Peacebuilding
Sustaining Peace

Youth, Peace & Security

UNFPA

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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

YOUTH CONSULTATION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES

March 31 – April 02, 2017

Hammamet - Tunisia



Contents

I- Introduction..... 5

II- Youth vision of peace and security 10

III- Youth intiatives in the fields of peace, security and rejection of violence 15

IV- Complex challenges that hinder youth participation..... 21

V- The youth translate the UN Security Council Resolution into action..... 26

Tables

Table 1: Youth definition of conflicts 11

Table 2: Youth definition of violence..... 11

Table 3: Youth definition of peace /.....12

Table 4: Youth definition of security ...../..... 12

Table 5: Youth initiatives in the field of peace and rejection of violence 15

Table 6: Key challenges facing the youth in North African countries..... 25

Table 7: Recommendations and proposals for projects covering 5 areas as expressed by the youth..... 31

Annexes

Agenda of the Consultation

List of challenges and recommendations as received from participants

List of participants from all countries

List of facilitators and rapporteurs

Youth consultation on Youth, Peace and Security in North African Countries



16 boys



16 girls

Loving peace and hating violence





Diagnoses the challenges that hinder his participation

- Unemployment and poor income are the most serious challenge
- The challenge of violence creates a suffocating "spiral"
- Strict and patriarchal values
- Bureaucracy and weak political will

Give alternatives

- Continuous programs to build the capacities of the youth and their organizations
- Legislative and material support for youth civil society organizations
- Promote the representation of young people in decision-making institutions, including peace and security initiatives
- Enhancing opportunities for mobility and convergence to exchange experiences and expertise nationally, regionally and internationally

Resolution 2250 is translated into projects

- At least a one-third quota for young people in local parliaments and local governments
- Establishing a representative youth structure, nationally and locally
- Integrating cultural, dialogue, peace and citizenship subjects into school curricula
- Establishment of a regional research and studies body and databases
- A continuous training program for religious leaders to enshrine a discourse of dialogue, peace and human rights

Background and objectives of the consultation

The international arena is witnessing a growing interest in the youth sector with a view to formulating policies that enable it to meet its main needs and to ensure its full participation in various aspects of public and political life. In fact, experience has shown that young generations have huge capacities that can contribute effectively to making great strides in terms of development and to disseminating a culture of dialogue and peace.

In this context, and against a background of accumulated international experience, the international community recently adopted a strategic document (UN Security Council Resolution 2250) on "Youth, Peace and Security" in which the world recognized the capabilities of youth and called upon decision makers and all officials to ensure the effective participation of youngsters as partners in all spheres of life as well as all the conditions necessary to that end.

Through this document (Resolution 2250), the international community called upon all countries to adopt policies aimed at ensuring the full participation of young people in promoting the paths and cultures of dialogue and security and in confronting violence and extremism. The main axes of these policies focus on the following five dimensions:

* Youth participation in all aspects of political and public life with emphasis on participation in decision-making and in policies and initiatives of dialogue, conflict resolution and meeting the challenges of violence and extremism.

* Providing full and effective protection for young people from acts of violence and extremism, including by providing them with the terminology of the culture and skills of dialogue, peace and conflict resolution.

* Adopting policies to prevent violence and extremism by providing an appropriate environment that includes multidimensional mechanisms, activities and events targeting various groups with broad participation of youngsters, their leaders and their institutions

institutions in the formulation and implementation of these policies.

* Expanding partnerships to include various national and international stakeholders and sectors, providing the broadest technical and material support for these policies and for broad involvement of youth and their organizations in these policies.

The importance of this international approach to the situation of the North African countries in general lies in the fact that these countries are witnessing a unique demographic opportunity that can contribute effectively to a good development transition and to peace and security if they are well utilized. This opportunity is that youngsters are reaching their highest numbers and percentages, which pushed the workforce to its highest levels (between one quarter and one third of the society are aged15-29 and about half of the labor force in these countries). Given the low dependency ratio, this would provide high savings, investment and economic growth opportunities. However, this necessarily requires that a number of conditions be available, notably empowering the youth and ensuring their effective participation.

Objectives of the consultation

In this context, in line with the guidelines and methodology of the International Research Program and Security Council Resolution 2250 and following up on the outcomes and recommendations of the Regional Consultation on Youth, Security and Peace held in Amman, Jordan, on 6-4 December 2016, the consultation aims to get insights into the opinions of youngsters from North African countries and their proposals regarding peace and security issues with a view to supporting the implementation of Resolution 2250 at the regional level and contributing to the international research program mandated under the international resolution.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - the Regional Office for the Arab Region-, UNESCO, the United Nations system working in the region and the international research program have organized a consultation on youth, peace and security in order to get

better insights into the vision of youth from North Africa (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco) and their proposals as regards giving shape to their roles and participation in meeting the challenges they face, especially their roles in facing the challenge of violence and extremism, spreading the culture of dialogue and promoting peace and security.

The consultation aimed more precisely at achieving the following objectives:

1. Present and exchange results of national consultations on youth, peace and security.
2. Identify the relevant security and peace issues and dimensions that affect the youth.
3. Discuss challenges and priorities to support the effective participation of girls and boys in conflict prevention processes and in social cohesion at the local, national and regional levels.
4. Identify and collect data on youth activities and initiatives in the area of peace and security and the rejection of violence and extremism.
5. Develop recommendations to strengthen peace and security and ensure the effective participation of young people at the local, national and regional levels. These recommendations would subsequently feed into the international study program.
6. Formulate proposals to inform the development of the regional strategy on youth, peace and security in the Arab region.



Consultation methodology

This consultation was prepared with a positive spirit based on the conviction that notwithstanding the current unfavorable circumstances of young people, some of them being victims of crises, violence and security challenges, youngsters, through their great demographic potential, capabilities and aptitudes, can stand in the face of organized violence and extremism and promote a culture of dialogue and peace.

The consultation was held in Hammamet, Tunisia from March 31 to April 2. It included 16 young men and 16 young women distributed equally among the five North African countries (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco).

The participants, aged 20-31, are mostly civil society actors and officials in their countries. Some of them are students, and some are private and public sector workers and employees. Geographically, there was a great deal of diversity as each country's delegation consisted of youth from different regions, including border locations. The regional meeting in Hammamet was preceded by consultations at the national level that included a large number of young males and females from various parts of each participating country (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Morocco - the concerned parties were unable to do so in the case of Algeria because of a tight agenda). The consultations focused on peace, security, and violence and its causes and implications as well as how young people can stand in its face. The results of these consultations were on the agenda of the regional meeting at Hammamet, which enriched the work of the meeting, made it possible the deepen the dialogue and enabled participants to develop recommendations and proposals for viable and implementable projects.

