâtisseurs de la paix en Méditerranée de l'initiative "Jeunes voix méditerranéennes" qui ont partagé des propositions innovantes et dynamiques et ont démontré leurs talents numériques. La question n'est pas de savoir si, mais comment, nous, aux Nations unies, au siège et sur le terrain, pouvons mieux nous engager auprès de la jeunesse de manière mutuellement enrichissante.

Comme l'a souligné à juste titre le Secrétaire général, nous sommes de plus en plus conscients du rôle des jeunes, mais des défis persistent. Les jeunes continuent d'être victimes de stéréotypes et de discriminations. La crise de COVID-19 a également exacerbé la vulnérabilité des jeunes, en particulier les moins protégés. Ils restent largement exclus des processus décisionnels, des institutions politiques et du marché du travail. Les stéréotypes sont trop souvent utilisés comme prétexte pour ignorer leurs demandes et violer leurs droits.

Si leurs droits ne sont pas respectés, si l'espace civique n'est pas protégé, les jeunes ne peuvent pas exprimer pleinement leur potentiel et ne peuvent pas s'engager activement dans l'établissement d'une paix durable. La France a appelé et continuera d'appeler au respect de la liberté d'expression et du droit de réunion pacifique partout et pour tous, notamment en soutenant les jeunes défenseurs des droits de l'Homme.

Monsieur le Président,

Les jeunes doivent être impliqués de manière efficace et significative dans les discussions et les décisions relatives aux défis actuels. À cet égard, les réseaux et initiatives interrégionaux de l'Union européenne qui permettent aux jeunes artisans de la paix d'influencer la prise de décision sont un exemple de bonnes pratiques qui peuvent en inspirer d'autres.

Pour renforcer l'autonomisation des jeunes, en particulier des jeunes femmes, la France investit dans l'éducation de qualité. 200 millions d'euros ont été consacrés via le Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation. Pour que de jeunes leaders émergent, nous devons offrir à chacun les outils intellectuels et moraux que seule une éducation de qualité peut fournir.

La France mettra également la jeunesse au cœur du Forum Génération égalité organisé conjointement avec le Mexique et ONU Femmes, qui se tiendra désormais en 2021. Cela permettra aux jeunes, et en particulier aux jeunes femmes, de contribuer de manière significative aux débats : leur voix sera entendue.

Monsieur le Président,

Cinq ans après la résolution charnière 2250, nous devons continuer à nous mobiliser pour garantir une place centrale aux jeunes et exploiter tout leur potentiel pour rétablir la paix et la sécurité et construire des sociétés justes, pacifiques et inclusives. La France continuera à s'engager pour que les jeunes et les jeunes femmes soient associés à nos travaux au sein des Nations unies, y compris bien sûr au Conseil de sécurité. Nous considérons les deux agendas, "Jeunes, paix et sécurité" et "Femmes, paix et sécurité", comme essentiels aux travaux du Conseil. Vous pouvez compter sur le soutien de la France pour maintenir cette question à l'ordre du jour du Conseil de sécurité.

A l'initiative de la République dominicaine, nous allons ainsi promouvoir l'adoption d'une résolution sur cet agenda. Je conclurai en exprimant mon plein soutien à l'appel que vient de lancer le Secrétaire général d'investir massivement dans la jeunesse au lendemain de la pandémie de COVID 19, et faire en sorte que nous reconstruisions mieux, avec eux.

Je vous remercie./.



@FranceONU
<https://onu.delegfrance.org/>



**MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA FRANCE AUPRES
DES NATIONS UNIES**

*Liberté
Egalité
Fraternité*

**“Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:
Accelerating Implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419”**

**Statement by Ms Anne Gueguen,
Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations
Security Council – 27 April 2020**

Mister President,

I first wish to join others in thanking the Dominican Republic for organizing this timely meeting. I am grateful to the Secretary General for briefing us on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. France supports his recommendations and his call in this regard. I also wish to thank the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth as well as the young peacebuilders who are with us today virtually for sharing their views and recommendations.

Young leaders are already mobilized and active in all parts of the world to address major global issues. They did not wait for us to act. We see it in the unique role they play in strengthening the response to the climate change and to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last Friday, I had the opportunity to participate in a lively and substantive exchange of views with seven young Mediterranean peacebuilders from the "Young Mediterranean Voices" initiative who shared innovative, dynamic proposals and showed their tech proficiency. The question is not whether but how we, at the UN, in HQ and in the field, can better engage with youth in a mutually enriching manner.

As the Secretary-General rightly pointed out, our awareness of young people's role is growing, but challenges remain. Young people continue to be victims of stereotypes and discrimination. The COVID-19 crisis has also exacerbated the vulnerability of young people, especially the least protected ones. They remain largely excluded from decision-making processes, political institutions and the labor market. Stereotypes are too often used as pretexts to ignore their demands and to violate their rights.

If their rights are not respected, if civic space is not protected, young people cannot fully express their potential and cannot be actively engaged in the establishment of lasting peace,. France has and will continue to call for the respect of freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly everywhere and for everyone, in particular by supporting young human rights defenders.

Young people need to be involved effectively and meaningfully in the discussions and decisions on today's challenges. In that regard, the European Union's cross-regional networks and initiatives that allow young peacebuilders to influence decision making is an example of best-practices that can inspire others.

To strengthen the empowerment of young people, especially young women, France invests in quality education. 200 million euros have been channeled through the Global Partnership for Education. For young leaders to emerge, we must offer everyone the intellectual and moral tools that only quality education can provide.

France will also put youth at the heart of the Generation Equality Forum organized jointly with Mexico and UN Women, which will now take place in 2021. This will allow young people and especially young women to contribute meaningfully in the discussions: their voices will be heard.

Mr President, Five years after landmark resolution 2250, we must continue to mobilize to guarantee a central place for youth and harness their full potential in restoring peace and security, and building just, peaceful and inclusive societies. France will continue to be engaged so that young people and young women are associated in our work at the United Nations, including of course at the Security Council. We view both agendas, Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security as essential to the Council's work. You can count on France's support to keep this issue on the Security Council's agenda.

Following the leadership of the Dominican Republic, we will therefore promote the adoption of a resolution on this agenda. I will conclude by expressing full support to the call just launched by the SG to invest massively in young people in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic, and make sure we rebuild back better, with them.

Je vous remercie./.



@FranceONU
<https://onu.delegfrance.org/>

April 27, 2020

Remarks by Ambassador Schulz during the Security Council VTC Meeting on Youth, Peace and Security, April 27

Check Against Delivery

Mr President, the report of the Secretary-General on Youth, Peace, and Security paints a mixed picture. On the one hand, we see some encouraging developments. In many countries, political participation of young people is greater than it was five years ago. Young voices are taken more seriously, especially in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes. That is very good. Building perspectives for young people is crucial, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations. And we would like to encourage all UN Missions, both peacekeeping and political, to adopt a mission-wide YPS strategy, establish YPS focal points, and regularly report on this issue. The UN Verification Mission in Colombia is exemplary in this respect.

The fact that governments are stepping up projects involving young peacebuilders acknowledges the role that youth needs to play in building and sustaining peace. In this vein, we very much welcome the written advice on YPS by the UN Peacebuilding Commission that was submitted today to the Security Council and which encouraged the PBC to continue YPS work in its respective considerations with a view to complement and support the efforts undertaken in the Security Council.

When it comes to building and sustaining peace, Germany is funding a wide range of projects for youth in countries, for example in the Sahel region, particularly in Mali, but also in many other countries.

Just to give a few examples: in Burundi we support a project which is strengthening trust and positive relationships between youth and the police. In Colombia, we support the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in their youth-led peace and reconciliation approach. In the Palestinian territories, we support efforts to create safe spaces for youth to initiate and run their own projects while enabling them to constructively engage with their communities. For example, by establishing a community clinic for elderly persons with disabilities, by revitalizing community gardens, or by developing and running awareness campaigns in their own communities.

Let me also say in this context that Germany is currently the strongest supporter of the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, which has a proven track record of engaging in projects that advance the inclusion of women and youth. Also, when it comes to humanitarian assistance, we attach particular importance to projects that involve youth and take the specific needs into account. For example, regarding psychological support and the Lake Chad region, or to give another example, an educational center that was built for Rohingya children living as refugees in Bangladesh.

Still, the Secretary-General's report paints a mixed picture. On the one hand are these very positive developments, but on the other hand, obviously huge challenges and injustices remain that can be real obstacles to sustainable peace. To name just a very few: one in four young people are still affected by violence or armed conflict. They lack educational and economic opportunities, and their human rights are often violated and curtailed. Young women especially experience patterns of intimidation and harassment when exercising their political rights and participation in peace processes. These are attempts to silence their activism. In conflict as well as in post-conflict settings, young women are particularly affected

by sexual violence. All barriers to political participation of young women need to be brought down.

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding must therefore include diverse perspectives and involve youth from all backgrounds, including young women, LGBTI and young persons with disabilities.

Mr. Chairman, a few words on youth and COVID-19. With schools being closed and families being confined to their homes, young people are assigned additional tasks, providing for their community, often out of the impression that they can bear increased health risks. In addition, with schools being closed, young people in all parts of the world are deprived of education, especially young women and girls are taking up care work at home, which often interferes with their education. The Secretary-General in his report on the socioeconomic repercussions of COVID-19 called for "an aggressive back to school strategy". We can only underline and emphasize the need for this call.

Mr. President, before concluding, I would like to mention three very short sets of thoughts. First, for numerous projects in the framework of our crisis prevention and stabilization engagement, young people are a decisive pillar as beneficiaries and as agents of change. Across countries and continents, our world witnesses a rise in youth engagement and even a 'youth quake'. We look at the young climate activists, for example, who are taking their activism from the streets to the digital world. This is very encouraging. Secondly, we are looking forward to the Dominican Republic's project of a Security Council resolution on youth peace and security with the goal of institutionalizing the YPS agenda. Thirdly and lastly, I would like to pick up a few of the recommendations of the German Youth Delegates Eva Croon and Paul Klahre, regarding the advancement of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda:

- The role of young people as meaningful stakeholders in building peace must be recognized and promoted.
- The German Youth Delegates ask for youth participation to be diverse, inclusive, democratic, meaningful, timely and trusted.

To conclude my statement, I would like to quote Eva Croon and Paul Klahre: "Encourage, promote and institutionalize the meaningful participation of young people in matters of peace and security" - in the UN as well as in member states.



**Statement by
H.E. Dian Triansyah Djani
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the
United Nations**

**Open Video Teleconference on
*“Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security
Agenda: Accelerating its Implementation of Resolutions 2250 and
2419”***

New York, 27 April 2020

***Mr. President,
Excellencies,***

Let me begin by thanking the Dominican Republic for bringing the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda forward, even in this difficult moment.

Happy Freedom Day to South Africa. To Jerry, with Batik, you are truly free.

We also thank the Secretary-General and all briefers – Mrs. Jayathma as SG's Envoy on Youth, Ms. Olla Al-Sakkaf and Mr. Gatwal Gatuoth - for updating us on the important progress and gaps pertaining to the YPS agenda.

I would like to highlight the importance of unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation to address the current COVID-19 global pandemic.

This crisis requires active participation of multi-stakeholders, including youth. We commend all young persons who work courageously as health workers, refugee workers, young citizens and Samaritans on the frontlines to fight this pandemic.

Mr. President,

Taking stocks of Resolutions 2250 and 2419, both clearly highlight the invaluable role of young people in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. Unfortunately, violence has squashed the future of a quarter of the global youth population.

We believe that their aspirations should be heard, particularly through the series of dialogues, to strengthen their meaningful participation. Youth should not simply be subject, but also decision makers. Youth from Taiz, Yemen, to Juba, South Sudan, from all parts of the world should be supported by the international community.

In this regard, allow me to highlight several pertinent points on this matter.

First, youth participation can increase the legitimacy and sustainability of peace efforts.

Their voice matters to promote mutual trust and understanding. Leaving them out of the equation leads to an imbalanced approach to peace. It may create a perception of injustice and deepen existing challenges to peace.

A bigger role in sustaining peace gives them sense of belonging and a place to engage in a constructive manner.

Second, enhancing their social awareness and opportunities.

Indonesia's current democratic system would have never taken place without the youth participation and movements. Youth drive our social progress and inspire political changes in a democratic direction.

In the period of 2019-2024, many members of our national parliament are under 30-year-old. Last year, the President of Indonesia also appointed several young people into prominent positions within the government to provide fresh and innovative ideas as well as sound advice. They are not only beneficiaries of development but also mover, influencer and driver of development in Indonesia.

When they are provided with opportunities, capacity building and quality education, youth can become the powerful social changes and engines for peace.

Third, youth as agents of change in their local communities.

Engaging youth within their communities is vital in building sustainable peace and countering violent extremist narrative that may incite terrorist acts.

In 2019, we hosted the *Regional Workshop on Establishing Youth Ambassadors for Peace Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism* to build networks and spread positive messages in social media. The more youths are engaged, the less they are vulnerable to extremism.

Thus, we believe in the importance of meaningful dialogue between youth and local religious leaders. Last year, Indonesia organized “*Santri for Peace*”, which brought youth religious actors to promote dialogue and foster understandings in a diverse community.

Mr. President,

We would like to echo the Secretary-General’s call for action on youth, peace and security, on the need to do more for youth, on the need to invest and to take into account the human rights perspectives.

We cannot afford to exclude youth for the sake of peace, now and in the future. Together with youth, we will find a way to take a leap reaching for future advancement.

By engaging youth, including young women, we are better to understand the situation on the ground and gain their trust; we are stronger to prevent conflict; we are sharper to find solutions in sustaining peace.

Lastly, in this time of COVID19, it has become more apparent and pertinent for youth to be involved in the development process since they will also be severely affected. The data of UNFPA in March 2020 shows that more than 860 million children and young people affected by COVID19 globally. And as youth shall inherit the world, it is their rights and solemn duty to be part and parcel in creating a new world post-COVID19.

Investing in youth, we will have peace, we will have development, we will rebound from COVID19 hands in hands with our youth. They are not only influencers but actors for shaping the future.

In closing, I want to quote the famous quote of the first President of Indonesia, Soekarno: "Give me 1,000 old men, I will undoubtedly ripe Mount Semeru from its root, give me 10 youths, I will undoubtedly shake the world."

I thank you, Mr. President.



MISSION PERMANENTE DU NIGER

AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

417 EAST 50TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022

Tél: (212)421-3260/61/86 Fax: (212)753-6931

Email: nigermission@ymail.com

**Statement by H.E.M Abdou ABARRY,
Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations on the
Open VTC entitled, “Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth,
Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of
resolutions 2250 and 2419”**

New York, le 27 Avril, 2020

Mister President,

Let me begin by thanking the Secretary-General António Guterres for his participation and today's briefers Jayathma Wickramanayake, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth; Olla Al-Sakkaf; and Gatwal Augustine Gatkuoth Yul for their remarkable contribution.

Late Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan once said, "Have confidence in the young people, give them a chance and they will surprise you". Many of the world's major changes were ushered in by the dynamism; fearlessness; and the undying optimism of young people.

Africa is the world's youngest continent. It also has the fastest growing population in the world. While this is an unprecedented opportunity, it also presents our African countries with a difficult task: to create the conditions for a secure future in an interconnected world where the pace of change accelerates. A fully empowered youth population could allow African countries to harness the benefits of the demographic dividend. However, if untapped, a large unemployed youth population could be a hotbed of social discontent, turmoil, and conflict. Unlocking the potential of the millions of African youth would be a gamechanger for Africa and for the world.

Mister President,

Last month, the UN Secretary General published the first report on youth, peace and security and specifically on the implementation of resolutions 2419 (2018) and 2250 (2015). One in four young people is affected by conflict and violence. In the Sahel region, the security situation has a disproportionate effect on the youth. The majority of Boko Haram combatants are young people. Young men, disillusioned by high levels of unemployment and lured by easy gain, join terrorist groups such as Boko Haram. Young women are kidnapped into the ranks as prisoners of war

and used as sex slaves or as human bombs. Their future is compromised, and so is that of our countries.

Young people including young women face multifaceted challenges and inequalities in access to education and severe human rights violations like child marriage as well as various forms of violence. These challenges limit their full participation to the socioeconomic development of their communities and countries. It also translates into a cycle of systemic exclusion which creates deep generational divides and grievances that ill-intentioned groups often prey on to indoctrinate and recruit young people into their ranks.

In Niger, we recognise the necessity of disengagement and reintegration, one of the five pillars outlined in resolution 2250 (2015). Since 2017, 240 ex-combatants of the terrorist organisation, Boko Haram, who had voluntarily surrendered to the authorities joined a reintegration centre in the region of Diffa. Through this centre and the humane treatment that they receive there, Niger intends to send a strong signal to encourage these young people to lay down their arms and lead a new constructive life in society.

Mister President,

The youth, particularly young women, play a critical role in peace processes. Studies have shown that the most sustainable way to preserve and secure peace is to involve women: they are the pillars for the consolidation of peace, and above all, for conflict prevention. Therefore, my delegation reiterates the need to continue to protect and strengthen the full participation of women in peace and security. Young women such as Captain Ouma Laouali, the first female pilot in Niger's air force, who has just completed her training as a Herk pilot, is debunking stereotypes about the youth, and young women in particular. We must continue to reinforce the type of partnerships that have allowed Captain Ouma

Laouali and many others to hone their skills which would be essential to regional peacekeeping operations.

Mister President,

The latest Secretary General report on women, peace and security has established that young women human rights defenders face serious intimidations because of their essential work and service. Yet, a report on development finance notes that only 0.2% of total bilateral aid for interventions in precarious and conflict areas went directly to women's organizations.

We recognize the essential role of young women in peace processes but regret that only 20% of Peace agreements signed between 1990 and 2018 contain special provisions for women. A gender-based approach to conflict prevention would be a step in the right direction to enlarge and consolidate the civic space for young women's participation. Measures must account for the gendered dimensions of conflicts and how they amplify existing inequalities.

Mister President,

Unless we tackle the structural barriers to youth representation in political processes, we will continue to face a poor presence of young people in decision-making bodies. In Niger, the Youth Parliament and the Youth National Council are two platforms that have successfully ensured that the voices of the youth are heard in the highest level of decision-making and in national policies and at the local level.

When we do not involve young people, we silence them, and when we silence young people; we silence our future; and we overlook new ways of tackling seemingly intractable challenges.

This is why my delegation recommends:

- First, with regards to the disengagement and reintegration pillar of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, the establishment of programmes to support the reintegration of children and youth rescued from armed conflicts and the adoption of a handover protocol for the transfer of children from military custody to civilian child protection authorities. We would like to stress the need for these programmes to be gender- and age- sensitive, and to be inclusive of those groups in the process of building more resilient and sustainable communities.
- Second, my delegation calls for increased funding and technical support for the vital work of the youth, especially young women, working in conflict areas in accordance with the recommendations of resolution 2250 (2015) and 1325 (2000).
- Third, as the Youth Envoy had stated last year in July, we support the designation of a youth focal point in each peacekeeping mission to ensure and consolidate the participation of young people in peace processes.
- Lastly, we call on all members states to set up instances that allow for the systematic participation of the youth in various national, regional and international decision-making processes.

Mister President,

To conclude, Mister President, at a time when the world is facing a common enemy and global pandemic, we are reminded of the importance of partnerships. We welcome the institutionalization of the youth, peace and security agenda by the African Union in its Peace and Security Council

since 2018. This has created a unique platform for reinforcing the role of African youth in the AU's initiative, Silencing the Guns.

The words echoed by Wangari Maathai who said that, "There are opportunities even in the most difficult moments", find greater resonance today in the African Youth's resolve to Silencing the Guns and as the world battles the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you.

Statement by Vassily Nebenizia, Permanent Representative of Russia to the UN, at the open VTC of UNSC Member-States on Youth, Peace and Security

Mr. President,

We would like to thank Secretary-General for his presentation of youth, peace and security report. We are also grateful to Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Ms. Wickramanayake, as well as other briefers – Ms. Olla Al-Sakkaf and Mr. Gatwal Augustine Gatkouth for sharing their views.

It goes without saying that youth has a great potential and an important role to play in the development of society, inter alia through meaningful participation in a wide range of peace related tasks, such as resolution of conflicts, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The need for the constructive engagement of youth in such activities aimed at maintaining peace and security in situations of armed conflict is also reflected in Security Council resolutions 2250 and 2419.

At the same time involvement of young people in any political activity should be meaningful and based on their professional knowledge and skills, rather than driven by desire to produce beautiful statistical figures or to fill up certain quota, pertaining to age or gender. Moreover, young people shouldn't be drawn into any political activities until they reach legal age.

The task of promoting positive image of youth should not overshadow real challenges we have to address as members of the Security Council. It is well-known that, unfortunately, young people are especially vulnerable to radical ideology. Their search for self-identification against the background of lack of life wisdom, or experience, or education, as well as strive to find their place in society are often exploited by extremist and terrorist groups in order to involve youth in illegal activities.

In this regard the United Nations antiterrorism mechanisms could and should be useful to help the young people by promoting stronger cooperation of international community in shielding young people from the influence of terrorist and radical ideologies, cutting off the channels through which such groups incite young people, combating use of Internet by terrorist groups for recruitment of youngsters.

Special attention should be also paid to the phenomenon of meddling in internal affairs of sovereign States by external stakeholders through indoctrinating and brain-washing young people, in particular with the aim to shape domestic political landscape or overthrow legitimate authorities under the disguise of promoting democracy or human rights. Any external support for youth should not trigger unrest or protests.

We are convinced in importance of promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance among young people. For this goal, each State has to create favorable conditions to help young people realize their full potential and be well integrated into society and its social, economical and political activities. Providing youth with high-quality education and employment opportunities are important steps in this regard. It is also vital to encourage young people to participate in socially meaningful activities, help them improve their skills and talents, increase their self-confidence and self-esteem, make them support the concept of peaceful coexistence.

In Russia we pay special attention to the support of youth organizations and promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue among youth. The Russian Federation is doing a lot for helping young people to achieve these aims. They are at the core of national policy on youth until 2025, adopted by the Government in 2014 and implemented at the federal, regional and municipal levels. Apart from pursuing these aims we pay particular attention to prevent younger generation from the spread of radical and terrorist ideology.

We are also holding numerous relevant seminars and fora at the national and international levels. In particular, in October 2017 we were pleased to host the nineteenth World Youth Festival in Sochi, which assembled over 20,000 people from more than 180 countries.

I thank you.



**Statement by
Ambassador Jerry Matjila
Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations
during the UNSC VTC Open meeting entitled
“Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:
Accelerating Implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419”**

Mr President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Antonio Guterres, and our excellent trio of youth activists and briefers for their comprehensive and enlightening briefing this morning. It is always encouraging to hear from the youth and their role in, and contribution to peace processes in various conflict zones around the world.

South Africa welcomes the initiative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who during their tenure in the Security Council in 2015 ushered in the landmark Security Council resolution 2250, the important role played by Peru in taking forward the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, especially with the adoption of resolution 2419, and the current debate being initiated by the Dominican Republic in this uncertain environment due to COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the youth globally.

Under its own Presidency, South Africa sought to prioritise the role of youth and their contribution on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in the efforts to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2020. This resulted in the adoption of a Council PRST containing six additional measures that can be taken to accelerate implementation in mobilising the youth towards Silencing the Guns in Africa that resonates well today, with the call this year by the Secretary-General on the Global Ceasefire.

Mr President,

The role of youth in relation to peace and security is of particular importance to the African Continent where some estimates indicate that 60% of the population are under the age of 25. South Africa supports efforts to fully harness and support the innovation of young people's contribution to peace, through investment in young people's capacities; redressing the structural barriers that limit youth participation in peace and

security; and emphasising partnerships and collaborative action, where young people are viewed as equal and essential partners for peace.

These aspects have been highlighted in the 2018 Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. They are also reflected in the challenges highlighted in the Secretary-General's report with the additional challenge of the violation of the human rights of youth.

In terms of the areas of the five key pillars of actions, we wish to reflect the following:

First, **on participation**, we acknowledge the role played by the youth as agents of change as they were instrumental in advancing the goals of the broader struggle for the liberation and democracy in our country. Young people who were often at the frontlines of the battle for freedom are also now at the forefront of combating poverty, inequality and unemployment in South Africa. Therefore, the South African Government has made the empowerment of youth central to its development agenda and has set up programmes dedicated to their education, job creation and development. Today, as we celebrate the 26th Anniversary of our Freedom in South Africa – thanks to the heroic role played by our youth throughout the anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles.

Second, **on protection and prevention**, South Africa supports ensuring a safe and enabling environment for youth in conflict situations, particularly young refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. This will be vital in creating a post-conflict environment for youths' positive participation in the economy and society in general, and a preventative measure to address inequality, discrimination, exclusion and human rights violations as a driver of conflict, as identified by the Secretary-General. In this regard, investment in the meaningful participation of the youth in politics, as well as the socio-economic environment, is therefore vital. As the Security Council, we should also not forget the plight of millions of young migrants in various corners of the world.

Third, **in terms of partnerships, disengagement and reintegration** it is important to build on the active engagement of the youth and youth organisations in multilateral processes, in order to ensure long-term partnerships as well as that the youths' voice is reflected in all engagements. Most importantly, we need to mainstream and institutionalise youth participation and partnerships in all peace and security processes.

In this regard we would like to highlight the Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security, developed by the African Union's Peace and Security Council as part of the Continent's Peace and Security Architecture as well as the Study on the Roles and Contributions of Youth towards Peace and Security in Africa. These serve as good frameworks that can be replicated elsewhere. It remains essential that the youth be prioritised with regard to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration as they tend to be particularly vulnerable with regard to reintegration in society if their formative years are spent as participants in armed conflict and extremist groups.

In addition, fourth Mr President, **the Security Council reform**, society must pay particular attention to the Security Council reforms, as new Security Council organs are established in post conflict situations.

Fifth, **empowerment of young women**, South Africa continues to be concerned about the trend that youth programs tend to prioritise the roles of young men over young women in society. This is further exacerbated by the disproportionate targeting of young women with sexual and gender-based violence. Therefore, the outcomes of this meeting should reinforce the work in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325, adopted during Namibia's Presidency in the Security Council in 2000, the 20th Anniversary of which we celebrate today, its subsequent resolutions, including resolution 2493 on women, peace and security adopted in October 2019, during South Africa's Presidency of the Security Council.

I would like to conclude by emphasising that South Africa believes that we must harness the dynamism and positivity of the youth and build resilience in order to counter sentiments aimed at resorting to violence as a means of securing any misguided interests.

I thank you.



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

by

H.E. Dr. Halimah DeShong

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations

**Open VTC – “Toward the 5th Anniversary of the Youth Peace and Security
Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of Resolution 2250 and 2419”**

United Nations Security Council

Monday 27 April 2020
10:00 am
New York

Please check against delivery

Thank you Mr. President

We join Council Members in thanking the Dominican Republic for arranging this timely Open VTC with a focus on accelerating the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. We also thank Secretary General Guterres, Special Envoy on Youth, Ms. Wickramanayake, and Mr. Gatkuoth for their insightful briefings, and look forward to the contribution of Ms. Al-Sakkaf, shortly.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines regards the participation and leadership of youth, a key pillar of the whole-of-society approach, necessary for achieving lasting peace, security and sustainable development, globally.

Mr President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is encouraged by the continued evolution of the Youth, Peace and Security infrastructure in the Caribbean and Latin America. We recall initiatives to promote peace among Haitian youth through the use of sports in neighbourhoods gravely affected by violence, and the many contributions of young people to the peace process in Colombia.

The Youth Peace and Security agenda is particularly relevant for Africa, the Continent with the largest youth population. It is heartening to see that young leaders, such as Mr. Gatkuoth, remain committed to building a fairer, more peaceful future on the continent, by tackling a range of issues from terrorism, unemployment to climate change.

Notwithstanding national and regional progress, sufficiently funded, focused, and strategic action is required to accelerate this agenda all over the world, especially in light of enduring

legacies of anti-youth ideologies and the increased threat posed by COVID-19. With this in mind, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines wishes to reiterate the following strategic interventions. There is need to continue to fund the PBC and to support even greater policy coherence within the wider peacebuilding architecture of the United Nations system. In particular, youth in their diversity, must continue to be engaged, not simply as targets *for*, but as crafters *of* policies. Funding must target the high levels of unemployment and barriers to education and training that render youth vulnerable to recruitment, criminality and violence. This is even more urgent with the almost universal, drastic increase in unemployment, and overall despair occasioned by the pandemic. With the pandemic amplifying existing inequalities, we call for responses which engage and account for the intersections of the Women Peace and Security and Youth Peace and Security agendas, to ensure young women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding and to address the escalating levels of sexual and gender-based violence. Additionally, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would welcome further reporting and focus on Youth, Peace and Security.

Excellencies,

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development is inextricably linked to Youth, Peace and Security programming. Future generations must be offered the freedom of a safe and secure world. This necessarily entails greater efforts of the international community to mobilize the necessary resources to adapt and mitigate against Climate Change – the greatest threat facing young people. Often misunderstood and silenced, young people, in their diversity, have always spoken. Young people have always had a voice. It is our responsibility to develop the apparatus with which to meaningfully engage youth and ensure their full participation in decision-making, as we collectively re-imagine, and craft futures marked by social justice and social transformation. **Thank you.**

UNITED NATIONS – SECURITY COUNCIL

Open debate VTC on “Youth, peace and security” under the agenda item “Maintenance of International Peace and Security” 27 April 2020

M. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Dominican Republic for convening this debate on the important issue of Youth, Peace, and Security, and I thank the Secretary-General M. Antonio GUTERRES for being with us today and for his valuable briefing. I thank also the briefers from the civil society for their insights.

M. President,

Young people represent the majority in the countries affected by conflict and violence or in post conflict situation. They are one of the most vulnerable layers of these societies, and endure the devastating impacts of conflicts and violence at all levels and stages. Inaccurate perspectives and stereotypes perceive them as a problem that needs to be solved, or pinpoint them as either perpetrators or victims. Moreover, The upsurge in terrorism and violent extremism also tends to be linked to the role of young people.

As we celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, we reiterate the crucial role of young people, as recognized by the SC resolution 2250 (2015), in the positive contribution in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

To prioritize youth in efforts related to conflict and post- conflict contexts, we call for implementation of the 2250 and 2419 resolutions worldwide. We consider the five pillars highlighted by the resolution 2250 which are Participation, Partnerships, Prevention, Protection and Disengagement and Re-integration, essential to promote the young people's role and contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution.

In the same connection, we underscore the need for strategies of empowering youth to more effectively promote and enhance their role in conflict transformation, through considering young people as dynamic forces capable of strengthening the foundation of societies, and as key stakeholders in peace building strategies and action plans. They must have access to economic opportunities, political participation, social services and security, and they must be protected from all forms of marginalisation, hopelessness and stigmatization, that may lead to radicalization and violent extremism.

M. President,

The considerable efforts being made by the international community and within the UN system, in recognizing and promoting the role of youth in peace building processes, must be continued and enhanced to further operationalize SC resolutions 2250 and 2419 and institutionalize the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

In this regard, additional measures can be taken, such as:

- including in mission mandates specific language encouraging meaningful participation of youth in peace and security efforts, including in mediation and peace negotiations, monitoring of ceasefires and implementation of peace agreement,

- integration of YPS analysis into thematic and country-specific reports and briefings to the Security Council, and expanding the participation on young briefers to the Council.
- Developing and adopting national roadmaps and action plans for the implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419.

In conclusion, we reiterate the importance of youth in any society, and the pivotal role they can play, when they are successfully empowered and engaged in transformation programs, in not only maintaining peace and security, but also in combating terrorism and realizing the sustainable development goals.

Thank you

Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe, UK Acting Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council Open Debate on Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Youth, Peace and Security

Monday, 27 April

Thank you, Mr President. Thank you again to you for calling this open debate today and we're also very grateful to the Secretary-General and the Youth Envoy and our other briefers. We're also particularly glad to hear those perspectives from the youth briefers. There was a lot to reflect on there in terms of putting youth and the peace and security agenda into a broader and more personal context. Thank you very much to them.

Mr President, I wanted to focus on on three points today. Firstly, on, as others have done, the impact of COVID-19 on youth and on this agenda. And secondly, on the critical role of education. And thirdly, on the importance of protecting young human rights defenders and young peace builders.

Allow me to begin with a quick word on COVID-19. I think we all know the world is experiencing an unprecedented challenge in the face of this global pandemic. And it's clear that we can only defeat COVID if we work together to defeat it everywhere. And this requires global effort. But young people are going to be key to the global response to this pandemic, and that's going to mean listening to them and ensuring their needs are taken into account, that they are involved in decisions about our handling of this crisis as it affects their lives.

As others have noted, more than half of the world's population is below the age of 30 and they will be hard hit by the second order effects of this virus. They will experience the uncertainty and hardship of the global economic slowdown and the social disruption and, in some places, the humanitarian and conflict impacts if we don't respond quickly to the challenges that COVID will mean for vulnerable societies. So we need youth to join our efforts to fight the virus and we need to ensure that they do not bear the brunt of its impact.

Mr President, the second point I wanted to talk to was about education, and it was really striking in Gatwal's story to hear of how the point at which his life pivoted really from being trapped in the cycle of violence that had trapped his father, was when he was in Uganda and was getting an education there. It's clear that shortcomings in education is not a new phenomenon in many parts of the world, but it's clear that the pandemic is having a profound impact on education systems, too, with over 1.5 billion children and youth out of school. And more disruption will follow as the virus spreads. It's important to note that missing out on an education is a huge waste of young people's potential, but more importantly, it makes societies in which they live less safe and less prosperous because, as Gatwal said, it was an education that gave him hope and prospects. And it is without education that young people, without hope and prospects turn to alternatives including violence.

We also know, Mr President, that school closures have a disproportionate impact on girls' lives, with girls facing increased risks of child marriage, of teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and being at a risk of dropping out of school permanently. So it's critical that, where we can, we get schools open as quickly as possible.

It's also worth noting that it's not just COVID that's closing down schools. As we've heard in the Council over the last several months, in the Sahel, increased violence has closed hundreds of schools and pushed children out of education again with a knock-on effect on the conflict there.

Mr President, the UK is committed to standing up for the right of every girl to have twelve years of quality education. And we've consistently provided funding to deliver on this promise and we'll continue to do so. In fact, we've added an additional \$6 million to the Education Cannot Wait programme to provide education the world's most vulnerable children and youth, particularly as they are affected by the impact of COVID-19.

Mr President, finally, my third point is that young people have to have the freedom and rights to champion what they believe in. We've been gravely concerned by reprisals against young human rights defenders and peace builders. Young people face attacks and threats and restrictions on their freedom in attempts to stop them from doing their critical work -- including, sadly, here at the UN. Young women are at particular risk, whether age and gender can work against them. That's why in February this year we co-hosted an Arria meeting on reprisals against women human rights defenders and women peace builders who briefed the Security Council, and many of whom were young. We believe the Council must work together to foster an enabling environment for young people working on peace and security.

Mr President, the South African Ambassador reminded us earlier that today is South Africa's Freedom Day. And it's impossible really to imagine South Africa winning that freedom without the energy and the mobilisation of its youth and that youth paid a high price for that freedom, from the Soweto uprisings in 1976, right through the violence that was inspired in the lead-up to democratic elections. And I think as we reflect on that, our job here becomes clear, and that is to ensure a voice for the youth of the world that allows them to become central to the way we govern ourselves and the way we decide on the future, but one that does not come at such a great cost.

Thank you very much, Mr President.

Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on Youth, Peace, and Security (via VTC)

Ambassador Kelly Craft

Permanent Representative

U.S. Mission to the United Nations

New York, New York

April 27, 2020

AS DELIVERED

Thank you, José, and thank you for hosting this very important issue today. Thank you, Secretary-General Guterres, for your presentation and for your report on such an important issue. I know I'm not alone in saying that our future truly does rest in the hands of our young people, and that we must do everything in our power to remove the obstacles that limit their meaningful participation in public life.

One way we can include young people is by listening to their voices. So, I'm delighted that we were able to welcome, and please excuse if I mispronounce your names, but it is important that I say your names, Jayathma, Olla, and Gatwal, three amazing, young leaders today and I want to acknowledge your courageous work to improve communities around the world.

Five years ago, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2250, the first resolution fully dedicated to the vital role that young people play in

maintaining international peace and security. Two years ago, we adopted Resolution 2419, which urged the Secretary-General and his special envoys to incorporate the views of young people and involve them at decision-making levels. And today, we are here to take stock of the progress made and steps required to youth participation and ensure full implementation of these resolutions. There should be no doubt that the Security Council takes young people, and their concerns, seriously.

In so many conflicts, youth continue to be caught in the crosshairs. Ninety percent of the 1.85 billion young women and men in the world today come from developing countries. Twenty five percent of them - more than 400 million people - are directly affected by violence or armed conflict. Surely this cannot continue to be the norm. When schools are shut down, hospitals are targeted, or aid gets blocked, it is the youth who are most vulnerable. Now, the imperative to protect them is even greater: on top of social, education, and health systems that already weakened by conflict or disaster, the COVID-19 pandemic is triggering multiple, interlinked crises impacting hundreds of millions of young people.

The United States has already emphasized that effective mitigation of COVID-19 requires government transparency and accountability, the full participation of civil society, and access to information. But as

we've heard from Ms. Sakkaf today, the situation also demands young people's engagement. Unfortunately, barriers to that engagement remain. These include intimidation and attacks violating young people's human rights, and insufficient investments in systems that facilitate their inclusion, most especially education.

As Member States, it is our responsibility to guarantee a safe environment for all human rights defenders, including young human rights defenders and peacebuilders. We remain concerned about attacks and limitations on young people's freedom of speech, movement, assembly, and association. Neither they nor their family members should face retaliation or detention for speaking out. All young women and men have the fundamental right to participate in public life - a right they possess regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, caste, class, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.

As we strive to include young people, the Council must recognize that leaders face a deficit of trust. Many youths do not have high levels of faith in government institutions. Furthermore, when young people are marginalized or discriminated against, it becomes easier for terrorist groups to recruit and target them. And I'm going to say that again because I think that this is important that we understand that young

people, when marginalized or discriminated against, they do become targets and it becomes much easier for terrorist groups to recruit them.

As leaders, we have real work to do in this space, we have a responsibility. Thankfully, many young people are already showing us how to be a part of the solution, just as these three have done today. They have played an essential role in preventing violent extremism by reaching out to their peers in positive ways through friends and social media. For our part, the Trump Administration will continue to help young people acquire the skills they need to shape government and politics of their countries. Our efforts are aimed at building partnerships with promising young leaders around the world, and across the UN system the voices and perspectives of young people are being amplified.

In addition to the work undertaken by UNICEF, UNDP and UNHCR to protect and strengthen youth participation, UN field missions in Central African Republic, Liberia, and elsewhere are enabling young people to develop national security strategies. We encourage this kind of engagement in policymaking decisions, especially in post-conflict environments.

Fellow Council members, just and peaceful societies are ones that listen to and incorporate the opinions and aspirations of all their people. I

know these are the societies we wish to build. And so, the voices of young women and men must be heard. Their views must be valued. And their participation must be ensured.

Thank you.

###



THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

By H.E. Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy
Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
At the Security Council Open VTC on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)
New York, 27 April 2020

Mr. President,

We thank you for the opportunity to continue our engagement in this topic. We are also grateful to the Secretary-General for his first comprehensive report and to all briefers for their today's briefings.

This year marks the 5th anniversary of Resolution 2250, the landmark resolution on YPS. In the past five years, millions of children have become young men and women, and millions of young people have entered adulthood. But youth should not be simply defined as a transition from childhood to adulthood. Youth is a unique period of dreaming big and aiming high, with full of potential, energy and creativity to be realized.

The report of the Secretary General highlighted many positive examples of youth participation in peace processes and youth-led peace building initiatives from the Philippines to Mali, Colombia. We are also encouraged to see youth's pioneer role to address today's challenges, such as climate change and recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. These are, however, just a few among other thousands untold, and other thousands which could have been a reality if they had received due recognition and support. The lack of awareness, the absence of a comprehensive youth framework and limited resources are among biggest impediments to the role and participation of youth in many places around the world, especially conflict-affected areas.

To further promote the YPS agenda, first and foremost, we need to redouble efforts to raise public awareness about the role of our young people, particularly young women. At the national level, we designate March as a dedicated Youth Month to celebrate youth's outstanding achievements and inspire young generations.

At the regional level, the Leaders of ASEAN hold annual interface dialogues with Youth Representatives to listen to their thoughts and

recommendations on issues of peace, security and development. Such activities show the trust we place on our youth as important partners and strengthen the sense of responsibility of our youth as future leaders.

Mr. President,

Investment in youth policies always yields great returns, both tangible and intangible. Viet Nam has enacted the Youth Law and developed the youth development strategy for 10 years as an integral part of our national socio-economic strategy. We believe that with a comprehensive framework on youth-related issues, including education, vocational training, employment and healthcare, we are on the right track to address the root causes of conflicts, violent extremism and radicalisation. For youth affected by conflicts and particularly, youth in disengagement and reintegration, such framework is key to help them heal the scars left by conflicts, regain confidence and rebuild their lives. It is also necessary to further underscore the crucial importance of education and culture of peace. All initiatives on conflict prevention and resolution and national reconciliation come primarily from the understanding of the values of peace, tolerance and moderation. We welcome all efforts to uphold and instil these values, especially with the active participation of youth.

Last but not least, we call for strengthened cooperation on youth. Regional and sub-regional organisations play an important role in this regard by connecting and coordinating efforts on YPS at all levels. ASEAN has established youth cooperation mechanisms at ministerial and senior official levels and is now implementing the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth. ASEAN is also undertaking youth exchange programs with external partners. We encourage further youth cooperation among regional organisations as well as between the UN and regional organisations so as to further advance this agenda meaningfully.

To conclude, Mr. President, all our efforts today will be continued and led by our youth tomorrow. Their role, participation and contribution in issues of peace and security can not be overemphasized. We reaffirm our support for the YPS agenda and its effective implementation and believe that today's meeting will lead to a meaningful anniversary of this agenda.

I thank you, Mr. President./.



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

WRITTEN STATEMENT

BY

Ambassador Adela Raz

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations

VTC Security Council Meeting on Youth, Peace and Security

27 April 2020

NEW YORK

(Please check against delivery)

I want to thank the President of the Security Council for April, the Dominican Republic, for hosting this open VTC debate on the topic of Youth, Peace, and Security. This year coincides with the celebration of the fifth anniversary of resolution 2215 (2015) which, for the first time, included youth in the international peace and security discussions of the Security Council. The participation of youth is based on the five significant pillars of participation, protection, prevention, disengagement and reintegration, and partnerships. This was further strengthened in 2018 through the presentation of the Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace, and Security, *The Missing Peace*, mandated by the previously mentioned resolution; the launch of the UN's first Youth Strategy by the Secretary-General, "Youth 2030;" and the adoption of resolution 2419 (2018) which reiterated and called for the increased role of youth in all levels of decision-making related to security, conflict, and peace, including in peace agreements. I also would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report issued on March 2nd (S/2020/167), and for the recommendations included in it.

Mr. President,

A sustainable peace and an end to modern conflicts cannot be achieved without the involvement of stakeholders from all segments of society. Recognizing the role and importance of the meaningful participation of young men and women in preventing and resolving conflicts and sustaining peace must be a key factor and principle in the context of peacebuilding efforts and post-peace development. This is especially true in a country with a very young population like Afghanistan where 63% of our population is below the age of 25 with 46% of these accounting for children under the age of 15. Talking about the future of Afghanistan and its conflict resolution and economic development means talking about the needs of these 27.5 million people yearning for peace, education, and opportunities to fulfill their dreams and aspirations.

With this in mind, promoting the participation of the youth in key decision and policy-making levels has been a priority within the agenda of the Government of Afghanistan. This has been reflected in the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF), the National Priority Programs (NPPs), and the Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals (A-SDGs). As a result of our commitment to our national framework and SDGs, members of our youth have joined the ranks of high-ranking officials in the civil and security sectors. Afghanistan has worked diligently to equip the new generations with opportunities to become the leaders of our New Afghanistan. As part of these efforts, the Government has instituted legislation to create fair access to education and subsequent employment opportunities for young men and women in our country. We have worked on eliminating child labor while instituting policies for the retention of students, especially girls through the 2019 Girls' Education Policy. Policies such as the "Safe Schools Declaration" have sought to improve education infrastructure and mitigate the threat of insecurity that would keep our

children out of school. The Government has also continued its work on strengthening the country's tertiary education system and, through the Second Skills Development Project, has established and reinforced institutions that impart technical and vocation skills that can help our youth explore a diverse stream of employment opportunities.

As part of our peace efforts, we understand the importance of including youth in Intra-Afghan Negotiations with the Taliban. In April 2019, the Government of Afghanistan convened the Peace Consultative Loya Jirga that saw the participation of 3200 representatives from all parts of Afghanistan, including youth. This Jirga adopted a roadmap for peace in which the participation of youth and women in the peace talks was highlighted. Respecting this principle, the Afghan Government has stressed and reiterated that not only should young women and men be considered as part of the Government's inclusive negotiating team, but that the constitutional rights and past achievements secured for them should be preserved in any peace settlement. We remain steadfast in our dedication to ensuring that the outcome of these negotiations will result in an inclusive agreement that represents all segments of our society, under the principles of a democratic and representative Republic.

Ensuring the protection and wellbeing of our youth has also been an area of priority for the Government of Afghanistan. The Government has passed legislation to ensure Afghanistan's proper compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant international obligations through the passing of a revised Penal Code in 2018 and the Child Rights Protection Law in 2019. This has been further accompanied by the institutionalization of zero-tolerance policies on these matters on the involvement of children as part of the Afghan National and Local Police and other levels within the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

But there is more to be done. Despite our continued efforts, youth remain one of the most heavily impacted groups as a result of the ongoing conflict. The rate of child casualties has risen yearly since 2013 and illegal armed groups, including the Taliban, continue to put children in harm's way, using them as human shields and child soldiers. This is an inexcusable and grave violation of international human rights law. The current climate in Afghanistan, as a result of decades of unrelenting conflict, has disenfranchised generations and have left our youth vulnerable in ways that the Taliban and other illegal armed groups have taken advantage of. We have consistently asked the Taliban to enter a ceasefire with the Government as to prevent further loss of life from our youth and all Afghans as a whole, and now with the arrival of COVID-19, we reiterate this call even more effusively. Our country demands peace and we need to be able to address the effects of this pandemic, including the precarious situation of many of our youth who face the effects of the closing of schools and economic activities that sustain their wellbeing.

Mr. President,

I would like to close by emphasizing that the aspirations of young Afghans to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan are the aspirations of the whole of Afghanistan. As we are currently facing the challenge of COVID-19 as a common threat and there is a need for all citizens including youth to play a key role in addressing this challenge through raising awareness, following the guidelines of the Government and helping those most vulnerable by the effects of the threat when possible. The first and most urgent step towards achieving this goal is ensuring we can have an immediate ceasefire that can stop the suffering going on in Afghanistan and which can create a suitable environment for the delivery of humanitarian aid and assistance. We are now starting the Holy Month of Ramadan and we stress our call to the Taliban to see this time of peace and reflection as a time to institute the humanitarian ceasefire our people desperately need. We encourage our international partners and allies to join our calls for the future and wellbeing of Afghanistan and the new generations that deserve peace and a future where their hopes can become realities.



Open VTC of the United Nations Security Council during Dominican Republic's presidency of the Security Council - "Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419".

Statement of the Argentine Republic - Monday, 27 April, 2020

Mr. President,

Allow me first to express my Delegation's gratitude for the initiative of the Government of the Dominican Republic to convene this VTC on Youth, Peace and Security. Moreover, I would like to thank the briefings submitted by the Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres; the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Mrs. Jayathma Wickramanayake; the Project Coordinator of Youth Without Border Organization for Development, Ms. Olla Al-Sakkaf (Yemen); and the Founder of the Youth-adult Empowerment Initiative for South Sudan and Uganda, Mr. Gatwal Gatkouth.

From the very beginning, Argentina has embraced the new emphasis given by the Secretary General to conflict prevention as well as to the development of the concept of sustainable peace or peacekeeping, a narrative in which youth and women have a fundamental role. Our country recognizes that peace and security are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

We recognize the essential role of youth in conflict prevention and resolution, and as a key aspect of sustainability, inclusiveness and the success of peacekeeping and peace-building activities. Thus, we support the implementation of Resolution 2250 (2015), promoting internationally that young people are instruments of peace, dialogue, understanding, and fight against poverty, violence and intolerance.

Indeed, Argentina considers that armed conflicts are highly detrimental to the education and work opportunities of young people, who are vulnerable and are often exposed to dangerous situations that hinder their development and affect their schooling. An estimated 300,000 armed children and youth live in conflict zones. They are victims, forced to live in constant violation of

their rights, being subjected to situations such as recruitment, mutilation, kidnapping, sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian aid.

In addition to suffering violations of their most basic human rights, conflicts affect youth psychologically and socially, which negatively impacts their development. They may lose access to education and other age-related activities; they may be affected by feelings of guilt or by a perception of violence as normal in the event that they have joined armed groups, voluntarily or forcedly, or have witnessed or committed acts of extreme violence; and in many cases the suffering feelings of loss, uprooting, sexual violence and addiction to toxic substances have negative consequences for their mental health.

Many youth in conflict contexts are affected by military service, or participate in war-based and illicit sub-economies. They are repeatedly forcibly recruited, and in other cases they are driven by cultural, social, economic and political pressures, as the informal economy associated with conflict can sometimes offer them perceived social and employment opportunities as preferable to poverty and hunger.

Mr. President,

It is essential to pay greater attention to the root causes of conflict and the importance of finding solutions starting from national involvement, in which young people can play a significant role in the prevention and maintenance of peace, if they are assured of an inclusive environment through the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

In its participation in ECOSOC, Argentina has pointed out that the Peacebuilding Commission acts as a bridge and consulting mechanism between the Organization's peace and security efforts and those dedicated to development, human rights and humanitarian assistance. In line with this vision, we believe that the Commission can, in its active role played in supporting the Security Council, highlight the contribution of young people in the design and evaluation of the mandates of peacekeeping operations, especially in its phases of peacebuilding.

In this framework, Argentina supports UNICEF's demand for urgent progress in efforts to protect children and youth affected by conflict, through the development of legislation, policies, and actions at the national level to protect all young people.

Mr. President,

Education is key to peace, security, development and the full enjoyment of human rights; and continued access to safe education helps protect young people from the dangers of armed conflict. Education is not only a human right but also an essential protection mechanism for youth affected by armed conflict, helping them to reach their full potential and contribute to building stronger communities.

In return, safeguarding the security of young people allows them to become relevant actors in the post-conflict peacebuilding, reconstruction and reintegration processes.

Recognizing that young people constitute a large part of civilians who are strongly affected by armed conflict, and that the interruption of young people's access to education and economic opportunities has decisive consequences for sustainable peace, Argentina led, together with Norway and Spain, the Declaration on Safe Schools and the Guidelines to Prevent the Military Use of Schools and Universities during Armed Conflicts adopted in Oslo, in May 2015, initiative which aimed to raise global awareness of the seriousness of the attacks against students, teachers, schools and universities, and the military use of schools and universities as well as to universalize the Declaration. In that sense, on 2019, Argentina, Spain and Norway celebrated the Third Conference on Safe Schools.

Mr. President,

Argentina believes that it is essential that young people increase their meaningful and inclusive participation as leaders of the future for the consolidation of peace with transformative potential, rather than engaging in violence. Young people certainly have an important role to play in shaping their own future and in building peace. They need to be involved in relief, recovery and reconstruction programs, and as part of the processes of transition and national reconciliation. Governments and civil society, including in partnership with the private sector, must harness the energy, ideas and experiences of young people to create a new post-conflict society.

Argentina reaffirms what has been stated by the Ibero-American Pact for Youth in the sense of encouraging the role of young people as promoters of a culture of peace, through the creation of training programs for the prevention of violence and conflict resolution.

Mr. President,

The outbreak of a worldwide unprecedented crisis due to the spread of COVID-19 and its shattering consequences as the UN commemorates its 75 anniversary, represents a turning point at times when the world demands a shift of paradigm in multilateralism in order to achieve the future we want, the UN we need.

This cornerstone in the history of the Organization gives us the opportunity to bring the UN closer to youth, listen to their voices, aspirations and concerns and actively engage them in the global dialogues to work together towards an inclusive, people – oriented UN in order to shape a better future for all.

At present, the younger generations face multifaceted and difficult challenges as the world fights relentlessly against COVID- 19 and these challenges will be even harder in the aftermath of the pandemic, when its devastating effects will result in further lack of employment, training or education, violence and armed conflict, the transformation of the labor market or the impact of climate change.

In this context, Argentina highlights the importance of Youth 2030: the UN Strategy on Youth, which clearly identifies peace building and resilience as a priority of the work of the United Nations system by and for youth. In this regard, the Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security, adopted in 2015, marks a significant shift towards recognizing the role of young people as agents of peace.

However, as the Secretary General stressed in his last report, while progress on including young people in public life has been made, meaningful youth participation in the maintenance of peace and security remains a challenge. It is critical that the international community support young people in fulfilling their full potential as a positive driving force for building peaceful, sustainable and just societies. To address this challenge, all relevant stakeholders must work together in order to ensure channels for meaningful participation of young people in decision-making processes and foster inclusive institutions that fully represent and address their needs and expectations.

In the face of the unprecedented spread of the COVID-19, the rapid use of knowledge and information is of utmost importance when it comes to developing effective responses to the pandemic. In this respect, young people can play a key role in mitigating risks and in community outreach during this crisis by, for instance, using technology, such as mobile applications and mobilizing social media platforms to spread awareness messages on protection and prevention measures to help break the chain of infection as well as to spot cases of violence and abuse and give peer support and help to the victims.

Moreover, it is important to highlight that young people are taking active, committed and leading roles in making their voices heard and demanding a multilateral system that actively and meaningfully engages them. A new narrative is in the making: one that sees young people not only as beneficiaries but also as active agents in peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes. They can also play a key role in working jointly with other main stakeholders by helping those facing different hardships as a result of long-standing conflicts, now intensified by the pandemic, and by actively engaging in peacebuilding dialogue to ensure their rights and wellbeing are taken into account while building the foundations of sustainable peace.

Mr. President,

Argentina welcomes and strongly supports the global call for peace made by the UN Secretary-General on 23 March 2020, in which he stressed the urgent need “to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives”.

In this regard, the effective implementation of ceasefires by parties to conflict will give us an opportunity to put the rights and wellbeing of young women and men at the center of peacebuilding dialogues, fostering a humanitarian-development-peace approach to their reintegration to societies, in order to carry out a process which is restorative, future-oriented and focused on their specific needs and build the foundations of sustainable peace.

Finally, we would like to emphasize that the ideals and energy of young people, who are key agents of social change, economic development and technological innovation in their communities, constitute an essential potential to help prevent conflicts and participate in shaping of lasting peace. That is why we consider it is appropriate to continue dealing with this issue within the framework of the Council, as well as to continue to deepen our understanding of the interrelation between the role of young people and the maintenance and construction of peace and peacebuilding.

I thank you.



ARMENIA

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mher MARGARYAN
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations**

UN Security Council 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)”

27 April 2020

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Presidency of the Dominican Republic for convening the video teleconference on the subject of youth, peace and security. Amidst the challenging circumstances, caused by the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the important anniversary of the youth, peace and security agenda should not be overlooked.

Five years ago, by adopting the resolution 2250, the Security Council recognized the essential role of young women and men in preventing and resolving conflicts and in sustaining peace. The landmark anniversary is an important opportunity to reflect on the progress of the member states and to scale up the efforts of the international community in promoting meaningful participation of young people in advancing peace, justice, dialogue and reconciliation and bringing the youth perspective to better respond to the multiple challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic.

The first ever report by the UN Secretary-General on youth and peace and security released in March this year depicts numerous challenges, which young people face, including violation of their human rights, exclusion, inequality, deficiencies of education, unemployment and the

shrinking civil space. It highlights the importance of meaningful participation of youth in public and political life at all levels and the necessity of creation of enabling environment for young people, in which they are seen and respected as equal citizens with equal rights and equal voices. I commend the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's envoy Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake to advocate active youth engagement across all pillars of the Organization.

The government of Armenia is placing considerable priority on the promotion of inclusive participation of youth, in political and public life, most importantly, at the decision-making levels. The young people in Armenia represent a very vibrant and active part of our society. Young men and women played a key role in democratic transformation in Armenia throughout the peaceful Velvet Revolution in May 2018 by fully exercising their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in non-violent manner. A remarkable progress has been achieved in terms of empowering young leaders as reflected in the current composition of the government, the parliament, as well as the regional authorities in Armenia.

Young people are important agents of change and social transformation. Attempts to restrict the fundamental freedoms of expression and movement of young people or to impede their dialogue and interaction, in particular, in conflict situations, result in deepening the dividing lines and can further lead to the most serious manifestations of intolerance, such as hate crimes and atrocities on ethnic and religious grounds. Young people are especially prone to radicalization, in particular in an environment of state-led policy of promotion of hatred. Employing divisive narratives and ethnic profiling at the educational institutions, glorification of hate crime perpetrators as models for young people, should be resolutely condemned by the international community. By contrast, education policies that aim to promote human rights, dialogue and inclusion represent an important tool for the prevention of radicalization of young people, fostering understanding of the cultural diversity and tolerance towards different religions and cultures.

We firmly believe that young people can play a key role at all stages of conflict resolution, particularly, in promoting dialogue and confidence-building across the dividing lines. The young generation of the Armenians in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), who have been raised free from outside oppression and foreign domination, are direct contributors to a conducive environment for

realization of their fundamental human rights, and meaningful participation in the public and political life, including through exercise of the right to vote and to take part in government. The recently held free, competitive and democratic parliamentary and presidential elections, are illustrative in this regard.

We acknowledge the important work of the civil society and youth organizations in empowering the young people to raise their voice for peace, non-violence and reconciliation. Inclusive and meaningful engagement of youth, in particular those residing in conflict areas, in peacebuilding initiatives, promotion of dialogue, confidence and trust, as well as building youth partnerships are key to sustainable peace.

Armenia is committed to advancing youth, peace and security agenda, harnessing the untapped potential of young people and amplifying their voices and aspirations in building a safer world.

Thank you.



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN AN OPEN VTC FORMAT
ON THE THEME
“TOWARDS THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUTH, PEACE AND
SECURITY AGENDA: ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF
RESOLUTIONS 2250 AND 2419”

New York, 27 April 2020

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. At the outset, we would like to express our gratitude to the delegation of the Dominican Republic, a fellow country of the Non-Aligned Movement, for having organized this meeting on the theme “Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419” and for submitting the concept note on the topic (S/2020/302, annex).
3. We are also grateful to H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and other briefers for their statements.

Mr. President,

4. The world today is home to the largest generation of young people in history – 1.8 billion. Close to 90 percent of them live in developing countries, where the States Members of the Non-Aligned Movement constitute absolute majority.
5. Among civilians, youth account for many of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons. The disruption of their access to education and economic opportunities has negative impact on durable peace and reconciliation. As the Secretary-General pointed out in his report on youth, peace and security, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2419 (2019), one in four young people is affected by violence or armed conflict.
6. The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its call on parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations applicable to them under international law relevant to the protection of civilians, including those who are youth. The NAM resolutely condemns all acts of violence, attacks and



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



threats against civilian populations, which may amount to war crimes, and stresses the importance of ending impunity for such acts.

Mr. President,

7. This year marks the fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security, which has for the first time recognized the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, as well as in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. This has been reaffirmed in Security Council 2419 (2019).
8. Promoting and sustaining international peace is a key issue to the Non-Aligned Movement. The Movement and its Member States have historically opposed war and supported peace.
9. The Movement has consistently emphasized the need for the involvement of all segments of society in peace processes, including women and youth, who can play an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts and in building peaceful and resilient societies. Inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account.
10. At their eighteenth Summit, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 25 and 26 October 2019, under the theme “Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure a concerted and adequate response to the challenges of the contemporary world”, the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement considered ways to increase meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in peacebuilding efforts through creating policies, including in partnership with private sector, where relevant, that would enhance youth capacities and skills, and create youth employment to actively contribute to sustaining peace.
11. The Heads of State and Government of the Movement also reaffirmed the importance of the inclusion of youth in the process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
12. On the margins of the NAM Baku Summit, the first-ever NAM Youth Summit was organized upon the initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as an outcome of which the NAM Youth Network was established to enable the youth representatives of NAM Member States to exchange ideas, visions and perspectives on current challenges that they face in ensuring sustainable progress and how these difficulties could be overcome through concerted and adequate responses of their States.



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



-
13. In conclusion, we would like once again to commend the initiative of the Dominican Republic in holding this meeting to review the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, share best practices and lessons learned and discuss further action on the role of young people in relation to peace and security.

Thank you.



Bangladesh

Statement by H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative at the open VTC of the Security Council on “Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419”, 27 April 2020, New York

Mr. President,

I thank the Dominican Republic Presidency of the Security Council for organizing this open VTC. I also thank the Secretary General for his briefing. I echo the sentiments of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the other young briefers. Their concerns and aspirations have to be taken into due cognizance by us.

Today's meeting comes at a time when the whole world is fighting against the dreadful COVID 19 pandemic. Many young medical professionals, emergency personnel, peacekeepers, and peacebuilders are at the forefront of this battle. Yet, many others are stranded at their home passing through an uncertain time. The pandemic has far-reaching impacts on our young generation. We must, therefore, pay heed to their voices for overcoming the crisis and reversing its potential adverse impacts on our peace and development gains. We need to invest more to help them adapt to new situations and to be part of the solution.

Mr. president,

Bangladesh welcomed the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 2250(2015). We consider the subsequent progress study *The Missing Peace* and its follow-up resolution 2419 to be important contributions to the YPS discourse. They helped putting the YPS agenda on a truly multidimensional and forward-looking trajectory. We also welcome the first ever report of the Secretary General on the agenda. Its recommendations provide a comprehensive framework of promoting youth's potential role as active agents of building and sustaining peace. It is crucial that young people all over the world get the opportunity to unleash their positive energy and realize their potentials to create a sustainable and peaceful world. For that the peace and development actors must work hand in hand building on the momentum of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. president,

A fairly young country, Bangladesh will enjoy a demographic dividend till 2035 from its large youth population. They carry forward the proud legacy of earlier generations of youth who played the leading role in our nation's independence and democratic struggles and now in our strides towards peace and development through participation in nation building efforts. We are working to harness these historical and demographic dividends into development

dividends. We are making policy intervention to tap into the immense source of transformative energy of our young women and men and turn them into true agents of change. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has launched the vision of an inclusive, knowledge driven economy under the slogan of “Digital Bangladesh” where youth are the foot soldiers. Our **Youth Development Policy 2017** exemplifies our efforts on not leaving any young person behind. The policy upholds our constitutional provisions to ensure rights, justice, and equity for all young people.

We actively encourage a ‘whole-of-society’ approach to inculcate in youth moral and ethical values of human dignity, pluralism, diversity, and non-violence. We have been actively working towards greater inclusion of the voices of the youth in major policy debates as well as involving them in planning and implementation of our national development plans including in the SDGs. New generation leadership is occupying greater space both in government and private sectors.

We have already started receiving rich dividends of these multilayered initiatives. Our entrepreneurial young generation is leading in e-commerce and e-business alleviating unemployment issues and social frustration. In crises and calamities, they have always been at the forefront through spontaneous engagements and left their marks. During the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, they are contributing in many ways—starting from innovative digital tools and ideas for tracing infections to raising awareness at community levels.

Going forward, we wish to work more closely with the international community and the UN in implementing the UN Youth Strategy “Youth 2030” in alignment with our national priorities. We also hope to spearhead further dialogue involving the youth around implementing the YPS agenda. We look forward to drawing up a comprehensive National Action Plan on YPS.

Mr. President,

Investment in YPS agenda makes eminent sense from all considerations. The key challenges faced by our youth today are not necessarily unique to any particular context but have global ramifications. Keeping this in mind, we would like to underscore the following specific points:

First, YPS agenda should be used to develop stronger narratives to change the general mindset about youth’s potential to contribute to peacebuilding; support and recognize their role in preventing conflict and sustaining peace; and restore the youth’s trust in governments and multilateral systems. For that, we underscore the importance of adequate financing for national and local level initiatives aimed at amplifying the participation of the youth in peace processes.

Second, we must institutionalize involvement of the youth in the promotion of a culture of peace and thereby promote tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue within and across societies. We also need to use them as agents to tackle stereotypes, counter hate speech and xenophobia sweeping the globe.

Third, we must utilize the ‘tech-savvy-ness’ of the youth and provide them with some alternative spaces for engagement through youth associations and networks. This would allow them guide decision-making and ensure their overall inclusion. For that, we need to empower the youth through the promotion of media and information literacy as well as through constructive social media engagements.

Fourth, young men and women remain vulnerable to violent extremist narratives that can take them to the path of radicalization and terrorism; they are also easy prey to organized crimes networks. This is particularly worrying in conflict situations and humanitarian crises as we are experiencing around the world. We need to engage young role models to dissuade them. Also, we need to develop practical ways at global, national and community levels to include the youth in the development of relevant programmes and initiatives aimed at preventing terrorism and violent extremism.

Fifth, quality, inclusive and transformative education can turn our youth into truly global citizens; help shape global discourses; foster the youth’s critical thinking; and provide them with skill sets for building social cohesion as well as civic and economic engagements. We must ensure them affordable access to such type of education.

Sixth, with the right environment and tools, young people can indeed prove to be a force to reckon with for conflict prevention and sustaining peace even in the most difficult situations. As a major T/PCC, we have experienced how young people among our troops and police continue to make a difference in the UN peacekeeping operations.

Seventh, the YPS and WPS agenda have many essential common threads. They need to reinforce each other in their efforts to overcome the traditional gender norms and practices, which disproportionately impact on the potentials of young women in many contexts across the world. The Peacebuilding Commission and UN Peacebuilding Fund have demonstrated some useful precedents and results in this regard such as the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI). We need more structured engagements for sharing good practices among UN agencies and national governments in this regard.

Eighth: we need to collect and analyze age-disaggregated data to yield stronger evidence-based policy interventions and build institutional capacity for implementation of YPS agenda and reduce structural barriers to youth participation.

Finally, the COVID-19 crisis has given us a real demonstration of the digital transformation that we have gone through during the last couple of decades. In developed parts of the world, the digital connectivity is helping immensely to maintain business continuity during this difficult time. Yet in many other parts of the world internet connectivity and digital platforms still remain a faraway thing. We need to work together to eliminate this digital divide particularly among the youth. We must ensure equal opportunities for the youth from every corner of the world so that they can thrive together.

I thank you.



CANADA

STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

OPEN DEBATE ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

27 April 2020

Mr. President,

Canada welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this open debate on youth, peace and security.

We strongly support inclusion of this issue as a standing agenda item on the Council's agenda. We welcome the Secretary-General's first report on youth, peace and security, his leadership in engaging youth in global governance, and the call to action he issued at today's meeting.

Mr. President, all of us were once youth, and hopefully can remember the challenges we experienced of access, agency, inclusion, and accountability.

The evidence is irrefutable: as noted in the 2018 YPS Progress Study and *Pathways for Peace* report, including youth and addressing their aspirations are critical to conflict prevention.

Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations

Mission permanente du Canada
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

Excluding youth from social, political, and economic life deprives them of their human rights. More than that, lack of youth engagement leads to bad decisions and policies.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health crisis, but a human crisis that has cast into sharp relief the inequalities that existed in all of our societies. It has disproportionately affected women, girls, young people, and those already vulnerable. Heeding the Secretary-General's call to build back better from this crisis will require investment in the capacities and resilience of young people, strengthening their human rights, and protecting the civic space which makes their participation possible.

Inclusion of youth in decision-making is an issue Canada takes seriously. Last year, Canada launched a National Youth Policy after a broad set of consultations with thousands of young Canadians. The policy commits that, starting in 2020, and every four years thereafter, the Government of Canada will release a report highlighting the state of youth in Canada, covering six priorities ranging from leadership, skills, health, employment, to truth and reconciliation, and climate action.

The youth policy is grounded on three principles that are directly relevant to implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda:

1. **Youth have the right to be heard and respected.** Young people have the right to influence decisions that affect them now and will affect them in the future.

Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations

Mission permanente du Canada
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

2. Youth have the right to equal access to opportunities and supports. Canada

will apply principles of equality, including Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+), when creating engagement opportunities and supports for youth. GBA+ assesses how diverse groups of people experience government initiatives and considers many identity factors like sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, education, income, culture, geography and age. We know that there are different outcomes depending on where in Canada you were born and we need to ensure better data so we can learn how to target these forms of exclusion through our policies.

3. When youth reach their full potential, it benefits all Canadians. Supporting youth

and amplifying their voices will help build a stronger and more inclusive Canada.

Treating young people as equal members of society helps strengthen social cohesion and build stronger communities.

Building on these principles, we would make the following recommendations to strengthen our collective implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda:

First, implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda should be grounded in a developmental and rights-based approach that treats youth as an investment in our collective future and not a threat to be managed. We should prioritize the creation of opportunities for political, economic and social inclusion of youth in all aspects of public

Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations

Mission permanente du Canada
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

life. This means understanding drivers of exclusion, and targeting them through policies that promote equality and equity.

Failure to invest in the capacities and resilience of young people can undermine trust in institutions, leave youth susceptible to recruitment by armed groups, violent extremists, and gangs and organized criminal groups. Moreover, societies where youth cannot reach their full potential will fall short in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

This is particularly critical in places such as Africa where the number of youth joining the working age population will exceed that of the rest of the world combined by 2035. In order to harness this demographic dividend, the region will need to create 20 million jobs per year, and ensure that African youth are given the education, skills and training needed to join the workforce.

Second, we must hold ourselves accountable for encouraging, promoting and institutionalizing youth participation in conflict prevention and sustaining peace. We encourage the Security Council to include youth, peace and security as a standing agenda item and support the preparation of an annual Secretary-General's report on its implementation.

We encourage the Council to regularly consult youth and include their perspectives and advice in Security Council decisions, to promote the creation of safer environments for young peacebuilders around the world, to ensure that Council mandates encourage greater inclusion of youth representatives in coalitions and partnerships that aim to

Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations

Mission permanente du Canada
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

support peacebuilding initiatives and processes, and to focus on ways of empowering local peacebuilders.

We encourage all Member States to adopt national action plans on youth, peace and security and to link implementation with action plans on women, peace and security.

Third, we must find concrete ways to support youth-led peacebuilding organizations and initiatives, both politically and financially. Lack of adequate funding to youth-led organizations – and the challenge that these organizations face in meeting fiduciary requirements and accessing existing funding streams – is a major obstacle that limits opportunities for young people to contribute to building and sustaining peace. We welcome efforts by the Peacebuilding Fund to support young people's contribution to peacebuilding, but more work is needed by all of us to find creative mechanisms to support youth-led organizations at the national and local level.

Finally, we believe the Peacebuilding Commission has an important role to play in supporting implementation of this agenda. As Chair of the PBC for 2020, Canada is committed to ensuring that the PBC consistently and systematically consults youth on their peacebuilding priorities as part of our ongoing country-specific, regional, and thematic work. In its advice to the Security Council and other UN bodies, as well as its engagement with regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions, we will ensure that the PBC consistently advocates for the inclusion of youth perspectives and the creation of opportunities for youth participation in decisionmaking

Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations

Mission permanente du Canada
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

and peacebuilding processes. We look forward to working with PBC members as we develop an action plan to strengthen the PBC's implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda.

Mr. President, it is fitting that today's debate takes place on the anniversary of the adoption of the 2016 resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Engaging and empowering the participation of young people in peacebuilding is crucial to our overall success in prevention conflict and building and sustaining peace. Canada looks forward to working with all Member States to ensure that we collectively deliver on this important agenda.



Chile
en marcha

**Intervención
de
Delegación de Chile ante la Naciones
Unidas**

Consejo de Seguridad, debate Juventud Paz y Seguridad

27 de abril de 2020

Sr. Presidente,

Chile agradece por haber convocado hoy este debate, ya que citando al SG en su primer informe al respecto *“es indispensable que la comunidad internacional ayude a la juventud a hacer realidad su potencial como fuerza positiva para construir sociedades pacíficas y justas”*.

Hoy, más que nunca ante las circunstancias de una pandemia global, la inclusión y cooperación resultan esenciales para esto, así como el compromiso de la juventud y sociedad civil para la promoción de sociedades cohesionadas y resilientes.

En este sentido, Chile, mediante la implementación de la resolución 2250 ha detectado como uno de los principales desafíos, la superación de barreras estructurales para la integración de los jóvenes en la toma de decisiones, por lo que ha orientado sus esfuerzos hacia los ejes de participación, prevención y alianzas, para lo cual se cuenta con:

-El Programa CREAMOS, orientado a la formación del liderazgo juvenil para participar en instancias públicas de deliberación y decisiones, y que en 2019 realizó el “Primer Encuentro Metropolitano de Oficinas Municipales de Juventud”. Entre las lecciones aprendidas, se pudo obtener un acercamiento con los representantes territoriales de las juventudes para conocer sus inquietudes, demandas, principales necesidades e intereses. Esta lección, permitió diseñar un trabajo integrado y participativo, de las acciones tendientes al desarrollo de actividades con jóvenes.

-El Programa de Asociatividad y Ciudadanía Juvenil, implementado en 2019, con el objetivo de lograr mejorar los niveles de accesibilidad a oportunidades de capacitación a partir de la generación de espacios de desarrollo de competencias y aprendizaje para jóvenes de niveles vulnerables, y propender a la disminución de la brecha digital y aumentar las instancias de participación juvenil e inclusión social en diversas áreas. En marzo de este año, fue lanzada la primera convocatoria para acceder a siete mil cupos de cursos online, en competencias de idiomas; organizaciones sociales; habilidades blandas; tecnología y formación en general. Además, se está trabajando con el programa piloto de ONU Mujeres Second Chance Education, aportando con su oferta programática a complementar este programa orientado a mujeres.

-Fondos Concursables que otorga el Instituto Nacional de la Juventud, cuyo objetivo es otorgar financiamiento a organizaciones de la sociedad civil para el desarrollo de proyectos con propósito joven, como por ejemplo, el “Fondo voluntariado”, el cual busca aumentar la participación social y comunitaria de jóvenes, la cooperación en la formación de nuevos voluntarios y el fortalecimiento de organizaciones que se enfoquen en el trabajo de problemáticas juveniles, mediante el financiamiento de proyectos con el fin de fortalecer el tejido social y el desarrollo comunitario.

-La integración fronteriza de jóvenes entre las ciudades de Tacna y Arica, en el norte del país, que en el marco del Gabinete Binacional Chile-Perú del año 2018, comprometió al país para el año 2020 a un trabajo conjunto entre los servicios de juventudes de Chile

y Perú. A la fecha ya se ha realizado una Jornada de intercambio el día 28 de junio de 2019 en Arica donde asistieron jóvenes de ambas ciudades, desarrollando un diálogo juvenil y preparación en materia de voluntariado. Un mes después se realizó un programa piloto de voluntariado fronterizo denominado "Vive Tus Parques Sin Fronteras". La mayor lección de estos encuentros ha sido el compartir vivencias y lograr una mejor vecindad transfronteriza, reconociendo que a ambos lados de la frontera se viven brechas similares y que pueden enfrentarse en conjunto compartiendo sus buenas prácticas y experiencias.

Sr. Presidente,

La implementación de esta resolución ha significado una oportunidad importante en Chile para animar a las personas jóvenes a que tengan un papel activo en la sociedad. Y es que es la juventud de hoy, es aquella que en los años que restan hasta 2030, asumirán los nuevos retos y compromisos que hoy les heredemos.

Nuestras decisiones impactan directamente en las generaciones futuras y las personas jóvenes pasan a ser un actor esencial para contribuir al éxito en la construcción de sociedades pacíficas e inclusivas, porque la cohesión social es inherente a ellas.

Finalmente, tomamos esta oportunidad para reafirmar nuestro compromiso colectivo con el multilateralismo y el fortalecimiento de sus instituciones para entre todos, continuar trabajando por alcanzar una paz sostenible, que permita la integración y cooperación para responder multidimensionalmente a los nuevos desafíos globales.

Muchas gracias

-Non Official Translation-

Mr. President,

Chile thanks your initiative for convening this debate today, which in the words of the SG in its first report in this regard "it is essential that the international community help youth realize their potential as a positive force to build peaceful and just societies."

Today, more than ever in the face of the circumstances of a global pandemic, inclusion and cooperation are essential for this, as well as the commitment of youth and civil society to the promotion of cohesive and resilient societies.

In this regard, Chile, through the implementation of resolution 2250, has detected as one of the main challenges in the country, the overcoming of structural barriers for the integration of young people in decision-making. Therefore, has oriented its efforts towards the axes of participation, prevention, and alliances, with the following initiatives:

-The "CREAMOS" Program, aimed at training youth leadership to participate in public instances of deliberation and decisions, and which in 2019 held the "First Metropolitan Meeting of Municipal Youth Offices". Among the lessons learned, it was possible to obtain

an approach with the territorial representatives of the youths to know their concerns, demands, main needs and interests. This lesson allowed to design an integrated and participative work, of the actions tending to the development of activities with young people.

-The “Youth Associativity Program”, implemented in 2019, with the aim of improving the levels of accessibility to training opportunities by generating spaces for developing skills and learning for young people at vulnerable levels, and promoting diminishing the digital divide and increasing the instances of youth participation and social inclusion in various areas. In March of this year, the first call was launched to access seven thousand places of online courses, in language skills; Social Organizations; soft skills; technology and training in general. In addition, it is working with the pilot program of UN Women Second Chance Education, contributing with its programmatic offer to complement this program aimed at women.

-Competitive Funds granted by the National Youth Institute, whose objective is to grant financing to civil society organizations for the development of projects with a young purpose, such as the "Voluntary Fund", which seeks to increase social and community participation youth, cooperation in the training of new volunteers and the strengthening of organizations that focus on the work of youth problems, by financing projects in order to strengthen social cohesion and community development.

-The “Border integration of young people between the cities of Tacna and Arica”, in the north of the country, which in the framework of the Binational Chile-Peru Cabinet of the year 2018, committed the country for the year 2020 to a joint work between the youth services from Chile and Peru. To date, an exchange day has already been held on June 28th, 2019 in Arica (Chile) where young people from both cities attended, developing a youth dialogue and preparation in the field of volunteering. A month later, a border volunteer pilot program called “Live Your Parks Without Borders” was carried out. The greatest lesson of these meetings has been sharing experiences and achieving a better cross-border neighborhood, recognizing that similar gaps are experienced on both sides of the border and that they can be faced together by sharing their good practices and experiences

Mr. President,

The implementation of this resolution has represented an important opportunity in Chile to encourage young people to take an active role in society. The Youth of today, it is the one who in the remaining years until 2030, will take on the new challenges and commitments that we inherit them now.

Our decisions directly impact future generations and young people become an essential actor to contribute to the success in building peaceful and inclusive societies, because social cohesion is inherent in them.

Finally, we take this opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to multilateralism and the strengthening of its institutions, to continue working to achieve a sustainable

peace that allows integration and cooperation to respond multidimensionally to new global challenges.

Thank you.

COLOMBIA



**INTERVENCIÓN DE LA MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE COLOMBIA
Embajador Guillermo Fernández de Soto**

Consejo de Seguridad:

“Hacia el quinto aniversario de la Agenda de Juventud, Paz y Seguridad: Acelerar la implementación de las resoluciones 2250 y 2419”

Nueva York, 27 de abril de 2020

Señor Presidente:

Agradezco la convocatoria de esta sesión que permitirá intercambiar prácticas con respecto a la implementación de las resoluciones 2250 y 2419, así como conocer recomendaciones sobre acciones que permitan fortalecer el papel de los jóvenes en la consolidación de la paz y seguridad.

Colombia ha reiterado su compromiso con los jóvenes impulsando la creación de herramientas jurídicas que fomentan su participación en los procesos de resolución de conflictos y en la consolidación de la paz. Adicionalmente, estas normas tienen el objetivo de prevenir y proteger la vulneración de derechos de personas jóvenes y promover el ejercicio efectivo de los derechos, proporcionar acceso a los medios necesarios para que gocen de manera plena sus derechos y participen en los mecanismos de consulta y decisión en las diferentes instancias de la sociedad.

Con la creación del programa *Sacúdete*, el cual es uno de los principales instrumentos del Gobierno nacional, bajo la coordinación técnica de la Dirección

del Sistema Nacional de Juventud “Colombia Joven” en la Presidencia de la República, se busca generar la transformación social, resaltando la importancia de los jóvenes como agentes de cambio para transitar hacia una sociedad incluyente, basada en los tres principios del Gobierno del Presidente Iván Duque: legalidad, equidad y emprendimiento.

Este programa cuenta actualmente con 1.400 centros donde se promueve el desarrollo de actividades como conversatorios; elecciones de consejeros de juventud en todo el país; y mercado virtual, entre otras. Esta herramienta permite darle a la juventud de Colombia las herramientas necesarias para cerrar las brechas sociales, culturales y económicas con su propio potencial.

Colombia reconoce que la única forma de lograr la estabilización de los territorios afligidos por la violencia, es mediante la generación de oportunidades de participación y empoderamiento para los jóvenes. Por ello, la implementación de proyectos diseñados por lo jóvenes y para los jóvenes, es uno de los componentes esenciales de las políticas del Gobierno, en especial de la política de Paz con Legalidad.

En el marco de escenarios de vulnerabilidad y discriminación es donde ocurre más frecuentemente fenómenos como el reclutamiento forzado por parte de grupos ilegales. Por ello, es necesario combatir la falta de ocupación y de reconocimiento de este segmento de la población en todas las regiones del país. La juventud tiene el potencial y juega un rol fundamental en la resolución de conflictos, prevención de la violencia y consolidación de la paz, que permita justamente romper con los ciclos de violencia.

La grave situación a la que el mundo se enfrenta hoy en día con el brote del COVID-19 es un tema de amplio alcance, en el cual todos estamos expuestos y los jóvenes juegan un papel vital para detener la propagación del mismo, principalmente para lograr evitar que los más vulnerables se enfermen.

La población joven debe abordar la crisis de la pandemia como una oportunidad para resaltar que trabajando solidariamente no sólo a nivel local, sino también a nivel nacional e incluso internacional, podemos salir adelante de esta crisis.

Estamos frente a una nueva realidad que ninguno de nosotros había vivido antes. Sabemos que el brote afecta a todos, pero sus consecuencias son más agudas en las áreas más vulnerables. Por eso debemos considerar a los sectores más desfavorecidos y marginados como lo son las jóvenes mujeres y niñas embarazadas, lactantes, en situación de discapacidad, minorías étnicas, refugiados y desplazados, y utilizar canales de comunicación relevantes para no perder el camino que se ha venido construyendo a lo largo de los años en estas comunidades.

El Gobierno de Colombia seguirá trabajando con el mayor ahínco posible en la construcción de un país y un mundo donde se protegen y se respetan los derechos humanos y libertades fundamentales de los jóvenes, incluidos aquellos referentes a su libertad de movimiento y expresión, participando en espacios políticos y cívicos, y promocionando la creación de un entorno seguro para aquellos que trabajan en paz y seguridad.

Colombia no se detiene en la construcción de la paz. Este proceso con los jóvenes requiere compromiso y acompañamiento de parte y parte para continuar con la valiosa ruta que estamos construyendo. Le agradezco, Señor Presidente, por permitir estos espacios donde se pueden compartir y comprender las visiones de varios actores, recordar las metas y reconocer los logros alcanzados con las resoluciones expedidas por este Consejo en relación con la juventud, paz y seguridad.

Muchas gracias.



Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Naciones Unidas

211 E. 43rd Street, Room 1002, New York, NY 10017. Tel: (212) 986-6373

Open VTC: “Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: accelerating implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419”

Ambassador Rodrigo A. Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations

74º session of the General Assembly. New York, Monday April 27, 2020

Mr. President,

Costa Rica congratulates the Dominican Republic on its exercise of the Presidency of the Security Council during the month of April. We also thank H.E. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations; Mrs. Jayathma Wickramanayake, Envoy of Youth of the Secretary General; Ms Olla Al-Sakkaf, Project Coordinator of Youth Without Borders Organization for Development, Yemen and Mr. Gatwal Augustine Gatkuoth, Founder of the Youth-adult Empowerment, Initiative, South Sudan/Uganda for their contributions to this debate.

We would like to take this opportunity to refer to three out of the five pillars of resolution 2250; namely, participation, protection, and prevention. They are interlinked, almost indivisible and altogether have a positive impact in the youth and peace and security agenda:

Participation: Peaceful and inclusive societies are based on tolerance and inclusion. In this regard, young people must be incorporated as equal partners in decision-making at all levels. Their participation is key in all core areas, including but not limited to conflict transformation; peacebuilding; civil society leadership and capacity building; good governance, and security sector reform. Let’s not forget that resolution 2250 emphasizes the importance of youth as agents of change in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

However, the first report of the Secretary General on youth and peace and security, dated March 2, 2020 recognized that real participation of young people represents a formidable challenge that we must meet.

In fact, when it comes to youth and peace and security agenda, participation has a very practical meaning. It means not only that young people must have a seat at the negotiation table, but also a voice. The Peace Process of Colombia is an excellent example of the inclusion of youth in a peace



Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Naciones Unidas

211 E. 43rd Street, Room 1002, New York, NY 10017. Tel: (212) 986-6373

process and its aftermath. Just two weeks ago, one of the briefers to the Security Council on the situation in Colombia was David Santiago Cano, Colombian Ambassador for One Young World efforts and who works supporting the reintegration of former FARC-EP combatants. We commend Colombia for recognizing the potential of the youth for the success of its peace and security agenda.

Mr. President,

Protection: The first report of the Secretary General underlines with concern the risks and threats that young peacebuilders and human rights defenders are exposed to. We have to protect them. If we empower them to participate and to be part of the solution of the problems that we are passing to them, it is not acceptable that they cannot speak out for fear to do so.

During conflict, young people and children pay a high toll. They suffer from separation and displacement, and young women and girls are victims of human trafficking and sexual violence. This is why the 2250 resolution and the agenda of youth and peace and security call for their protection. There is a moral obligation to protect them from, during and after conflict. Costa Rica would like to echo the report in saying that protecting all young people, in particular young refugees and internally displaced persons, has to be a priority for all actors.

Attacks against the civilian population are not acceptable, and they constitute a violation of the humanitarian law. They have a direct impact on young people particularly when they occur in urban areas and against civil infrastructure, like education and health centers.

As countries we also have an international commitment to youth and the responsibility to protect them from all forms of mass atrocities. This is an individual and also a collective obligation that was agreed upon at the United Nations World Summit 15 years ago.

Prevention: Costa Rica considers that the best protection that young men and women can receive comes from prevention. To prevent conflict and violence extremism, root causes have to be addressed. Social unrest comes from political differences, inequalities and human rights violations. Education is key to provide young people with better understanding of their environment and better opportunities.

Another cause of conflict and violence is gender disparity. We have to close the gender gap. As the report of the Secretary General stated, the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence requires the advancement of gender equality before, during and after conflict.



Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Naciones Unidas

211 E. 43rd Street, Room 1002, New York, NY 10017. Tel: (212) 986-6373

It is also crucial to build capacities to promote tolerance among the youth, prevent hate speech, and extreme violence, particularly in social media. States should not do this alone. These problems should be tackled at the national, regional and global level. In this sense, we would like to recognize the United Nations strategy and plan of action on hate speech, launched by the Secretary General in May 2019, as a good example of prevention.

Mr. President,

Participation, protection and prevention will guide us to navigate the youth and peace and security agenda. More needs to be done if we do not want to leave behind the men and women that will have to deal with the future that they inherit and the actions we take have to be gender and age sensitive.

Thank you for bringing back to the agenda of this Council the subject of youth and peace and security.



DJIBOUTI

Déclaration de
SEM Mohamed Siad Doualeh
Représentant Permanent de Djibouti auprès des
Nations Unies

lors du débat ouvert
du Conseil de Sécurité sur le thème:
Jeunes, Paix et Sécurité

le 27 avril 2020

New York

Monsieur le Président,

Djibouti souhaite de prime abord féliciter la République Dominicaine pour la tenue de ce débat ouvert sur le thème des Jeunes, Paix et Sécurité, ainsi que pour l'élaboration de la note conceptuelle.

La question de la jeunesse et les défis liés à sa participation, à la promotion de son inclusion et la prévention de la violence demeure une question qui nous cerne et concerne.

Le premier rapport du Secrétaire général, en application de la résolution 2419 et portant sur la mise en œuvre des résolutions 2250 et 2419, est utile en ce qu'il permet d'apporter une analyse et un éclairage intéressants sur la situation mondiale de la jeunesse et d'identifier des recommandations concrètes.

Nous saisissons cette opportunité pour saluer le Royaume Hachémite de Jordanie dans les efforts de promotion de cette thématique au Conseil de Sécurité et l'adoption de la résolution 2250. Nous exprimons notre gratitude

à l'Afrique du Sud pour l'initiative prise en décembre 2019 en vue de l'élaboration d'une déclaration présidentielle autour du sujet central de la mobilisation des jeunes dans le projet continental majeur pour la promotion de la paix et sécurité en Afrique : « Faire taire les armes d'ici à 2020 ».

Monsieur le Président,

Comme le démontre l'étude indépendante intitulée « Absence de la paix : Etude indépendante sur les jeunes, la paix et la sécurité », la jeunesse a trop longtemps été présentée comme un défi ou un problème. S'il est vrai que la jeunesse est la période de la vie où le potentiel de révolte est à son maximum et que l'on constate un déficit de confiance envers les institutions ainsi qu'un effort conscient visant à les « dépouiller » de leur légitimité, il faut également souligner l'importance vitale de créer des éléments de liaison, des structures ainsi que des institutions qui permettent aux jeunes de participer de manière pleine et entière à l'édification d'une société pacifique et prospère. Dans la réalisation de cet objectif, il s'agira de prendre en compte leurs motivations, leurs attentes, et leurs aspirations.

Djibouti, convaincu que les jeunes peuvent contribuer de manière significative à véhiculer des idéaux de paix et se mobiliser pour la résolution des conflits, en a fait un pilier majeur dans sa stratégie de médiation de la crise somalienne initiée en 2000, plus connue sous le nom du **Processus de Paix d'Arta**. Les jeunes, les femmes, comme les leaders traditionnels dans un effort conscient de mise en lien des générations ont constitué ce que nous avons appelé les « **forces de la paix** » par opposition aux chefs de guerre et les acteurs cyniques qui ont dominée la scène politique somalienne depuis l'effondrement de l'Etat somalien en 1991.

Le manque d'attention suffisante aux préoccupations matérielles et économiques ou la logique d'exclusion met en évidence dans des nombreuses études réalisées le phénomène inquiétant de recrutement de jeunes dans les réseaux terroristes et la criminalité transnationale organisée. Les militants d'Al-Shabab, dont le nom en arabe signifie les jeunes, cible prioritairement cette catégorie de la population dans sa stratégie de mobilisation d'allégeance et de recrutement.

L'examen de la géographie du terrorisme tel que soulignée dans les plans nationaux de lutte et de prévention de l'extrémisme violent démontre

également l'importance de l'inclusion spatiale des jeunes, en particulier mais pas seulement dans les grandes métropoles densément peuplées.

Monsieur le Président,

La crise globale du COVID-19 et l'expérience historique commune pourrait être une opportunité de faire émerger une conscience citoyenne mondiale portée par les jeunes. L'expérience montre que les jeunes ont agi dans le passé et peuvent encore agir de façon désintéressée tout en démontrant une solidarité à toute épreuve face aux défis.

En conclusion, **Monsieur le Président**, Djibouti réitère son soutien à vos efforts et appuyons les recommandations concrètes du Secrétaire général articulées autour des quatre P - Participation, Prévention, Partenariat et Protection -, et formulées à l'égard du Conseil de Sécurité, des Etats membres et des Nations Unies.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.



Misión Permanente del Ecuador
ante las Naciones Unidas

**Discurso del Embajador Luis Gallegos, Representante Permanente del Ecuador ante la ONU,
en el debate del Consejo de Seguridad del 27 de abril de 2020:**

***“hacia el quinto aniversario de la agenda de la juventud, la paz y la seguridad: acelerando la
implementación de las resoluciones 2250 y 2419.”***

Señor Presidente,

1.- Deseo primeramente destacar una vez más la gran labor que ha desarrollado la República Dominicana durante su presidencia del Consejo de Seguridad por este mes de abril que concluye en pocos días.

2.- Aprovecho también para expresarle mis mejores deseos y el pleno apoyo de mi delegación a Estonia, en la presidencia que ejercerá durante el próximo mes de mayo.

3.- El Ecuador aprecia los esfuerzos que se han desarrollado en marzo y abril para ampliar cada vez más la posibilidad de participación de todas las delegaciones en el Consejo de Seguridad, bajo el principio de la regla provisional 37, y tengo la convicción de que en mayo seguiremos avanzando en esa dirección.

4.- Agradezco el informe S/2020/167 del Secretario General Antonio Guterres, sobre la juventud, la paz y la seguridad, publicado en marzo de este año 2020

Señor Presidente,

5.- Tan solo el 9 de enero pasado, estuvimos reunidos en el Consejo de Seguridad, debatiendo sobre la defensa de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas para mantener la paz y la seguridad. Recuerdo que esa ocasión, que se enmarcaba en el inicio de un año convulsionado por el momento de mayor tensión geopolítica del siglo, además de fortalecer al multilateralismo contribuyó a desincentivar las tensiones que se habían generado y que llevó a muchos a pensar en el fantasma de una guerra.

6.- Hoy, es una guerra distinta la que todos nuestros países viven, pero definitivamente es una guerra de escala global, en la que nuestro enemigo común es la pandemia del COVID-19 y sus efectos devastadores sobre millones de personas y familias.

7.- Por eso, en estos aciagos momentos, no hay tema más oportuno que el de este debate “hacia el quinto aniversario de la agenda de la juventud, la paz y la seguridad: acelerando la implementación de las resoluciones 2250 y 2419.”

8.- La vitalidad de las Naciones Unidas requiere, además de ampliar los accesos para los jóvenes de todo el mundo, que los busquemos no solo para escuchar sus necesidades sino también para incorporar su creatividad en las soluciones multilaterales.

9.- El rol de la juventud en la prevención y solución de conflictos, además de haber sido reconocido por el propio Consejo de Seguridad, se ha probado como una herramienta clave. Y esto no solo ocurre con relación a la paz entre fronteras, sino también al interior de los países, regiones y localidades.

10.- En el Ecuador se reconoce a las y los jóvenes como actores estratégicos del desarrollo y agentes del cambio. ¿Y qué mejor garantía para una paz duradera que el desarrollo? En esto, el proceso de Examen de la Arquitectura de las Naciones Unidas de consolidación de la paz 2020, es clave para asegurar el fortalecimiento de la diplomacia preventiva, y los mecanismos que abarcan la agenda de la juventud.

11.- Al respecto, el Ecuador considera que entre las herramientas que tenemos, y en particular el Consejo de Seguridad, para asegurar la paz sostenible en todos los rincones del mundo, está la capacidad transformadora de la juventud y su resiliencia: invirtiendo en ella en tiempos de paz y cosechando en momentos de crisis.

12.- Entre las conclusiones más prominentes del Simposio de Helsinki de marzo de 2019, sobre la Participación de los Jóvenes en los Procesos de Paz, que también lo recoge el Secretario General en su informe, está el hecho de que a largo plazo la juventud hereda tanto los beneficios como las consecuencias de los acuerdos. También debemos impulsar la igualdad de género entre los jóvenes, y aplicar simultáneamente los principios y dispositivos de la Resolución 1325.

Señor Presidente,

13.- El día de hoy, debía iniciar la Conferencia de Examen del Tratado de No Proliferación de armas nucleares, precisamente tras 50 años de existencia de ese instrumento.

Lamentablemente, como una baja más del COVID-19 debió postergarse para el 2021. Esto no significa que las obligaciones que tenemos se hayan postergado. Y me refiero a este punto, porque a diferencia de las doctrinas nucleares, tanto de los países que poseen el arma, como de aquellos bajo el paraguas de protección nuclear, los jóvenes, sus jóvenes, no se sienten más seguros con la posesión de sus Estados de esas armas.

14.- La juventud, no solo que es la guardiana del multilateralismo por la presión que pone a sus Gobiernos para privilegiar la diplomacia y el diálogo antes que la fuerza, sino también porque en sus manos está que esta Organización pueda seguir apoyando en el terreno a millones de personas, en los próximos 75 años.

15- Hemos escuchado mucho que los jóvenes tienen mayores defensas frente a la pandemia del COVID19, es cierto, y sin embargo son de los más afectados, como en las guerras. El mundo que vivimos será un mundo distinto al que conocíamos.

16.- Para superar esos desafíos y preservar a nuestros jóvenes de la violencia, del extremismo y del lodo de las desigualdades, la solidaridad internacional es indispensable. No podremos proteger a los jóvenes en ningún país del mundo sino los protegemos en todos los rincones de la tierra. Es importante la presión que pueda poner la comunidad internacional para el alivio de la deuda en los países en desarrollo. Si no hacemos esto, en 2030 cuando se cumpla el plazo de la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible, y de la Agenda de la Juventud, en lugar de contar con un mundo mejor, contaremos con un mundo más desigual, más violento, y con menos paz que el que teníamos cuando diseñamos nuestros objetivos de desarrollo.

17.- Finalmente, ¿Qué mejor manera de implementar las resoluciones 2250 (2015) y 2419 (2018), que atendiendo el llamado del Secretario General para un cese al fuego en el mundo, que hoy permita combatir efectivamente la pandemia, y que mañana sea el primer paso para una paz perpetua?

Muchas gracias.



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR
ANTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

**INTERVENCIÓN DE EL SALVADOR
EN EL DEBATE ABIERTO DEL CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD DE LAS
NACIONES UNIDAS SOBRE EL TEMA: LOS JOVENES, LA PAZ Y LA
SEGURIDAD**

Embajadora Egriselda López
Representante Permanente
Misión Permanente de El Salvador ante Naciones Unidas

Nueva York, 27 de abril 2020

Agradecemos a la Presidencia de la República Dominicana por incluir en su programa de trabajo este debate, que celebramos en el marco del quinto aniversario de la agenda sobre Jóvenes, Paz y Seguridad; así como por los esfuerzos realizados para hacer, dentro de las posibilidades coyunturales, una sesión abierta a la membresía de las Naciones Unidas. Al mismo tiempo, agradecemos el Secretario General por la presentación del informe sobre Los Jóvenes, la Paz y la Seguridad.

Nos congratulamos de los avances presentados en el Informe, y principalmente por la inclusión de los jóvenes en los procesos de paz, destacamos la participación de jóvenes líderes y su papel crucial durante el proceso de paz en Colombia, el diálogo interreligioso en Filipinas, así como en otros países y regiones alrededor del mundo.

Lamentamos la continuidad de las graves violaciones de los derechos humanos en contra de los jóvenes, tal como se refleja el informe, que interpretamos como un llamado para seguir trabajando hacia el cumplimiento de los objetivos de la agenda.

Señor Presidente,

Los jóvenes representan una mayoría poblacional en los países y regiones en conflicto, lamentablemente siguen siendo excluidos en la toma de decisiones políticas, económicas y sociales que tienen implicación directa en sus vidas; por otro lado,

carecen de oportunidades que puede evidenciarse en sociedades con altas tasas de desempleo juvenil y limitadas opciones de capacitación y desarrollo.

Esta marginación fomenta la desconfianza hacia los sistemas políticos y aquellas instituciones que velan por su bienestar. La desesperanza y desconfianza supone una oportunidad para que estructuras delincuenciales o extremistas tengan muy fácil la explotación y manipulación de esta frustración.

Por ejemplo, en mi país el fenómeno de grupos criminales o pandillas surge de un conjunto de factores económicos y sociales, donde cabe incluirse un acuerdo de paz que careció de bases para la reconstrucción de su tejido social; todo lo anterior ha servido como terreno fértil para que las pandillas se establecieran y crecieran.

Este fenómeno que fue obviado por diferentes administraciones gubernamentales, con el tiempo no ha hecho más que convertirse en estructuras criminales organizadas que se alimentan de jóvenes, y es este mismo grupo de la población el que sufren de primera mano las consecuencias de la violencia y accionar de las pandillas.

La violencia es un fenómeno y una problemática social donde los jóvenes no están excluidos, y constituye un factor negativo que les limita las oportunidades para alcanzar un óptimo desarrollo sociocultural y económico.

Es por ello que el Gobierno de El Salvador tiene como compromiso potenciar a los y las jóvenes a través de políticas públicas que permitan su crecimiento personal, social, cultural, con altas posibilidades de inserción al tejido productivo.

Señor Presidente,

Algunas de las medidas tomadas por el Gobierno de El Salvador bajo el compromiso de abrir alternativas para los jóvenes son: el nombramiento de un comisionado presidencial para la juventud, además del ya establecido Instituto Nacional de la Juventud (INJUVE). Esta institución tendrá a su cargo la ejecución de una integral para atender las situaciones que afectan y limitan el desarrollo de los jóvenes. Su eje transversal es su participación directa en los procesos de transformación.

INJUVE también está atendiendo de manera integral a las juventudes que se encuentran en riesgo social a través del Programa COSOSTENIBLE que busca generar un entorno social equitativo, más dinámico y libre de expresiones de violencia, fortaleciendo así el sentido de pertenencia a la comunidad y haciendo más fuerte el

tejido organizativo para prevenir la violencia y; fomentar el deporte comunitario, el arte urbano, la cultura y el acceso a la tecnología como herramientas para este fin.

Sin perder de vista la atención integral en salud juvenil con énfasis en salud mental mediante el programa POSITIVAMENTE, el INJUVE brinda atención psicológica a jóvenes que tradicionalmente no se sienten cómodos de ser atendidos por un profesional adulto, que los estigmatice o discrimine por su grupo etario.

Además, se creó la Dirección de Reconstrucción del Tejido Social, con el objetivo de acercarse a y rescatar los territorios más afectados por la delincuencia y la violencia. El pasado mes de octubre se lanzó el programa "Gobierno Joven", que busca vincular las carteras de diferentes instituciones públicas, organizaciones internacionales, la Asamblea Legislativa, las comunidades, las ONG y la sociedad civil con el único propósito de trabajar por la juventud.

