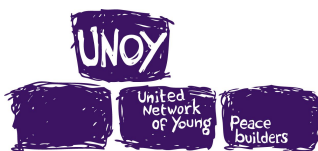


Translating Youth, Peace & Security Policy into Practice:

Guide to kick-starting UNSCR 2250 Locally and Nationally

Developed by:

United Network of Young Peacebuilders and
Search for Common Ground



On behalf of:

The Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding



Introduction

In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted the ground-breaking and historic resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). UNSCR 2250, for the first time, recognizes the important, constructive and positive contributions of youth in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. It further affirms young people’s important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and stresses the importance of engaging youth as partners and leaders in peacebuilding. It also urges Member States to increase active and inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels, as well as to in institutions and mechanisms to prevent and resolve conflict and counter violent extremism.

This guide is intended to help those interested in beginning to implement UNSCR 2250 locally and nationally to get started by forming a multi-stakeholder alliance around youth, peace and security. The guide has three sections. They are:

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For more resources and information on youth, peace and security, visit:

www.youth4peace.info

Section I

ABOUT UNSCR 2250

This landmark Resolution, recognizes for the first time the positive role of young people in preventing violence and as active agents in peacebuilding. This Resolution has identified 5 pillars of for action. They are:

1. **Participation:** It calls on Member States to involve young people in conflict prevention and resolution, in violence prevention and in the promotion of social cohesion. Member States are urged to consider ways to increase representation of youth in decision-making at all levels.
2. **Protection:** Recalls the obligations to protect civilians, including young people, during armed conflict and in post-conflict times, and in particular protect young women and young men from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.
3. **Prevention:** Urges Member States and key Stakeholders to facilitate an enabling environment and improve investments in socio-economic development and quality education for young women and young men, and create mechanisms to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue that involve youth.
4. **Partnership:** Urges UN entities, international organizations and civil society to actively increase political, financial, technical and logistical support for young people's participation in peacebuilding. It also highlights the importance of partnering with youth, local communities and non-governmental actors in countering violence extremism.
5. **Disengagement:** Support the meaningful reintegration of young women and men directly involved in armed conflict.

Important Highlights of Resolution 2250

Definition of youth: One of the challenges when addressing youth is the age range that is used to define the term "youth". Several different definitions are used by UN bodies, intergovernmental agencies and national governments. Youth is defined in the context of this resolution as persons of the age of 18-29 years old. However, the resolution also

recognizes that variations of definition of the term that may exist on the national and international levels. Therefore, the age ranges for this resolution can be broadly interpreted as between 15 and 29, inclusive of the UN definition of between 15 and 24.

Inclusivity: Ensure diverse and inclusive engagement of young people from all backgrounds, being responsive to different and varying challenges in access, needs, wants and capacities of young men and women that may depend on and be shaped by gender, ethnicity, wealth, education, urban vs rural context etc.

Gender: The narratives on the role of young women in conflict contexts tends to stereotype young women as victims, while young men are seen as more naturally prone to be a violent risk factor. Peacebuilding interventions targeting “young people” therefore tend to prioritize young men. It is important to examine the gendered dimensions to youth, peace and security, and programming interventions need to consider and respond to the different challenges, needs, wants, capacities, roles and impact of young women and men.

Young people and decision making: young people need to be involved in decision-making at all levels. Young people are recognised in the resolution as political actors and decision makers in peacebuilding processes.

What the resolution says about implementation and follow-up

- It is not calling for specific reporting mechanism/national action plans but does request a progress study (as a baseline).
- Should not be implemented in isolation but in the context of existing PB, advocacy, emergency and development work too.

Why is Resolution 2250 Important?

Resolution 2250 is a historical document not only because it is the first resolution on youth, peace and security, but also because:

It supports a new narrative	Youth are often portrayed either as victims or perpetrators of violence. However, the resolution recognizes that young people are also engaged in building peace. It's an important step to change the negative perceptions and prejudices people hold against youth
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It provides recognition and legitimacy	It is not enough to build another perception of youth as peacebuilders. It is also crucial to recognize that a great part of young men and women are working at grassroots, local, national, regional and global levels towards sustainable peace. They deserve a seat at the negotiation table
It brings visibility	The resolution provides a new focus on youth and peace, giving visibility to the initiatives, actions and projects initiated by young people and youth organizations towards peace, justice, reconciliation, promotion of diversity, etc.
It ensures youth protection	The resolution reminds governments of their responsibility to protect young people in armed conflict.
It promotes youth representation and participation	The resolution urges member states to take youth's needs and perspectives from a variety of backgrounds into consideration, whilst demanding their participation at all levels in peace processes
It fosters partnerships	The resolution provides a platform for partners to work together and build partnerships with representatives of different sectors to generate inclusive peace processes, including the UN, governments, donors, civil society, youth organizations, etc.
It provides tools for countering violent extremism	The resolution acknowledges the threat of violent extremism for youth, but also clearly shows that the majority of youth are not agents of violence. On the contrary, they play a role in countering violence and extremism and in establishing lasting peace. Investing in education and vocational skills is of the utmost important
It highlights gender equality as a tool for peace	The resolution is framed with the Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace & Security, thereby underlining the importance of gender equality throughout the YPS agenda as a crucial element for sustainable peace.
It ensures an evidence-based approach	The resolution requests the UN Secretary-General to carry out a Progress Study on youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution. As a result, more effective policies, programs and responses can be designed
It ensures accountability	The resolution calls for an annual debate in the Security Council to discuss the progress on the implementation of the resolution.