During the consultation, the debate was carried out following a participatory approach. The general sessions witnessed the organization of collective discussions while three working grous, each including 10 to 11 male and female participants, were set up to have more in-depth discussions.

The same composition of the working groups was maintained throughout the consultation in order to further explore the questions at hand and get deeper insights into the views and perceptions of youngsters. Thus, the participants had the opportunity to refine their recommendations and make them more practical in nature, including those proposals for projects to be thought about on other future occasions.

Working group discussions were facilitated by 7 young (20-31 years old) facilitators (2 females and 5 males). Two UNFPA experts coordinated the technical and scientific aspects of the consultation. The organizational and logistical arrangements for the event were entrusted to a UNFPA specialized team (see appendix for list of participants and supervisors).



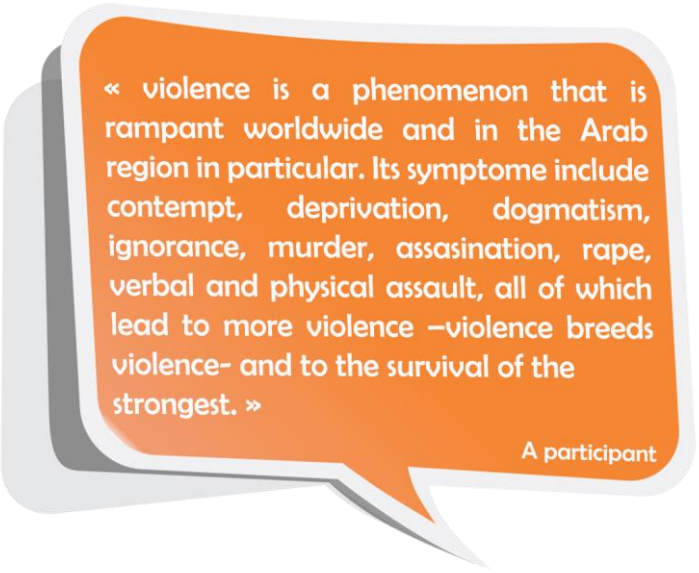
Youth vision and understanding of the dimensions of peace and security

In order to get insights into youth vision of the questions related to peace and security, they have been invited to give a concise definition of the following terms : peace, security ; coflicts… Each of these terms was defined in one word that was written down on the flip chart. The result was significant as is explained below :

There was consensus among youngsters on criticising conflicts and on stressing their negative connotations. For them, conflicts are associated with arms and wars as well as with hate and extremism. The definitions focused on the roots of the phenomenon, including primarily divisiveness and disagreement followed by intolerance and ingratitude. Ignorance and love of power have also been referred to as main causes of conflicts.

It should be noted that in these definitions, youngsters expressed their rejection of conflicts and considered them a serious phenomenon. However, linking conflicts with disagreements and, for some, with differences of opinion and extremism may indicate the need that these concepts should be better dissiminated. This also shows that young people should be educated on the difference between conflicts and disagreement which is a healthy phenomenon if handled well.

Violence : According to the youth, violence is widespread in the region, but also beyond. They define it as the pre-conflict, pre-war phase. Its causes are quite different from those of conflicts and are mainly of an economic and social nature, including economic and social deprivation, discrimination, disrespect for basic rights, ingratitude and intolerance.



It should be noted that in defining violence, youngsters focused on the most serious forms and did not mention verbal violence or unhealthy behavioral violence. This could be a function of the rampant violence and armed conflicts in the region.

Table1. Youth definition of conflicts

Definitions	Frequency		
	Simple	Frequent	Very frequent
Divergence			**x**
Intolerance and ingratitude			**x**
Ignorance		**x**	
Power		**x**	
War and arms		**x**	
Hatred, selfishness	**x**		
Radicalism	**x**		

Table2. Youth definition of violence

Definitions	Frequency		
	Simple	Frequent	Very frequent
Deprivation (economic and social)			**x**
Ignorance		**x**	
Contempt		**x**	
Intolerance and ingratitude		**x**	
Rape and assainations	**x**		
Violence that feeds violence	**x**		
Devastation	**x**		



Table3. Youth definition of peace

Definitions	Frequency		
	Simple	Frequent	Very frequent
Accept and respect others and different opinions			x
Co-living, equality, dialogue, and freedom of expression			x
love		x	
Peace and security		x	
Understanding, convention, reconciliation, unity, (social peace)		x	
Reform, growth, prosperity		x	
Equality and non-descrimination	x		

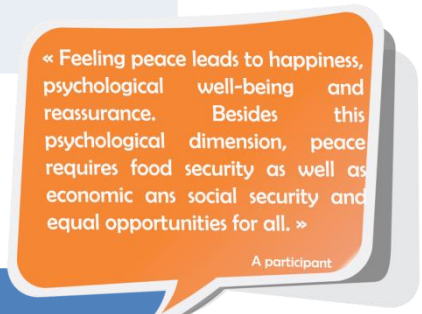
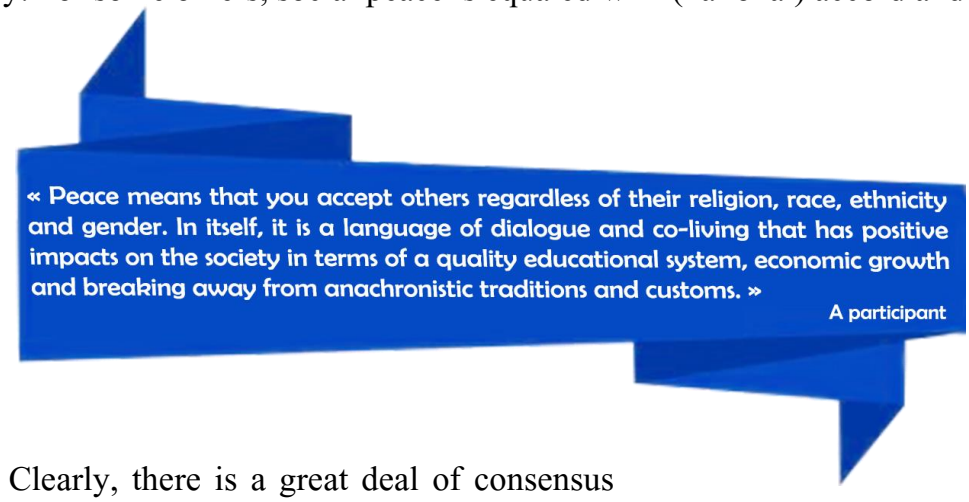


Table4. Youth definition of security

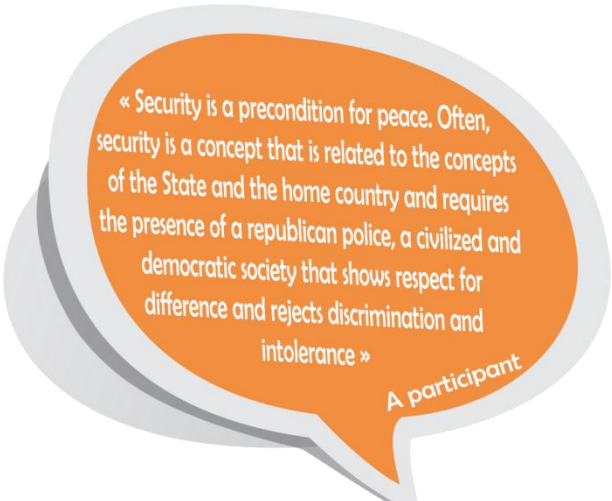
Definitions	Frequency		
	Simple	Frequent	Very frequent
Broad definition : economic and social security			x
An individual's physical and psychological safety			x
Power		x	
Freedom of expression		x	
Balance and stability	x		
Happiness and love	x		
Home country	x		

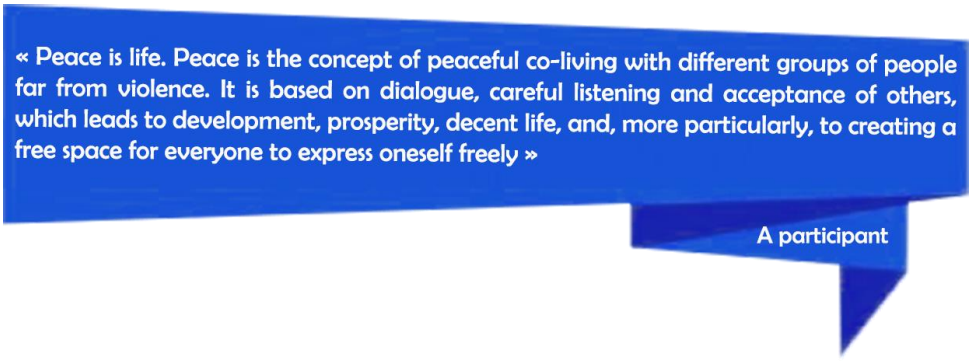
Peace : In most responses, the concept of peace as defined by youth is coupled with civil and human rights based behaviors, such as dialogue, respect for others….liberties and participation. This means that for them, peace is a prerequisite for the enhancement of liberties and the achievement of reform and growth. For some, peace is equal to love and safety. For some others, social peace is equated with (national) accord and unity.





Security : Clearly, there is a great deal of consensus among the participating youth that security is one of the pillars of human rights and is paramount to individual and collective welfare in terms of stability, happiness, love and protection of the country. On the other hand, while some youngsters have a narrow understanding of peace, thus relating it mainly to « deterrence » and to the power needed to achieve it, some others have a broader understanding of this concept that includes economic, social, psychological, individual and collective security.





In a nutshell, there is consensus among participant male and female youngsters from all countries that violence should be rejected and that conflicts are negative and disastrous phenomena whose roots could be objective and subjective. Establishing peace and ensuring people's security are a precondition to achieve growth, prosperity and enhance liberties and participation. The results indicate that an effort is needed to provide youngsters with more kowledge about the specific dimensions associated with the relevant concepts and the nuances betwen these concepts in order to ensure their large-scale and accurate dessimination.

«Peace is an indispensable fundamental right. It is a state of peace of mind and stability that impacts a person or a group's life, their psychology, and their physical and social lives. The establishment of peace is a function of accepting others notwithstanding differences, virtues and flaws. Doing away fear is a result of tolerance, harmony and cohabitation which are essential to building peace and ensuring its sustainibility»

A participant

« Security is the result of noble ethical and social values and virtue. Its positive outcomes, namely prosperity, progress, development and success as well as the existence of the conditions necessary for creativity and peace of mind are a gateway to human dignity and the prosperity of civilizations »

A participant



Youth initiatives in the fields of peace, security, and the rejection of violence and extremism

The participating youth presented the initiatives they had taken or that occurred in their countries concerning the dissemination of a culture of peace, security, dialogue, resolution of conflicts, events and initiatives in support of peace and security. (Table 5 provides preliminary lists of these activities as reported by participants)

It is generally seen that the activities and events carried out by youngsters or in which they participate and which are aimed at promoting the peace process in general or strengthening the participation of young people in it are limited in terms of quantity and quality and seem to be mostly recent in nature.

In view of the urgent need for such initiatives, as expressed by the youth involved, they called for the provision of material and technical support to youth organizations to enable them to develop and implement innovative and effective projects in this regard.

Table5. Youth initiatives in the fields of peace and rejection of violence

Country	Initiatives	Initiative taker
Tunisia	– Organizing a campaign for Tunisian goods to counter the goods smuggled by criminal networks. – Organizing the New Year celebration at the Shaanabi Mountain where terrorists are located in support of the security and national defense forces. – Providing psychological follow-up and care for children aged 14-25 whose families live in Jabal Al Shaabani at the age of 14-25 to shield them from the consequences of terrorism and violence.	**Biladi association**
	- Workshop on "Combating Terrorism in Tunisia"	**DGAP + Think Tank Labo**
	Initiative to combat violent extremism and implement projects based on successful experiences	**SOS Terrorism**

Country	Initiatives	Initiative taker
	- A program targeting the youth living in slums and city outskirts, benefiting 35 young people aged 15-20. The program consisted in providing training in stages through 15 consecutive sessions and ended with the funding of 25 youth projects. - The "2250 Club" program to follow up on the implementation of the decision. - "The debate and Citizenship clubs in high schools. - "National Consultation on Prevention of Extremism in Tunisia. - "Café Talk", a dialogue on violence and extremism.	**Program for development** **IID**
	- Program for the improvement of the economic Conditions of youth in inland areas. - An initiative to integrate young prisoners and establish cultural clubs in prisons by active youth. - Organizing awareness sessions in all schools in the border city of Zarzis. - Activities "for peace and rejection of extremism" were carried out in several youth spaces in the city of Kasserine.	**Young leaders entrepreneurs** **An initiative supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Defence** **Youth initiative to combat violence through art**
Libya	- A national initiative to empower young people with communication skills, intercultural dialogue and conflict resolution. The project made it possible to integrate a youth audience who had borne arms in the youth rehabilitation center.	**Youth Arab Voice B.C** **From the cities of Misrata and Tawarga**
	- "Let's join hands for the benefit of all" initiative, several activities to promote national unity and rejection of violence. - "We are the charity" initiative organizes awareness meetings on peace and security issues in educational premises.	**The Scouts**

