

Statement by Mr. Róbert Chatrnúch, Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the UN Security Council Arria Formula Meeting on Implementation of Security Council Resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security by UN Peace Operations

Mr. Chair,

Thank you to the Permanent Missions of the Dominican Republic and France, as well as other supporting missions for organizing this Arria Formula and to the briefers for drawing a clear picture on the state of play in implementing the YPS agenda.

In addition to the EU statement, allow me to present few remarks in national capacity.

Youth is our effective ally in peacebuilding, and it is essential to integrate youth into any peacebuilding activities as soon as possible and also continuously, throughout the process.

I would like to highlight two examples from Cyprus. In May this year, UNFICYP launched an environmental peacebuilding initiative involving 24 Cypriot youth from both communities coming together to learn about environmental issues and peacebuilding, in the framework of the promotion of the United Nations' 75th anniversary and based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Other positive example is the maintenance of informal contacts with the youth representatives of the political parties of Greek and Turkish Cypriots within the umbrella of bi-communal meetings facilitated by Slovakia in order to expand cooperation and promote the idea of bilingualism on the island.

Last but not least, I would like to mention the relation between youth and technology and its role in the current Corona crisis. Young people, who without a doubt master the ICTs better than anyone, can easily share and access various information about the virus and its spread, which helps us to make informed decisions affecting populations as a whole.

Mr. Chair,

On regional, national and international level, we should speak less and listen more to what they have to say, and profit from their innovative ideas and solutions. They may be young, but they know what they are saying and doing.

Thank you for your attention.