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Section II

MAKE RESOLUTION 2250

A REALITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Resolution 2250 is important, but it only has an impact if it is implemented at the local and national level around the world. In this section you will find a step-by-step guide to beginning to implement resolution 2250 in your community. The guide should be applicable at whichever level you work and regardless of whether you are representing government, civil society, business or other sectors. Implementing resolution 2250 is a responsibility which is shared between all elements of society, but to begin implementing it somebody needs to take the initiative - it could be you!

In the spirit of collaboration embodied by resolution 2250, this guide proposes setting up alliances, partnerships or consortia for implementing the resolution at all levels. These alliances need to be cross sectoral and intergenerational. They must bring together youth and non-youth actors from different parts of society so that they can all push in the same direction for a better and more peaceful future.

The implementation guide is divided into three steps:

- *Step 1* is about analysing your context in order to set up a partnership
- *Step 2* is to begin activating the partnership to bring about change
- *Step 3* is about ensuring the sustainability of your work and connecting it with the national and global conversation on youth, peace and security.

Before delving into these steps, a few key Principles that underpin a successful Launch of the Resolution at the local and country level are:

Partnership: It was a global partnership that truly enabled 2250 to come to life: UN agencies, working in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs), youth-led organizations, donors and scholars. Such partnerships between youth and non-youth, governmental and non-governmental actors should be seen as a key principle of

implementing resolution 2250.

Collaboration: A culture of collaboration between UN, CSOs and youth-led orgs is something else we want to spark locally. Additionally, having relevant government ministries (including ministries of defence, education, youth, justice, women, social affairs and economy) also involved in the process is critical--beyond just Ministry of Youth.

Role of youth: Through partnerships and collaboration, what we are trying to shift is the way institutions and individuals engage, invest and partner with youth--away from seeing them simply as beneficiaries or troublemakers to seeing them as partners and leaders to address peace and security issues in a country. So at times, some efforts can be youth-led and at times efforts can be youth as partners.

Sustainability: What happens beyond the launch event is as critical as what happens at the launch event. So, it would be great for the partners to collaboratively develop a roadmap for the next 12-24 months that also include some measurable benchmarks to celebrate the accomplishments along the way.

Step 1: Build an alliance on youth peace and security

While security council resolutions such as resolution 2250 are directed primarily at governments, the resolution will require a wide range of actors working together to be successfully implemented. Young people, youth-led civil society, governments, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and media all have important roles to play, among others. Getting such a diverse group of actors to work together can be challenging and so the first step in implementing resolution 2250 requires that energy be dedicated to the creation of such a partnership.

It is important for different stakeholders to discuss what 2250 mean to each of them and decide for their community/country, what pillars described in the resolution take priority. This is highly context specific. This phase can be part of the workshop or as a separate activity itself.

To increase awareness of resolution 2250 and create a culture of transparency and collaboration in its implementation, we suggest carrying out group discussions with each stakeholder group early on in the process of building your alliance.

Getting people on board

1. Identify who the key stakeholders are that influence peace and security and youth. They could include youth-led organisations, organisations working with youth, international NGOs, community-based organisations, UN agencies, national government, local government, religious leaders, police, social media influences, donors, academics, business leaders, and others. Try to think of at least 5 members per category who can contribute and add value to this effort, with an aim for an equal division of young men and young women. Within each organisation or institution you identify, make sure you have a main contact person.
2. Share the key reading documents with them and ask them to familiarize themselves with the content first. Spend time explaining the purpose of sharing, what you want to do with 2250, inspire them to be your champions.
3. Invite every organization or institution identified to organize a discussion among their constituents/members and unpack the five core pillars of the Resolution 2250. In these focus groups, they can discuss the following:
 - a. How they view and interpret each pillar;
 - b. What they think the priorities for their organization are based on the five pillars; and
 - c. How those priorities can be addressed.
4. Ask key contact persons from each organisation or institution to report on some of the key findings. Use a simple reporting format in such as a Google form to compile the results. Continue to build the relationships and trust with these key partners. This will be important for all other phases and stages of this process.
5. Decide on a date and agenda for a launch workshop with all the key organisations you have identified, to be carried out after each organisation has held their own internal discussion. Once the date is confirmed, please share the workshop details with the Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding co-chairs: Solvi Karlsson <solvi.karlsson@unoy.org>, Cecile Mazzacurati <mazzacurati@un.org> and Saji Prelis <sprelis@sfcg.org>

Bring your alliance together

Invite them to the workshop. Select a good facilitator to help. Identify a neutral location for the workshop. If UN agencies are involved, perhaps one of them can act as a neutral host as this is a workshop about a UN Security Council Resolution. Other possible hosts could be universities or schools, museums or other actors who can be considered neutral and appropriate in your context.

We propose the following structure for your workshop:

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Introduction sessions (90 minutes)
<p><i>What?</i> Take some time at the beginning to introduce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resolution 2250 ● The people in the room ● The program of the day ● Expected outcomes <p>The exact method for the introductions will need to be tailored to your context. In addition to formal presentations, make sure you use icebreakers and other activities to help the participants get to know each other.</p> <p><i>Why?</i> The introduction session will help make sure that all participants are on equal footing by making sure they have the same basic information.</p> <p>A well-designed introduction session will help you create a productive and safe environment for the rest of the workshop. In particular, breaking the ice between the people in the room will help young participants begin interacting with participants such as government officials or security sector representatives who they may not be used to talking to as equal partners.</p>
Break (15 minutes)
Internal group discussions (75 minutes)
<p><i>What?</i></p>

Split up into the different stakeholder groups present: For example youth groups can be in one group, while local government and national government leaders can be in another. Police and military can be in a separate group, etc.

1. Instruct the groups to share their findings from their focus group discussions with one another
2. Identify in each group common threads or where there is consensus on issues of the resolution and its five pillars
3. Identify for each group the key priority pillars. Each group can identify their top 3 pillars
4. Create a gallery walk so all participants can view each other's findings

Why?

By allowing each group to discuss internally, you give them a chance to have a sense of identity and a feeling that their particular background and experiences are being valued.

Sharing the findings with other groups will then provide an opportunity for participants of diverse backgrounds to get acquainted with each other's points of view.

Cross group discussions(60 minutes)

What?

Now ask the participants to form mixed groups, each with adequate representation of different categories of stakeholders. Ensure there is adequate gender balance in each group. Ask them to discuss the following:

1. Identify the top priority pillar based on the Gallery walk and everyone's feedback.
2. Discuss how they themselves think progress should be assessed overall for that pillar
3. Present findings in plenary

Why?

By mixing the groups, you create a sense of collegiality and cooperation between people who might not be used to working together.

With these mixed groups, the final decisions on which pillars to prioritise will feel like joint decisions which all different stakeholder groups can identify with.

Break (60 minutes)

Developing a roadmap together (75 minutes)

What?

Separate groups into two based on the two pillars they are most interested in. Now that the priorities are identified, develop a roadmap for how to actualize that pillar. The discussion topics can include:

1. What does the group as a collective want to accomplish in the next 12 months?
2. What are the main goals and objectives for the group that will lead to that accomplishment?
3. What are some benchmarks and a timeline for meeting those benchmarks?
4. Identify and document Key activities and commitments, including who is doing what, when and how.
5. Next steps including when the group will meet next.

Why?

This session is aimed at helping you decide a way forward that is collaborative and based on feedback and joint decisions.

Share in plenary and celebrate the day (45 minutes)

What?

Each of the two groups should present to the others what they have planned to begin working on their pillar of resolution 2250. At this stage you should also present or discuss the suggested way forward for the alliance on youth, peace and security.

At the end of the day, take the time to celebrate what you have achieved. What you choose to do will depend on your context. This could be a musical or dance performance, a dinner, a reception, or whatever else you feel will give participants a sense of closure after the day and optimism for moving ahead.

Why?

This final session of your workshop is very important as it will shape how sustainable your alliance is in the long term. Use this session to make sure everybody is on the same page, motivated to continue working together on youth, peace and security.

Important points to keep in mind for all the activities of your workshop include:

- The workshop should be interactive, building on the principles outlined earlier in this guide. Recognize that not all your goals you hope to meet will be met in one workshop. But strong relationships and mutual respect will help in achieving some.
- Set Up a coalition or alliance so that all stakeholders can feel part of a youth, peace and security community--something greater than themselves. This coalition can then support and facilitate the activities and commitments over the next 12 months, at least.

Once the workshop has concluded, please share the report of the workshop, including outcomes, timelines, members with the Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding co-chairs: Solvi Karlsson <solvi.karlsson@unoy.org>, Cecile Mazzacurati <mazzacurati@un.org> and Saji Prelis <sprelis@sfcg.org>. The co-chairs will invite you to report on the progress at the Inter-Agency facilitated quarterly meetings for the entire youth, peace and security community. This is an opportunity to share globally the country-specific efforts.