Country	Initiatives	Initiative taker
Morocco	- An initiative by one female student consisting in a mobile application to alert residents in areas of turmoil or danger. - Creating the securela application to fight sexual harassment against girls through informing about the places where there have been cases of sexual harassment. - Holding a series of meetings with the youth of the political parties in the Almadhiq - Fnideq in partnership with the region. - Launching the "love speech" campaign to spread the discourse of love and tolerance. - Organizing the Tolerance Forum for Literature and Arts in Chefchaouen. - the Mediterranean Youth Initiative to promote intercultural dialogue, tolerance and co-living, establish clubs in higher education institutes and universities, and engage in various international and national initiatives aimed at promoting peace and security, rejecting violence, extremism and hate speech. - Launching the national campaign "No to hate speech" in Morocco through the setting up of a national committee that brings together youth and human rights associations, parliamentary and media activities, university institutions and civil society activists in. - Initiative for the diagnosis of the reality of extremism by the Muhammadiyah Association of scientists, and launch of the www.chababe.ma website - Organizing awareness campaigns to combat cyber harassment. - Organizing national seminars on gender-based violence and on the problem of violence and its new dimensions.	**The Meditteranean Youth Forum**

Country	Initiatives	Initiative taker
Morocco	- Organizing listening and reconciliation sessions for the benefit of the Fnideq children. - Experience of the American-Moroccan Association that uses the peer education technique with regard to peace topics. - The experience of the Muhammadiyah Association of Scholars in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to reject violence against women based on evidence from Qur'an and Sunnah. - Experience: Iber Morocco aimed at sensitizing rural women on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence. - The "No to Extremism" project, an educational course, 13 training courses on life skills for children, adolescents and young people. - The Mediterranean Academy of Youth organized activities on human rights education, rejecting hate speech, promoting the democratic participation of young people and youth diplomacy. - Producing a video on hate speech prepared by young people from different continents. - The Council of Europe's experience in combating hate speech. - Experience of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the dialogue of cultures. - The initiative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports through the organization of the Rabat, the capital of the Arab youth event in partnership with the League of Arab States under the slogan "for a co-living and creative youth".	

Country	Initiatives	Initiative taker
Morocco	- The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Promeutheus Institute study and diagnosis and the organization of a conference to listen to testimonies of former detainees who had been sentenced to emprisonment for their involvement in terrorist operations. - Organizing awareness meetings on violence in sports by the Socialist Party Youth. - The creation of the National Institute for Youth and Democracy to promote dialogue among youth party organizations. - Cultural Café in Meknes: Political Islam at stake, secularism, the educational policy in Morocco, women's issues in Morocco. - The Center to save children from begging and delinquency and providing support to them. - The Muhammadiyah Association of Scholars organized a training for those working with drug users. The training used the peer education approach. - EWA Initiative: Empowering women in the Atlas. - The experience of education clubs on citizenship and human rights in educational institutions. - Educating students on the dangers of drugs and their negative effects. - Providing free tutoring for pupils. - Integrating divorced women in Oujda. - The experience of the association "dévoilée insoumise": working with girls that refuse to marry at an early age. - Listening to students, supporting them and providing tutoring.	

Country	Initiatives	Initiative taker
Morocco	- Organization of the rights forum for rural children. - A workshop for refugees to achieve coexistence. - Organizing workshops to implement joint projects by different tribes to overcome differences.	



Complex challenges that hinder youth participation

In their endeavors to give shape to their participation in public and political affairs and in making decisions, including in the peace and security processes, young people face many challenges that are mostly overlapping and complex as reported by the youth participating in the consultation. In Table (6) we present the most prominent among these challenges according to their frequency and the emphasis laid on them by the young people in their statements and dialogues. We shed light also on the interactions between them as pointed out by many participants:

The security challenge ranks first among the challenges facing young people in many regions in North African countries and hinders their daily lives and participation in public affairs. Many young participants from various regions stated that violence and sometimes armed conflicts hinder their daily mobility, thus preventing them from going to school or to work. This violence impedes their meetings with and visits to friends and family, and thus represents an obstacle to their activities in the public sphere and to the implementation of their projects, including initiatives aimed at spreading a culture of dialogue and peace and rejecting violence.

According to some young people, the challenge of violence creates in the youth of some "hot" zones areas a whirlpool whereby violence affects most aspects of the daily lives of youth, including relationships, activities and participation, exacerbates the economic and social crisis and negatively impacts relations with parents because young people are compelled to stay at home, which leads to frustration and psychological crises.

The challenge of unemployment and low income: The most important and dangerous challenge on the regional level for young people, where the unemployment rate is particularly high among them with girls being the hardest hit. High prices and a declining purchasing power in recent years have compounded the deterioration of the economic

situation as reported by most participants in the consultation.

Many refer to the impact of this factor not only on their psychological and social conditions, but also with regard to the barriers it creates for their civic participation in public and political affairs. This is a function of of the cost of transportation and the fact that many of them have to work long hours or in more than one occupation to improve their income.

In this regard, the youth also pointed out the challenge of the mismatch between education and labor markets, nepotism and corruption, which contributed to the aggravation of unemployment and weak training and rehabilitation opportunities, including in entrepreneurship.

Institutional Challenges: Young people spoke extensively about the political, institutional and legislative challenges that hinder and undermine the opportunities and capacities of young people to participate, to develop and to implement initiatives in the areas of public and political affairs and in promoting opportunities for peace and security. They pointed out administrative bureaucracy and its negative repercussions on implementing and strengthening the work of their organizations, the challenge of weak funding and inadequate administrative and moral support, the poor strategic vision to empower youth and give substance to their participation, weak policies and lack of will. Many pointed out the challenge of weak or lack thereof of the enabling legislation and laws and weak media support for thework and initiatives carried out by the youth.

The youth reported that they were not invited to participate in any national dialogue efforts except on limited occasions - for example national dialogues to promote the democratic transition in Tunisia. As for initiatives for conflict resolution and the launch of national dialogue for peace, wherever they existed, the youth reported thet they have neither been invited nor did they participate in any of their activities. They expressed their willingness to join these processes.

Social and cultural challenges: Many male, and particularly female participants, have often faced challenges related to a highly conservative and discriminatory culture, including patriarchal attitudes that prevent or impede their participation in public and political affairs as evidence, for example, by discrimination against girls in transactions and services, which limits their participation. The lack of communication and interaction between generations and its negative impact on the participation of young people have also been mentioned. Youngsters also referred to the phenomenon of poor participation due to the weak culture of volunteerism and the need to provide incentives in this regard. Some pointed out pejorative attitudes and harassment against women and the growing intolerance in some circles, whether this intolerance is religious, ethnic or sectarian. They also referred to regional or tribal intolerance and its negative repercussions on youth participation and collective action.

Weak communication and partnership: One of the challenges whose importance has been stressed by young people is weak communication, cooperation and coordination between the relevant governmental institutions on the one hand and the youth and their organizations on the other. This situation limits the opportunities for youth participation and the participation of their organizations in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs that concern them in particular. For youngsters, this is due, on the one hand, to weak government initiatives in this regard, as well as to poor youth trust in these institutions and in political affairs in general.

Challenges as regards the own capacities of youth organizations: Special attention has been given by the youth to describing the current situation of youth civil society organizations and the situation of those associations working with the youth. Among the most important challenges facing their organizations, young people have emphasized the following dimensions: the fact that most organizations have newly been established with weak sustainability prospects for some

some due to the challenges they face and weak funding and volunteerism. They also pointed out the weak skills and experiences of young people in the management and follow-up of projects besides weak coordination, cooperation and networking between civil society organizations in general, including youth organizations, and the weak representation and popularity of these organizations.

International and regional partnerships: Participants pointed out a number of challenges in this regard, including weak technical and financial support to youth civic and political participation and the lack of synergy between youth support agencies, which led to duplicating activities and neglecting the efforts that have been made. Young particpants also referred to the difficulties of mobility between the countries of the region, which hinders cooperation and the exchange of expertise.



Table6. Key challenges facing the youth in North African countries

Challenges	Level of importance			
	1	2	3	4
Economic Challenges: Unemployment, high cost of living, low income, hidden unemployment				x
Security challenges: Violence, attacks, conflicts, terrorism (in some regions)		x		
Political, legislative and institutional challenges: poor strategic vision, weak availability of reliable and updated data, bureaucracy, cumbersome administrative procedures (weak coordination and networking), constraints, weak political will, weak supporting and facilitating legislation for youth work, poor moral and material support, and poor media promotion of the activities carried out by young people.		x		
Social and cultural challenges that negatively affect the participation of young people and the roles of girls, some customs and traditions, the authoritarian patriarchal system, traditional family activities, weak acceptance of the culture of change, poor intergenerational communication, lack of a culture of volunteering, pejorative attitudes towards youngsters			x	
Challenges regarding the own-capacities of youth organizations: poor sustainability, poor funding, poor skills, weak networking, weak volunteerism, poor representation			x	
Challenges for regional and international partnerships: bureaucracy, poor synergy and duplication of projects, difficulties in mobility and communication with other countries	x			

The Youth implement the Security Council resolution



Youth recommendations and projects to promote peace and non-violence:

Following extensive and in-depth dialogues for two consecutive days within the working groups, plenary sessions and and during breaks, the participants devoted their third day to developing practical recommendations, preferably in line with the five main themes of Security Council resolution 2250: participation, prevention, protection, partnership and reintegration. In addition, the youth organized brainstorming sessions, during which an important section of the recommendations was translated into executable projects, some of which are of an urgent nature and some have a strategic dimension. Table 7 below gives details about these recommendations in accordance with the themes referred to above:

Giving substance to youth participation

The young participants have laid emphasis on participation in decision-making and in implementation thereof. They consider this to be paramount to giving substance to their roles and to strengthening elements of empowerment and meeting the needs of young people. They also paid significant attention to all dimensions and elements related to participation in public and political affairs in general, including participation in promoting opportunities for peace and security and non-violence. To that end, young participants gave priority in their recommendations to institutionalization policies, including recommendations for legal, legislative, political and financial support for the establishment of effective, independent and representative youth organizations and to enable them to implement their initiatives and projects. They also called for supporting youth efforts to create an independent national structure capable of representing young people at the local and national levels and to set up structures for giving substance to youth contributions to youth spaces. Among the recommendations and projects proposed by young people are: (details in the annex).

1 : Participation

Training and capacity building :

Young participants considered that among the priority actions required to give substance to youth participation in the region are those that concern offering large opportunities for training and capacity-building of youth and their organizations, especially in the areas of leadership skills, project management formulation, advocacy and media communication. Among the projects proposed in this regard:

- Establishing a regional resource center (highly specialized center) which focuses on research, studies and training for young leaders and their organizations, youth and the provision of technical support in the field of youth empowerment and effective participation in governmental and civil society institutions.

Networking :

Youth also attached great importance to the challenge of networking among youth organizations so as to promote exchanges and cooperation between them, unify priorities, reduce duplication and repetition of activities, and strengthen the organizational powers of young people at the national and regional levels.The youth stressed the importance of implementing exchange and coordination between the youth and their organizations at the regional level to ensure maximum benefit from successful youth pilot initiatives and their dissemination.

The participating youth launch their Facebook page Youth and Peace North Africa

Among the recommendations made by the youth in this regard :

- Establish a regional online platform / website to dessiminate knowledge about youth initiatives and to provide all needed guidance to obtain technical and financial support for youth organizations and initiatives.
- Establish the regional youth expert body.

Enhance institutional representation :

Youth made a number of recommendations with a view to enhancing their participation and representation in legislative and executive institutions and in bodies working for peace.

- Establishment of a national and local youth council of an advisory nature.
- The adoption of a quota (one third) for young people in parliaments and local institutions and in all decision-making positions.

2 : Prevention

Mid- and long-term procedures for the benefit of the youth :

The youth focused their recommendations on supporting youth policies and preventive measures on empowering the new generations financially, morally and culturally, and ensuring sustainable and continuous protection for them to shield them against a culture of violence and extremism through cognitive and cultural empowerment which targets not only youth but also their parents and all members of society.

They stressed the policies aimed at reducing youth unemployment and ensuring their economic integration because of the negative consequences of high levels of unemployment among young people and to ensure sustainable peace and security.

Among the youth projects proposed are the following ones:

- Teaching citizenship, culture of dialogue and peace, political education and other related materials in school curricula using advanced applied methods and appropriate content and concepts intended for specific age groups.
- Launching training campaigns for religious leaders on human rights, peace and security, dialogue and conflict resolution to promote the dissemination of religious values that call for tolerance, peace and security.

3 : Enhancing youth protection

Some urgent measures

In this section, the participating youth on the recommendations aimed primarily at ensuring protection of young people who are exposed to acts of violence and attacks in areas of conflict or the spread of armed militias or violent extremists. The situation of young people in Libya was an important focus of the debates in this regard. They also referred to measures to ensure the necessary protection for young civilian activists to facilitate the implementation of their initiatives and projects and to facilitate the work of their civil society organizations.

Among the recommendations made in this respect :

- Launching a media and advocacy initiative by adopting laws and procedures that protect young people from threats and restrictions.
- Organizing training courses for security institutions in the field of human rights and on how to deal with, protect and facilitate the performance of civic activities.
- Organizing a competition for young media professionals to motivate them to take innovative initiatives in spreading the culture of peace and security.

4 : Partnerships

In this regard, the youth stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships between youth and their organizations on the one hand, and government institutions, the private sector and the relevant international organizations supporting youth work, on the other hand. They called on government institutions to network, support youth civil society organizations and facilitate youth mobility, including mobility between the countries of the region. They also called for the involvement of the private sector in supporting policies and programs to spread the culture of security and youth civic action.

They also called on the supporting bodies not only to contribute to material support but also to include accompaniment and follow-up so as to enhance the chances of success of the CSO projects. They also called for strengthening coordination among peace and security stakeholders nationally and regionally.

Their proposals include:

The establishment of a regional project for young leaders working in the field of peace and security.

Demobilization and reintegration:

It should be noted in this regard that young people have shown little interest in this area. Divergent views have emerged, especially with regard to appropriate measures against the perpetrators of major crimes and those who participated in acts of violent extremism.

Table7. Recommendations and proposals regarding projects covering 5 areas as laid out by the working groups

1 : Participation

Recommendations	Proposals
Group (1)	
Adopting a structured framework for youth participation at the regional level on peace and security.	Establishing a sustainable online regional youth network run by civil society youth from different countries of the region.
Building the capacities and achievements of young leaders and of those working with the youth.	Continuous and periodic training for young people to exchange experiences and expertise.
Providing for a youth quota in decision-making positions.	Establishing a regional body of young experts in politics.
Creating youth bodies to follow up on ministerial decisions and public policies (proposal + follow-up + implementation).	Advocacy to give effect to youth participation in political affairs.
Advocacy for the creation of a national and local youth structure of a consultative nature.	
Group (2)	
Strengthening the role of institutions and promoting a culture of citizenship	Creating civic clubs in educational institutions.
	Digitizing administrative procedures by creating an e-administration.
	Establishment of independent youth councils at the local level.
	Organizing advocacy campaigns to integrate citizenship into educational curricula through practical and modern teaching methods.
Facilitating procedures to support youth initiatives to benefit from the different funding options available	Organizing periodic meetings with funders
	Facilitate procedures to support and fund youth initiatives
Creating a governmental public electronic platform that includes all national and international opportunities for financing.	Providing information related to access to public and private funding (right to information)
Strengthening the capacities of youth actors, especially in project formulation and budgeting.	Strengthening the capacities of youth actors, especially in project formulation and budgeting.
Strengthening the capacities of youth actors, especially in the media sector.	Organizing training courses on internal and external communication methods.
	Organizing training courses in media marketing.
	Creating an international platform in North Africa to value youth initiatives.

Recommendations	Proposals
Group (3)	
Designing a website that brings together all youth initiatives and projects from North African countries. The website will make it possible to follow up on and provide all the legal, logistical and financial information related to the pilot projects.	Development of entrepreneurship in North African countries, especially social entrepreneurship, providing legal facilities and follow-up to ensure the success of projects.
Valuing the successes of young people and creating mechanisms to motivate them to continue along similar lines.	
Focusing on the importance of building state institutions and youth representation therein.	Creating a youth simulation of various local and parliamentary state institutions with the participation of the actual members of these institutions.
Supporting the political participation of young people through a one third quota in the parliament and local councils.	

2 : Prevention

Recommendations	Proposals
Group (1)	
Implementation of a number of legal actions in relation to international economic policies.	Finding protective solutions to solve the problem of financial liquidity and currency inflation.
Media campaigns using modern technology techniques to reach out to the youth groups concerned.	Partnership with the media and communication tools to spread a culture of peace and security.
Teaching political education as part of the school curricula and ensuring the relevance of its contents and concepts according to the characteristics of each age group.	Integrating the peace and security approach into the educational curricula.
Training campaigns for the religious leaders on dessiminating a discourse of peace and security.	Mainstream religious values that call for peace and security.
Group (2)	
Raising cultural awareness among families in North Africa.	The development of creative new activities, such as street theater and street cinema in the hotbeds of violence and extremism.
	Encouraging cultural exchange between families in North Africa.
Strengthening and enhancing the capacity of young people to access decent work opportunities.	Encouraging cultural exchange between families in North Africa.
	Integrating the concept of prevention and crisis management and preparedness into youth training and employment programs.
Urging the media to promote the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence to enhance security and stability.	Establishing independent audiovisual authorities to monitor audiovisual media in terms of violations, and training journalists on the ethics of the profession.

Recommendations	Proposals
Group (3)	
Access to information legislation.	
Intensification of life skills and craft development programs to improve employability.	
Supporting decentralization.	
Creating internal control mechanisms or laws to curb uncontrolled media behavior.	
Promoting a culture of peace in sports venues.	
Ensure the match between the school curricula on the one hand and the needs of the labor market on the other hand and reforming teaching methods to develop critical thinking and economic entrepreneurship.	
Innovating in methods of preaching - religious discourse.	
Improving the relationship between security forces and the youth.	

3 : Protection

Recommendations	Proposals
Group (1)	
Advocacy! Laws and procedures	Creating a unified legal framework to facilitate the participation of youth leaders in seminars and training.
Hosting some Libyan youth initiatives by neighboring countries (of course, the organizers are Libyan youth. The neighboring country will only provide a safe venue)	Creating a safe framework for the activities of youth leaders, especially libyans, and protecting them against threats and constraints.
Group (2)	
Developing the laws that facilitate the work of civil society.	Advocacy (enacting/ amending/ simplifying / giving effect to) for friendly legislation that supports the youth and their role in promoting peace and security in society.
Taking all measures to improve the security environment and facilitate the work of civil society.	Organizing training courses for security institutions on respecting human rights and other related matters.
	Ensuring the impartiality of the security establishment in dealing with civil society under the law.
Group (3)	
Announcing the organization of a competition for young media professionals through a media product (visual - written - audio) that focuses on peace and security. The projects are submitted, evaluated and rewarded through a set of criteria.	Sensitizing the media on how to deal with the phenomenon of violence and refraining from promoting it
Establishing a youth organization for human rights and diplomacy aimed at organizing seminars at country level to discuss the shortcomings of educational curricula, correct concepts and submit outputs to a committee of decision makers to reform these curricula.	Reforming laws that violate physical integrity. Educating young people about rights and duties.

4 : Partnerships

Recommendations	Proposals
Group (1)	
Coordination among governments to facilitate the mobility of youth leaders and provide the necessary care.	
Engaging the private sector to contribute to the dissemination of a culture of security.	Partnerships with telecommunications companies and private enterprises.
Facilitating financial procedures, especially international financing.	Advocacy and harmonization of the laws regulating the work of associations to facilitate international financing.
Promoting cultural integration among youth leaders.	Creating a unified cultural charter that respects social and cultural diversity and human rights values.
	Holding cultural, artistic and dialogue fora and contests.
Providing financial support for cultural and youth activities and ensuring economic accompaniment and follow-up.	Creating a national youth-run fund to provide material support for youth activities (cultural and economic activities)
	Creation national follow-up and training structures.
Group (2)	
Integrate action plans that give equal opportunities to urban and rural youth in national and local strategies and policies.	
Strengthening coordination and networking among the various peace and security actors.	The Alliance of Young leaders in North African countries concerned with issues of peace and security.
Increase budgets to support youth initiatives.	
The need for international partner programs to meet the development priorities of partner countries.	
Urging the official and private media to pay attention to and value youth initiatives.	

5 : Demobilization and Integration

Recommendations	Proposals
Group (1)	
Coaching the leaders of sports fan groups in order to spread the culture of security, peace and sportsmanship.	Awareness campaigns on the importance of sportsmanship and the sports charter (participation of celebrity athletes)
Facilitating the integration of youth into the labor market.	Creating a civic cultural passport that enriches the curriculum vitae of young people (experiences, volunteering, interships, work in the civil society)
Aligning educational curricula and syllabi with the needs of the labor market.	Regional programs for the exchange of experiences Fellowship intership
Group (3)	
Fostering e-economy.	
Legislation on alternative penalties (community service ...) in juvenile delinquency.	Provide a statement by civil society organizations so as to organize community service activities as penalties for offenders (verbal assaults, speed violations), including cleaning streets or providing compulsory services. These regulations shall be submitted to the decision makers.



Conclusion: To ensure follow up

This initiative - the consultation on peace and security for young people in North African countries - comes in the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on giving effect to youth participation in peace and security. It aims to strengthen the efforts of the research program on youth, peace as security (PBSO) and the efforts of the United Nations system in this regard. The initiative also follows up on the activities which were carried out in the Arab region, including in particular the Regional Consultation - Amman 2016-, and other national consultations, and is organized in support of the Arab Strategy on Youth, Peace and Security (UN Fund and its partners).

The youth consultation on peace and security issues in terms of its concepts, determinants and implications, as seen by the youth of the region, has many advantages, including, on the one hand, the diversity of the participating youth in terms of gender and geographical diversity within each country and across countries, and the diversity of experiences and backgrounds, which has had a positive impact in terms of quality and outputs of the dialogue. The other advantage is that this meeting has taken national consultations a step forward, which in turn were rich and varied, thus enabling the participating youth to further an broaden the scope of the debates and to refine alternatives and proposals.

Through continuous group discussions in the framework of public meetings and through more focused debates in small working groups, young participants were able to develop definitions of security, peace, violence and conflict that were strongly expressive and significant in terms of youth vision of these concepts in relation to the current conditions in the region and in terms of the divergences that reflect the diversity of environments and characteristics of the region. Youth moved to a diagnosis of the factors that contribute and impeded, respectively, their participation, including participation in peace processes, the dissemination of a culture of dialogue and non-violence, the finalization and prioritization of alternatives so that they can be translated into proposals for priority and implementable projects.

In this context, and in view of the importance of the youth proposals, most of which have been mentioned in the report, highlighting some of the projects that youngsters consider to be a priority for young people, and in response to requests by young participants, the organizers would like to call on all national, regional and international institutions to support young leaders and organizations so that they can implement their projects, both those which were formulated during this consultation or any other youth initiatives aimed at promoting peace and security and giving effect to youth participation thereof.



Workshop Agenda

ARRIVAL DAY

- Welcome, ice breaking, Youth Ted talk
- Session rules (during dinner)

DAY ONE

09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:30	Opening Statement of the Minister of Youth and Sports- Tunisia Statement of the UNFPA Resident Representative Statement of the UNFPA Regional Director Statement of the UNESCO
10:30-11:00	coffee break
11:00-12:30	what is peace ? Security ? Conflict and violence ? A youth pespective on peace and security issues
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	Presentation and discussion on the relationship between UN Resolution 2250 and youth activities in their communities
15:00-16:30	Youth activities and initiatives in North African countries to build peace and prevent violence and extremism
16:30-17:00	coffee break
17:00-17:45	Evaluation of day 1 and getting ready for day 2

DAY TWO

09:00-10:45	Presentation and discussion of the results and recommendations of national consultations
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	Youth recommendations for the YPS Agenda : Recommendations to support youth work in the areas of peace and security and addressing the risks and challenges faced by the youth.
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Ways to enhance youth participation in peace and security and in economic and social integration
15:30-16:30	Using innovative material and tools to support the work of youth in the fields of peace and security
16:30-17:00	Coffee break
17 :00-17 :45	Evaluation of day 2 and getting ready for day 3

DAY THREE

09:00-10:30	A plenary session to discuss youth recommendations with a view to supporting their work and enhancing their participation (presenting and discussing days 1 and 2 working groups' recommendations)
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	Youth recommendations to develop the application of the regional strategy on youth, peace and security in the Arab countries
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:45	Evaluation of the consultation
14:45-15:15	Closing session

Report on the proceedings of the first working group

Key challenges :

- Lack of security and the danger nature of civilian action in certain areas
- The problem of security authorizations to carry out activities and restrictions on freedoms, especially freedom of expression
- Ignorance, marginalization and lack of justice.
- The law regulating the activities of civil society and associations
- Central bureaucracy
- The rise of fanaticism and extremism in all aspects of life: religious, racial, ethnic, regionalism, tribal, sectarian, sports, racism against minorities.
- Normalization with violence in the family, school, or media
- Difficulty in obtaining funding and sustainability following the end of projects.
- The typical pattern of awareness programs led to the opposite effect, namely rejection.
- The economic situation, namely high prices, unemployment, nepotism, lack of liquidity (Libya), high dollar price, housing problems, difficulty of mobility
- Underestimating the value of young people and the pejorative perceptions of officials, despite their use of the slogans of youth participation in addition to harassment and the society's pejorative perception of women

Key recommendations :

- Development of entrepreneurship in North African countries, especially social entrepreneurship, providing legal facilities and follow-up to ensure the success of projects
- Fostering e-economy
- Intensification of life skills and craft development programs to improve employability
- Ensure the match between the school curricula on the one hand and the needs of the labor market on the other hand and reforming teaching methods to develop critical thinking and economic entrepreneurship
- Focusing on the importance of building state institutions and youth representation therein
- Access to information legislation
- Supporting decentralization
- Valuing the successes of young people and creating mechanisms to motivate them to continue along similar lines
- Legislation on alternative penalties (community service ...) in juvenile delinquency
- Improving the relationship between security forces and the youth
- Educating young people about rights and duties
- Supporting the political participation of young people through a one third quota in the parliament and local councils
- Promoting a culture of peace in sports venues
- Respecting the different dialects and languages
- Sensitizing the media on how to deal with the phenomenon of violence and refraining from promoting it
- Creating internal control mechanisms or laws to curb uncontrolled media behavior
- Innovating in methods of preaching - religious discourse
- Adressing the conceptual confusion between extremism and religiosity
- Reforming the legislations that allow for the physical integrity to be violated (for example, law n° 230 in Tunisia)