La falta de seguridad es una preocupación de los jóvenes, pero también de la sociedad salvadoreña en general. Teniendo esto en cuenta, el gobierno está llevando a cabo el "Plan de Control Territorial", una estrategia de seguridad y convivencia ciudadana. Siendo uno de los puntos fundamentales de este plan: la prevención y reconstrucción del tejido social a través de programas que ofrezcan oportunidades de desarrollo profesional y opciones de vida a los jóvenes en situación de riesgo.

Como parte del "Plan de Control Territorial", el Presidente anunció que la segunda fase del plan se denomina "Oportunidades". Se trata de una ambiciosa articulación de instituciones para intervenir en los municipios de todo el país brindando servicios básicos de educación, salud, agua potable, recreación entre otras medidas. El gobierno salvadoreño también está implementando un proyecto de construcción de 30 "cubos" o centros de desarrollo para jóvenes, principalmente en comunidades estigmatizadas o en riesgo de violencia.

Estos centros de desarrollo consisten en incluir en un solo lugar: bibliotecas, áreas de primera infancia, áreas de juego, áreas de acceso a nuevas tecnologías, cursos de idiomas extranjeros, entre otras áreas de desarrollo y aprendizaje. En conclusión, el "Proyecto CUBO" es una estrategia gubernamental que busca mantener a los jóvenes involucrados en actividades productivas y evitar que se unan a las pandillas.

Señor presidente,

Reconocemos que es urgente facilitar que los jóvenes accedan a empleos, invirtiendo en ellos en la transición de la educación al empleo, recurriendo a la formación

profesional, se trabaja en la formulación de programas estratégicos de atención en el tema de empleabilidad y emprendimiento juvenil, con el fin de aumentar las posibilidades de desarrollo a corto plazo.

El Plan Empléate Joven es una apuesta dentro del marco de la estrategia de Gobierno Joven que busca articular con distintos aliados estratégicos, como la empresa privada, la cooperación internacional, la academia y la sociedad civil, un esfuerzo estratégico de nación a favor de la juventud en distintos niveles de intervención.

El trabajo permanente con las juventudes es extremadamente importante, no solo para poder fortalecer sus conocimientos y brindar oportunidades, sino para crear y forjar el compromiso de los mismos en el trabajo de la cultura de paz, para mejora de su entorno y la de sus familiares en torno a la construcción de un mejor país.

Señor Presidente,

Tomando en cuenta la urgente necesidad de incluir esta temática en diferentes foros multilaterales, El Salvador ha promovido y patrocinado la resolución de la Asamblea General sobre Políticas y programas que involucran a los jóvenes, como un reconocimiento a la importancia de la realización de los derechos humanos, la atención de sus necesidades y el logro del bienestar de los jóvenes, son fundamentales para la consecución de las metas comunes de esta Organización.

Además, El Salvador en su período como miembro de la Comisión de Consolidación de la Paz, propuso la celebración de una sesión que tuvo lugar en noviembre de 2019, con el fin de proporcionar una plataforma para que los jóvenes constructores de la paz presenten su labor y recomendaciones sobre políticas.

El Salvador ha promovido la realización de sesiones especializadas en diferentes foros y espacios multilaterales, con el fin de lograr una participación significativa de los jóvenes durante y después de los conflictos armados, orientada hacia la elaboración de una estrategia de juventud, paz y seguridad.

Señor Presidente,

Como lo señala el Secretario General en su informe, los jóvenes se enfrentan a diversas dificultades, a estos tenemos que sumar los efectos en el corto y largo plazo de la pandemia mundial del COVID-19; además, tenemos que lamentar que la respuesta a dicha pandemia ha exacerbado los discursos de odio, la desigualdad, las restricciones en el acceso a la atención médica, entre otras restricciones que socaban

los derechos humanos de todas las personas, y restringen el accionar de los jóvenes en sus avances en el tema de paz y seguridad.

El Salvador celebra y se ha adherido al llamado al cese al fuego del Secretario General, que permite a los países dar una mejor respuesta humanitaria a los países en sus territorios; esperamos que a este llamado se pueda sumar, de manera urgente, la respuesta del Consejo de Seguridad, con el fin de brindar soluciones a los procesos de paz alrededor del mundo en medio de esta emergencia mundial, principalmente, para dar contrarrestar aquellas amenazas que aquejan a los grupos más vulnerables, incluidos los jóvenes.

Señor Presidente,

La inclusión de jóvenes en los procesos de paz no debe de buscar únicamente legitimar nuestra labor, si no buscar aprovechar y rendir al máximo su potencial en labores de mantenimiento de la paz, en la creación y ejecución de programas que promuevan una cultura de paz, fortalecimiento de la democracia, transparencia, entre otros; tenemos la firme convicción que los jóvenes son los autores principales de esta historia, y como actores de la misma, su papel en la construcción de un mundo pacífico, sostenible y próspero es clave.

Queremos agradecer la labor del Secretario General y su enviada para la juventud, por crear espacios dentro de las Naciones Unidas para las organizaciones de jóvenes, representantes de la juventud de los distintos Gobiernos, estudiantes, y jóvenes en general; ahora puedan tener acceso a participar de forma activa y propositiva en Naciones Unidas, como el Foro de Juventud, la Cumbre de Cambio Climático de la Juventud, entre otros espacios que han brindado recomendaciones concretas para los Gobiernos de todo el mundo para cumplir con los compromisos asumidos en diferentes espacios multilaterales

Finalmente, queremos hacer un llamado para que la agenda sobre los jóvenes, la paz y la seguridad se integre estratégicamente en los planes, políticas y orientaciones a nivel nacional, regional y mundial. Al mismo tiempo, que se aumente, según las capacidades nacionales, la financiación de los programas que permitan aumentar la participación de las y los jóvenes en los procesos de paz, desarrollo y protección de los derechos humanos.

Muchas gracias.



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and
its Member States**

By

**H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog,
Head of the Delegation**

**at the UN Security Council Open Debate on
'Maintenance of international peace and
security: Youth, peace and security'**

United Nations

New York

27 April 2020

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Partnering with young people is in the DNA of the European Union. Some of our most emblematic programmes are all about youth, such as Erasmus+ and more recently the European Solidarity Corps. These programmes have enriched the lives of more than 10 million young people from Europe and beyond over the past three decades. All young people have the greatest stake in getting our policies right, for the present and for

** The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

the future. They are among our most important interlocutors, change agents and leaders in implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Today's global youth population, the biggest in history, carries a unique potential for and is at the forefront of driving problem solving. Together, we need to speed up significantly our collective actions to accomplish transformation towards a sustainable world. Our efforts on sustainable development and on addressing climate change go hand in hand with our efforts to build peaceful, just, inclusive societies, based on gender equality and human rights. Each and every country and stakeholder must aim high. States, multilateral organisations and societal stakeholders, including young people, must strive for ever-closer partnership.

Reinforcing partnerships with young people and their organisations is central to our work to strengthen rules-based multilateralism. The year 2020 marks a special moment for multilateralism. The United Nations celebrates its 75th anniversary. It is also the 5th

anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. And, through the COVID-19 pandemic, the year 2020 has also brought home a stark reminder that strong multilateral cooperation and strong multilateral organisations are more important than ever. As the coronavirus has the entire global community in its grip, we are reminded of the importance of solidarity, across borders and across generations. Young people are playing a key role in fighting the virus, including in delivering an effective COVID-19 response within conflict-affected communities. They are already contributing substantially to the well-being of their families and communities, shouldering additional tasks. Young people can be an important force in efforts to answer the UNSG's call for a global ceasefire. As for the EU's contribution to fight the pandemic, our global response to COVID-19, the Team Europe package, will amount to more than €20 billion, and it will prioritise regions and countries which are home to the youngest populations, including in Africa.

The EU welcomes the publication of the first-ever report of the UN Secretary-General on Youth, Peace and

Security. We strongly support regular reporting to the Council and regular deliberations on this matter. We applaud the leadership of the Dominican Republic and of former Council Presidencies on Youth, Peace and Security. We urge future Presidencies to keep the Council engaged on Youth, Peace and Security, both as a thematic issue and mainstreamed into country-specific discussions.

Young people do not need institutions to give them a voice. They have a voice. However, institutions can work harder to amplify the already strong voices of youth. Institutions can also work to ensure that the voices of youth are taken into account in policies, decision-making and actions. This is central to the EU's approach to partnering with young people. And this is how we approached this Open Debate as well. We have asked our UN Youth Delegates in the EU what they have to say to the UN Security Council on Youth, Peace and Security.

These are the messages of European youth to the Council:

“We demand a broader understanding of peace and security when solving security challenges, an understanding that incorporates all risks to human security. We urge member states to promote increased financial support to youth led peacebuilding initiatives, which contribute to peaceful societies. We demand all UN bodies and states to create an enabling environment for young people’s meaningful and effective participation in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, post-conflict processes and humanitarian action. Youth has to play a consultative role in security questions. Women, Peace and Security is an inspiring role model to this approach. Activating the potential of young peacebuilders depends ultimately on the accessibility of knowledge and sharing of information.”

Young people are making their voices heard. Youth-led civil society and environmental organisations as well as young human rights defenders and peacebuilders, including indigenous youth, are playing a key role in calling out human rights violations and abuses while demanding action to protect people, the planet and its climate. It is our generational duty to deliver for them.

Ensuring the full realisation of all human rights for young people, and protecting as well as empowering young human rights defenders, is part and parcel of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. The College of the European Commission adopted a new EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024, with specific actions to support the inclusion of young people (in particular young women) and their participation in all efforts to prevent conflict and to build and sustain peace. New age and gender-responsive actions will be put in place to increase the meaningful participation of all women and youth in all spheres of public life, especially addressing challenges faced by youth with disabilities and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The EU is particularly concerned about the rise of reprisals and attacks against young human rights defenders. The EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism, which has benefited 30,000 Human Rights Defenders since 2015, is open to any young defender who is at risk.

From the outset, the EU has been a frontrunner of implementing the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

The EU was the first multilateral organisation to join the Champions of Youth Group in the UN. In May 2018, the EU hosted its first-ever Conference on Youth, Peace and Security, realised in partnership with the UN, civil society and young people. The Conference brought together 70 young change makers from 27 EU Member States and 29 partner countries in an interactive dialogue with the leaders of the EU and the UN.

Over the past years, we have been working with partner countries, multilateral institutions and with young people and their organisations to jointly translate policy to practice, to implement the Youth, Peace and Security agenda on the ground. We have supported the creation of extended networks and initiatives with young people from Europe, Africa, the Middle-East, Asia and elsewhere. We have established open channels of communication to discuss global, regional and local issues, to connect young people and leaders from the EU and from our partner countries. Our Young Mediterranean Voices initiative connects civil society, educational institutions and policy-makers across the Euro-Med region to promote mutual understanding and to

foster youth engagement and leadership in view of shaping solutions to common challenges. Indeed, the EU Delegation and the Permanent Mission of France to the UN just hosted an exchange with young leaders from the Young Mediterranean Voices community to jointly prepare for this open debate. The discussion confirmed that young people are part of the solution and must be given the platforms and tools to deliver, including as regards their economic and physical safety. As summed up by a youth leader from Libya: *“Younger people are asked to fight the wars, but when it comes to creating peace they are excluded”*. In the Sahel, our programme “La voix des jeunes du Sahel” has offered thousands of young people a chance to exchange with policymakers and to co-create development policies that impact them. Our Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange connects youth in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean in a meaningful intercultural on-line experience to enhance dialogue, media literacy and active citizenship. Our network of Young European Ambassadors fosters cooperation and sustainable links between young people and youth organisations from the EU and our Eastern neighbours, focusing on people-to-people contacts and dialogue-

driven activities. We have supported the One Young World Peace Ambassadors initiative, dedicated to preventing and countering violent extremism, promoting peace-building efforts and conflict resolution through youth-led initiatives in vulnerable communities. Support is also provided to the European Youth Forum, a platform of over 100 youth organisations in Europe.

Crucial to the accomplishment of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda is to make a difference to all young people, and to other generations, on the ground. Presently, the EU is conducting close to 30 crisis prevention and response actions on four continents to strengthen youth resilience and to promote youth-led peacebuilding. Many of our actions are carried out in cooperation with the UN. For instance, together with UNICEF, we are working with adolescents and youth in Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh to enhance peaceful co-existence and to empower young people as agents of change and help prevent negative and violent behaviours. Also in cooperation with UNICEF, we have strengthened the resilience and civic engagement of adolescents and youth in conflict-affected eastern

Ukraine. Together with UNFPA, we are contributing to the stabilisation of the Far North region of Cameroon through increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable youth towards violent extremism, with a focus on women and girls. A global action with UNESCO aims to increase equitable access to quality education for children and youth in crisis situations, by supporting the education sector in fragile and crisis-affected countries.

Since last year, the EU is also contributing to the UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund, and welcomes its increased focus on empowering women and youth with 25% of total funding dedicated to this for the period 2020-2024. We particularly welcome the recently released call for proposals under the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative 2020. The meaningful inclusion of young people is an important aspect of the 2020 comprehensive review of the UN peacebuilding architecture. In this context, we echo the call of Youth Delegates advocating for the elaboration of a Youth, Peace and Security strategy in the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

We are inspired by the passion, conviction and energy of the millions of our young people making their voice heard on our streets and in our hearts. It is young activists, young human rights defenders, young peacebuilders who bring the Youth, Peace and Security agenda to life, including through their own initiatives. Working across countries and generations, we can achieve our ambitions for today and for tomorrow. We can win the fight against COVID-19, we can overcome the existential threats of climate and environmental degradation and we can transform our societies and economies in a way that unlocks the potential of all people, including those left furthest behind. And together, we can fulfil the promise of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.



**FIJI'S STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL OPEN VTC ON THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA: ACCELERATING
IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2250 AND 2419"**

27th APRIL 2020

The President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished members of the Security Council.

Fiji congratulates the Dominican Republic for assuming the Presidency of the Council, during this particularly trying period for the whole world.

Fiji thanks the President for continuing to schedule open debates virtually and for allowing non-members of the Council to contribute, particularly given the current restrictions.

At this 5th Anniversary for Security Council Resolution 2250, we recognise that "young people play an important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security."

Both the Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419 call for equal and full participation of youth in peace and security.

In his first report this year to the Security Council on Youth, Peace and Security, the Secretary-General highlighted that there is “growing recognition of the important role youths play in peace, but that core challenges remain.” I will address my remarks to a few of these core challenges.

Mr President,

Across so many conflicts, young people are amongst the first to suffer when livelihoods are destroyed. They suffer when access to education is destroyed or denied. They suffer when merchants of conflict prey upon their uncertainties to radicalize and turn them into weapons of war and conflict. They suffer even more when we, the UN are unable or unwilling to give this the urgency that it requires.

This must change. When our young suffer, so does our collective future and so do we all – countries in conflict and countries not facing extreme conflict.

Fiji welcomes the Secretary-General’s Youth 2030 Strategy. We support its call for increasing youth engagement in sustainable development, human rights, peace and security forum and in humanitarian action.

Mr President,

Developing effective youth partnerships take time, resources, and skill. For many countries, adequately resourcing these action plans remains a challenge.

Fiji has established policies within our National development plan to empower youths. National Youth Exchange programs, National Youth conferences and National Youth Parliaments are some initiatives implemented by the Fijian Government to listen directly to youth voices.

Fiji ensures that its young can participate in forums such as UN Climate Change Conference and the 74th UNGA Climate Summit so that they can directly project their voices to the World. But our young, as do young people everywhere face challenges and pressures on an intensity not seen for many decades.

The Secretary General's report brings many of these home to us. Just less than 1.9 billion of the World's young live in or face the threat of extreme poverty. The Secretary General's report indicates that youths are gravely under-represented across peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development interventions. The report also suggests that the world's young are facing a growingly uncertain future in a growingly unequal world. All these pressures are more intense and more widespread in poor, small island and land locked developing states.

Mr. President

You have drawn attention to another grave challenge before us – the COVID-19 pandemic. This affects young people across

the World. The health, economic, social and eventually political pressures that this pandemic will create will be far greater in the poorer and conflict affected regions of the world. They will be far greater in small developing island states like my own.

The UN system and the Security Council should be invited to present its assessment of the implications of COVID-19 Pandemic on the youth, peace and security agenda. An early discussion will be useful in framing a Security Council and a UN response, even while this tragedy is still unfolding.

We cannot but fail to notice that poorer countries, including small island and landlocked developing states have woefully insufficient access to the scale of resources needed to cushion the impacts of COVID-19 on their communities. Livelihoods, opportunities and the health of our young, and even more severely, of girls and women are being destroyed for tens of millions across so many countries.

This is a problem for countries making a transition out of conflicts, this is a problem for countries torn by conflicts, and this is a problem for countries at high risk of conflict. This is a problem for small island developing states and for all poor countries.

Mr President

Last week, an Arria Formula was held by members of the Security Council on climate change and security. Climate change is a threat multiplier that affects all regions of the world. We all know the numbers; for every half a degree in warming, the risk of conflict increases by around 20%.

The combined impacts of climate change and COVID-19 on young people is worrisome on a scale that is unimaginable. That is why this debate on the importance of youth on peace and security, is so timely.

Mr President

Allow me to respond to three issues in response to the questions you have raised.

Firstly, this Council will benefit from direct briefings by youth who are heroically leading efforts to rebuild and maintain peace in so many conflicted-affected regions, especially in those countries where the UN has deployed political missions and peace operations. The Security Council does not hear their voices directly or often enough. Their expectations from these two resolutions needs to be heard.

Secondly, we suggest that the Secretariat provide detailed analysis of how the security impacts of climate change affect young people; for women and girls across the World, but more

directly in countries where UN political missions and Peace Operations are deployed.

Thirdly, we suggest that youth advocates for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals examine more carefully the interconnected nature of peace, security and development. Peace operations have become even more complicated than they already are. The implications that mandates of peace operations may be reshaped needs to be drawn out carefully. Peacebuilding programs of the UN needs to work more closely with young men and women. They need to focus on their vulnerabilities and the need to bring their talents into creating opportunities for peace and development.

Mr President

Our planet's compass - the 2030 SDGs remains more relevant than ever before. We are paying insufficient attention in unleashing the full creative and political force of the World's young in achieving the SDG's. We will fail with a business, as usual approach.

The Youth, Peace and Security mandate combined with the Women, Peace and Security mandate are two fundamental signposts that the international system needs to use to steer us during this turbulent period. Combined, they both will be powerful in creating the foundations for more solid and

irreversible progress towards the SDG's, and therefore towards a just and sustainable peace.

Mr President,

We took 70 years, before this august assembly recognised the critical role that the young can play in the peace and security agenda. We need to act comprehensively to implement these resolutions.

Fiji pledges its full support to the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security, during this difficult period, and to your efforts to implement Resolution 2250 and 2419.

Thank You.



**Statement by H.E Mr. Kaha Imnadze,
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations
UN Security Council Open Debate on “Youth, Peace and Security “
New York, 27 April 2020**

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by expressing my profound gratitude towards the presidency of the Dominican Republic for convening today's important open debate [in an open VTC format]. I would also like to thank the distinguished speakers for their comprehensive briefings on the implementation of resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) on Youth, Peace and Security.

Georgia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and in my national capacity, I would like to add the following remarks.

First of all, let me avail myself of this opportunity to express solidarity with the member states who are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and offer my country's heartfelt condolences to their loss. Only through solidarity and multilateral cooperation is possible to turn the tide against COVID-19 in the world.

As an essential partners for peace, youth represent a cornerstone in preventing violence, resolving conflict and building and sustaining peace. Addressing the needs and supporting the agency and leadership of young people is a critical lever to leave no one behind. Therefore, meaningful youth participation in the promotion and maintenance of peace and security should be prioritized in all its forms.

With this in mind, we welcome the Secretary General's first ever report on Youth, Peace and Security (S/2020/167), and convey our appreciation towards the work of the Security Council that has been done in the past five years towards promoting youth inclusion in the council's agenda.

As one of the key findings of the report indicates, there is worldwide progress in acknowledging young people's indispensable role in peace and security. At the same time, the report provides an ample evidence that youth around the world are striving for peace, justice, inclusion, gender equality and human rights. Therefore, we must not forget that persistent human rights violations, as well as many structural barriers limiting young people's capacity to influence the decision-making process, remain key challenges to be addressed and more resources are needed to operationalize Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419 at all levels and across diverse stakeholders, including youth-led and youth focused civil society organizations.

Mr. President,

Young people in Georgia enjoy growing recognition of their potential in sustaining peace, preventing conflict, and transforming processes. In light of this, the Government continuously facilitates the engagement of youth in public diplomacy and confidence-building projects. One of the latest peace initiatives, "Step to A Better Future", inter alia, aims to enhance young people's educational opportunities and ease access to numerous state services. As a result of that, increasing number of youth from Georgia's occupied regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia have an opportunity to enroll in higher education institutions of Georgia each year. Free healthcare service is yet another successful direction of Georgian Government's peacebuilding and engagement policy, whereby the residents of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions, including youth, are able to access various state healthcare programs.

Georgia's commitment towards promoting the culture of peace through youth empowerment has also been proved by the Government's decision to include youth in Georgia's priorities for the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Strengthening Democracy through Education, Culture and Youth Engagement lies at the core of Georgia's presidency, running between November 2019 and May 2020.

Yet on the other hand, Georgia's capacity to ensure full participation of youth in peace processes remains limited, as long as its regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia continue to be under illegal Russian military occupation. Protracted occupation of these two regions leaves ethnic Georgians continuously deprived of basic human rights, including the right to freedom of movement and the right to receive education in their native language. Furthermore, they often fall victim to ethnically based violence and other forms of discrimination on ethnic grounds that, distressingly, on several dreadful occasions came to an end with the deprivation of life of young Georgian citizens.

To make matters worse, provocative actions of the Russian Federation continue to persist even amid the Coronavirus pandemic, and moreover, during the religious holidays. In this extraordinary times for the whole world, when it is particularly important to show care to the conflict-affected population who have long been suffering from the intensified restrictions, the Russian Federation continues the illegal process of erection of so-called "border" signs at the occupation line of Tskhinvali region, namely in the vicinity of the village Takhtisdziri of Kareli Municipality, in clear violation of the international norms and principles and the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

Against this bleak background, I would like to stress that Georgia remains committed to continuing to promote the active engagement of youth in peace processes. Let me conclude by calling upon the Russian Federation to immediately cease the provocative and destructive actions and implement its international obligations, inter alia the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

I thank you.

PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE

Open VTC of the UN Security Council: “Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of Resolution 2250 and 2419” 27 April 2020

Greece would like to congratulate the Presidency of the Dominican Republic for organizing today's UNSC Open VTC on Youth, Peace and Security. Greece would also like to thank the UN Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, for his thorough and comprehensive -first ever- report on the subject.

While aligning itself with the statement submitted by the European Union, Greece would like to further point out the beneficial role that young people can play, as drivers of peaceful change, in building democratic, resilient and gender-equal societies, very often by engaging informally in peace activism, grass-roots peace-building and online human rights campaigns. Nonetheless, as the UNSG Report sadly illustrates, despite certain progress accomplished so far, meaningful youth participation in the maintenance of peace and security as well as in governance and political processes still remains a serious challenge.

Added to that, very often, in many parts of the world, we witness human rights violations and abuses directed against young people, which highlight the urgent need for more effective protection mechanisms: threats against young peace-builders and human rights defenders as well as journalists, bloggers and media actors; gender discrimination and gender-based and sexual violence, often perpetrated in the context of armed conflict, which disproportionally affects young women and girls, as well as obstacles to their access to sexual and reproductive health and information; or abuses against the human rights of young members of vulnerable groups, such as refugees and internally displaced persons. Needless to say, the impact of such violations and abuses to human insecurity is further exacerbated nowadays by the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic.

The evaluation of the progress made so far in the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda suggests the adoption of more systematic, coherent, tailor-made and results-oriented approaches thereto, while maintaining ambitious standards and close links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Women, Peace & Security Agenda. In this vein, Greece places particular focus on protection as well as empowerment of young women and girls within the context of its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace & Security, currently in the development process.

Moreover, coordinated action in the field of Youth, Peace and Security by all members of the international community enhances the creation of a safe, enabling and gender-responsive global environment, inclusive and diverse, where young people can meaningfully fulfill their right to participate in decision making at all levels as well as in educational and economic opportunities in an a non-discriminatory manner, and young peacebuilders and human rights defenders can carry out their work independently without undue interference.

Cooperation and partnerships among all stakeholders in this regard can serve as fertile ground for cultivating a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, which better serves the prevention of violence. In fact, Greece recognizes that, through culture and sport, young people can largely contribute, as agents of change, in the realization of human rights, sustainable development and peace. Therefore, Greece -along with a core group of likeminded states- regularly tables to the Human Rights Council the Resolution on “Promoting HR through Sport and the Olympic Ideal”.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that in order to save future generations from violence and conflict, primary focus should be placed on building and sustaining peace, by means of preventive diplomacy, mediation and peacekeeping, while investing in the capacities and leadership of young people. Finally yet importantly, only by putting in place institutional frameworks that effectively address the structural obstacles to meaningful youth inclusion and promote fruitful synergies, can young people substantially contribute, as equal partners, to shaping a more peaceful resilient and secure future world, with less or no armed conflicts and pandemics.



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogyay
Permanent Representative

on the occasion of the

Open debate of the Security Council on Youth, Peace and Security:
“Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:
Accelerating Implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419”

27 April 2020

Your Excellencies, Secretary General, Mr. President, Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Honorable Members of the Security Council, Dear Colleagues,

I wish to thank the Dominican Republic for convening this important meeting, and for making this meeting as open and inclusive as possible under the current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. I also thank the Secretary-General for his thoughtful remarks, for the first ever report on Youth, Peace and Security, as well as the Youth Envoy and the briefers for sharing their perspectives and bringing the voices of youth to us from across the globe.

As we celebrate the anniversary of Resolution 2250, Hungary remains committed for a reinforced cooperation to fully implement the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

We align ourselves with the statement by the European Union, and wish to add some remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

More than ever, we see the power of youth shining through the insecurity caused by the pandemic worldwide. More than ever, we see young people stepping up all around the globe, using creative means and new technologies to gather and disseminate information, to inspire and guide action and to create a narrative of common responsibility. More than ever, they are leading on interconnectedness, flexibility and readiness to take action. More than ever, we see the power of peer-to-peer education and advocacy, which also inspires us to follow.

The global health crisis, however, did not sweep away existing challenges, conflicts and inequalities, but rather amplified and exacerbated them. Now, more than ever, we need to *invest in, involve and ignite* action for young people, in order to accelerate the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

First of all, invest in youth.

What this health crisis teaches us is that it is not always possible to predict breakdowns, or even prevent them – therefore, success lies in building robustness and resilience against them.

And building resilience is possible by investing in young people. As UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore highlighted recently, what we give the next generation now is not charity or donation – it is an investment. Because peace does not start with the lack of war. Peace starts with inclusion, opportunities, empowerment and resilience.

In order to do that, we have to take a holistic approach, reinforce all three pillars of the UN, and use all tools at hand. This includes upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms, getting on track with implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and I could continue the list.

We should start from the foundations: with quality and affordable education and skills development, and especially youth's digital skills. More than ever, we are aware of the changing digital environment and the pressing digital divide which can become a question of a student's future. This requires innovative solutions and also a new system of government instruments to best seize the opportunities and tackle the risks children and young people are exposed to online. In recent years, the Government established and developed a Digital Child Protection Strategy and a Digital Education Strategy aimed at not only youth, but teachers, parents and youth officers as well, which became all the more timely in the current global health crisis.

Besides education, investing in youth should ensure their physical and mental health and well-being, protection from violence, discrimination and marginalization. This requires rule of law and good governance, access to justice and opportunity to participate in all aspects of life. We should equip youth not only with knowledge, but with the values and critical thinking which will be their compass against incitement to hatred and violence, against exclusion and intolerance. Our approach should be intersectional, paying particular attention to those who are at risk of being furthest left behind, be they young women and adolescent girls, minorities, persons with disabilities, or others.

Secondly, we need to involve youth.

Youth does have a voice, we just need to give them space and attention to raise it. Youth does have an educated opinion, we need to listen to it and act upon it: their perspectives are the perspectives of the next generation. We need to support youth-led and youth-focused organizations by building capacity, agency and ensuring safe and ample civic space, including for young peacebuilders and human rights defenders, who are often at the forefront of peace efforts.

Moreover, we need to involve youth organizations as partners in decision-making processes and institutionalized mechanisms, bring them together with other civil society organizations, government entities and other partners. The UN system, here at the Headquarters as well as in the field, should interact on a regular basis with youth groups. In Hungary, the National Youth Council serves as a forum to represent young people and youth organizations, to shape youth policies and exchange with national and international partners. The Hungarian Youth Delegate program also gives direct representation and voice to Hungarian youth at the UN and national machineries.

Participation is all the more important when a nation is fighting for its future and for peace. It was the youth in Hungary who took to the streets and ignited the 1956 Revolution against oppression. It was the youth in Hungary who raised their voice and catalyzed democratic transformation in 1989. But revolutions and ceasefires can be washed away: only inclusive peace can be sustainable. Youth need to participate meaningfully and inclusively in mediation, peace processes, wider decision-making structures, and in implementing ceasefires and peace agreements. The Security Council, through its resolutions, should give clear mandate to ensure their inclusion.

Young people also have a key role to play in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. In this regard, Hungary welcomes and congratulates the peace and disarmament education efforts undertaken by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs – we are eager to see the innovative programs involving young people in these crucial efforts. In addition, the United Nations Youth Champions for Disarmament is an excellent initiative recognizing and giving visibility to real heroes, and the young generation has many such heroes to be recognized.

Thirdly, youth should ignite cooperation for peace.

As torches give light to one another, youth voices for peace have to be amplified across borders and regions, so that they can cooperate and exchange not only internationally, but transnationally, horizontally and regionally, to create networks that cut across sectors, social groups and religions.

Let me finish by conveying the message of the Hungarian Youth Delegate for the Open Debate. “Creating peace has always been a cardinal issue in the history of mankind, because it is only in peacetime that countries can thrive and people can live a balanced, happy life. I believe that today, young people play a key role in defining the social atmosphere. With their appropriate education for the 21st century, they will find it easier to understand and appreciate their differences, be it of religion, gender, race or physical or mental disability. This attitude is indispensable to avoid conflict and create a more tolerant society.”

Thank you for your kind attention.

**Towards the fifth Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:
Accelerating Implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419**

UN Security Council Open VTC

April 27, 2020

Statement by Ireland

Mr President,

Thank you for organising this open VTC on the fifth anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 2250 on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. Ireland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. We in Ireland know from our own experience that peacebuilding is an intergenerational process. Young people remain at the centre of our efforts to build peace on our Island and we are grateful to have had the input of Ireland's UN Youth Delegates to this statement.

Worldwide, a shocking one in four young people are affected by violence or armed conflict. Just as it is no longer acceptable to exclude women, we can no longer tolerate the exclusion and marginalization of young people from peace and security discussions. The UN Security Council can and should foster the active, systematic and meaningful participation of young people in peace and security efforts. The contribution of young people to peace needs to be fully reflected in reports to the Security Council. UN mission mandates should include language requiring young people's meaningful participation in peace and security efforts, including in mediation, monitoring and implementation of ceasefires, and peace agreement negotiations.

Too often we see harmful stereotypes about youth, whereby the role of young men and boys is reduced to combatants and young women and girls are portrayed as victims. But globally, countless young people are building and sustaining peace in their countries. In Irish, our native language, we have the saying '*Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí*' – praise the youth and they will prosper. In this sense, we must encourage the inclusive representation of youth in the prevention and resolution of conflict and peacebuilding, ensuring investment to give youth the tools they need to lead and engage in the political or civic space.

Ireland is concerned by the threats many young peacebuilders and activists are facing. We urge the UN to implement the Secretary-General's recommendation to develop dedicated guidance on the protection of young people, including those who engage with the Organization in the context of peace and security, to protect young peacebuilders and human rights defenders. Furthermore, strengthening the role of youth-promoting UN entities, such as the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, and countering the dangerous shrinking space of civil society is vital to support the needs and rights of young people. Together, governing institutions and youth civil society movements can create long-term dialogue and peacebuilding.

Ireland knows that young people are central to the nexus of peace and security, development, and human rights. Their participation is critical for the achievement of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals. It is also vital for the promotion of human rights, and wider peace and security agendas, such as those on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Children and Armed Conflict. Ireland's third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security recognises the importance of the inclusion of youth voices and commits to supporting youth engagement and intergenerational dialogue and the engagement and empowerment of young women and girls.

Ireland calls for a broader, more inclusive understanding of peace and security. It is time to move beyond the understanding of peace as just absence of violence and armed conflict. The risks and challenges which young people face today, including relating to physical and mental health, discrimination, racism, hate speech, marginalization, inequalities, climate change, migration, unemployment and financial insecurity and much more, are often root causes and drivers of violence and conflict. Today, as we face the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing how pre-existing patterns of inequality and exclusion can exacerbate and deepen crises.

However, it is the midst of challenges like the COVID-19 crisis that we see young people at the heart of solutions. For example, in Burkina Faso, young people are initiating local awareness campaigns to support the most affected and vulnerable people in their

communities and positioning themselves as actors for positive change. Much is to be gained from investing in the resilience and resourcefulness of young people.

Five years from the adoption of Resolution 2250, much remains to be done and Ireland is committed to advancing the Youth, Peace and Security agenda as a candidate for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the term 2021-2022. We urge States to join the Secretary-General's call to build on the recommendations of the Independent Study "The Missing Peace", which Ireland is proud to have supported. Inadequate resourcing remains a challenge to the implementation of resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) and accessible resourcing, in particular the improved structuring and implementation of funding, for youth-led and youth-focused organisations must be made available. For these reasons, Ireland joins the Secretary-General in his recommendation on regular reporting on youth, peace and security, to track the progress of Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) backed by a global set of indicators that could serve to measure their implementation.

"This violence has a very negative effect on us, but it has equipped us with knowledge to prevent it from reoccurring". This quote from "The Missing Peace" study exemplifies the determination of young people to build a better society for themselves and for future generations to come. Ireland believes young people must be part of peace and security discussions, because they are an essential part of the solution. Only by ensuring that the voices of young people are incorporated into our work here can we make the progress they deserve.

Thank you.

-end-



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

Open VTC of the United Nations Security Council

“Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: accelerating implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419”

Monday, April 27th,

10:00 a.m.

Written statement by Italy

Italy thanks the Dominican Republic for organizing this open VTC on a topic - the full involvement of youth - which is of great importance for promoting international peace and security, all the more in these particularly challenging times.

Young people are a vital driver for peace, change, and prosperity. Their specific sensitivity and forward-looking approaches, their natural desire for justice and inclusion, as well as their prominent motivation, enthusiasm and energy can meaningfully contribute to building and sustaining peace, providing long-term sustainable solutions and fostering conflict prevention and reconciliation.

*In this spirit, five years from the launching of the **Youth, Peace and Security Agenda through UNSCR 2250**, Italy remains strongly committed to its implementation. From the outset, we have fully supported the Youth 2030 Strategy and we were **the first Member State to provide financial support to the Office of the SG’s Envoy on Youth** after her appointment. In our vision, youth policies represent the best link between the Peace and Security Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. To support this view, **Italy is conducting a multi-country initiative in partnership with UNDESA for “Promoting***

sustainable peace through national youth policies” , which is currently under implementation in 3 countries and includes the constitution of national and local youth-led “Youth, Peace and Security Civil Society Coalitions”.

Young people can contribute to peace processes in multiple ways, from monitoring ceasefires to resolving local-level disputes, building relationships across social divisions and shaping peace agreements. However, as highlighted in the Report of the Secretary General, **in spite of a growing awareness of young people’s role in peace and security, young people continue to be excluded** from decisions that will directly impact their present and future prospects for peace. They continue to face significant structural barriers to the participation in the decision-making, and many young peacebuilders report that their participation is not welcomed by the public opinion or by those in positions of power, pointing to an overall disregard for their work. **This is especially true for young women**, who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization.

It is essential to ensure that young people have a say in peace discussions, as along with other vulnerable categories, such as women, elders and people with disabilities, they account for many of those adversely affected by armed conflict. Over two billion of the world population is under 24, 90% of which is in developing and vulnerable countries, whereas one in four young people are affected by violence or armed conflict.

Italy has constantly engaged in empowering young people and enabling them to make their voices heard. Every year, since 2017, the Italian Government has been appointing two **Youth Delegates** who - through a nation-wide advocacy action as well as by participating in UN meetings - help promote the active participation of the youngest generations in decision-making, peacebuilding and reconciliation processes. Furthermore, in 2019 **we dedicated our contribution to the Trust Fund** in support of the UN Department of Political Affairs and Peacebuilding **to initiatives in support of the participation of women and youth in peace processes.**

In the same spirit, in preparation of the next COP26, Italy is organizing the youth event “Youth4Climate 2020: driving ambition”, which will focus, inter alia, on the impact of climate change on peace and security.

In the firm belief that there is a **strong link between peace, security and the respect of human rights**, Italy considers fundamental not only to ensure the protection of all human

rights for young people, but also to strengthen their active role in the promotion of human rights within the societies. **Italy is a member of the Human Rights Council's core group for the resolution "Youth and Human Rights"** which aims at promoting new initiatives for an effective, structured and sustainable participation of youth in relevant decision-making process.

Italy is especially convinced of the need to encourage natural synergies between the Women Peace and Security and the Youth Peace and Security Agendas. Both women and youth face similar challenges to their meaningful participation in the decision-making, and share common vulnerabilities. The interplay between these Agendas is key: **the combination between age and gender discrimination makes young women especially vulnerable**, and gender mainstreaming is particularly needed to promote a paradigm shift. Due to the gendered perception of young people, peace and security interventions targeting young people, like those aimed at promoting 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 role and contribution is often neglected and under-recognized, which perpetuates their marginalization.

Against this background, in December 2019 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy invited several representatives of youth organizations to take part in a **High-Level Seminar on "Strengthening Women's Participation in Peace Processes: What Roles and Responsibilities for Member States?"**, which was organized in Rome in collaboration with UNWOMEN. Furthermore, within the implementation of our Third National Plan on Women Peace and Security, **we funded the "2020 Torino Forum for Sustaining Peace: Women and Girls at the Frontlines of Peace"**, to be organized by the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) with a focus on the meaningful participation of women and girls in conflict prevention, and which will also take into consideration the complementarities of the WPS and YPS agendas.

Italy remains committed to play its part in order to bring forward the full implementation of the YPS agenda and foster its synergy with the WPS Agenda.

Thank you.



**Statement by H.E. Mr. ISHIKANE Kimihiro
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
United Nations Security Council Open Debate
on Youth, Peace and Security
27 April 2020**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Dominican Republic for convening this important meeting on youth, peace and security. Also, I wish to extend my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his first report on this issue.

As the Report of the Secretary-General points out, it is of critical importance to encourage the meaningful participation of youth in the efforts for peace and security. Their future depends so heavily on whether or not they are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. If given the opportunity, they can make critical contributions to achieving peace and security for all.

The “human security crisis” caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is seriously affecting the most vulnerable communities around the world, and in particular, those under conflict and post-conflict situations. Youth in those communities are no exception. They could be either a factor of fragility or proactive contributor in overcoming the crisis.

Japan is fully committed to supporting the active participation of young people in the peace and security agenda. They are the key players in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, Goal 16 of the SDGs. We are thankful to the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, for visiting Japan in February to interact with young people in Hiroshima and in other cities and advocating the #Youth4Peace agenda as well as the Agenda 2030.

Mr. President,

Japan’s engagement with the youth for peace and security is based on the human security

approach which calls for the twin strategy of “protection and empowerment”.

First, youths need to be protected from armed conflict, terrorism, gender-based violence and other physical threat to their lives, livelihood and dignity. Japan echoes the SG Report on the need for additional investment in a whole-of-society approach to prevent violent extremism and promote gender-responsive policies and programmes.

Second, youths need to be empowered so that they can protect themselves and also fully develop their potential, enabling them to contribute to building peaceful societies. Let me share some concrete programmes for youth empowerment Japan has been supporting.

Japan provides extensive training in the field of peacebuilding and development for young civilian experts from Japan and many other countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa in collaboration with UNV. This “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development” has enrolled around 350 youths with diverse backgrounds since 2007. In addition, Japanese participants are subsequently deployed to overseas field posts for peacebuilding and development as UN Volunteers. Many who completed the course are now actively contributing to the peace and security work of the UN system.

Japan supports capacity building of youths in post-conflict countries, such as Iraq, South Sudan, the Sahel region, and Afghanistan in partnership with the UNITAR Hiroshima Office. We invite young entrepreneurs and leaders, particularly women, from a wide range of sectors including the public and private sector, academia, media and NGOs to participate in training courses for strengthening their leadership, business planning, and entrepreneurial skills. Alumni are active in the fields of humanitarian affairs, public health, education, agriculture, environment, anti-corruption and many other areas critical to the establishment of sustainable peace and development. The total number of trainees from these countries amounts to 320 since 2015.

Japan has been working with UN-Women in Bangladesh for a project aimed at empowering women to counter the spread of violent extremism. A forum was established in close cooperation with local universities to raise awareness on the role of women in preventing violent extremism and radicalism. It has attracted more than 300 young participants to discuss issues such as gender equality, empowerment of young women and their role in peacebuilding.

Mr. President,

Since the adoption of Resolution 2250 by the Security Council in 2015, young people’s role in peace and security has been increasingly recognized by not only governments, but also civil society world-wide. However, we need to do more. Japan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to building a world where human security is ensured and the young people’s future are better

protected and promoted. We look forward to working closely with the United Nations in this joint endeavor.

Thank you.

Open VTC of the UNSC
Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:
Accelerating Implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419

April 27th, 2020
10.00

Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking all the essential workers, particularly the technicians who made this VTC possible during this difficult time.

I would also like to thank the Dominican Republic Mission for organizing this important meeting and wish them all success in their Presidency of the UNSC for this month.

My thanks also go to the briefers who enriched our discussion today with their experiences and views. These young builders are our capital in the face of threats to peace and security.

Mr. President,

We are going through a very difficult unprecedented time that is affecting us all. The repercussions and implications of Covid19 pandemic have far reaching effects on our countries, our societies, our economies, our lives. These times are casting us into an unclear circumstance, but one thing remains very clear: the crucial role of youth in society and the importance of garnering their energy and potential. Jordan strongly believes in the important role of young people in building healthy and peaceful societies, in realizing the SDGs and in ensuring a better future. In 2015 Jordan introduced for the first time a UNSC resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security which was adopted unanimously. We celebrate this year the 5th anniversary of UNSCR 2250, which created a launchpad to working together towards empowering and enhancing the participation of youth around the world. In this regard, I would like to extend my country's support to the UNSG's first report on Youth Peace and Security that was published in March 2020.

The UNSG's report emphasizes the importance of collaboration between countries, regional organizations, NGOs, the UN and civil society. In 2017, Jordan launched

the Jordanian YPS Coalition, operating under the umbrella of the Ministry of Youth, UNFPA, and the Crown Prince Foundation. The Coalition is the world's first coalition of government, non-governmental organizations and UN agencies to collaborate together on the implementation of UNSC2250 at local and national level. The Coalition set up a voting body composed of youth representatives with an active role in developing a National Youth Strategy 2019-2025. The Strategy rests on several main pillars, among which are education and technology, the rule of law, active citizenship, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, participation and active leadership, as well as health and physical activity.

This year, UNFPA and Generations for Peace will collaborate in coordinating the Coalition, particularly in efforts to reach out to youth from different communities in Jordan through small-scale projects that were developed following in-depth context analysis and developing outcomes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Youth unemployment is one of the most pressing issues the world is facing today, and with the COVID19 pandemic it will be certainly be compounded. Job creation for young women is a challenge we all face. Low wages, lack of childcare provision, poor public transport infrastructure, along with cultural and societal constraints are among the reasons that discourage or stop young women from achieving their economic potential and contributing to the economy. We need to encourage initiatives that nurture a culture of entrepreneurship and creativity, and support business incubators at universities and enterprises to provide sustainable employment opportunities and promote economic growth. The role of public-private partnerships in developing an environment that supports entrepreneurship and innovation is particularly key.

We also need to mobilize every effort and encourage governments, leaders, and international donors to direct more resources to youth programs and policies that foster youth political inclusion, promote civic engagement, and support young people in their transition from school to work.

Mr. President,

The Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security (2015), was the culminating point of the first Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, hosted by Jordan. The Forum, brought together young people, youth-led organizations, non-governmental organizations, governments and UN entities where they agreed on a common vision

and roadmap to partner with young people in preventing conflict, countering violent extremism and building lasting peace as well as promoting gender equality.

Youth play a critical role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, the spread of COVID-19 and the emergency measures undertaken to contain it, will likely curtail the ability of young peacebuilders and human rights defenders from mobilizing efficiently in their communities. We must continue to support young peacebuilders to play an effective and meaningful role in implementing the UNSG's call for a global ceasefire.

Social media platforms play an important role during this pandemic, young people use social media to raise awareness and share good practices during these difficult times. Promoting the positive role of these online platforms is crucial in combating misinformation, extreme narratives online and offline to protect young people from falling into the traps of misinformation, frustration, violence and despair. Social media can and must be used to promote the culture of peace, and to encourage young people to be agents of peace and positive change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Now, more than ever, is the moment in history that we need to seize collectively to empower youth to create a better future, and to be resilient in confronting the many challenges facing them and the world.

Thank You.

KAZAKHSTAN

STATEMENT

by the H.E. Kairat Umarov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UN at the UNSC Open VTC on Youth, Peace and Security
(27 April 2020, New York)

Mr. President,

I commend the Presidency of the Dominican Republic for highlighting the important role of youth in the maintenance of international peace and security. My delegation not only thanks the Secretary-General but fully endorses his detailed and insightful report of 2 March 2020 on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018), and recommendations for the future.

Kazakhstan fully supports both these resolutions. We were honoured to be actually fully involved in the substantive negotiations of resolution 2419 (2018), during our term as an elected member of the Council.

The theme of this session is most relevant, in light of numerous violent conflicts raging in several regions of the world, the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and the threats of climate change we encounter today. We therefore need young people, who are the drivers of change with their openness to new experiences, creativity, innovation, enduring energy, and commitment to build partnerships as world citizens. Youth constitute one fourth of the global population, of which 500 million are living in conflict zones, which is also a cause of concern.

The international community must hence address the socioeconomic, cultural and political factors that lead young people to violence, and likewise, every country must also launch its own youth, peace and security agenda with a view to realizing its young people's potential. To counter terrorism and extremism ideas, investments require to be made in youth's health, education, employment opportunities, and go beyond policies to concrete measures to address inequalities and boost all kinds of opportunities for youth. We need to move from remedial responses to genuine prevention efforts, investing in young people and the fight against racism, ensuring that both age and gender remained integral to peace and security discussions. We therefore are called to support and protect young agents of peace and youth human rights defenders.

Mr. President,

It is important to turn away from the myopic perspective that focuses on youth as a problem and involve them in charting policy frameworks, adopting legislation, participating in national parliaments, and commissioning national road maps for peace and security. Mission mandates, particularly, must also focus on youth capacity-building and leadership with greater investments also in DDR programmes. Firm action must also be taken against perpetrators who threaten the security of youth, young women and ethnic minorities deprived of access to power, resources, and political participation. Youth are vital for Truth and

Reconciliation processes and should have a seat on the negotiation table. Young people must be made to feel that their votes count, and are key actors in democratization, elections, institutional building, disaster risk reduction and the fight against corruption.

Furthermore, we must envision the role of young people in making the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development an effective tool for conflict prevention and mitigation. The huge amounts of money spent globally on military action should instead be spent on advancing the 17 SDGs. Youth must be considered as partners and leaders in addressing their own marginalization. But this will be possible only if States make investments in building young people's capacities and leadership at the national, regional and global levels through dialogue and consultation platforms.

Mr. President,

To achieve the YPS agenda, action is critical at the national level to have an impact globally. Kazakhstan thus believes that youth are key players in democratization, elections, institution-building, the fight against corruption and disaster risk reduction. Voicing support for the proposal to allocate \$1.8 billion by 2025 - the tenth anniversary of resolution 2250 (2015) - we propose that the international community should develop a comprehensive framework relating to youth and the global security-development nexus. My country focuses on poverty eradication, employment and education opportunities, and introduced the "Countering Religious Extremism and Terrorism programme, which continues even now.

The youth in Kazakhstan today make up almost half of the total population, which is nearly 9 million people, aged under 29. The critical importance of young people to Kazakhstan's future is one of the reasons why 2019 had been declared the Year of Youth, with the aim to identify gaps where improvements are needed to realize optimizing the most of our demographic trends. To develop favourable conditions for volunteer activities, the Government of Kazakhstan declared 2020 as the Year of the Volunteer.

In order to increase the inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels, the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, has introduced a major project to attract qualified young personnel to civil service by providing the most talented youth with the opportunity to take leading positions in public administration and the quasi-public sector. Some 300 young professionals were selected on a competitive basis for the Presidential Cadre Reserve out of nearly 3,000 applicants. Already, starting early this year, many of them were appointed to decision-making posts and have started to contribute to the development of our nation.

Kazakhstan also strongly focuses on prevention by eradicating poverty, educating youth and creating employment opportunities to support their dynamic ideas and aspirations. Our country has adopted various national schemes and a comprehensive set of policies to provide free education, vocational training, intensive job creation and entrepreneurship. Kazakhstan's "Bolashak" scholarship, which was launched in 1993, gives the opportunity for hundreds of Kazakh young men and women annually to study in leading foreign higher education institutions. It has been recognized among the best academic mobility programmes in the world.

We also dissuade youth from using violence that serves extremist causes by implementing comprehensive development programs. In particular, we have successfully

completed the national programme on Countering Religious Extremism and Terrorism, allocating hundred millions for preventive measures for the entire youth population.

Finally, Mr. President, this year, the UN family marks its 75th anniversary. It is an important milestone, which represents a unique opportunity to take a critical look at the problems and challenges that confront us. My country has and will always be supporting young people to use their potential as the most valuable assets for sustaining peace and security.

Thank you.



STATEMENT

BY

H.E. LAZARUS O. AMAYO

**AMBASSADOR/ PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF KENYA**

**DURING THE
UN SECURITY COUNCIL
OPEN VTC**

ON

**TOWARDS THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUTH, PEACE &
SECURITY AGENDA: ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF
RESOLUTION 2250 & 2419**

Monday, 27 April 2020 (10:00 am)
<http://webtv.un.org/live/>

Mr. President,

The youth have taken ownership and have become implementors of significant global agendas that touch on international peace and security. It is incumbent on the international community to rally around these constructive contributions and emerging leadership of the youth.

In this regard, my delegation commends the Dominican Republic for prioritizing on the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda during your presidency. As we look to mark the Agenda's 5th Anniversary this December, Kenya stands behind the call to accelerate the implementation of the related Security Council resolutions, 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018).

We congratulate the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the 2250 initiative and taking leadership of the Youth Agenda within the UN system. We also commend Peru and Sweden for spearheading resolution 2419 which is complementary to 2250. My delegation would further like to highlight the presidential statement presented by South Africa in 2019 (S/PRST/2019/15) focusing on the provisions of AU Agenda 2063 and the role African youth can play in Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 in particular, and peace and security in general.

Additionally, we welcome the first ever UN Secretary-General report on this Agenda item published in March 2020. This report, read alongside his Youth 2030 Strategy provides important action points and tools for communities seeking to empower the youth demographic.

Kenya supports the localization of these resolutions and initiatives in order to make the recommendations relevant and accessible at the grassroots level. As Member States we need to develop contextual roadmaps that reflect measurable implementation benchmarks for the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

The experiences and insights shared by the diverse group of youth representatives this morning were not only informative but also demonstrate that youth are indeed agents of positive change, and need to be an integral piece in peace processes and conflict resolution at the local, national, regional and international levels. This morning, we have heard the reiterated call from the young people for translation of policies pertaining to youth into practice, including access to sufficient funding for effective operationalization of youth-led projects.

The five pillars of action embodied in Security Council resolution 2250, namely Participation, Partnerships, Prevention, Protection and Disengagement and Reintegration need to be put into practice and integrated into the work of the Council. Inclusive participation of youth in decision-making should be approached from a partnership perspective. Working *with* the youth is more beneficial than attempting to work *for* the youth.

Our youth need to be protected during conflicts. Young men and young women need to be protected from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence. Reintegration of young men and women directly involved in conflict, or those returning from refugee situations needs to be comprehensive and sustainable. The COVID-19 pandemic is further compounding pre-existing social-economic challenges and this has the potential of leading to further disenfranchisement of the youth. Our collective mitigation measures should prioritize in ensuring that the youth are not left behind.

Investment in youth is a preventative measure. Preparing the youth to positively focus their creativity and aspirations in solving societal challenges in various fields such as the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals; Information and Communications Technology including innovation, cybersecurity, and low-cost technologies will contribute to sustainable peace and sustainable development.

In Kenya, we have rolled out initiatives geared towards ensuring that the youth are part and parcel of the formulation of national strategies pertaining to sustainable peace. The Government has established a State Department of Youth under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Service Youth and Gender. This initiative ensures the youth work alongside government officials, community leaders, civil society, private sector, and international partners to contribute to the peace agenda. Currently this youth department is utilizing social media to disseminate important facts and guidelines regarding COVID-19. We thank the recognition of this Kenyan-youth initiative by the UN Youth Envoy, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake this morning.

In 2019, Kenya's National Youth Service (NYS), which has been in existence since 1964, was transformed into a fully-fledged semi-autonomous state corporation that is aimed at training and mentoring our youth through technical and vocational programs. Other related national initiatives that ensure strategic investments in youth include the *Uwezo* (Ability) Fund that finances businesses for young entrepreneurs.

At the international level, the 2016 Security Council resolution on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture (2282) reaffirms the important role youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the success of peacekeeping and

peacebuilding efforts. The Peacebuilding Commission as an inter-governmental advisory body to the Council has further engaged with youth peacebuilders in country-specific contexts. We encourage the Council to continue seeking the Commission's recommendations including how the potential of youth can be positively harnessed in fragile and conflict-affected countries. This was well articulated by Mr. Gatwal Gatkuoth, the youth representatives from South Sudan who reminded us that peacebuilding in such contexts is not just a process but a necessity.

We welcome the reaffirmation by the Secretary-General of the 2018 progress study on youth, peace, and security, titled "The Missing Peace" published by the Peacebuilding Support Office and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The study embodies the important principle that most young people are resilient and peaceful and are a positive force for building peaceful and just societies.

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates that the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda should not be in isolation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Gender equality is an important tool for any peace and security initiatives, not to mention that gender-equal societies have proved to have more resilience to the threat of conflict and violent extremism.

I thank you.



**Permanent Mission
of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations**

**Statement
by H.E. Ms. Mirgul Moldoisaeva
Permanent Representative
of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations**

**Open VTC of the United Nations Security Council
“Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security
Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419”**

New York, 27 April 2020

**Mr. Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all let me express my gratitude to Mr. José Singer, Special Envoy of the Dominican Republic for Security Council affairs, for the invitation to the today's open debate of the UN Security Council. We commend you for the choice of this very timely and critical issue for consideration on this month's agenda during your Presidency.

I would like to thank His Excellency Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, Mrs. Jayathma Wickramanayake, Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Ms. Olla Al-Sakkaf, Project Coordinator of Youth Without Border Organization for Development, Yemen, and Mr. Gatwal Augustine Gatkuoth, Founder of the Youth-adult Empowerment Initiative, South Sudan / Uganda, for their very informative addresses.

Let me thank the organizers of today's event for the opportunity to speak on the important topic entitled "Youth, Peace and Security".

Mr. Chair

In 2015, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2250, in which it encouraged states to consider establishing mechanisms that would enable young people to engage constructively in peacebuilding to prevent violence and establish world peace and clearly identify youth as an important partner in global efforts to strengthen peace and counter extremism.

In September 2018, the UN Secretary-General introduced the UN 2030 Youth Strategy, which emphasizes the UN's intention to increase its efforts in working with youth and for its interests, in order to provide every young person with the opportunity to fully realize their potential, emphasize the positive contribution of young people as key agents of change.

Kyrgyzstan is making significant efforts to comply with the requirements of UN Security Council Resolutions 2419 and 2250. In this context, Kyrgyzstan is interested in active cooperation with the United Nations and all international partners to fulfill the requirements of these important resolutions.

Mr. Chair,

The Kyrgyz Republic fully supports a vital and positive role of the youth for solving problems concerning maintaining peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, cooperating in solving development problems, reducing poverty, promoting respect for human

rights, environment protection, fighting diseases and many other challenges and problems of mankind.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018 - 2040 defines that youth should be actively involved in the country's development processes, an effective youth development system, conditions and the necessary legal framework for the effective implementation of state youth policy aimed at shaping youth into one of the main assets of the development of the state and society, the promotion of youth initiatives in the political, economic and social spheres. In August 2017, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic also adopted a Youth Policy Development Program for 2017-2020, which contains a vision of the future, goals, main priorities, tasks and key public policy measures aimed at developing youth of Kyrgyzstan, including the creation by the end of 2020 relevant legal and infrastructural conditions.

It should be noted that the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is actively working with the UN system to increase youth participation in the achievement of the SDGs. There are many successful international projects aimed at peacebuilding, capacity building, counteracting the spread of violent extremism, strengthening friendly relations among youth of the states of the region, involving youth in decision-making related to security, conflict and peace. We fully support the vital and positive role young people play in the COVID-19 outbreak response in relation to peace and security in Kyrgyzstan today.

In particular, the UN system in Kyrgyzstan, in partnership with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, launched in 2019 the new program for young activists to promote the SDGs among young people in Kyrgyzstan and mobilize young people to achieve the SDGs at the local, national and international levels.

At the regional level, the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) and Central Asian states launched a new initiative in 2019 called the UNRCCA Preventive Academy, aimed at implementing the UN Youth Strategy and the Youth, Peace and Security program in Central Asia.

Mr. Chair

The well-being, participation and empowerment of youth are key factors in sustainable development and world peace. Achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda requires strong and inclusive partnerships between youth and all stakeholders in order to address youth development challenges and recognize the positive role of youth as a partner in promoting development

and peace. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic intends to continue to support and continue active work in cooperation with all member States, the United Nations system and all international partners to achieve our goals.

Thank you



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

**STATEMENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN VTC ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY
NEW YORK, 27 APRIL 2020**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this open debate, which is only the second since the Council has been forced to switch to remote working mode. We appreciate the progress the Council has made under your leadership to create working methods that can enable the participation of Member States in Council Open Debates. Continued transparency and openness remain key to the Council's effectiveness. Holding the open debate also offers an important opportunity: Negotiation of any Council outcome should take place in light of written inputs provided by non-Council members and thus benefit from the views of the broader membership.

Mr President,

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic creates significant challenges for young people across the world. Many miss crucial months of their education, are deprived of social contacts, quarantined in difficult or even dangerous domestic situations, or lose out on important early career employment opportunities. These challenges will themselves have knock-on effects; the data shows that young people out of school are more prone to forced recruitment in armed forces, radicalization, sexual and gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy, and are more vulnerable to modern slavery and human trafficking. For young people living in situations of armed conflict,

these issues are even more acute; many will have to choose between staying in active conflict zones or fleeing to overpopulated areas with insufficient hygiene facilities. A global ceasefire, as suggested by the Secretary-General, is a vital first step to ameliorating the potential damage caused to young people by the pandemic. It must be followed by sustained humanitarian assistance and committed efforts toward negotiated conflict settlements.

But even in situations where a ceasefire is possible and efforts toward broader agreements can begin, young people are often left on the sidelines of negotiations, even though they make up the majority of the population in most of the situations on the council's agenda. Efforts to integrate youth into peace negotiations should harness their long-term perspective on peace: they will be responsible for the long-term implementation of peace settlements for longer than the adult signatories to peace agreements, and therefore have a far greater interest in forging a long-lasting, sustainable peace settlement. Mechanisms such as youth councils strengthen peace agreements by creating a broader sense of ownership across communities. At the same time, youth inclusion helps to inoculate young people against radicalization themselves at a time when they may be most susceptible, preventing the spread of old hatreds to a new generation. Our assistance to HD Center on inclusive peacemaking has helped teams engage youth in peace processes in the Sahel, Mali, Senegal, and the Philippines in recent years.

Engaging young people is also key to long-term prevention, reconstruction and reconciliation. Many states and territories emerging from conflict have placed education reform at the center of their post-conflict peacebuilding strategies: in particular, attempts to ensure a shared history curriculum have proven important in providing a space for young people to encounter preexisting grievances in a shared setting, in so doing creating the conditions to build bridges between communities, to jointly pursue the right to truth, and to help break the cycle of violence. UN Missions in post-conflict settings have also taken positive steps to engage young people, for example through the UN Verification Mission in Colombia's creation of a specific strategy on Youth, Peace and Security. We hope that this initiative will be mirrored in other situations on the Council's agenda.

Mr President,

The leadership of young people on the critical issue of climate justice illustrates the long-term perspective that they bring to issues of peace and security, as well as an understanding of the need to take immediate action to secure a livable world for future generations. We know that the impacts of climate change are exacerbating existing vulnerabilities in fragile situations, and will lead to increased insecurity and instability for all. We extend our wholehearted support to young people who have been at the front and center of advocacy for climate action, and hope that the council will draw from their examples in its efforts to address global warming as a ongoing threat to peace and security.

I thank you.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement of The Republic of Malta
UN Security Council Open Debate on Youth, Peace and Security
27 April 2020**

(Please check against delivery)

Mr President

We thank the Dominican Republic for organising this open debate on the importance of looking towards accelerating the implementation of Resolutions 2250 and 2419, today more than ever as we are looking towards celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

Malta fully aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union, and would like to add a few remarks in her national capacity.

Malta believes that youth have an essential role to play in the fostering of and maintenance of peace and security. In this regard, it is necessary to adopt a holistic approach which empowers youth and at the same time counteracts the conditions – oppression, injustices, disaffected youths without jobs - that form a breeding ground for terrorism and to tackle its multiple facets including countering terrorism and violent extremism, border security, combating terrorist financing, preventing radicalisation and the problem of foreign fighters, in full compliance with human rights obligations and in accordance with international law.

Mr. President

There is a growing recognition that young people are agents of change in conflict prevention and sustaining Peace. Indeed, Malta recognizes that youth can contribute actively towards building peace and promoting solidarity. Conscious of the need to empower our Youths by opening up additional avenues of participation through which they can put across their views and ideas of this important interdependence, Malta has embarked on a number of initiatives on a national level seeking to give our Youths a stronger voice.

One such initiative is the lowering of voting age in local elections to 16 years of age. The early involvement of our youth in decision making processes, particularly, but not exclusively, in those that impact them directly, will help ensure that issues are addressed from an additional optic and that such processes become owned by the youth themselves who will be tomorrow's decision makers.

Mr President

Today's debate will provide an invigorated impetus to our engagement with the leaders of the future. It will in particular reinforce the UN's capacity to engage more extensively and systematically with young people.

Over time, we have been shown that our youths are ready to serve as active contributors not only to debates but also have become advocates of change. Indeed, it has been made abundantly clear that young people are thrilled to participate and envisage multilateralism as an avenue through which they can voice their ideas, cause positive social change and make a difference in their communities and society. We need to strengthen their appetite for

Mr. President

In conclusion, we cannot deny that Youth contribution is essential in today's society. Firm in this belief, we underline the importance that Youths must be empowered and provided with the appropriate tools if we are expecting them to grow, develop and further shape society.

Furthermore in acknowledging that our youths today represent our future we must ensure that our youths are able to develop their leadership skills by providing them with principles and values. We need to invest in them today to safeguard our future.

Declaración de la Delegación de México en el debate del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas: Mantenimiento de la paz y la seguridad internacionales: la juventud, la paz y la seguridad

Nueva York, a 27 de abril de 2020

México felicita a la República Dominicana por la manera como ha conducido la presidencia del Consejo de Seguridad durante este mes, en un contexto mundial particularmente complejo y sin precedentes, derivado de la pandemia del Covid-19. Agradecemos especialmente los esfuerzos de la presidencia por que los trabajos del Consejo de Seguridad mantengan su nivel de transparencia.

Coincidimos con el primer informe del Secretario General en la materia de este debate, el cual reconoce que las y los jóvenes contribuyen de manera crucial a prevenir y resolver los conflictos y a consolidar la paz sostenible.

La juventud se enfrenta a retos considerables a raíz de la propia globalización, dinámicas socio-económicas cambiantes, el uso e impacto de las nuevas tecnologías, los efectos del cambio climático, entre otros. Es alarmante que uno de cada cuatro jóvenes en el mundo se vea afectado por la violencia o los conflictos armados. Un reto adicional es que más de 1,500 millones de niñas, niños y jóvenes están afectados por el cierre de escuelas a causa de la pandemia, lo que ha incrementado el maltrato psicológico y castigo corporal, situación gravísima que no puede ni debe ser tolerada.

La paz y el desarrollo sostenibles, así como la gobernanza global, deben incluir la participación activa y responder a las aspiraciones de la juventud. Con frecuencia, las y los jóvenes son percibidos como amenaza o parte del problema, además de ser marginalizados o excluidos tanto de la toma de decisiones como de las oportunidades de realización personal y profesional. Esta visión es errónea y debemos cambiarla por completo. Los jóvenes son los actores que permitirán que nuestro desarrollo sea realmente sostenible y, para que esto suceda, nuestra principal tarea debe ser empoderarlos.

El aumento en las tasas de desempleo juvenil ha sido un enorme motivo de preocupación. El panorama se torna aún más crítico si consideramos las implicaciones que la pandemia actual tendrá sobre la economía mundial y las dinámicas sociales en los años por venir.

Necesitamos desarrollar un nuevo paradigma en nuestra relación con las y los jóvenes, en lo económico y en lo social, que asegure su inclusión y nuevas oportunidades. Como primera acción es necesario que los gobiernos tomen medidas para reducir el impacto de la contracción económica en los jóvenes.

El gobierno de México continuará teniendo como una de sus principales prioridades atender las necesidades de la juventud, a través de distintos programas para garantizar los derechos económicos y sociales de los millones de jóvenes mexicanos.

Dentro de estas acciones para mejorar las oportunidades de empleo de las y los jóvenes, se estableció el programa Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro, el cual tiene como objetivo vincular a personas de entre 18 y 29 años con empresas, talleres, instituciones o negocios en los cuales se desarrollan o fortalecen hábitos laborales y competencias técnicas para incrementar sus posibilidades de empleabilidad a futuro. Es importante señalar que, con cooperación de México, este esquema ha sido ya replicado en otros países de América Central.

Asimismo, como parte de la estrategia Juntos por la Paz, se promueve la iniciativa Semilleros y Territorios de Paz, que se centra en la promoción de la cultura de la paz y la prevención de la violencia, para abordar los conflictos a través de la comunicación participativa de jóvenes y el respeto de los derechos humanos.

El examen de la Arquitectura de Consolidación de la Paz representa igualmente una oportunidad para fortalecer la participación y empoderamiento de la juventud en los esfuerzos para la consolidación de la paz, desde lo local y comunitario hasta lo nacional e internacional.

La participación de las y los jóvenes ha sido reconocido como un aspecto clave de la sostenibilidad, la inclusión y el éxito de los esfuerzos de mantenimiento y consolidación de la paz, como está reflejado en la resolución sobre el examen integral de las misiones políticas especiales que presentan México y Finlandia en la Asamblea General.

México considera que el Consejo de Seguridad debe considerar las siguientes medidas concretas:

- i) Fortalecer las sinergias entre las agendas de Juventud, Paz y Seguridad con la de Mujeres, Paz y Seguridad, dando un particular énfasis a la consideración de las necesidades y perspectivas de mujeres jóvenes y niñas. La igualdad de género es un requisito sine qua non para fortalecer el tejido social y construir sociedades resilientes frente a toda clase de conflictos y de expresiones de violencia.
- ii) Asegurar mayor involucramiento sistemático de jóvenes en el trabajo del CSONU y para que sus voces sean escuchadas y tomadas en cuentas por éste.
- iii) Alentar la participación significativa de jóvenes, particularmente de grupos marginados y tradicionalmente excluidos, en iniciativas de paz y seguridad internacional, así como en acciones de voluntariado, apoyo humanitario y en ciertos componentes de las misiones de paz.
- iv) Fortalecer la interacción del Grupo de Trabajo sobre los niños y los conflictos armados con el resto del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, así como asegurar que las dimensiones de juventud de los temas de la agenda del Consejo se vinculen igualmente con los avances del Grupo de Trabajo.

Para México, el camino es claro: impulsar la prevención y el desarrollo sostenible e incluyente, con la plena participación de la juventud. Sin duda, las y los jóvenes siempre serán capaces de lograr los cambios que necesitan nuestras sociedades, siempre y cuando estén provistos de las herramientas necesarias. Sin las y los jóvenes es impensable la implementación de estrategias para alcanzar las metas de la Agenda 2030 y así asegurar que nadie quede atrás.

Invertir en las y los jóvenes es nuestra mejor apuesta por un mundo en paz.

INTERVENTION OPEN VTC CONSEIL DE SECURITE – 27 AVRIL 2020
*« Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating
Implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419 »*

Monsieur le Président,
Monsieur le Secrétaire général,
Excellences,

5 ans après l'adoption de la résolution 2250 (2015) par le Conseil de sécurité, le premier rapport du Secrétaire général sur les « Jeunes, la paix et la sécurité », publié le 2 mars dernier, marque une étape importante dans la reconnaissance du rôle crucial de la jeunesse dans la prévention et la résolution des conflits ainsi que dans le maintien de la paix.

Ce rapport et les premiers résultats du « grand dialogue mondial » lancé dans le cadre de la campagne UN75, soulignent que les jeunes du monde entier, confrontés à de nombreux défis – changements démographiques, inégalités, nouvelles technologies, déplacements forcés, rétrécissement de l'espace civique, évolution du marché du travail et changement climatique –, luttent pour la paix, la justice, l'inclusion, l'égalité des sexes et les droits de l'homme.

La pandémie du COVID-19 a plongé l'ensemble de la planète dans une crise économique d'une rare violence, dont le FMI et la Banque mondiale estiment qu'elle aura un coût deux à trois fois supérieur à celle de 2008. Cette crise aura un impact important sur les jeunes, que l'on sait particulièrement exposés aux récessions, ce qui devrait exacerber leurs difficultés.

En effet, trois sur quatre travaillent dans l'économie informelle, une large proportion d'entre eux connaît des formes de travail temporaire et à temps partiel au statut précaire, et souvent dans des secteurs qui sont particulièrement vulnérables à la pandémie de COVID-19. Alors que les Etats commencent à adopter des mesures de soutien et de relance, il est indispensable que des dispositions spécifiques pour aider les jeunes soient prises afin d'éviter de les enfermer durablement dans une « trappe à pauvreté ».

L'inclusion politique est une demande centrale de la jeunesse. Les nombreux mouvements qui se sont fait entendre en 2019, ont envoyé un signal fort. La jeunesse n'attendra pas. Elle a aussi montré son incroyable capacité à créer des espaces alternatifs d'engagement politique qui, si nous n'y prêtons pas attention, s'opposeront aux vieux formats que nous perpétons. Il serait bien imprudent de prendre le risque d'alimenter et d'aggraver la défiance envers les institutions. Le dialogue, la coopération et la mise en place de partenariats sont nos meilleures armes contre les dérives sectaires, l'extrémisme violent et le terrorisme.

Alors que l'ONU et ses Etats membres viennent d'embarquer pour une Décennie pour l'Action, nous avons plus que jamais besoin de l'engagement massif et total de la jeunesse. Sans elle, nous ne pouvons pas espérer atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable et instaurer une paix durable. La jeunesse a besoin de notre soutien et nous avons besoin de la jeunesse pour construire notre avenir.

Dans le contexte actuel, particulièrement anxiogène, le sport et la pratique d'une activité physique joue un rôle important dans le maintien de la santé physique et mentale des individus et dans la continuité du lien social. Monaco défend, et continuera à défendre, l'importance du sport comme outil pour bâtir une culture de paix et de tolérance, rassemblant les nations et les

peuples autour de valeurs communes. Le sport et la pratique d'une activité physique sont très largement utilisés par le HCR comme important vecteur d'intégration et de réduction des tensions, là où la guerre, les conflits et les persécutions ont détruit tout semblant de normalité.



Permanent Mission of Montenegro
to the United Nations
New York

Address: 801 Second Avenue
7th Floor
New York, NY, 10017
tel: +1.212.661.3700
fax: +1.212.661.3755
www.mvp.gov.me

**Statement
by
H.E. Mrs Milica Pejanović Đurišić, Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the
United Nations
at the Open VTC of the United Nations Security Council under the theme:
“Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating
Implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419”
27 April 2020, New York**

Members of the Security Council,

Montenegro thanks the Council and the Dominican Republic as President for the month of April for the opportunity provided to the Member States to continue to participate and contribute to the activities of the Security Council during these challenging times.

Montenegro aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Montenegro welcomes the first report of the Secretary General on youth and peace and security since the adoption of the SC Resolution 2250 (2015). While recognizing the essential role of the young people in peace and security, the report clearly indicates remaining core challenges that can have devastating impact on the youth development and lead to their further marginalization. The marginalization of young people foments political distrust and hopelessness, challenges systems and structures and contributes to national, regional and global insecurity. Therefore, we must do more to engage young people as equal partners, not only as beneficiaries, in our efforts to shape the future of the world. In particular, their voices and perspectives must be heard in regard to the conflict prevention and peacebuilding. We strongly believe that by empowering new generations of peacemakers, we will prevent their marginalization and stigmatization, further mistrust and even radicalization. In doing so, particular attention should be given to the protection of young human rights defenders and peacebuilders, during and after armed conflict.

Youth, peace and security agenda with its resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018), adopted by the Security Council, sets up the pathway for young people to become active citizens in shaping the Government policies and politics of their countries. Its successful

implementation requires further support, including political will and ownership from Member States, funding for programming, institutional support for capacity-building and prioritization.

Montenegro supports all the efforts aiming at voicing specific needs of young people, upholding their rights and acknowledging their diversity and the challenges that they face. The National Youth Strategy of Montenegro for the period of 2017-2021 with its Action Plan is focused on facilitating access of youth to labour market and employment; access to quality education; active participation in decision-making processes and policy creation; quality health care; and access to culture both as creators and consumers. Through the adoption of the Strategy and the Law on Youth, we have established an efficient framework for systematic improvement of the situation of young people in Montenegro. We strongly believe that investing in youth is the best investment for stability and prosperity of our society.

The Government of Montenegro has already undertaken activities aimed at achieving the goals of the United Nations Strategy on Youth, by initiating policies and reform processes to increase their active participation in social life, improve the quality of education, through introducing new skills into national school plans, both for acquiring knowledge and personal development, as well as for their future success in the labor market. In order to improve existing mechanisms for supporting youth in Montenegro, the Government of Montenegro closely collaborates with the UN Country Team in Montenegro, through different programs and projects. These initiatives are of great importance for enabling young people to use their full potentials in decision making, entrepreneurship and participation in various social activities.

Bearing in mind that process for achieving lasting peace needs to be democratized in a way to include the communities most affected, Montenegro is also very active in connecting the youth from the region of Western Balkans, particularly through the work of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office. We are proud that Montenegro was the first country to establish a liaison office for this important regional initiative aimed at reconciliation through joint activities of young people from the Western Balkans region.

Although some progress has been made globally in supporting active participation of young people, we must step up our efforts to accelerate the implementation of the youth and peace and security agenda. Young people must be treated as the vital asset.

Investment in their capacities and leadership, addressing the structural barriers and ensuring their equal participation are prerequisite for achieving lasting peace and sustainable development goals. Therefore, we call all member states and partners to hear what young people have to say and to engage in turning their voices into action.

*The Permanent Mission
of the Kingdom of Morocco
to the United Nations
New York*



بعثة الدائمة للمملكة المغربية
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

AT THE OPEN VTC OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON:

**“TOWARDS THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUTH, PEACE AND
SECURITY AGENDA: ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION
OF RESOLUTIONS 2250 AND 2419”**

MONDAY, 27 APRIL 2020, 10:00A.M

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank the Dominican Republic, President of the Security Council for the month of April 2020, for organizing this open “Video Tele Conference of the Security Council” on a very important question: “Youth, Peace and Security”, as we are celebrating this year the fifth Anniversary of this Agenda.

We would also like to acknowledge Jordan’s commitment to this question and its initiative of bringing it first to the Security Council through resolution 2250 adopted in 2015.

Mr. President,

The United Nations has long recognized the potential of young people in contributing to the development of the societies in which they live, and their crucial role in forging an inclusive vision of a shared future, a sine qua non for sustainable peace.

This was acknowledged in the Declaration on the “Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples”, adopted in 1965, and the “International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace”, observed in 1985, thereby laying the foundations for a global reflection on youth issues.

A decade later, the Member States adopted the “World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond”, offering practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people around the world, through fifteen interlinked and mutually reinforcing youth priority areas. The objective was to strengthen the international commitment to young people by directing the international community’s response to the challenges faced by youth.

This international commitment was even more underpinned with the adoption in 2015, by the UN Security Council, of a landmark resolution (2250), complemented by resolution 2419 in 2018, which both recognized the positive role of young people in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Mr. President,

Today, there are over 1.8 billion young people in the world, which constitutes 18 percent of the global population. They are the largest generation of young people the world has ever known. Therefore, they constitute decisive agents of change and a huge potential for sustainable development. Leaving them behind would have an impact on world’s peace and security.

As the world evolves, so do the issues that affect young people. The only effective long-term solution to overcome the challenges that young people confront is to build more inclusive, participatory and egalitarian societies, and to maximize and harness the potential, commitment and resilience of young people.

Establishing a permanent dialogue with young people will enable them to strengthen their defenses against hate speech, radicalization, extremism as well as criminal activities. It will also ensure their full integration into society.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Morocco has taken, for years, many commitments to youth, namely :

- *The Constitution devotes a special place to young people, dedicating both Articles 33 and 170 to their empowerment, calling on the public authorities to take all measures to generalize their

participation in the socio-economic, cultural and political development of the Kingdom. A Consultative Council of Youth and of Associative Action (Conseil consultatif de la jeunesse et de l'action associative) was also instituted by the Constitution to this effect.

- *The youth have a quota in the membership of the Parliament of Morocco.
- *The Government launched, after a consultative process including all stakeholders, the National Integrated Youth Strategy 2015-2030.
- *The National Initiative for Human Development, which has launched its 3rd phase (2019-2023), aims to support the well-being of the whole population, in particular the youth.
- *The establishment in Rabat of the Union of young African parliamentarians tends to promote exchanges and cooperation between young people from the African Continent.

These actions and other initiatives clearly demonstrate the particular attention placed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, on youth, whom He has “always regarded as the country’s true wealth” and put them “at the center of the new development model”.

Today, Morocco’s youth are stepping up with efforts to assist those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating continued leadership and solidarity to support their fellow Moroccans as well as foreign nationals, distributing food packages and sanitation kits.

Moreover, young Moroccan entrepreneurs and innovators initiated various contributions to the crisis response. These include making artificial ventilation machines, automatic thermometers, automatic gates for sanitary disinfection and sterilization, protective clothing and masks, manufacturing drones used for air disinfection, virus detection and awareness raising, and creating electronic platforms for remote learning to support the Government’s efforts to promote online education. They also fight fake news about COVID-19 through their widespread use of social media.

Mr. President,

To conclude, I would like to emphasize that the key to consolidating peace, achieving social cohesion and sustainable and inclusive development is to invest in young people.

This commits us to seek and promote new possibilities for the effective, structured and sustainable participation of youth in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life, in particular in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

I would like to end with a quote from Graça Machel, “Preventing the conflicts of tomorrow means changing the mindset of youth today.”

Thank you Mr. President.



NEPAL

Statement at the Open Debate of the United Nations Security Council on “Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of Resolutions 2250 and 2419”

Monday, 27 April 2020

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by thanking the Presidency of the Dominican Republic for convening today's open debate to recognize the significance of youth on peace and security.

I also thank the Secretary-General and the distinguished briefers for their updates and valuable insights.

Nepal welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on Youth and Peace and Security that was released last month.

Mr. President,

As highlighted by the Secretary-General in his report, there are about 1.85 billion youths living in the world. Undoubtedly, the future of humanity depends on these youth.

Youth's marginalization and exclusion from any process foment socioeconomic and political challenges. We cannot imagine a global future in which the youth suffer from hunger, unemployment, and other socio-economic menaces.

Youth have the resilience and capacity to amplify the developmental goals and promote peace and stability. Youth suffer not only from conflict but also pay the opportunity cost of not having proper education due to conflict.

Youth fight from both fronts during conflicts; either as soldiers or as rebels. If youth are left behind and marginalized in the post-conflict situation, the likelihood of relapsing into the conflict is very high.

Mr. President,

The youth of age between 16 to 40 years constitute more than 40 percent of Nepal's population. It is a huge demographic dividend for Nepal.

Young people have played crucial roles not only in Nepal's socio-economic development but also in its political transformation. They have played a significant role in the progressive political changes that occurred in the last 70 years' history of modern Nepal. It is not least in this light that Nepal has a policy of engaging youth in every sector of national life.

In line with the Security Council resolutions, the Government of Nepal recognizes the youth as agents of change in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. We focus on participation, partnership, prevention, protection, and disengagement and re-integration as five pillars for action on young people's contribution to building and sustaining peace.

Similarly, to achieve the aspirations of the Constitution of Nepal and the 2030 Agenda, the Government of Nepal has laid out plans and policies to include and ensure the political, economic, social, and employment rights of the youth.

Nepal's National Youth Policy 2015 lays emphasis on the quality of vocational education, employment, entrepreneurship, skill development, health and social security, youth engagement and leadership development, and sports and entertainment. We believe that the well-informed youth will play a great deal of role in socio-economic progress with their meaningful participation in politics, economy and other sectors.

Youth Information Center is also established in the country to increase young people's access to information. Nepal believes that only well-informed youth can play a significant role in the country's socio-economic progress.

Nepal has also increased investment in youth through the 'Youth Self-Employment Fund' with a view to creating jobs for youth and utilizing their skills for the country's development.

We are committed to ensuring active and equitable participation of youth in decision-making processes for the promotion of a peaceful and inclusive society. Inclusion policy is adopted to ensure proportionate representation of youth from different communities in the governance structures at all sectors and levels.

To conclude, my delegation is confident that today's deliberations would provide further impetus to effectively implement the resolutions 2250 and 2419. I also hope that the 'Fifth Anniversary' would be an occasion to better integrate 'Youth Peace and Security Agenda' and help better implement sustainable development goals, prevent conflicts, and sustain peace.

Thank you.



Nordic Joint Statement

Issued by Norway on the occasion of the
Security Council's consideration of the maintenance of
international peace and security:
Youth, Peace and Security

27 April 2020

The Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway - applaud the Dominican Republic for convening an open meeting on youth, peace and security. We appreciate your efforts to keep this important issue on the agenda of the Security Council and for facilitating written statements from non-council members. We also **welcome the participation of the young civil society briefers** in this new format. The voices of civil society and youth-led organisations continue to bring vital input into the work and considerations of this Council, including through the COVID-19 pandemic.

We **thank the Secretary-General for his report on youth, peace and security**. The report shows that we have made progress across several pillars supporting the meaningful participation of youth in peace and security issues. However, we emphasize the need for **continued focus on the implementation** of the youth, peace and security agenda to maintain momentum.

Since the adoption of resolutions 2250 and 2419, we see more consistent reporting on youth-specific issues to the Security Council. Together with Jordan, the Nordic countries have consistently reported on the **role of youth through the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism**. We encourage countries to report on the contribution and situation of young people in peace and security efforts, with special attention on marginalized groups such as young women. We also welcome a measure mandating the Secretariat to regularly report on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

Young women and men have both the wisdom and commitment to help pivot societies towards sustainable peace and security, and they are a positive force in this regard. However, systematic exclusion and many **structural barriers for youth engagement and participation remain**, even within this Council. The Secretary-General's report offers interesting ideas for stimulating broader participation of young people in conflict resolution, mediation, peace and political processes.

In this regard, relevant **Security Council mission mandates should include language requiring the meaningful participation of youth** in peace and security efforts, including in the mediation, monitoring and implementation of ceasefires as well as peace agreement negotiations. Mandates should also include **age- and gender-sensitive conflict analysis**.

The Nordic countries have a long tradition of youth engagement. We support a range of initiatives at both national and international level, including **youth-led initiatives that support young peacebuilders in conflict contexts**. For instance, Norway and Finland are key partners of the African Union's flagship initiative, ***Silencing the Guns in Africa***, which aims to promote peace in conflict-affected areas. We recognise the efforts that the African Union is taking to involve African young women and men in peace processes, and highlight the importance of similar efforts made in the Middle East and Latin-America. At the global level, Sweden, among others, is a key partner in the **institutionalisation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda within the UN system**.

The safety of young people who speak up in their societies is a source of major concern. The Secretary-General's report includes important provisions on the **protection of young mediators, peacebuilders and human right defenders**. We stress the importance of respecting and protecting human rights, and we reiterate that Member States have an important role in preventing abuse committed against these groups.

The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth plays an important role in promoting the protection of aspiring peacebuilders and human rights defenders. We hope that the **framework for the effective protection of young peacebuilders** is one of several deliverables that the UN Youth Strategy launched by the Office of the Envoy on Youth, will help bring about.

Finally supporting the youth, peace and security agenda requires continued commitment across other areas, such as education. **The Nordic countries will continue our consistent engagement** to directly and indirectly empower young women and men as agents of change for lasting peace.



INTERVENCION DEL PERU EN EL DEBATE ABIERTO DEL CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD

“HACIA EL QUINTO ANIVERSARIO DE LA AGENDA DE JUVENTUD, PAZ Y SEGURIDAD: IMPLEMENTACION ACELERADA DE LAS RESOLUCIONES 2250 Y 2419”

NUEVA YORK, 27 DE ABRIL DE 2020

Señor presidente, queremos agradecer la realización de esta importante reunión, así como las valiosas intervenciones hechas, en especial en este muy difícil contexto creado por la pandemia del COVID-19, a pesar del cual seguimos avanzando en un importante hito en el Consejo de Seguridad, dado que este año se celebrará el quinto aniversario de la introducción de la agenda de “Juventud, Paz y Seguridad”. Contamos también con el primer informe del Secretario General sobre esta agenda, el cual agradecemos, y que estamos seguros será una guía fundamental para seguir trabajando y profundizando en esta importante agenda.

Señor presidente:

La generación actual de mujeres y hombres jóvenes es la más numerosa de la historia, y representa alrededor del 16% de la población mundial, de la cual cerca del 90% vive en regiones en desarrollo donde son el segmento de la sociedad más numeroso, y una parte importante de ellos habitan en zonas afectadas por los conflictos armados. Constituyen, por tanto, un dividendo demográfico que no podemos relegar, sino que por el contrario debemos valorar y saber aprovechar en beneficio, actual y futuro, de nuestras sociedades, reconociendo en particular las grandes y valiosas contribuciones que pueden aportar en favor de la paz y la seguridad.

El actual contexto de la pandemia del COVID-19 nos está mostrando que la capacidad resiliente de los jóvenes es fundamental para avanzar en situaciones difíciles. Con nuestros segmentos de población de adultos mayores, y de adultos con enfermedades subyacentes particularmente vulnerables, y con niños aparentemente inmunes pero que necesitan de atención y cuidados, los jóvenes son los llamados a ser un pilar fundamental durante la respuesta a la pandemia y para trabajar en las acciones de recuperación de nuestras economías. Debemos tener presente a los jóvenes como agentes relevantes para superar los desafíos actuales. Al mismo tiempo, es necesario enfrentar las consecuencias sociales y económicas que afectan de manera particular a los jóvenes y se ven agravadas por la pandemia, teniendo en cuenta que la profundización de las desigualdades conlleva el riesgo de alimentar conflictos que pongan en riesgo la paz y seguridad.

Saludamos los importantes avances efectuados en el Consejo de Seguridad en estos cinco años con sus resoluciones S/RES/2250 (2015) y S/RES/2419 (2018) -esta última promovida por Suecia y el Perú-; la declaración de la Presidencia del Consejo de Seguridad S/PRST/2019/15, “Movilizar a la juventud con el fin de silenciar las armas para 2020”; y ahora el informe del señor Secretario General sobre la materia que nos ocupa (S/2020/167).



El Perú destaca el papel que las mujeres y hombres jóvenes están llamados a cumplir en la prevención y la solución de los conflictos, la justicia y la reconciliación, y en los procesos de consolidación de la paz. Ellos son cruciales para construir la visión inclusiva de futuro requerida para alcanzar la paz, consolidarla y prevenir nuevos conflictos. Lastimosamente, y a pesar de ese enorme potencial que representan, el estudio sobre los progresos en materia de Juventud, Paz y Seguridad de 2018 nos indicaba que, en muchos casos, se les considera como un problema en lugar de tenerlos como socios y aliados para la paz, conllevando a su frustración. Para tener una paz sostenible, debemos trabajar en la inclusión de los jóvenes en los campos de la política, economía, en materia digital y en las respuestas humanitarias.

Estamos convencidos de que ese es el enfoque adecuado para la efectiva implementación y promoción de este tema en la agenda del Consejo de Seguridad. Es necesario aprovechar y maximizar el potencial, el compromiso y la resiliencia de los jóvenes para prevenir y hacer frente a los conflictos.

Al efecto consideramos importante la creación de espacios inclusivos y seguros, que permitan a los jóvenes participar y contribuir en los procesos de consolidación y de construcción de la paz sostenible en sus respectivas comunidades nacionales. Saludamos los esfuerzos realizados en ese sentido y alentamos su continuación.

Esta temática está evidentemente vinculada a la implementación de la Agenda 2030. Los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible nos comprometen, entre otras acciones, a crear empleo digno para nuestros jóvenes; a garantizar, a través del acceso a la salud y la educación, la igualdad de oportunidades; y a promover sociedades pacíficas con instituciones inclusivas. Al fin y al cabo, nuestros esfuerzos y decisiones de hoy se verán reflejados en el mundo del mañana, en el cual nuestros jóvenes de hoy día se convertirán en los líderes responsables de guiarnos.

La humanidad ve en la actualidad, nuevos retos y dificultades derivadas de la globalización, la violencia, los cambios demográficos, la desigualdad, las nuevas tecnologías, el desplazamiento forzado, el cambio de los mercados de trabajo y el cambio climático, los cuales impactan en la vida de los jóvenes. Estos problemas amenazan con profundizarse en el futuro y afectar por ende su vida adulta de una manera más grave. Por tanto, no podemos dejarlos de lado en las decisiones que atañen su destino. Perpetuar la exclusión nos conducirá inexorablemente al sentimiento de marginación, desconfianza y desesperanza, y con ello a la posibilidad del quebrantamiento de la paz.

Estamos comprometidos a promover los derechos humanos y libertades fundamentales de todos los jóvenes, salvaguardar su diversidad, y luchar contra la discriminación. Esto supone abandonar estereotipos que los estigmatizan como personas propensas a la violencia, así como reconocer y promover sus capacidades de participación y liderazgo en la vida pública.

La participación de delegados juveniles en distintos foros y procesos de las Naciones Unidas constituye sin duda una buena práctica. Ello en la medida que sirve para establecer puentes entre los gobiernos, las organizaciones internacionales y las organizaciones de jóvenes, en torno a agendas consistentes con el mantenimiento de la paz y la seguridad internacionales.



De otro lado, es esencial considerar el rol que pueden desempeñar las mujeres, en especial las mujeres jóvenes. Si vemos que existe una marginalización hacia los jóvenes, ésta es mayor cuando se añade el componente de género. La igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres son cruciales para lograr avances sustantivos en este y demás campos, tal como se reconoce en la Agenda 2030.

Finalmente, consideramos oportuno que la agenda de Juventud, Paz y Seguridad se articule con la de los Niños y los Conflictos Armados -ambas complementarias- con miras a la búsqueda y consolidación de la paz en un continuo desde la niñez, adolescencia y juventud. Ello redundará en la consolidación de una paz duradera y sostenible.

Concluimos reiterando el apoyo y compromiso del Perú para promover y profundizar esta agenda, convencidos de su relevancia a fin de lograr los propósitos de las Naciones Unidas.

Muchas gracias.



PHILIPPINES

Security Council Open VTC

**Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:
Accelerating Implementation of Resolutions 2250 and 2419**

27 April 2020, New York

STATEMENT OF

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Philippines thanks the members of the Security Council for their continued efforts to advance the Youth, Peace and Security in its work. We express our gratitude to the Presidency of the Dominican Republic for convening this very important VTC debate. We also thank the Secretary-General, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and other briefers for their insightful statements.

The Philippines has consistently held the conviction that the youth are the leaders of tomorrow as well as of today. Young people have the potential to be the greatest resource for sustainable economic growth and development. Having one of the youngest populations in the Asia-Pacific region, the Philippines recognizes the urgency to leverage the demographic dividend not only for purposes of economic development, but also for peace and security.

As provided for in our Constitution, the Philippine state recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building, and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. Consistent with this mandate, the Philippine Government, through the National Youth Commission, established and implements the Philippine Youth Development Plan 2017 – 2022. This Plan is anchored on and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Under the Plan, the youth are guaranteed participation in 9 areas vital to nation-building: health, education, economic empowerment, social inclusion and equality, governance, active citizenship, the environment, global mobility, and peace-building and security.

The peace-building and security area involves the youth's active engagement in promoting human security, including through participation in conflict prevention and management initiatives, in public order and safety efforts, as well as in safeguarding

PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

556 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10036 • TEL. (212) 764-1300 • FAX (212) 840-8602

national integrity and sovereignty. The Government pursues a strategy of optimizing youth participation in the peace process. It also promotes the pro-social participation of delinquent youth, youth in conflict with the law and drug-dependent youth in order to foster rehabilitation and re-integration.

The Philippines fully supports Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419 and their aims of actively engaging young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes and dispute resolution. Young people have unique skills and perspectives that can inform and benefit peace negotiations. The Philippine Government's commitment to include young people in the peace-building process was demonstrated through the crafting of the National Action Plan for Youth, Peace, and Security, and the establishment of the Youth Peace Tables. Consultations with the youth, including dialogue opportunities between them and different actors and stakeholders in the peace process, created space for young people to express the concerns and issues that are specific to their demographic.

The youth played an important role in the peace negotiations between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Most of the legal team members of the Government peace panel were young people who contributed substantially to the preparation of the technical papers used by the negotiating parties and in the drafting of the Bangsamoro Organic law, the foundational law that creates a truly autonomous region in Mindanao and the foundation needed to foster stability of the security situation in the region.

The youth, especially the women, as young as in their 20s, played valuable roles to promote women's rights in the conflict areas in Mindanao. These young women were part of the legal teams and brought the gender lens to the peace agreement through their engagement with informal women's rights networks and their successful push to include stronger provisions against domestic violence. They worked with government stakeholders crucial to the peace process, such as the armed forces and the Department of Justice, and in strengthening its confidence building measures. These less politically sensitive functions taken on by young people on the different sides of the negotiation table played a key role in building bridges across party lines. This made a significant contribution to forging creative solutions in the negotiation process.

Young people were also involved in ceasefire monitoring teams. They accompanied senior negotiators during visits to the communities. The joint coordination and assistance mechanism relied on young volunteers who were critical in the formal ceasefire process. At the forefront of the armed conflict, young people were also involved in conducting investigative field work and monitoring accountability to the ceasefire by negotiating parties.

During the negotiations between the Philippine Government and the MILF, violent-clan conflicts were delaying the advance of the peace negotiations. A youth-focused organization saw the need to address clan feuds and gathered recommendations for mediating three (3) critical feuds through extensive consultation.

Through the process, three clan wars were solved. A clan peace agreement was signed in a ceremony witnessed by representatives from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the Third Party Monitoring Team.

After the Government reclaimed the City of Marawi from the hands of ISIS elements in 2017, the National Youth Commission established Youth Hubs in order to assist displaced young people who are transferring to shelters. The youth were provided with peer-to-peer counselling and opportunities for training in computer literacy, entrepreneurship, good governance, and livelihood.

Peace negotiations are human resource-intensive. From organizing logistics, to coordinating meetings and preparing documentation, the youth often play critical supportive roles. The same is true for efforts to address massive health challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Young nurse leaders and advocates are at the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19. Young people, including youth volunteers, also play a crucial role in delivering assistance to communities in quarantine. Their skills in utilizing information technology to disseminate crucial information to the greater population should be harnessed. Their insights are important in addressing mental health issues that affect their fellow young people and other demographics.

In closing, the Philippines reiterates its appreciation to the Security Council and the Presidency of the Dominican Republic for this opportunity to share experiences and good practices in involving young people in peace-building processes and implementing the Youth Peace and Security agenda at the national level.

* * *

Open Debate on Youth, Peace and Security.

Statement of Poland

Poland would like to congratulate the Dominican Republic for assuming the presidency in the Council for the month of April. We would like to thank Dominican Republic for organizing this important Open Debate on Youth, Peace and Security and for allowing all Member States to take part in the Debate, despite the challenging circumstances.

We are very grateful for the leadership of the Secretary General of United Nations and the Special Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake. We would also like to thank the briefers for their presentations and inspiring messages.

This year is a year of many important anniversaries for multilateral diplomacy. It marks 5 years of Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, as well as 20 years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and 10 years since the adoption of the Agenda 2030. It constitutes therefore a great opportunity to reflect on the role of youth in these challenging times as an equal partner and an important stakeholder and to look at the YPS agenda as critical component of discussions at the Security Council and beyond.

The statement of Poland will follow on the following issues:

Challenges for youth in the context of peace and security

As the first Secretary General's report on Youth and Peace and Security Agenda says, there are 1.85 billion young women and men in the world, 10 to 24 years of age, where 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries. Conflicts take toll on young people in various ways. And it hits them even harder when it comes to young women and men with disabilities, who are often ostracized or marginalized within their immediate families and communities and find themselves at a particular risk of violence and abuse. Exclusion from political processes and suffering from the effects of under-development, poor service delivery, lack of access to education, and high levels of unemployment are obstacles that young people have to face today.

As UNICEF reports, the impact of COVID-19 has long term and destructive consequences on access to education. According to the information provided, almost 1.6 billion of children don't

attend to school as of now and it is estimated that more than half of children from poor and developing countries won't be coming back to schools once they're reopened.

All these factors at the same time constitute main drivers for violence amongst youth who simply feel that they don't have a choice, if they want to survive and do not believe in their happy future. That's why education represents a number one tool in shaping the future opportunities of young people. The SG report on Youth, Peace and Security rightly mentions that they are striving for peace, justice, inclusion, gender equality and human rights. Their aspirations, views and demands not only have to be heard, but need to be listened to. It is time for youth to be a part of peace processes, including negotiations of peace agreements.

Dire conflict situation has deplorable effects for girls. Millions of young women are exposed every day to gender based violence, early and forced child marriage, sex trafficking, sexual harassment, rape and abuse. They are in critical need of humanitarian assistance and access to medical services. Now, more than ever, young women should be free to live without prejudices, unequal opportunities and without limited chances. Moreover, we need to remember that men too are the victims of the patriarchal mindset and masculinity. We need to take up a challenge of changing the stereotypes, norms and the roles assigned to each sex, because we want to live in a world where equality between women and men is a reality and nobody is marginalized on the basis of sex and origin. Young people are also victims of violence based on religion and belief and we have to reassure them of our unwavering support.

The frustration of young people and the lack of trust towards authorities, governments and leaders is growing. Young people do not want meaningless assurances – they want to see concrete actions and be a legitimate part of the peace processes. Young people are increasingly aware of their rights, opportunities, they are able to exchange views and engage in meaningful discussions through Internet and social media. They do not want to be quiet anymore and our obligation is to incorporate their voice into national policies.

Initiatives taken by Poland

Poland is especially concerned about the increase of violence against educational facilities, students and teachers. We welcome and support initiatives aimed at putting an end to the use of schools and universities for military purposes. The 2014 Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict, are a good

example in this regard. To confirm our commitment to effective implementation of this Guidelines Poland signed the Safe School Declaration. We believe that such initiatives constitute an important step towards protection and promotion of the rights of the child, especially in the conflict situations.

It is particularly relevant that the Warsaw Process, which is a joint US-Polish initiative inaugurated last year to tackle security problems in the Middle East, is discussing also humanitarian and refugee issues, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable groups, including children and youth.

The refugee crises and forced displacements in the Middle East are among most pressing issues to be addressed by the international community. Protecting all young people, in particular young refugees and internally displaced persons in countries like Syria, Iraq or Yemen, has to be a priority for all actors. These ongoing conflicts deprive children and youth of one of their basic needs and rights – safety. They are being maimed, abducted and attacked, recruited to fight, sexually abused, and denied access to education and humanitarian aid. Such traumas deprive them of dignity and leave permanent marks on their adult lives. Violations of their rights do not only endanger their lives, but also undermine overall stability and welfare of our societies.

Those issues were further developed during Warsaw Process Humanitarian Issues and Working Group that took place this February, in Brasília. The main purpose of the meeting was to foster political solutions, better coordination and structural interventions leading to reduction of the impact of the humanitarian crises on children and youth in the Middle East.

Protection of vulnerable and fragile groups, with a special focus on children and youth, remains the priority for the Polish development cooperation. Although Poland is a relatively new donor of development assistance, including humanitarian aid, we have already managed to develop areas in which we can share our knowledge and experience, e.g. protection in conflict, of persons with disabilities and of other groups at risk of exclusion.

As an example of such actions let me mention the Polish Aid's involvement in development activities aimed at psychological support for young people affected by the conflict in Ukraine. Together with Polish Humanitarian Action, we are improving functioning of social services

system through developing capacities of social and psychological services personnel in the settlements along the contact line.

The role of youth in the context of peace and security

Poland fully adheres to the view, mentioned in the preamble of the Security Council Resolution 2250 that “youth should actively be engaged in shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation”. Passion and commitment of youth, which as Polish experience shows, are deeply committed to work in all sorts of NGOs, contribute significantly to culture of peace on different levels and in different areas. We want to acknowledge the unique contributions of many young peacebuilders, activists and volunteers in conflict prevention, justice system, building and sustaining peace. Youth and student organizations are more and more active in delivering aid and humanitarian assistance to the people in the most dangerous places. We see it also in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemics, the young people and their organizations are engaged on delivering aid to those most in need. It is crucial to invite dialogue with young people to work together to achieve sustainable peace and development.

We must do everything in our power to provide the prospects for young people to make sure that they will grow up in a world in which they will have economic opportunities, access to political participation, social justice and sense of security. Only with the substantial engagement of youth, we will be able to advocate more effectively to achieve sustainable peace and security conditions, human rights and development goals. In this context, the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 2250 in 2015 followed by the resolution 2419 in 2018 were groundbreaking achievements, demonstrating that younger generations are ready to take the central stage in peace and security initiatives and become agents of change.