Step 2: Initial alliance activities

It is not the aim of this brief guidance note to elaborate all the individual actions that need to be taken in order to implement resolution 2250 in all the different national and local contexts around the world. Nevertheless, there are several activities which you could consider undertaking within the new partnership as first steps in moving towards a new youth, peace and security agenda in your community:

1. Translate the resolution into local languages and produce a children and youth friendly infographic that is also culturally relevant.
 - a. Develop a distribution and a communication strategy for getting the resolution into the hands of many young people.
 - b. Tap into the various networks your coalition partners have to distribute this infographic.
 - c. Report on the reach and response this effort has had when the group meets each time.
2. Discuss the resolution in local media, for example on the radio or in newspapers depending on your context.
3. Contribute to the global youth mapping process. This is an opportunity to map out the different youth organizations active in peace and security efforts, understand their impact and create opportunities to amplify their efforts nationally, regionally and globally. For more info, please reach out to the co-chairs of the Inter-Agency Working Group.
4. Joint policy analysis: In a collaboration between youth and non youth, governmental and non-governmental actors, review public policies, programs and decision-making structures that relate to peace and security. Ask the following questions:
 - a. What opportunities do young people have to engage with the field of peace and security on the basis of these policies, programs and decision-making

- structures? What support do they receive? What communication channels already exist?
- b. What are the key obstacles young people face when engaging in peace and security on the basis of these policies, programs and decision-making structures? Are any of them hindering youth participation in unintended ways?
 - c. Are young people able to participate in decision-making around peace and security? If so, which approaches have proven successful? If not, how might youth participation be enabled?
 - d. How can you ensure that the impact of the obstacles identified is decreased, and how can you amplify the opportunities you have identified?
5. Consider setting up a scheme for supporting youth-led peacebuilding initiatives, for example through youth-friendly granting schemes or youth peace innovation labs. This can be done on a small scale to begin with using whatever resources the members of the partnership have available - being effective doesn't always have to be expensive!
 6. Map out the most marginalized youth groups in the country or community. Then look for ways they can contribute to this process where they are, but also nationally and globally.
 7. Support a series of social or traditional media efforts to amplify the constructive roles young people are playing to promote peace in their communities. Make them the heroes and sheroes.

Step 3: Ensuring sustainability

- Make sure you have credible collaborative leaders in your coalition. Make sure all the members of the coalition have a practical role to play in advancing the objectives of the coalition.
- Embrace a culture of collaboration, go back to the principles (mentioned above)
- Use the Guiding Principles in Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding to engage young people in your efforts
- Explore funding options for your partnership at the national level - donors should be part of the conversation
- Be in touch with the IAWG co-chairs

Section III

IMPORTANT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Learn about the resolution

- Guide to 2250: Everything you need to know about 2250 in one place. What does the resolution say? Why does it matter? Read Pages 4-9 and can be accessed [here](#).
- Read the full text of the resolution [here](#).
- 2250 Explained: Read the annotated version of the Resolution for an in-depth explanation. This can be found [here](#).

Important Supporting Documents

- **[Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding](#)**: A guide that explains why and in what ways to engage young people in peacebuilding programmes. Available in multiple languages.
- **[UN Plan of Action Against Violent Extremism](#)**: Plan developed by the UN Secretary-General, which includes a section on youth empowerment.
- **[Youth Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace](#)**: A document produced entirely by young people that highlights their definition of violent extremism, what they are doing to address it, and ways to partner with young people to promote peace and prevent violent extremism in their communities. This document is a result of the Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism held in New York in September 2015.
- **[Amman Youth Declaration](#)**: the outcome document of the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security held in Jordan in August 2015, this declaration is a roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework on Youth, Peace and Security.
- **[Practice Note on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding](#)**: This document was produced to inform policymakers and donors of key strategic and programming considerations for supporting young people’s participation to peacebuilding. Specifically, this note has been developed to (1) offer evidence-based, promising practices in youth peacebuilding in the field; (2) advance the understanding of donors and policy-makers of complex and often

interconnected policy and programme considerations for more holistic support to youth peacebuilding interventions, and; (3) enhance the effectiveness of policies and funding strategies of bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies supporting youth peacebuilding interventions.

- [3M evaluation report](#): Global Evaluation of Children & Youth Participation in Peacebuilding was facilitated in Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nepal. This is a multi-agency evaluation led PATRIR, Save the Children Norway, Search for Common Ground, the United Network of Young Peacebuilders and World Vision International. The purpose of this evaluation was to understand and measure the quality and impact of peacebuilding programs for and with young people.