Report on the proceedings of the second working group

Challenges :

- The security situation.
- Prior coordination.
- Difficulty for some societies to accept some of the topics because of their complexity.
- Material difficulties.
- Culture of Change.
- Interference of political parties.
- The lack of interaction on the part of the political system and the local authorities that put obstacles.
- The lack of seriousness on the part of target group.
- Lack of a culture of volunteerism and lack of trust among youth and youth institutions.
- Bureaucracy.
- Lack of support.
- Exposure to constraints and threats.
- Different cultures and conditions to mainstream any initiative involving North African countries.
- Different countries' visa policies.
- Lack of stability in terms of security in some countries in the region.
- Absence of a legal framework for partnership.
- Administrative complexities.
- Lack of will to encourage youth initiatives.

Recommendations :

- Security: Inviting governments to strengthen coordination regarding the participation of youth leaders, facilitating their mobility and providing the necessary care.
- Regarding the Libyan issue: calling upon countries interested in Libyan affairs to ensure Libya's stability by providing economic support and finding urgent solutions to solve the problem of financial liquidity and limit currency inflation because the consequences of the situation will only lead to more upheavals and will lead to waves of violence and clandestine immigration.
- Involving the private sector in contributing to the spread of the culture of security.
- Financial procedures facilities, especially with respect to international financing.
- Creating a youth Maghreb network.
- Local media campaigns using video techniques and modern technology to address with the youth groups involved in a direct manner.
- Partnership with media and communication.
- A sustainable regional platform to introduce youth projects.
- Calling for the development of a special law framework to facilitate youth participation in seminars and trainings.

Unification of procedures :

- Cultural integration through cultural programs.
- Choosing one of the neighboring countries of Libya, Tunisia or Egypt, to host initiatives.
- Continuous and periodic training for young people to exchange experiences and expertise.
- Taking the recommendations into account and making them binding.
- The establishment of a regional youth expert body concerned with the exchange of experiences and with overseeing trainings and the integration of associations in the regional network.
- Creating a regional resource center to prepare studies, research and training for youth, and youth organizations and leaders.

Recommendations of the second group on how to promote youth participation:

- Provide for a representative youth quota in decision-making positions and at the political level and give effect to this measure through legislation
- Set up youth bodies to follow up on ministerial decisions and ensure their implementation
- Create youth groups that simulate the work of ministries.
- Train the leaders of sports fan groups in order to spread the culture of peace, security and sportsmanship
- Integrating the teaching of peace and security in educational curricula
- Integrate the teaching of political education in the curricula.
- Provide aterial support for youth cultural and artistic activities by the State and institutions concerned with the dissemination of the values of peace and security.
- An academic study to integrate the concept of security.
- Government support for micro projects both financially and at the level of preparation (project budget preparation, coaching).
- Streamlining government agencies' procedures for youth initiatives.
- The cultural passport initiative
- Organizing more dialogue forums and artistic and cultural events
- Highlighting North Africa's cultural diversity and recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples.

Methods of non-traditional participation:

A telephone application called « Opportunities » with a direct agenda of the activities related to peace and security at national and regional levels.



Report on the proceedings of the third working group

Challenges :

Legal challenges :

- Laws that impede foreign funding for projects in some countries
- The complexity of procedures and regulations in some current political regimes in North Africa
- The complexity of laws on civil society in some countries

Security challenges :

- Security risks in countries witnessing conflicts, including in moving around neigborhoods and cities
- Arbitrary interference in the work of civil society in certain regions and States

Social and economic challenges :

- Impact of the tribal authoritarian system on youth initiatives
- The negative impact of some customs and traditions on some youth initiatives
- Lack of economic integration opportunities for the youth
- Lack of the entrepreneurship culture in youth
- Unequal opportunities between rural and urban youth
- Lack of national youth data, including statistics
- Inadequate capacity building, including in security, peace, rejection of violence and extremism
- Inadequate networking and coordination between peace and security stakeholders

The financial challenge :

- Limited and difficult access to public funding and to « official » international development aid
- The complexity of the administrative procedures needed to have access to the financial support allocated to youth initiatives in some countries
- The beauraucratic nature of some international and regional organizations

The media challenge :

- Youth initiatives are not adequately valued by the official media
- No culture of media marketing of youth initiatives
- The media adds fuel to conflicts

Recommendations :

- Strengthen the roles of institutions and enhancing the culture of citizenship
- Raising awareness among families in North Africa
- Strengthen and enhance youth capacities to access decent work opportunities.
- Integrate action plans to ensure equal opportunities for young people from villages and cities in local and national public strategies and policies
- Enhance coordination and networking among the various actors in the field of peace and security
- Facilitate actions to support youth initiatives so that they benefit from the various funding options available.
- Developing laws facilitating the work of civil society
- Take all measures to improve the security environment and facilitate the work of civil society
- Increase the budget allocated to financing and supporting youth initiatives.
- Providing information related to access to funding (right to information)
- Strengthen the capacities of youth actors, especially in project formulation and budgeting.
- The need for international partner programs to meet the development priorities of partner countries
- Urge official and private media to highlight and value youth initiatives
- Strengthen the capacities of youth actors, especially on the level of the media.
- Urge the media to promote the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence with a view to promoting security and stability

To promote the participation of youth in security and peace and in the process of economic, social and political integration

On the economic level

- Engage youth in finding solutions related to economic integration
- Material support to young people to create more opportunities for investment.
- Facilitate legal and administrative procedures for the establishment of enterprises.
- Rehabilitate and coach the youth in establishing and managing their projects.
- Create an electronic platform to collect entrepreneurship data, information, and successful practices and experiences
- Promote the participation of young people in the development of legislation, policies and regulations on youth empowerment and economic integration.

On the social level :

- Give effect to mechanisms to ensure the participation of young people in the preparation, implementation, evaluation and follow-up of policies and social initiatives locally, nationally and regionally
- Social programs in the media for and by the youth
- An applied course in school curricula to promote youth civic participation and social action

On the political level :

- Youth participation in developing draft laws to enhance their poitical participation
- Establish youth councils at the local, national and regional levels
- A quota system in elected councils to ensure that youth are represented in a manner that is proportionate to their number in society

