

Advice of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council on

Youth, Peace and Security

27 April 2020

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

2. Recalling the Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, *The Missing Peace* (March 2018), and recognizing the indispensable role that young people can play in efforts to build and sustain peace, the Commission has engaged a number of youth peacebuilders and representatives from youth-led institutions from around the world through its country-specific and regional visits and discussions, as well as during dedicated meetings on youth, peace and security.

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

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

- Young people have the right to participate in and make constructive contributions to decisions that affect them now and will affect them in the future. Young people's participation in political and decision-making processes and conduct of public affairs is important for making our societies more inclusive, achieving sustainable development, and building and sustaining peace. Their full, effective, and meaningful participation in public debate and dialogue and in processes that aim to prevent and resolve conflicts should be further encouraged.
- Youth are an investment in our collective future; therefore it is of high importance for States to promote the rights of all young people and to create opportunities for their political, economic, and social inclusion, with the aim of harnessing and investing in the capacities and resilience of young people as creative, intuitive and inspired peacebuilders.
- The PBC encourages the full, effective and meaningful participation of youth in peace processes, public decision-making mechanisms and national governing bodies, including

in parliaments, in conflict-affected countries, in which exclusion of youth from socio-economic opportunities and political processes due to, inter alia, nationality, disabilities, gender, underemployment, poverty, and limited access to quality education, particularly in rural areas, is of particular concern.

- The PBC encourages the Security Council to consult youth and include their perspectives in its consideration, when relevant and as appropriate.
- The PBC encourages meaningful inclusion of youth representatives in partnerships that aim to support peacebuilding initiatives and processes.
- The PBC recognizes that a lack of adequate funding to youth-led organizations, including the challenges youth organizations face in accessing existing funding streams, is limiting the contribution of young people to building and sustaining peace. In response to the need for adequate financing to help empower youth to fulfil their potential as agents of positive change, the PBC welcomes the proactive measures taken by Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund to support young people's critical contributions to peacebuilding at the local and national levels.
- The PBC acknowledges the need for the international community to better address the specific challenges faced by refugee youth and encourages the Security Council and other relevant UN bodies, in accordance with their mandates, to pay attention to this matter, as appropriate.
- The PBC is concerned by reports of threats against young peacebuilders and encourages the creation of safer environments for young women and men peacebuilders around the globe.
- In recognition of the fact that a number of successful peacebuilding initiatives around the world are led by youth, the PBC encourages relevant UN bodies to further consider ways for meaningful inclusion of youth in peacebuilding efforts.
- In recognition of the importance of youth participation in peacebuilding, the PBC is developing options to strengthen its engagement in support of youth in this regard. The PBC will continue to advocate for the meaningful inclusion of youth perspectives in its advice to the General Assembly, Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, and engagement with all relevant actors.