In conclusion, let me again express our appreciation for Dominican Republic for putting this important matter high on the agenda of Security Council. We hope to see more significant progress with regard to youth inclusivity. Also a more systematic approach to implementing resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) is urgently needed. Youth has enormous power, dedication and a strong voice and we have to provide platform for it to be heard and taken into account.



*Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

Statement of Portugal

**Open VTC of the United Nations Security Council during Dominican Republic's presidency of
the Security Council**

**"Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating
Implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419"**

Monday, 27 April 2020 10:00a.m



*Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

Portugal is fully aligned with the Statement of the European Union.

2020 marks the 5th anniversary of resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. At the same time, the first ever report of the UN Secretary General on Youth, Peace and Security was issued last month. The report recognizes some positive trends, namely the growing awareness of young people's role on peace and security agenda; but it also underlines a set of remaining obstacles and barriers. This is the *momentum* to assess the progress, share lessons learned and good practices and set the path for a stronger YPS agenda for the next years and therefore we thank the Dominican Republic for this timely debate.

Portugal strongly supports the establishment of a regular reporting structure on youth, peace and security, to track the progress of Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2019) backed by a global set of indicators that could serve to measure their implementation.

A translation into Portuguese of Resolution 2250(2015) was disseminated in Portugal and is being used for Human Rights training and awareness under the aegis of the National Plan for Youth, adopted in 2018, an interdepartmental instrument of action, in line with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and all its SDGs.

The Portuguese authorities have issued practical guidebooks/toolkits on how to tackle specific challenges facing young refugees. Our aim is to help them tackle the uncertainty and support them in building a long-term perspective plus, at the same time, to reinforce the resilience of our hosting socio-economic structures in building more trust, acceptance and intercultural dialogue.

In the context of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), a Youth Action Plan 2018-2022 was approved. Among the Plan's priorities stands Post Conflict Reconstruction. A study on youth violence is being prepared and the sharing of programs and experiences, between Member States, to prevent marginalization, violent radicalization and youth criminality is incentivized.

Also, the Ibero-American Youth Pact, formalized in 2016 at the Conference of Ministers of Youth of the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America effectively contributes to the implementation of the YPS Agenda.

We encourage Member States to adopt national plans to push forward, inter alia, the youth, peace and security agenda, through meaningful consultations with and engagement of youth-led organizations.

In order to guarantee the safety of students, Portugal is implementing the 'Safe School Program'. A diagnosis of the areas with the highest incidence of violent acts and intervention model is designed using, among others, non-formal education methodologies.



*Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

Furthermore, in the domain of Education for Citizenship, Portugal has developed specific awareness-raising guidelines for defence and security in the areas of Gender Equality; Prevention of Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies; Aquatic Security / Maritime Citizenship; Cybersecurity; and Environmental Education.

Last but not least, in 2019, the Portuguese Government, in cooperation with partners from the United Nations System and the participation of the UN Secretary-General, the President of the 73rd UNGA and the Envoy of the SG for Youth among many others, organized the II World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum Lisboa+21.

The result of the Conference and Youth Forum was a renewed Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (Lisbon+21 Declaration) welcomed in the youth resolution adopted in Geneva and in the third committee resolution on policies and programmes involving youth adopted by the GA last December.

Among the several commitments the Lisboa+21 Declaration recognizes young people's contribution to peace processes and conflict prevention and resolution and expresses concern that, among civilians, youth is one of the groups most affected by armed conflicts.

Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas are mutually reinforcing, especially when it comes to girls and young women. The promotion and protection of their rights can only be successful by the full implementation of both agendas. In line with what is being done within the WPS agenda, we encourage the establishment of a network of YPS UN advisors/focal points to implement the YPS agenda at country level, including in peacekeeping and political missions.

Finally, Portugal considers that young people have a key role in this pandemic crises, v.g. through volunteering and youth activism in social media, by raising awareness against hate speech, among others. In Portugal, a set of activities is going on, including workshops and webinars on youth and youth rights.



بيان
دولة قطر
تلقية

سعادة السفارة/ علياء أحمد بن سيف آل ثاني
المندوب الدائم لدولة قطر لدى الأمم المتحدة

أمام
الاجتماع المفتوح بالتواصل المرئي لمجلس الأمن
بعنوان

"مثمى حنن؟ لهذا نحن نأخذ رأيك في حاله؟"
تحدثت في 2250 هـ 2419

نيويورك، 27 إبريل 2020

السيد الرئيس،

يسعدني أن أقدم بالشكر لمجلس الأمن برئاسة جمهورية الدومينيكان لعقد هذا الاجتماع المفتوح في ظل الظروف الاستثنائية التي يمر بها عالمنا اليوم، والشكر موصول لسعادة الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة وللمبعوثة الخاصة للأمين العام المعنية بالشباب عل إحاطتهم الهامة، وكذلك أقدم بالشكر للسيدة علا السقاف، منسقة المشاريع في مؤسسة شباب بلا حدود من أجل اليمن، والسيد Gatwal Augustine Gatkouth، مؤسس مبادرة تمكين الشباب في جنوب السودان/أوغندا على مشاركتهم لنا بمنظورهم وخبراتهم من أرض الواقع.

السيد الرئيس

مما لا شك فيه أن الأزمة غير المسبوقة التي يمر بها عالمنا اليوم بسبب جائحة فيروس كورونا المستجد (كوفيد -19) تتسبب بآثار كارثية على المجتمعات في جميع انحاء العالم، وليست فئة الشباب بمعزل عن هذه الآثار الكارثية. وهنا نرحب بتقرير الأمين العام حول الاستجابة للآثار الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لكوفيد -19، الذي تطرق فيه إلى آثارها على فئة الشباب والدور الهام الذي يضطلعون فيه للاستجابة لها، وأوضح أن 1.5 مليار شاب وشابة أي 87% من مجموع الطلبة في العالم هم الآن خارج المدارس والجامعات، بالإضافة للزيادة الكبيرة في البطالة بين الشباب بسبب جائحة كوفيد -19.

وبالنظر إلى هذه التحديات الكبيرة، تواصل دولة قطر جهودها الرامية إلى توفير خدمات التعليم للأطفال والشباب، حيث كانت دولة قطر من أوائل الدول بالمنطقة التي استجابت باتخاذ الاجراءات الاحترازية بالتباعد الاجتماعي للحد من انتشار الفيروس، كما كانت في مقدمة الدول على المستوى الإقليمي التي اتخذت إجراءات مبكرة من اجل الانتقال السلس الى التعليم عن بعد، من خلال الاتصال عبر الانترنت استجابة للظروف الحالية.

وبما أن حماية وتعزيز الحق في التعليم، كما تعلمون، يعتبر من أولويات دولة قطر سواء في ظل الظروف العادية أو الطارئة، فقد عملت الدولة منذ عدة سنوات على تسخير التكنولوجيا لتطوير عملية التعليم وضمان استمراريته ومواكبتها لمتطلبات وتحديات العصر. لذا فقد كانت

عملية الانتقال للتعلم عن بعد في دولة قطر سريعة وسلسة، وذلك بسبب جاهزية البنية التحتية والخطط والموارد، حيث عملت وزارة التعليم والتعليم العالي على وضع آلية العمل للتعلم عن بُعد، وقامت بتنفيذ المنصات الالكترونية الخاصة بذلك، مع العمل على مراعاة شمولية التعليم لجميع الطلاب في عملية التعلم عن بُعد بمن فيهم الطلبة من ذوي الإعاقة بجميع فئاتهم، ولم تغفل الدولة عن توفير أجهزة حاسوب محمولة وأجهزة لوحية لبعض فئات الطلبة في حال عدم توفرها لضمان عدم ترك أحد خلف الركب في عملية التعليم عن بُعد.

وعلى المستوى الدولي، فقد كثفت دولة قطر جهودها لتقديم المساعدات الإنمائية والإغاثية التي تأخذ بعين الاعتبار أولوية التعليم وأهمية الوصول إلى التكنولوجيا في عمليات التعلم، وذلك من خلال المساعدات التنموية التي يقدمها صندوق قطر للتنمية الذراع التنفيذي للحكومة في انحاء مختلفة من العالم، والتي تواكب التحديات الناشئة في ظل الظروف الصعبة التي تسببت بها إجراءات التباعد الاجتماعي، والحجر الصحي وإغلاق المدارس. كما عملت المؤسسات القطرية ومنها مؤسسة التعليم فوق الجميع على استحداث برامج ريادية لتيسير عملية التعليم عن بعد في المنازل، ومنها الاستجابة الطارئة المبكرة للمؤسسة بتجميع مصادر للتعلم عن بعد بلغات مختلفة من أجل مساعدة الآباء والأوصياء في عملية التعلم عن بعد وتيسيرها.

وتضاف هذه الجهود إلى الجهود التي تبذلها الدولة باستمرار لتمكين الشباب وتنفيذ مشاركتهم في عملية التنمية المستدامة. وفي هذا الصدد أود أن أشير إلى أن وزارة الخارجية القطرية بالتعاون مع مؤسسة قطر للتربية والعلوم وتنمية المجتمع قامت بتنظيم النسخة الشبابية الثانية لمنتدى الدوحة في شهر نوفمبر 2019، الذي تم فيه إطلاق نقاشات معمقة حول القضايا الراهنة التي تهم الشباب، حيث وفر المنتدى منبراً مفتوحاً للشباب للتعبير عن آراءهم بشأن القضايا المعاصرة ومنها قضايا السلام والأمن، وذلك تمهيداً لانعقاد منتدى الدوحة الذي عقد في شهر ديسمبر 2019.

السيد الرئيس،

ندرك جميعاً بأن مكافحة جائحة كوفيد -19 تتطلب، إلى جانب التعاون والتضافر على المستوى الدولي، توفير بيئة آمنة وإزالة كافة العقبات والظروف التي من شأنها ان تحول دون

استجابة قوية وفعالة، وكذلك تتطلب تفعيل ودعم الدور المحوري للشباب في هذه الاستجابة. وعليه فإننا نؤكد دعمنا للنداءات الأممية الداعية لوقف إطلاق النار في مناطق النزاعات، والذي من شأنه أن يتيح الفرصة للتركيز على الجهود الرامية للتصدي لجائحة كوفيد -19. ونود في هذا السياق أن نعيد التأكيد على الدور المحوري للشباب في عمليات السلام الذي أجمع عليه المجتمع الدولي قبل خمس سنوات عند اعتماد قرار مجلس الأمن 2250 (2015) وكذلك نؤكد دورهم الهام في تفعيل النداءات الأممية لوقف إطلاق النار.

ومن دواعي سرورنا أن تستضيف دولة قطر بالتعاون مع مكتب المبعوثة الخاصة للأمين العام المعنية بالشباب المؤتمر العالمي رفيع المستوى حول مسارات السلام الشاملة للشباب. ويأتي عقد المؤتمر في إطار مواصلة الجهود والبناء على إنجازات المؤتمر الدولي الأول حول مشاركة الشباب في مسارات السلام الذي عقد في هلسنكي في العام 2019. ونود أن ننتهز الفرصة لنعبر عن التقدير لشركائنا فنلندا وكولومبيا ومكتب مبعوثة الأمين العام المعنية بالشباب على جهودهم وتعاونهم في التحضير لعقد المؤتمر المقبل، الذي يأتي لإحياء ذكرى مرور خمس سنوات على اعتماد قرار مجلس الأمن 2250 و مرور 20 عام على اعتماد قرار مجلس الأمن 1325، وكذلك مرور 25 عام على اعتماد إعلان ومنهاج عمل بيجين، حيث سيركز المؤتمر ضمن مواضيع أخرى على مشاركة النساء الشابات في عمليات السلام، سواء من خلال حلقات النقاش، أو من خلال مراعاة المساواة بين الجنسين في كافة مراحل الاعداد للمؤتمر وتنفيذه ومتابعة مخرجاته.

ختاماً، السيد الرئيس، أود أن أعيد التأكيد على التزام دولة قطر بمواصلة جهودها لتوفير البيئة المحفزة لمشاركة الشباب في عملية التنمية، وتقديم الدعم على المستوى الوطني والإقليمي والدولي لتمكينهم من المساهمة بفعالية في بناء السلام والانخراط بشكل فعال في الجهود الرامية لمواجهة التحديات التي يواجهها عالمنا اليوم.

وشكراً،،

H.E. Ambassador CHO Hyun
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea

Open VTC of the Security Council

**“Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security
Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of resolution 2250 and
2419”**

27 April 2020

New York

Mr. President,

**Thank you for your initiative in convening today’s open VTC of the
Security Council on “Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth,
Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of
resolution 2250 and 2419.”**

**The Republic of Korea takes this opportunity to offer its deep
appreciation to Secretary-General H.E. Antonio Guterres for his
timely report and briefing on this important subject. My
delegation also thanks Mrs. Jayathma Wickramanayake,
Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth; Ms. Olla Al-Sakkaf, Project
Coordinator of Youth Without Border Organization for
Development, Yemen; and Mr. Gatwal Augustine Gatkuoth,
Founder of the Youth-Adult Empowerment Initiative, South**

Sudan/Uganda for their enlightening interventions today.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the 5th anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 2250, which recognized the important and positive contribution of youth for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. As Secretary-General Guterres' March 2020 report rightly points out, it is critical that the international community supports young people in fulfilling their full potential as a positive force for building peaceful and just societies.

Indeed, the role of youth in the field of peace and security is especially important in that young people often form the majority of the populations of countries affected by armed conflict. At the same time, young people will have a durable impact on the future of their own societies as they hold the key to the trajectories of the future generations.

In this connection, the Republic of Korea believes that the international community must redouble its collective efforts to harness the potential of youth with a view towards maintaining and promoting peace and security. My delegation believes that a comprehensive approach—in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus—is greatly needed to achieve this

Formatted: Font: (Asian) +Body Asian (Batang), (Asian) Korean

driving vision, and would like to highlight the following five points to this end.

First, we should prioritize the strengthening of a mechanism to channel the voice of youth in the field of peace and security. Building upon the progress of political democratization in many parts of the world, we need to develop new forms of communication, including forward-thinking online and offline forums, to integrate more young people into decision making processes.

Second, we must do our utmost to provide better access to employment and other forms of economic opportunities. All across the globe, in both developing and developed countries, high unemployment rates and a lack of opportunity for young people create significant levels of marginalization. It then becomes a root cause of social instability, and, in some instances, extremism, thereby directly affecting peace and security.

Third, we need to establish a legal and institutional framework that ensures inclusivity for all young people regardless of their gender, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, or any kind of affiliation. Bearing in mind the importance of full enjoyment of human rights for youth, we also need to take firm

action, with greater awareness, against violence and discrimination in order to protect marginalized groups who are frequently targeted.

Fourth, we must greatly expand a culture of peace, tolerance, and intercultural and inter-religious dialogue all around the world. Global citizenship education is key in this regard, as it provides youth with the tools to cultivate a deeper understanding of themselves and others in our interconnected world.

Fifth, we need to bear in mind the great importance of the latest technology, such as ICT, and its importance in the lives of young people. Such technologies can serve as a medium for political reform, but simultaneously as a recruiting tool for terrorist organizations. They can serve as a crucial avenue for the exchange of innovative ideas and positive messages, but also for the advancement of disinformation, hatred, and division. As such, we must maximize the positive impacts of new technologies while simultaneously limiting their negative effects.

Through such a comprehensive approach, we can enhance the constructive role of young people and ensure that they will, in turn, serve as models for the future generations. This catalyzing effect of youth has the potential to pay exponential dividends in the field of peace and security in the years to come.

Mr. President,

In the Republic of Korea, the role of the youth has always taken center stage in overcoming the major challenges each generation has experienced. Student protests helped end military rule and usher in democracy. Young people as innovative entrepreneurs and earnest workers were integral in transforming one of the poorest countries in the world into an economic powerhouse within a single generation. They spoke out against various forms of discrimination and social injustice. And today, the strong voices of our dynamic youth continue to hold leaders accountable in providing good governance.

Based on this rich experience, Korea has been actively contributing to the strengthened role of youth in the field of peace and security. This includes our leadership in the Peacebuilding Commission as previous Chair and our robust support of the recently-released 2020-2024 Peacebuilding Fund strategy, which clearly lays out the Secretary-General's prioritization of youth empowerment projects.

Republic of Korea has been a proud champion of youth engagement in the field of disarmament. As I have emphasized at the "74 Years of Nuclear Disarmament and the Contribution of

Youth Beyond 2020” event my Mission co-hosted with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, youth engagement is meaningful for securing diversity, as well as creating a new positive momentum for disarmament discussions that have been polarized and remained at a standstill for quite some time. Such efforts include tabling last year’s landmark resolution on “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation” in the UNGA First Committee for the first time in history.

The Republic of Korea is also proud to be scaling-up its engagement with various UNDP projects such as the YouthConnekt Initiative in Rwanda, The Youth Volunteers Supporting Peace and Recovery in Darfur, and Strengthening Women’s and Youth Leadership to Accelerate Participatory, Inclusive and Sustainable Local Governance in DRC, as well as with UNESCO, including Youth Empowerment through Technical and Vocational Education and Training in The Gambia, to name just a few.

Mr. President,

Youth are undoubtedly among the most vulnerable in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, with its historic economic impact including unprecedented levels of unemployment, and it has serious implications for young people’s ongoing role in the field of

peace and security. The Republic of Korea has been targeting its response efforts based on transparency, openness, accountability to its citizens and mitigation of the impact on the most vulnerable. As a result, Korea was able to successfully hold its nationwide legislative elections amid the shadow of COVID-19 with the highest general election voter turnout in 28 years. At this election, the Korean Government lowered the voting age to 18, thereby expanding the participation of young people in the political process. My delegation believes that our recent experience in this regard can provide some hope for others, including young people, as the world collectively responds to the unique challenges presented by the pandemic.

There are various prospects of the post-COVID-19 global order, and it is our own choice in relation to what path we elect to take. Will we choose a world that is divisive, exclusionary, and closed based on bigotry, stigmatization, and demagoguery? Or will we rise to the challenge and give consideration to the possibility of a world that is inclusive, cooperative, and peaceful based on solidarity, tolerance, and transparency? This is a critical moment for all people and nations, and the choices we make in the construction of the post-COVID-19 order will have oversized and long-lasting ramifications on the youth and our subsequent generations. Together, let's invigorate our efforts to make the choices that will propel us forward in the right direction.

It is also important to highlight that the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda is closely interlinked with the implementation of the SDGs. The Republic of Korea notes with appreciation UN efforts to expand the critical role of youth in helping to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea strongly supports global efforts to strengthen the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and will continue to play its part, alongside the UN and other Member States, to ensure that our world is more peaceful and secure for our future generations.

Thank you. /END/



Written Statement by Slovenia

at the UN Security Council Open VTC on "Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Accelerating Implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419"

(New York, 27 April 2020)

Mr President,

Let me start by thanking Dominican Republic for organizing this timely debate. Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to add some remarks in national capacity

This year when we are marking many important milestones, including the 5th anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, we need to reaffirm the important role young people have in shaping a better world for everyone, but especially for themselves as they are humanity's future generation. It is imperative that they have a place in shaping it.

Young people have already demonstrated they can be drivers of positive change and key actors in search for sustainable solutions to the many challenges the world is facing today. They must have a voice and we need to listen and empower it. Their participation in post conflict, peacebuilding processes and sustaining international peace and security is an important part of this.

One of our contribution is to give a unique platform for young leaders, entrepreneurs, influencers, thinkers and social activists to share their visions, exchange ideas and connect with peers from different parts of the world. Since 2011 the Young BSF has been bringing together young leaders, aged between 18 and 35 years, from all over the world to engage in lively discussion and develop innovative solutions to some of the most pressing global issues. The platform is part of Bled Strategic Forum, an annual international foreign policy conference and this year we are looking forward to welcoming also the UN Youth Envoy, Ms Jayathma Wickramanayake.

We are happy to see young women stepping up and taking the lead in addressing many global challenges such as environmental degradation and climate change, but also particular challenges at their local level. Their important role needs to be recognized and supported. Gender perspective has to be an integral part of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

For many years now Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been supporting the engagement of the UN Youth Delegate in the work of United Nations. Slovenian Youth delegates regularly participate in the sessions of the Third Committee and the ECOSOC Youth Forum. Last year our Youth Delegate actively participated in the Youth Climate Summit and was a member of the official delegation led by our Prime Minister at the Climate Action Summit. The Prime Minister and the Youth Delegate signed a "Kwon Gesh" pledge within the framework of the Youth and Public Mobilization Coalition for meaningful involvement of young people in climate policy planning.

Youth can be full participants in shaping our world only if the full protection and assurance of the full enjoyment of human rights, including freedom of expression and movement, freedom of peaceful assembly, economic and social rights, and the right to quality education is essential for empowering young people. Agenda 2030 is the most important document the international community has as the signpost for the future. The young are the essential key player in its implementation. Let's not forget that one of goals – Education is the most pertinent for young generation exactly.

When it comes to the questions of peace and security and peaceful settlement of disputes, mediation is an effective tool for saving lives and sparing human suffering. It is a cost-effective tool of prevention and of post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. However, only inclusive mediation process can be efficient and effective and we believe active participation of youth in this regard is essential. In 2017 Slovenia launched a pilot project of school and peer mediation against peer violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By building up mediation capacities among teachers and students, schools become promoters of reconciliation, tolerance, human rights and diversity. The project that has been well-received within the local communities has thus shown positive impacts in raising tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution. In fact mediation technique could or should be part of comprehensive education.

Today, when we are dealing with this unprecedented COVID19 crisis, the need to engage all of our human potential that different generations can bring to the table is more evident than ever. Only by working together in an inclusive manner we will overcome this global threat and come out stronger and with better prospects for the future. And as mentioned at the beginning this future belongs to the young.

Thank you.



Conseil de sécurité

Open VTC

Maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales: Les jeunes et la paix et la sécurité

Maintenance of international peace and security: Youth, peace and security

New York, le 27 avril 2020

Déclaration de la Suisse

Monsieur le Président,

Le sujet du débat d'aujourd'hui est important et je vous remercie de l'avoir organisé de sorte à permettre la participation de l'ensemble des Etats membres.

Comme elle l'a écrit dans ses deux lettres à la Présidence du Conseil au nom du groupe "Accountability, Coherence and Transparency", la Suisse se félicite des dernières adaptations des méthodes de travail du Conseil. Il est important de s'assurer que celles-ci soient conformes aux critères de transparence et d'inclusion pendant la crise du COVID-19.

En concordance avec les résolutions 2250(2015) et 2419(2018), la Suisse estime fondamental de renforcer la participation et la prise en compte des jeunes dans le domaine de la paix et la sécurité.

Permettez-moi de mettre l'accent sur trois points fondamentaux.

Premièrement, les jeunes constituent une grande part de la population des pays touchés par les conflits armés. Actuellement, beaucoup de jeunes voient leur situation péjorée par la menace du COVID-19. Leurs besoins spécifiques doivent être pris en compte. La Suisse a mis en place un instrument de réaction rapide afin de soutenir la lutte contre la pandémie et ses conséquences sur la sécurité humaine. Parmi ces efforts figurent par exemple des activités de la société civile visant à sensibiliser les Syriens quant aux effets du COVID-19 et à renforcer les mécanismes de confiance au sein des communautés, en particulier au sein de la jeunesse syrienne.

Deuxièmement, les jeunes sont des acteurs de transformation. Leur potentiel d'action doit être renforcé dans toutes les étapes de la consolidation de la paix. La Suisse salue l'Initiative de promotion des jeunes et de l'égalité des genres du Fonds des Nations unies pour la consolidation de la paix, qui a renforcé l'autonomisation des jeunes ces dernières années. Les deux Agendas Jeunesse, paix et sécurité et

Femmes, paix et sécurité se renforcent mutuellement, ce qui améliore ainsi l'efficacité de la mise en œuvre du mandat du Conseil. La Suisse appelle le Conseil à renforcer le rôle des jeunes dans l'ensemble des situations à son agenda, notamment en invitant davantage de jeunes *briefers*. En outre, le Conseil doit reconnaître le rôle indispensable de la société civile en matière de paix et sécurité. La participation accrue des jeunes dans la pérennisation de la paix est également une demande qui résulte des consultations dans le cadre de l'Examen d'ensemble des activités de consolidation de la paix des Nations unies qui ont eu lieu à Genève en février.

Troisièmement, créer des conditions économiques favorables à l'emploi des jeunes est un des leviers importants pour une paix durable. La Suisse soutient un projet conjoint de l'Organisation internationale du Travail et du Bureau d'appui à la consolidation de la paix, qui crée des emplois dans des contextes fragiles et touchés par les conflits. Le projet s'inscrit dans l'effort plus large des Nations unies d'utiliser de manière plus systématique ces programmes pour consolider la paix. L'inclusion des jeunes dans le marché du travail contribue à améliorer leurs perspectives. Au Myanmar, par exemple, la Suisse met ses experts en hôtellerie au service des acteurs locaux en développant des compétences dans le secteur touristique. En Bosnie et Herzégovine, des offres de formation professionnelle de la Suisse ont contribué à diminuer le taux de chômage élevé parmi les jeunes.

Monsieur le Président,

L'inclusion des jeunes est une condition importante au règlement des conflits, à la pérennisation de la paix et à la prévention. Les résolutions adoptées par le Conseil – et notamment la résolution 2250 adoptée il y a cinq ans – donnent les axes d'engagement, la marche à suivre. Renforcer l'engagement des jeunes pour la paix et la sécurité, c'est faire du présent l'avenir.

Je vous remercie.

Unofficial translation

Mr President,

The subject of today's debate is important and I would like to thank you for having organized the debate in a way as to allow all member states to participate.

As Switzerland wrote in its two letters to the Presidency of the Council on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, Switzerland welcomes the latest adjustments to the Council's working methods to ensure that they remain up to the standards of transparency and inclusiveness during the COVID-19 crisis.

In line with resolutions 2250(2015) and 2419(2018), Switzerland considers it essential to increase the participation and contribution of young women and men in the area of peace and security.

Allow me to highlight three points that are particularly important in this context.

First, young people constitute a large proportion of the population in countries affected by armed conflict. Currently, many young people see a worsening of their situation due to the threat of COVID-19. Their specific needs must be taken into account. Switzerland has set up a rapid reaction instrument to support the fight against the pandemic and its consequences on human security. These efforts include, for example, civil society activities to raise awareness about the effects of COVID-19 in Syria, and to strengthen trust-building mechanisms among communities and especially Syrian youth.

Second, young women and men are drivers of change. Their potential for action must be strengthened at all stages of peacebuilding. Switzerland welcomes the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative of the UN Peacebuilding Fund, which has boosted the empowerment of young people in recent years. The agendas on Youth, Peace and Security, and on Women, Peace and Security are mutually reinforcing, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the implementation of the Council's mandate. Switzerland calls on the Council to adopt a proactive position by strengthening the role of young people across its agenda items, in particular by inviting more young briefers. The Council must also recognize the indispensable

role of civil society in peace and security. The increased involvement of youth in sustaining peace is also a demand expressed during the consultations of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review held in Geneva in February.

Third, creating economic conditions conducive to youth employment is an important lever for lasting peace. Switzerland supports a joint project of the International Labour Organization and the Peacebuilding Support Office to create jobs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. This project is part of the wider UN effort to make more systematic use of such programmes in order to sustain peace. The inclusion of young people in the labour markets improves their perspectives. In Myanmar, for example, Switzerland is providing local stakeholders with expertise from its hotel industry in order to develop skills in the tourism sector. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Swiss vocational education training programmes contributed to reduce the high youth unemployment rate.

Mr President,

The inclusion of young people is an important condition for conflict resolution, sustaining peace and prevention. The resolutions adopted by the Council – in particular resolution 2250, adopted five years ago – set the pace for the way ahead. Strengthening youth engagement for peace and security means acting now for a better future.

I thank you.

**STATEMENT OF H.E. AMBASSADOR FERIDUN H. SINIRLIOGLU, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING “TOWARDS THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE YOUTH AND PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA: ACCELERATING
IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS 2250 (2015) AND 2419 (2018)”**

Mr. President,

I would like to express our thanks to you for bringing this cross-cutting issue to the attention of the Security Council. The recognition of the role of young people both in peace and conflict settings is a significant step towards building sustainable peace, combatting extremism and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

The role of young people in the maintenance of peace and security has long been neglected. Today, young people between the ages of 10 to 24 constitute almost one third of the world population. One in four of these young people are affected by or living in regions fraught with conflict and violence.

Young people around the world strive for peace and justice as well as economic and social development. Their voices should be heard and their needs and demands should be addressed. Their capacities must be further improved. Investing in young people is an investment in the 2030 Agenda and in our global pledge to leave no one behind.

As we mark the fifth anniversary of the milestone Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) this year, we need to step up our efforts to accelerate its implementation and amplify the voices of young people at all levels, by taking into account the crucial nexus between long-lasting peace and sustainable development.

In line with this understanding, Turkey's youth policy encompasses a wide range of areas, including education, vocational training and employment, entrepreneurship and civic participation. Article 58 of the Turkish Constitution is devoted explicitly to youth, and rights of youth. The Ministry of Youth and Sports plays a central role in planning, implementing and monitoring the youth-related policies and strategies. It develops mechanisms for the participation of youth in all spheres of social life.

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed, among others, the importance of the role of youth and the value of inter-generational solidarity. Young people in Turkey actively contribute to the success of the fight against the ongoing pandemic, as active agents of their communities.

Mr. President,

Youth shoulder an immense burden in humanitarian crises. The World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul in May 2016, has played a catalytic role in putting in place mechanisms to guarantee that young people are prioritized in the humanitarian system. It noted the urgency of upholding the rights of young people in humanitarian settings, including the right to access to

secondary education as well as access to health services and information. Global Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, launched in the Summit, has been key in guiding long-term commitment for youth in emergency situations.

As the largest refugee hosting country in the world, Turkey has taken significant actions to prioritize youth and children in its refugee policy. To cite a few examples, we have been working closely with the relevant UN agencies to address the social and health service needs of the young asylum-seekers. So far, we have granted more than 20.000 scholarships to those who are under temporary protection in Turkey.

Together with the UN agencies, we have established over 40 women and girls' safe spaces across the country. This cooperation has been expanded to a number of social service centers with a view to reaching over 1 million people in order to provide psychological support, legal advice and language lessons.

As stressed in the Secretary-General's first report on youth, peace and security (S/2020/167), the engagement of refugee people in global discussions, such as the Global Compact on Refugees, has enabled the recognition of the significance of youth participation in humanitarian settings and helped galvanize commitment from Member States to improve their support for young refugees. We look forward to further steps to be taken in this direction by the international community.

Mr. President,

Security Council Resolution 2419 (2018) rightly focused on the need to increase the role of young people at decision-making processes concerning security, conflict resolution and peace, including peace agreements.

It is encouraging to see that some Governments, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations have stepped up efforts to accelerate the implementation of the resolution. Yet, more efforts and investments should be made at the UN level to meaningfully incorporate them into decision-making processes and to address the underlying social, economic and political factors that may lead to radicalization and violent extremism.

In many regions around the world, we have come to see that full and active participation of women and young people in peace processes is imperative. We need to improve the role of women and young people in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation.

We also need to establish policies to ensure the incorporation of views and interests of young people into the design and implementation of development strategies and make better use of the analysis of age-disaggregated data to improve the possibilities of youth contribution to socio-economic life.

With this understanding, Turkey spearheaded efforts and worked with all stakeholders to address youth unemployment during its G20 Presidency in 2015. We built a consensus among G20

Members to commit to a reduction in the youth unemployment rate by 15 percent by 2025. Turkey's efforts were successful in securing a specific target for youth unemployment for the first time in G20 history, with an accountability mechanism to be monitored by ILO and OECD.

Mr. President,

The launch of the Secretary-General's Strategy on Youth: Youth 2030 is also the result of the growing acknowledgement of the need to advance our youth policies and focus our attention to the concrete needs of young people. At the same time, more remains to be done to deliver a coordinated UN response to realize their rights and unfold their capacities as agents of change. Turkey remains ready to contribute to the efforts of the Secretary-General to advance the youth agenda of the United Nations.

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, it is time to solidify our promise to young people by establishing a UN Youth Center through which we can all contribute to the implementation of Resolutions 2250 and 2419 and where young people can amplify their voices at the global level.

Thank you.

Statement by Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations
H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya
at the UN Security Council open VTC on Youth, Peace and Security
(27 April 2020)

Mr. President,

We appreciate the initiative to hold the open debate on the issue of youth, peace and security, including the role of young people in the COVID-19 outbreak response.

This year we mark the 5th anniversary of the Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, as well as celebrate the United Nations' 75th anniversary. Appropriate observance of these milestones is now even more important than before due to the global pandemic. We consider that united and targeted response to COVID-19 would be incomplete without inclusion of representative of young people in this process.

The first report of the UN Secretary General on Youth, Peace and Security provided an analysis of the five pillars: participation, protection, prevention, disengagement and reintegration, and partnerships. We took note of this analysis and support the report's findings on growing recognition of the role of youth in peace and security as well as on remaining core challenges for young people, including violation of their human rights. In this regard, we see further need to reinforce our actions to respond to youth aspirations for peace, justice and human rights.

We would like to assure that the Ukrainian Government is carefully studying the recommendations contained in this report and will consider them in the process of further adjustment of its national youth policy. Ukraine is committed to strengthen the potential of youth, creating equal opportunities and guaranteeing equal rights.

Going back to the SG report, we noticed that there is tangible progress in the youth, peace, and security agenda implementation with crucial involvement of key actors in this process, in particular representatives of civil society organizations and youth itself.

At the same time, it is too early to celebrate our success. Unfortunately, the most serious challenges for youth continue to impede positive changes even in the mentioned by SG five pillars. All regions of the world deserve a more peaceful and sustainable environment for youth, the environment that enables them to unleash their potential, creativity, and aspirations for a more prosperous future.

While witnessing some positive elements of the implementation of the agenda on the national level, we should not forget that the scale of problems and actions in response to different regions and states are incomparable.

The potential of young people in Africa is the driving force of collective prosperity, which is still to be revealed. Africa has the world's youngest population and it is growing

rapidly and is projected to represent of over 40% of the world's young people in less than three generations. In past decades, we have seen advances in terms of policy commitments to youth development in Africa, both at national and regional levels.

