



## Youth, Peace & Security in Asia and the Pacific: A Regional Consultation 16-19 May 2017, Bangkok, Thailand



### Background

In December of 2015, the Security Council adopted the groundbreaking Resolution 2250, on Youth, Peace and Security. For the first time, the UN Security Council recognized the **positive role youth play in conflict prevention, the prevention of violent extremism and peacebuilding**. The Resolution was championed by Jordan, and adopted unanimously.

Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2250 is premised on the fact that governments and the multilateral system have been challenged in effectively accessing, working with and fully including young people in peacebuilding, prevention efforts and decision-making at all levels.

UN SCR 2250 mandates the Secretary-General “to carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels”, and to present the results of the Study to Member States of the United Nations. The Study is being undertaken as an independent, evidence-based and participatory research process, and will produce an operational report proposing a forward-looking agenda for the international community. It will provide the evidence of young women and young men’s engagement on peace and security issues and help overturn the negative stereotypes surrounding youth in conflict by highlighting and promoting young people’s active and positive contributions to sustaining peace.

### Asia and the Pacific Region

In the Asia-Pacific Region, a significant number of countries are in the midst of crises and armed conflict and half of the world’s refugee population is located in this region.<sup>1</sup> Asia-Pacific is also known to have the largest number of youth which comprises 60% of the world’s youth population, translating to approximately 717 million youth from ages 15-24.<sup>2</sup> Given this vast number, young people are often exposed to the detrimental impacts of disasters, poverty and inequalities. In such challenging contexts, lives are disrupted from their normal function and development is derailed. Understanding the magnitude of the impact on individuals’ lives in these conditions, has contributed to the increasing concern about young people’s involvement<sup>3</sup> and participation in the propagating of violence and preventing of peace and development<sup>3</sup>; versus becoming actors for peace in their societies.

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<sup>1</sup> Responding to Emergencies across Asia and the Pacific. UNFPA APRO. August 2016

<sup>2</sup> United Nations World Population Prospects. Available online at: <http://esa.un.org/wpp/>

<sup>3</sup> United Network of Young Peacebuilders

## Youth, Peace & Security in Asia and the Pacific Region: A Consultation

### The overall goal of the meeting

To consult young people from the Asia and the Pacific region on peace and security issues, in order to provide a regional perspective for the successful implementation of SCR 2250 in the region, to gather inputs for the Progress Study mandated by the Resolution (including the gathering of evidence on innovative peacebuilding in the region), and to create an action plan for the continuation, and promotion, of peacebuilding and social cohesion efforts in the Asia Pacific Region, to be developed and further led by participants at the consultation including youth-led organisations, youth activists and NGO/INGO/CSOs and UN agency partners.

### Specific Objectives

#### **Days 1 & 2 – A Youth Consultation for and with young peacebuilders, dedicated to the exchange of experiences, programmatic practices and formulation of recommendations**

- Identify the main peace and security-related issues that matter to and affect young people in their region, country or local context;
- Discuss gaps, barriers, challenges and priorities to promote and support young women and men's active involvement in conflict prevention, social cohesion, conflict transformation and peacebuilding in the region/country;
- Collect in-depth information on young people's activities and initiatives to build peace and prevent violence;
- Identify recommendations for the Progress Study and for follow-up at the local/national/regional levels from policy and programming angles.

#### **Day 3 – A Regional Exchange during which participants will present and discuss key recommendations to partners (INGOs, regional and national UN partners, donors, academia and other stakeholders)**

- Discuss youth peacebuilding perspectives in the region and the main points highlighted during days 1 & 2;
- Discuss how to further work together, and collaborate across countries, to create positive eco-systems for youth engagement in peacebuilding activities, key lessons learned and the way forward;
- Form a regional youth-peacebuilding network to join the *2030 Youth Force* for knowledge exchange, joint work, advocacy and coordination.

#### **Day 4 Capacity Building – Exploring methodologies for sustaining peace**

- Learning effective strategies and skills on peacebuilding.

## Participants

Participants will include young people, between 15 to 29 years of age, involved in peacebuilding activities and/or activism and youth-led organizations working on peacebuilding, which is understood in a broad sense as peace processes, social cohesion, violence reduction, reconciliation, transitional justice, preventing violent extremism, Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration or other humanitarian areas. The organizing agencies will select other panelists, facilitators, INGOs and NGOs, peacebuilding experts, and partners active in the region.

The driving principle for the full duration of this event will be to create a safe space for meaningful dialogue with young peacebuilders from Asia and the Pacific region.

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The Youth, Peace & Security in Asia and the Pacific Regional Consultation is supported by:

