

“Implementing the Prevention Pillar of the UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security: Youth Talent as a Tool for Peace”

Meeting in the margins of the 2018 ECOSOC Youth Forum

January 30th, 2018

6:30-8:00 pm

Venue: CR7 - UNHQ New York

Investing in Youth and Conflict Prevention

December 2015 was a hallmark in the Youth and Security agenda due to the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. It delivered a clear message to the international community to take active measures for the participation of youth in promoting a culture of peace in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict situations. In the margins of the 2018 ECOSOC Youth Forum, Spain, in collaboration with the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America, Colombia and Mexico, is organizing a side event on how to translate this UNSC Resolution into practice. It will address innovative ways to implement this agenda focusing on prevention and specifically on the promotion of youth talent as a tool for peace, in line with UNGS Guterres' priorities of conflict prevention and sustainable peace.

Promoting Youth Talent as a Tool for Peace

Under the Prevention Pillar, the Resolution stresses the importance of creating policies for youth that would positively contribute to peace-building efforts, including social and economic development, supporting projects designed to grow local economies, and provide youth employment opportunities and vocational training, fostering their education, and promoting youth entrepreneurship and constructive political engagement.

In this sense, among the wide range of measures that can be adopted by the Member States and International Organizations, those aiming at facilitating the development of young people's talent, should be in a prominent position, since they empower them to be the owners of their own future and furthermore, to contribute to ensuring the construction of more peaceful and safer societies.

Even more, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes youth as a “critical agent of change” and places, within the 8th Goal, decent work at the heart of policies for sustainable and inclusive development. Empowered young women and men play a vital role in preventing conflicts and ensuring sustainable peace.

Furthermore, in societies where the risk of armed conflict is less important, the creation of adequate environments for all young people, in terms of employment, entrepreneurship and talent development opportunities is a key factor for preventing discrimination, hate speech, gender violence and any other kind of violence which undermines human dignity.

Goal, format and guiding questions for the discussion

The objective of this side event is to discuss ways to support the role of youth in conflict prevention as stated in the UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) and specifically to address how the development of youth talent could contribute to foster more cohesive, safe and peaceful societies around the world.

Speakers will include:

- Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake: UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth.
- Mr. Javier Dorado Soto: Director General of the Spanish Youth Institute.
- Mr. Max Trejo Cervantes: Secretary-General of the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America (OIJ).
- Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez: Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations.
- Mr. Guillermo Noyola, Deputy Director of the Mexican Youth Institute.
- Mr. Oyewole Simon Oginni: Peace and Security Fellow, AU-EU Youth Plug-in Initiative and Executive Director of the Organization in Africa for World Peace.

Participants are invited to share recommendations and best practices on specific questions as the following ones:

- What best practices/specific strategies can be put into practice to foster the development of youth talent as a tool for peace and security?
- How do you think that the development of youth talent can contribute to a more peaceful and safer world?
- What is the role that international and regional organizations could play in the development of these initiatives?
- How can civil society best contribute to the promotion of youth talent to foster the role of youth as peace-builders?
- How can the promotion of youth talent and entrepreneurship be integrated into peace building efforts?
- What special measures can be put in place to increase private sector's participation in the promotion of the talent as a tool for peace?
- From your own experiences, what are the barriers that prevent youth talent from having a more active role in conflict prevention?