



-Concept Note-

Security Council Arria Formula Meeting “Implementation of Security Council Resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security by UN Peace Operations”

September 9, 2020 - 3:00p.m.-6:00p.m. (EST)

Venue: Zoom Videoconference

Co-Hosted by the Permanent Missions of the Dominican Republic, France, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and the United States to the United Nations

Context

In Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020) on youth, peace and security (YPS), the Security Council has highlighted the key role that young people can play in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as the importance of facilitating spaces for youth participation and leadership in these areas. Implementation of these resolutions has varied across different countries and regions, and across different parts of the UN system. Among United Nations peacekeeping operations (PKOs) and special political missions (SPMs), implementation of these resolutions has varied, with some PKOs and SPMs creating innovative mechanisms for youth engagement while others have not yet taken concrete steps related to Youth, Peace and Security.

Recently adopted resolution 2535 (2020) calls on the United Nations system, including peacekeeping and special political missions, to coordinate and increase their engagement in the implementation of resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020), including through inclusive partnership with young people, and to ensure dedicated capacities with regard to youth, peace and security. It also requests the Secretary General to provide guidance for all peacekeeping and other relevant United Nations missions on the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda and urges all peacekeeping and other relevant United Nations missions to develop and implement context-specific strategies on youth, peace and security, bearing in mind their respective mandates. Resolution 2535 (2020) also encourages the United Nations to appoint youth focal points for the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda.

As of December 2019, there were 14 youth focal points in the 22 active special political missions, including 1 full-time youth adviser in Somalia, and 3 such focal points in the 13 peacekeeping operations. In his recent report (S/2020/167), the Secretary General encourages the meaningful participation of young people in peace and security efforts, including as relevant within mission mandates and states that “youth focal points on United Nations country teams are important human resources at the field level to spearhead the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda across pillars”.

UNSCR 2535 also builds upon the progress study “The Missing Peace” , that raised the issue of youth advisory boards and youth advisers as well as developing dedicated training curriculums and tools for United Nations staff, including civilian and military personnel in peacekeeping operations, staff in special political missions, and United Nations country teams, including Resident Coordinators and Country Representatives, in relation to the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda.

Since the adoption of resolutions 2250 and 2419, several Security Council-mandated PKOs and SPMs have made important strides in streamlining youth, peace and security considerations within their respective mandates. For example, as stated by the Secretary General in his report, initiatives implemented by United Nations field missions in Afghanistan, Cyprus, Iraq, Liberia and elsewhere have fostered intergenerational dialogue between young people and political actors. In the Central African Republic, Liberia, Libya and Mali United Nations missions established mechanisms that enabled young people to contribute to the development of national security strategies.

Other concrete best practices on the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security resolutions among PKOs and SPMs are the following:

- The UN Verification Mission in Colombia has approved a mission-wide YPS strategy and created a network of YPS focal points across its field offices to support youth engagement in reconciliation and reintegration initiatives, including inter-party youth dialogues and reconciliation and cultural projects between former FARC combatants and local youth.
- The UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), through a representative Kosovo-wide youth consultation process, adopted the Kosovo Roadmap on YPS and mission-wide strategy on YPS. Through the efforts of a Mission Youth Advisor and a network of YPS focal points, the Mission launched a multi-ethnic network of young Kosovo peacebuilders to foster youth inter-ethnic trust-building.
- The UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) helped facilitate the Somali Youth for Peace Pact among more than 250 Somali youth and established a youth advisory board as a platform for young people to engage with UN leadership in Somalia. The Mission also facilitated the establishment of the Joint Galkayo Youth Committee for young people from both sides of Galkayo to engage in the negotiations for the local peace process in Galkayo.

Objective

The objective of this Arria-formula meeting is to share lessons learned and best practices in relation to the implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419 in the context of UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions and to discuss how the Council and the UN System can best support the implementation of these resolutions and of resolution 2535 (2020) in UN peace missions.

Guiding Questions

- What practical steps UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions should take to implement Security Council resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535 on youth, peace and security?
- What are some of the key enabling factors that would allow peacekeeping operations and special political missions to successfully integrate YPS issues in their work?
- What challenges peacekeeping operations and special political missions face in streamlining Youth, Peace and Security considerations into their work? What can the Security Council do to help peace operations overcome these challenges?

- How can the Security Council, Member States and the United Nations System better support peacekeeping operations and special political missions to implement resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535 in mission settings, including through mandate renewals?

Briefers

Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations

Joao Scarpelini, former UN Youth Advisor in Somalia

Iana Minochkina, Youth Adviser and Coordinator of the YPS Programme, United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

Mauricio Artiñano, United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia

Ms. Andjela Mirković, Member of the United Youth Task Force Network of young Kosovo peacebuilders and **Ms. Diellza Geci**, Co-Founder of Kosovo Youth Fest and project coordinator at BIRN (Balkan Investigative Reporting Network)

Format

Following introductory remarks by the Dominican Republic and France, the floor will be given to the briefers. Members of the Security Council, beginning with the co-hosts, will then make short interventions and ask questions. Interventions should not exceed three (3) minutes.

All Member States, Permanent Observers, and NGOs are invited to attend. Time permitting, other Member States and Permanent Observers can make interventions. Countries should indicate their interest in making an intervention by writing to luzandujar@gmail.com and zoe.bertrand@diplomatie.gouv.fr . Member States comments and questions should not exceed two (2) minutes.

Logistics

The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. All speakers, including panelists, Security Council members and other speakers, will be asked to join via this platform. Speakers will be contacted and asked to confirm their preferred email address. Once received, a unique link to joining the event via Zoom will be emailed to each. These links should be used by the speaker only.

The meeting will be broadcasted through UN Web TV. A link to view the event will be shared on social media and emailed to invited observers ahead of the meeting. The majority of observers are expected to view the event livestream. However, if requested, the option to register for the event and view this as an observer through Zoom will be available. The meeting will be recorded.

To register and to request further information please contact Mrs. Luz Andujar, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, at luzandujar@gmail.com and to Ms. Zoe Bertrand, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, at zoe.bertrand@diplomatie.gouv.fr .

A compilation document will be prepared containing the interventions of the briefers and speakers. To that end, briefers and speakers are encouraged to send their statement to the same focal points mentioned above.