The Africa's Agenda 2063 underscores the importance of promoting rights of young people and meeting their needs, in all their diversity. At the same time too many young people are still jobless, and struggle to access public resources and quality social services. They remain uninvolved in policy formulation. Engaging young people is central to the successful implementation of the transformative agenda in Africa.

In Asia the largest generation of youth in history should ensure sustaining and improving upon the dramatic socioeconomic growth of the region. At the same time, the youth here still faces particular issues of engagement in education, employment and training.

Ukraine understands the need of creating and adopting an inclusive and integrated education policy that equitably supports and develops the diverse categories of young people in Africa and Asia. Therefore, having developed higher education system Ukraine provides wide opportunities for foreign students to receive qualitative education and get acquainted with European culture. During 2019-2020 educational year there more than 63 000 foreign students are receiving education in my country, originating mostly from Asia and Africa countries.

It is worth noting also, that in many countries with wars and occupation situations youth are under permanent threats and dangers. This situation is unacceptable and states concerned should end violations, ensure protection, and bring perpetrators to accountability.

This call is especially relevant when the new global pandemic exposed the gravity of problems and challenges. In this regard, we would like to recall for continued efforts to fight the COVID-19 threat, while ensuring the highest possible balance between the introduction of urgent exceptional measures to counter the threat and the respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, with a focus of attention on vulnerable populations, including youth.

Mr. President,

Youth traditionally has played an instrumental role in Ukraine's political and public life. Back in October 1990 Ukrainian students conducted nonviolent public protests, which later forced the Soviet authorities to address the concerns of the Ukrainian youth, cemented the foundations of our emerging civil society and accelerated the disintegration of the USSR. It was the youth, who initiated the peaceful demonstrations in Kyiv in November 2013, protesting against the decision of the political leadership to put on hold Ukraine's further integration with the European Union. After almost three months of the standoff a new Ukraine emerged.

Following the Russian military aggression against my country in 2014 and the resulting temporary occupation of Crimea and city of Sevastopol as well as certain areas of

Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the youth were among the first to face this threat and protect their motherland. Tens of thousands actively volunteered in providing support to our armed forces in the fight to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. Youth and student organizations became equally active in delivering aid and humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the ensuing hostilities.

Six years have passed but a multitude of threats and challenges for youth in Ukraine continue to grow in the temporarily occupied territories. The occupying authorities engaged in massive campaign of human right violations including against young representatives, activists and human rights defenders. They seek to erase the Ukrainian national and cultural identity and identity of children and youth as citizens of Ukraine.

Another flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits Russia, as an Occupying Power, from forcing protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces, is plan to send almost 3,300 people for “military service” from the territory of the Crimean Peninsula. Most cynically, majority of them is expected to serve beyond the Crimean Peninsula, in particular in the Southern Military District, whose military units and command are directly involved in carrying out armed aggression against Ukraine in Donbas.

Unfortunately, the spread of COVID-19 became an additional concern for life and health of the population in the temporarily occupied territories. Therefore, we recall the obligation of the Russian Federation as an occupying State under international humanitarian law to take all necessary measures to protect life and health of the population of these territories, ensure and maintain in the occupied territory satisfactory healthcare and hygiene conditions and take the prophylactic and preventive measures necessary to combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics.

Mr. President,

Taking into account that the mentioned report did not cover the negative impact of COVID-19 on youth in the long run as it already done by the Secretary-General regarding women and children, we would be grateful for preparation by the Secretary-General of a targeted policy brief with urgent measures to minimize the impact of this pandemic on youth. In our view, the special attention in this document should be given to youth effected by conflict and occupation amid the worsening epidemiological situation with the spread of the COVID-19 and its consequences.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight that by protecting youth and their rights we are investing in our future, development and progress. The environment, in which they live today, the possibilities we create for them to realize their potential, energy and creativity, will define their role in ensuring peace and security tomorrow. In this regard, I call for full and effective implementation of the youth and peace and security agenda.

I thank you.



بيان الإمارات العربية المتحدة

أمام المناقشة المفتوحة لمجلس الأمن تحت البند:

صون السلام والأمن الدوليين: الشباب والسلام والأمن

نيويورك، الاثنين 27 أبريل 2020

السيد الرئيس،

في البداية أود أن أشكركم على عقد هذه المناقشة المفتوحة حول الشباب والسلام والأمن. كما أود أن أشير إلى الأهمية التي توليها دولة الإمارات للدور البناء الذي يلعبه الشباب في تنمية بلادي، وأن أشارك في اجتماع اليوم والذي يكتسب أهمية كبرى، خاصة وأن المجلس يواصل أعماله في ظل أزمة صحية عالمية لم يسبق لها مثيل، والتي تتطلب منا تشجيع وتمكين الشباب باعتباره عنصراً فاعلاً وحلقة الوصل بين الصحة والأمن العالميين.

يصادف هذا العام الذكرى السنوية الخامسة لاعتماد القرار 2250 المتعلق بالشباب والسلام والأمن، ويسرني في هذا الخصوص أن أتقدم بالشكر إلى المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية على قيادتها المتميزة وأخذها بزمam هذه المبادرة، حيث أعتز هذا القرار وللمرة الأولى بالدور الهام والإيجابي الذي يلعبه الشباب في صون وتعزيز السلم والأمن الدوليين.

وقد شهد العالم خلال السنوات التي تلت اعتماد القرار 2250 الأساليب العديدة والمبتكرة التي سعى الشباب من خلالها إلى منع العنف وتوطيد السلام في جميع أنحاء العالم، سواء في المجتمعات المدمرة والمتضررة من النزاعات أو في المجتمعات التي تعيش في حالة من السلام النسبي، وهو عمل يبشر بالمكاسب الهائلة لتحقيق السلام والأمن للجميع.

ولقد عبّر الشباب في جميع أنحاء العالم عن وجهة نظره والتي مفادها أن السلام والأمن يعنيان ما هو أكثر من مجرد غياب العنف، ولذلك يجب أن يكون السلام والأمن محل اهتمام العالم بأسره، حيث شدد الشباب على أهمية إنهاء العنف ومعالجة أعراضه والأسباب الكامنة وراء الفساد وعدم المساواة والظلم الاجتماعي.

يزداد دور الشباب أهمية خلال هذه الفترة العصيبة التي يواجه فيها العالم جائحة فيروس كورونا. ففي بلادي يتطوع الشباب لدعم جهود الدولة لتخطي هذه الأزمة العالمية من خلال التدريب على الاستجابة في حالات الطوارئ والمشاركة في ورش العمل المتعلقة بالسلامة، كما يشاركون في برنامج التعقيم الوطني لتطهير المدن الرئيسية لمنع انتشار الفيروس. وتواصل بلادي وضع الشباب في الصدارة عند مواجهة التحديات والاستفادة من الفرص على المستويات المحلية والإقليمية والدولية.

فعلى المستوى الوطني، اتخذت قيادة دولة الإمارات خطوات ملموسة لإدماج الشباب بشكل فاعل في عمليات صنع القرار. فمنذ تعيين وزيرة الدولة لشؤون الشباب في عام 2016، تم إنشاء العديد من الآليات والمبادرات كمجالس الشباب وتبني



الاستراتيجية الوطنية للشباب التي أعدها ودعمها شباب إماراتي. أن هذه الخطوات تدعم سياسة المشاركة المفتوحة التي تُعد حجر الزاوية في إنشاء مجتمعٍ سلميٍ ومزدهر.

أما على المستوى الإقليمي، فتواصل بلادي دعم الشباب في العالم العربي الذي يعاني من تفشي المخاوف الأمنية وانتشار الصور النمطية التي تربطه بالعنف. ولذلك ومن أجل مواجهة هذه الصورة النمطية، تعمل دولة الإمارات على تعزيز نموذج الاعتدال والتسامح والقبول بالآخر، وترى في هذا النموذج أن الشباب ليسوا هم المشكلة التي يتعين حلها، بل هم شركاء في الجهود التي تسعى لإنشاء مجتمعاتٍ مسالمة ومزدهرة. وتحقيقاً لهذه الغاية، استضافت بلادي في ديسمبر 2019 مؤتمراً إقليمياً مشتركاً مع الأمم المتحدة حول "تمكين الشباب وتعزيز التسامح: المناهج العملية لمنع ومكافحة التطرف العنيف المؤدي إلى الإرهاب" في أبوظبي، والذي جمع 300 مشارك، وأتاح الفرصة لمناقشة المبادرات وخطط العمل التي تهدف إلى تعزيز القدرة على التصدي للتطرف المؤدي إلى الإرهاب، والتركيز على تمكين الشباب والتسامح على المستويين الوطني والإقليمي. وتؤمن بلادي بأهمية هذا النوع من الشراكة إذا أردنا الاستفادة من مساهمات الشباب في تحقيق ودعم السلام وتمكين مليار وثمانمائة مليون شابٍ على مستوى العالم.

تتميز أنشطة السلام والأمن التي يقودها الشباب بالابتكار في استخدام الفن والرياضة ووسائل الإعلام، حيث تم الاعتماد على التواصل على المستوى الشخصي، وحشد حركات اجتماعية تلقائية ومستقلة عبر الإنترنت، وتنوع مبادرات الشباب بشكل كبير. وقد قامت بلادي بالبناء على هذه المبادرات من خلال احتضان مبادرات أخرى كمركز الشباب العربي الذي يوفر الفرص للرواد الشباب العرب في مختلف المجالات لحشد أقرانهم وإشراكهم في تحقيق التنمية المستدامة لمجتمعاتهم.

وعلى المستوى الدولي، أطلقت دولة الإمارات برنامج المندوبين الشباب في عام 2016، الذي يشارك فيه الشباب من دولة الإمارات في الوفود الرسمية للدولة التي تحضر اجتماعات الجمعية العامة واجتماعات اللجان والمنتديات الدولية ذات الصلة. ويشمل البرنامج إشراك الشباب في المفاوضات والفعاليات الجانبية والاجتماعات رفيعة المستوى. ولذلك، تحت بلادي مجلس الأمن على استضافة المزيد من القادة الشباب بشكلٍ منتظم للاطلاع على تجاربهم الفردية في السعي نحو تحقيق السلام والتنمية الاقتصادية في مجتمعاتهم.

وفي الختام، تؤكد بلادي مرة أخرى على التزامها بالدور الهام للشباب في منع وحل النزاعات باعتباره عنصراً أساسياً في تحقيق الاستدامة والاندماج ونجاح جهود حفظ وبناء السلام. كما يسعدني أن أنتهز هذه الفرصة لتشجيع الدول الأعضاء وأجهزة وكيانات الأمم المتحدة ذات الصلة على النظر في سبل زيادة المشاركة الفاعلة والشاملة للشباب في جهود بناء السلام من أجل تعزيز جدول أعمال الشباب والسلام والأمن.

وشكراً السيد الرئيس.



Statement of the United Arab Emirates

At the Open Debate of the Security Council in connection with agenda Item:

Maintenance of international peace and security:

Youth, Peace & Security

Monday, 27 April 2020

Mr. President,

We thank you for convening this Open Debate on Youth, Peace and Security. The UAE attributes special importance to the constructive role that youth play in the development of our young and fledgling country and we are therefore pleased to participate in this meeting today. Today, more importantly than ever, as we all face a global health crisis, we must champion young people as active agents in the global health and security nexus.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security and we thank the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their leadership in taking on this initiative. This was a groundbreaking resolution that recognized the important and positive role that young people play in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.

Since the adoption of resolution 2250, the world has seen the many ways in which young people are creatively seeking to prevent violence and consolidate peace across the globe, in devastated and conflict-affected societies as well as in those enjoying relative peace. Their work heralds the tremendous potential of peace and security dividends for all.

Young people across the globe articulated the view that peace and security is more than just the absence of violence and, as such, it is of universal concern. They stressed the importance of ending violence and addressing its symptoms as well as engaging with the underlying causes of corruption, inequality and social injustice.

Turning to the world's struggle to face this pandemic, the role of youth has never been more vital. In the UAE, youth are volunteering to support our country's efforts to navigate this global crisis through emergency response trainings and safety workshops. Young people also took part in the national sterilization program to disinfect the main cities in order to prevent the spread of the virus. The UAE continues to believe in the transformative leadership of youth at national, regional and international levels to address the world's major challenges.

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**



البعثة الدائمة
للإمارات العربية المتحدة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

At the national level, the UAE's leadership has taken concrete steps towards the meaningful inclusion of youth in decision-making processes. Since the appointment of a Minister of State for Youth Affairs in 2016, several mechanisms and initiatives have been institutionalized such as the establishment of youth councils and the adoption of a National Youth Strategy developed and championed by young Emiratis. These steps underpin an open policy of engagement, which is the cornerstone of nurturing a peaceful and thriving society.

At the regional level, the UAE continues to support youth in the Arab world. In a region shaped by pervasive security concerns, stereotypes associating young people with violence continue to be widespread and contagious. To counter this narrative, the UAE promotes a model of moderation, tolerance and acceptance. In this model, we believe that youth are not part of the problem, but rather partners in the quest for more peaceful and prosperous societies. In December 2019, the UAE hosted with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and Hedayah a regional conference on "Empowering Youth and Promoting Tolerance: Practical Approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism" in Abu Dhabi. The conference brought together 300 participants and provided an opportunity to discuss initiatives and action plans to strengthen resilience against radicalization leading to terrorism, with a focus on youth empowerment and tolerance at the national and regional levels. This type of partnership is important if we are to benefit from and support young people's contributions to peace and to realize the potential of 1.8 billion young people globally.

Youth-led peace and security work is noticeably innovative and resourceful in using art, sport and media. From interpersonal engagements to spontaneous, autonomous and leaderless social movements mobilized online, the diversity of youth initiatives in this sphere is significant. Building on this, the UAE is home to initiatives like the Arab Youth Center, which provides opportunities for young Arab pioneers in different fields to mobilize their peers and take part in the sustainable development of their communities.

At the international level, the UAE launched the Youth Delegates Program in 2016, which involves Emirati youth in the official UAE delegations participating in General Assembly meetings, committees and relevant international fora. The program includes their participation in negotiations, side events and high-level meetings. In a similar vein, the UAE encourages the Security Council to invite more young leaders to brief on a regular basis to reflect on individual experiences while pursuing peace and security in their societies.

Finally, the UAE reaffirms its commitment to 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. We also take this opportunity to encourage Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities to consider ways to increase meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in peacebuilding efforts in the furtherance of the youth, peace and security agenda.

I thank you, Mr. President.



URUGUAY

STATEMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL

OPEN DEBATE

“Towards the 5th Anniversary
of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:
Accelerating Implementation of **Resolution 2250 and 2419**”

NEW YORK, 27 APRIL 2020

Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations
633 Third Avenue, Suite 13H - New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 752 8240 * Fax: (212) 593 0935 * urudeleg@mrree.gub.uy

Uruguay agradece a la República Dominicana por convocar este oportuno debate que nos brinda la posibilidad de reflexionar acerca de los progresos logrados por la agenda de Juventud, Paz y Seguridad, de identificar los desafíos y obstáculos que enfrenta y de intercambiar puntos de vista y buenas prácticas con respecto a su implementación.

El mundo está sufriendo hoy una crisis global de salud sin precedentes, ocasionada por la pandemia del COVID-19, que está perturbando las vidas en todo el planeta.

En un momento en que la humanidad enfrenta tiempos difíciles y de incertidumbre, los jóvenes se encuentran entre los sectores más activos, tratando de brindar respuestas globales a la crisis. Muchos de ellos trabajan en las primeras líneas como personal de la salud o activistas humanitarios. Hay quienes demuestran su liderazgo, proporcionando ayuda, o distribuyendo alimentos y suministros básicos de salud en sus comunidades. Otros, hacen uso de las redes sociales y de las tecnologías de avanzada que dominan, a fin de compartir información acertada y concientizar a la población o perfeccionan el uso de las plataformas virtuales para facilitar la comunicación durante este período de aislamiento y de distanciamiento social. Muchos otros, trabajan como innovadores e investigadores contribuyendo a desarrollar nuevas tecnologías, exámenes de diagnóstico y tratamientos para combatir la enfermedad.

Realizando estas tareas los jóvenes están demostrando, no solamente su dedicación y creatividad, sino además elevados valores morales, tales como la empatía, la solidaridad y la compasión, al igual que su firme compromiso con las causas globales.

Ello comprueba que se deben eliminar los estereotipos negativos y simplistas que perciben a los jóvenes solamente como víctimas o perpetradores de violencia. Debemos reconocer de una vez por todas que poseen un inmenso potencial para ser agentes activos del cambio y para crear entornos pacíficos, contribuyendo así al mantenimiento de la paz y seguridad internacionales.

La Resolución 2250 (2015) que está cumpliendo este mes su quinto aniversario, representa un logro histórico al reconocer el rol esencial de la juventud en la prevención y resolución de los conflictos y en el mantenimiento de una paz sostenible. La Resolución 2419 (2018), realiza un llamamiento para alcanzar esta participación inclusiva de los jóvenes en dichos esfuerzos, incluyendo en la negociación e implementación de acuerdos de paz.

Uruguay desea destacar cuatro elementos que considera relevantes para lograr avanzar en la implementación de la agenda de juventud, paz y seguridad, y ayudar a que los jóvenes puedan contribuir de manera significativa a la paz y la seguridad.

En primer término, resulta necesario generar un entorno propicio, en el cual los derechos de los jóvenes sean respetados y en el que puedan desarrollar plenamente sus talentos, y capacidades.

El acceso a una educación de calidad, inclusiva e igualitaria, así como oportunidades de un empleo digno, tal como lo propugna la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, constituyen factores esenciales para crear ese entorno favorable que los jóvenes necesitan.

La educación es probablemente el elemento más transformador del ser humano y una herramienta esencial para empoderar a los jóvenes.

La pandemia de COVID-19 ha puesto en evidencia la necesidad de utilizar las nuevas tecnologías digitales. La transformación digital está ya teniendo lugar, como modo de poder ajustarse a las nuevas circunstancias. La alfabetización digital debería formar parte de los programas educativos, así como la enseñanza en materia salud, incluyendo capacitación para enfrentar crisis globales en materia sanitaria.

No obstante, la educación no debe solo consistir en la transferencia de conocimiento y de información. Se debe además enseñar a los jóvenes valores tales como el respeto, la tolerancia y la solidaridad, y la habilidad de participar constructivamente en la vida política y social. Se les tiene que proporcionar además habilidades para que se conviertan en agentes efectivos de cambio y para que emprendan iniciativas dirigidas a la construcción de un mundo más pacífico y próspero.

El empleo es también una prioridad, ya que permite mantener la estabilidad y la seguridad de las comunidades y aumentar la integración y la inclusividad social. De acuerdo con el reciente plan del Secretario General: “**Responsabilidad** compartida solidaridad global: respondiendo a los impactos socio-económicos del COVID-19”, los jóvenes se encuentran entre los más afectados por estos impactos de la pandemia. Si la seguridad económica no puede garantizarse, los jóvenes correrán el riesgo de permanecer peligrosamente marginalizados, ya que la seguridad económica evita que recurran al crimen y los habilita para ser miembros productivos de la sociedad.

Uruguay entiende que la participación de los jóvenes en la vida política y en los procesos de toma de decisión debería comprender todos los temas en los que ellos tienen interés, tales como la educación, el empleo, la salud, incluyendo los derechos de salud sexual y reproductiva.

De este modo, Uruguay ha desarrollado marcos legislativos y políticas públicas, en línea con las resoluciones 2250 and 2419, para fortalecer y proteger a los jóvenes y promover su participación como actores centrales en el proceso de desarrollo nacional.

En este sentido, se diseñó el Plan de Acción Juventudes 2015 – 2025, en estrecha colaboración con los jóvenes de todo el país. El Plan es una hoja de ruta que sistematiza y articula las principales acciones y políticas para la juventud. Trata entre otros temas, los relativos al género, a los jóvenes con discapacidad, a las personas LGBTI, a los jóvenes rurales, y a la sociedad de la información y el conocimiento.

El Instituto Nacional de la Juventud, es el órgano gubernamental encargado de implementar los programas y acciones dirigidas a aumentar el involucramiento de la juventud en los asuntos públicos.

Alguno de los programas desarrollados por el gobierno uruguayo son: “Jóvenes en Red”, el cual proporciona ayuda a mujeres y hombres jóvenes en situaciones de vulnerabilidad socio-económica que están desempleados o desconectados del sistema educativo;

“Acompañamiento al Egreso en Comunidad” que asiste a jóvenes que egresan de la privación de libertad y los ayuda a incorporarse al mercado laboral y a reintegrarse a la educación; **“Jóvenes a Programar”**, desarrollado en conjunto con la Cámara de Tecnología de Uruguay y con las principales empresas de ese sector, y que brinda entrenamiento en el área de las tecnologías de la información. Este programa cuenta con una sección de intermediación laboral para que los egresados puedan insertarse rápidamente en el mercado laboral.

Somos conscientes de que aún resta mucho por hacer. El gobierno está proyectando implementar una estrategia dirigida a alentar el voluntariado juvenil, a través de la creación de una red de jóvenes que sean ya líderes en sus respectivas comunidades. Se busca que su ejemplo inspire y movilice a sus pares, facilitando cambios actitudinales en la juventud, y promoviendo el ejercicio de liderazgos positivos.

En segundo lugar, para avanzar en la agenda y facilitar la labor de los jóvenes que trabajan por la paz, se deben construir puentes de confianza y comunicación entre ellos y los gobiernos y facilitar los intercambios intergeneracionales. La movilización de la juventud y sus esfuerzos por la paz tienen la posibilidad de ser más exitosos si se brinda a los jóvenes la oportunidad de trabajar con las autoridades locales y nacionales. Esto ayudaría a que los gobiernos tomaran en cuenta los puntos de vista de la juventud en el desarrollo de políticas y en la construcción de la paz. Por su parte, el diálogo y la cooperación entre los jóvenes y personas de más edad o ancianos de las comunidades daría la posibilidad de que se combinaran las ideas innovadoras de los jóvenes con la experiencia aportada por las generaciones mayores, generando iniciativas creativas y sólidas que permitan resolver asuntos complejos relacionados con la paz y la seguridad. Para que se logre todo esto, se requiere de una precondition fundamental: que los gobiernos y las generaciones de más edad otorguen a los jóvenes su apoyo y su voto de confianza y que reconozcan su capacidad de acción y de iniciativa.

En tercer lugar, una medida que se debe tomar de forma urgente es aumentar la protección de los jóvenes promotores de la paz y defensores de los derechos humanos, quienes son víctimas de crecientes ataques, amenazas y actos de intimidación, de modo de que puedan continuar desarrollando su labor, libres de amenazas y de represalias. Ellos también necesitan adaptar su trabajo a la presente situación sanitaria, por lo que resulta fundamental que se les proporcionen equipos de protección personal, así como entrenamiento para mejorar su labor durante estos tiempos turbulentos en los que deben enfrentar además los impactos de la pandemia.

En cuarto término, Uruguay desearía subrayar las sinergias existentes entre la agenda de mujeres paz y seguridad y la de juventud, paz y seguridad. Las resoluciones 2250 (2015) y 2419 (2018) sobre juventud paz y seguridad avanzaron sobre la base de la Resolución 1325 (2000) y subsiguientes, referidas a mujeres, paz y seguridad.

Ambas agendas son complementarias y se refuerzan mutuamente. Acabar con la compartimentación que las separa ayudará a avanzar en su implementación y mejorar la participación de los jóvenes y de las mujeres en asuntos relativos a la paz y la seguridad.

Existen notables similitudes entre estas dos agendas. En el centro de ellas subyace el principio fundamental de que las mujeres y los jóvenes deberían participar como asociados para construir la paz sostenible. Las mujeres, al igual que los jóvenes están sub-representadas en todos los niveles de toma de decisión. Asimismo, ambos son generalmente excluidos de las negociaciones y de los procesos de paz, en tanto que sus opiniones son con frecuencia ignoradas. Tanto a las mujeres como los jóvenes se les considera como víctimas o perpetradores de violencia y no como agentes de cambio.

Por casi veinte años, se han realizado ingentes esfuerzos para implementar la agenda de mujeres, paz y seguridad. Las lecciones aprendidas de esta experiencia pueden ser usadas para hacer avanzar la aplicación de la correspondiente a la juventud, paz y seguridad.

A pesar de que existen aún obstáculos que dificultan la plena participación de las mujeres, desde que la Resolución 1325 fue adoptada veinte años atrás, se han registrado progresos tangibles en la agenda. Se adoptó un conjunto de nuevas resoluciones; se han realizado cuantiosos estudios, investigaciones y análisis sobre el tema; se han consolidado sólidas alianzas con la sociedad civil y con otros actores; y se han establecido multitud de redes y coaliciones, tales como la Red de Puntos Focales sobre Mujeres, Paz y Seguridad, y redes de mujeres mediadoras en varias regiones del mundo. Asimismo, y si bien el camino ha sido lento, en general, la participación femenina en las operaciones de mantenimiento de la paz ha aumentado significativamente. Aunque en menor medida, ha habido ciertos avances en cuanto a su participación en los procesos de paz y la inclusión de referencias relevantes para las mujeres en los acuerdos de paz. En la región de América Latina, el proceso de paz en Colombia y su histórico acuerdo de paz constituyen un ejemplo en este sentido. Por su parte, los Planes de Acción Nacional se encuentran entre los más exitosos mecanismos para la aplicación de la Resolución 1325. La elaboración de este tipo de planes para la resolución 2250 (2015) serían valiosas herramientas para también impulsar los temas de juventud, paz y seguridad.

Otro aspecto relacionado con las sinergias entre estas agendas que merece especial atención es el rol de las mujeres jóvenes como forjadoras de la paz. Ellas son parte tanto de la agenda de mujeres, paz y seguridad, como de la de juventud paz y seguridad. Al complementarse las resoluciones 1325 y 2250, es evidente que la inclusión de las mujeres jóvenes en los esfuerzos de prevención y solución de conflictos resulta altamente beneficiosa. La confluencia de su doble condición de mujeres y de jóvenes, las dota de capacidades y de perspectivas únicas y excepcionales que les permiten realizar contribuciones fundamentales que aseguren la paz inclusiva y duradera.

Para concluir, la crisis del COVID-19 nos brinda un momento oportuno para reflexionar. Nadie sabe exactamente que vendrá después. La agenda de juventud, paz y seguridad probablemente cambie y se adapte a la nueva realidad. Sin embargo, una cosa es cierta: los jóvenes continuarán desempeñando como lo ha hecho esta hasta ahora un papel fundamental. En definitiva, ellos serán los que construyan esa nueva realidad.

Es hora de hacer la paz. Para ello necesitamos más que nunca de la creatividad, el entusiasmo y la energía innovadora de las nuevas generaciones, de modo de responder de manera efectiva y construir los fundamentos del mundo seguro y pacífico que todos necesitamos.



URUGUAY

STATEMENT *Non-Official Translation*

Security Council Open Debate

“Towards the 5th Anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:
Accelerating Implementation of resolution 2250 and 2419”

Uruguay thanks the Dominican Republic for convening this timely debate, which gives us the opportunity to reflect on the progress made by the youth, peace and security agenda, to identify the challenges and obstacles it faces, and to exchange points of view and good practices with regard to its implementation.

Today the world is suffering an unprecedented health global crisis posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is disrupting lives across the planet.

As humanity faces these difficult and uncertain times, young people are among the most active sectors, providing global responses to the crisis. Many of them work at the frontlines as healthcare personnel or humanitarian activists. There are those who demonstrate leadership, or provide help, distributing food and critical health supplies within their own communities. Others make use of social media and of the advanced information technologies that they master, to share correct information and raise public awareness, or they improve the use of virtual platforms in order to facilitate communication during this period of isolation and social distancing. Many others are working as innovators and researchers, helping to develop new technologies, diagnostic testing and treatments to combat the disease.

By performing all these tasks, young people are demonstrating not only their dedication and creativity, but also high moral values such, empathy, solidarity, and compassion, as well as a strong commitment to global causes.

This illustrates that it is necessary to change negative and simplistic stereotypes that perceive young people as victims or perpetrators of violence. We should recognize, once and for all, that they have an immense potential to be active agents of change, and to create peaceful environments, contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Resolution 2250 (2015), which is celebrating its 5th anniversary this month, represents a historic achievement recognizing the essential role of the youth in preventing and resolving conflicts and in sustaining peace. Resolution 2419 (2018) calls for the inclusive participation

of young people in all these efforts, including when negotiating and implementing peace agreements.

Uruguay would like to highlight four aspects that are considered relevant to advance the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda, and to help young people to contribute meaningfully to peace and security.

First, it is necessary to create an enabling environment where the rights of young people are respected and where they can develop their talents and capabilities.

Access to inclusive and equitable quality education, as well as opportunities for decent employment, as called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are key factors in creating that favorable environment that youth needs.

Education is probably the most transformative element for human beings and an essential tool to empower young people.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the need to use new digital technologies. Digital transformation is currently taking place in order to adjust to the new reality. Therefore, digital literacy should be integrated into curricula, as well as education in health issues, including how to face a global health crisis.

Nevertheless, education should not only involve transference of knowledge and information. Young people should also be taught values, such as respect, tolerance and solidarity, and the ability to participate constructively in social and political life. Education should also provide them skills to become effective agents of change and to engage in initiatives to build a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Employment is also a priority since it makes possible to maintain the stability and security of communities and to increase social integration and inclusiveness. According to the **Secretary General plan “Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19”, young people are some of the most affected by these effects** of the pandemic. If economic security is compromised, people are at great risk of being dangerously marginalized. Economic security prevents young people from resorting to crime and enables them to become productive members of society.

Uruguay **understands that young people’s participation in policy and decision-making** processes should encompass all issues in which young people have a stake, such as education, employment and health, including sexual and reproductive health rights.

In this vein, Uruguay has developed legislative frameworks and public policies in line with resolutions 2250 and 2419, to strengthen and protect young people and promote their participation as key actors in the national development process.

In this regard, a Youth Action Plan 2015 – 2025 was devised in close consultation with young people from all over the country. The Plan is a roadmap that systematizes and articulates the main actions and policies for the youth. It addresses areas such as gender, young people

with disabilities, LGBTI young persons, youth living in rural areas, migrants and information and knowledge society.

The National Institute for Youth is a government body in charge of implementing programs and actions aimed at increasing the involvement of youth in public affairs.

Some of the programs developed by the Uruguayan government are: “Youth in Network”, which provides help to young women and men in situations of socio-economic vulnerability, who are unemployed or disconnected from the formal education system; **“Accompaniment the Exit in Community”** which assists young people released from prison helping them to enter the labor market and to reintegrate to education; “Young People to Programming” which is carried out jointly with the Uruguayan Chamber of Technologies and the main companies in this sector, and that provides training and employment in the area of information technologies. This program has a labor intermediation section so that graduates can quickly enter the labor market.

We are conscious that we should do more. Therefore, the government is planning to implement a strategy aimed at encouraging youth volunteering through the creation of a network of young people who are already young leaders in their respective communities. It is hoped that their example inspires and mobilizes their peers, facilitating attitudinal changes in youth, and promoting the exercise of positive leadership.

Secondly, to advance the agenda and to maximize the work of young peace builders, it is important to build bridges of trust and communication between them and governments and facilitate intergenerational exchanges. Youth mobilization and peace efforts are more likely to be successful if young people are given the opportunities to work with local and national authorities. This would help governments to consider the views of youth in policy making and peacebuilding. For its part, dialogue and cooperation between youth and older people or community elders could bring together the new and innovative ideas of young people and the experience of older generations, generating creative initiatives to solve complex issues related to peace and security. To achieve this, a fundamental factor is required: that governments and older generations provide support and trust to young people and that they recognize youth capacity for action and initiative.

Thirdly, a measure that should be taken immediately is to increase the protection of young peacebuilders and human rights defenders, mainly women, who are victims of increasing threats and attacks, so they can continue doing their job, free of intimidations and reprisals. They also have to adjust their work to the current health situation. Therefore, efforts should be made to provide them personal protection equipment and training and information on how to improve their work during these turbulent times, while they are on the field building peace and tackling the virus threat.

Fourthly, Uruguay would like to highlight the leveraging synergies that exist between the women, peace and security, and the youth peace and security agendas. Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) on youth, peace and security build upon Resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions related to women and peace and security.

Both agendas are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Breaking down the silos **between them will help to advance their implementation and to improve the women's and youth's participation** in peace and security issues.

There are striking similarities between these two agendas. At the core of them lies the fundamental principle that women and youth should be engaged as partners in building sustainable peace. Women, the same as youth, are underrepresented at all levels of decision making. They are also generally excluded from negotiations and peace processes, while their opinions are frequently ignored. Both, women and youth, are considered victims or perpetrators of violence and not as agents of change.

For almost twenty years significant efforts have been made to implement the women, peace and security agenda. Lessons learned from this experience can be used to advance the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda.

With the adoption of Resolution 1325 twenty years ago, tangible progress has been made despite barriers to the full participation of women. A set of new resolutions was adopted, many studies, research, and analyses have been done, strong partnerships with civil society and other stakeholders have been consolidated, and a wide range of networks and coalitions, such as the Focal Points Network on Women, Peace and Security, and women mediators networks have been established across several regions of the world. Although this journey has been slow, participation of women in peacekeeping operations has increased significantly. Overall participation of women in political processes and the inclusion of references relevant to women in peace agreements, have also increased, but to a lower extent. In Latin America, the Colombian peace process and its historic peace agreement set a valuable example in this regard. National action plans are amongst the most successful mechanisms to accelerate implementation of Resolution 1325. Similar plans to implement resolution 2250 (2015) would be valuable tools to advance the youth agenda as well.

Another aspect related to the synergies between these agendas that deserves attention is the role of young women as forgers of peace. They are part of both the women, peace and security, and the youth, peace and security agendas. With resolutions 1325 and 2250 complementing each other, it becomes clear that the inclusion of young women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts is highly beneficial. The concurrence of their double condition of women and young people provides them with unique skills, abilities and perspectives to make critical contributions to ensuring inclusive and lasting peace.

To conclude, the COVID-19 crisis gives us an opportune moment to reflect. No one knows exactly what will come after this crisis. The youth, peace and security agenda will probably change and adapt to the new reality. However, one thing is certain: youth will continue playing a pivotal role. Ultimately, they will be the ones to build that new reality.

It is time to make peace. To that end we need more than ever the creativity, enthusiasm, and the innovative energy of the new generations, in order to respond in an effective manner and build the foundations for the safe and peaceful world, that is all we need.
