

STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations**

**Open debate of the Security Council
on
Youth, Peace and Security**

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Mr. President,

Thank you for organizing this debate on Youth, Peace and Security today to further discuss the positive role that young people can play in conflict and post-conflict setting and how the UN Security Council can help young people to build more peaceful and safe societies.

I wish to thank the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Youth Jayathama Wickramanayake, as well as the lead author of the Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security Mr. Graeme Simpson and other briefers for their briefings.

While fully aligning myself with the statement of the European Union, I would like to offer a few additional reflections.

Mr. President,

On 9 December 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted **Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security** (YPS). The first to recognize the important and positive role young women and men play in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, countering violent extremism and supporting peacebuilding efforts. Steps undertaken under Resolution 2250 aim to strengthen youth-centred approaches and promote the involvement of young people in preventing violence, countering violent extremism, transforming conflict and building peace in their communities.

Young people under 25 are the majority of the population in fragile and conflict-affected societies. They represent over one-third of populations displaced by conflict and disasters. That is why we all have to work together to **promote the full implementation of the Resolution 2250**.

In in this regard, my delegation welcomes and supports the commitment of the Security Council to intensify its focus on the issues relevant to the topic of young people, peace and security within the broader context of achieving sustaining peace and preventing conflict.

Mr. President,

Resolution 2250 also mandated the Secretary-General to carry out a **Progress Study** on young people's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution. We believe, that the recommendations set out in the implementation Report presented to the Council today are an **important contribution to an evolving framework for action** within which Member States, United Nations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders could work together with young people for a peaceful and inclusive society.

My delegation **encourages the Security Council to further consider the critical issues and areas of interventions recommended by the Study**, which fall within its area of responsibility to bolster concrete actions for a greater role of young people in strengthening peace and security.

Too often, public grievances and violence are driven by politics of exclusion, which may result from an unrepresentative or abusive **security sector**, or by its failure to protect citizens against security threats and human rights abuses. Exposure to such destabilizing factors and insecurity can have a profound effect on the future of young people and their relationship with justice and the rule of law.

In conclusion, I would therefore like to **emphasize the need to raise greater awareness and understanding of young people about the security sector**, its work and responsibilities, as well as the key challenges and threats which the security services may face. Also, young people must **assume an active role in the restoration of justice and security** as a priority in post-conflict peace-building.

Mr. President,

Creating an enabling environment and opportunities for young people to participate and engage in public life and facilitate youth access to education and employment remains the best strategy to decrease the risk of violence and increase human security in the long-run.

Thank you for your attention.