Meeting Report:

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

Bangkok, 16-19 May 2017



Acknowledgements

Author: Ali Altiok, Secretariat for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security

Contributors:
Cécile Mazzacurati, Secretariat for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security
Erika Isabel Yague, UNFPA
Jane Lawson, UNV
Josephine Sauvarin, UNFPA

Facilitators:
Adam Sharpe
Dana Choi
Erika Isabel Yague
Jessica Freund
Meghann Aurea Villareal Villanueva

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Introduction

In December of 2015, the Security Council adopted ground-breaking Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) – dedicating, for the first time, a full resolution to the positive role young people can and do play in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the prevention of violent extremism.

United Nations Security Council Resolution (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 will provide evidence of young people's contribution to sustaining peace, through a participatory research process. An independent Lead Author, as well as an Advisory Group of 21 experts, were appointed by the Secretary-General to undertake the Study. Consultations with young people and youth-led civil society organisations offer an essential contribution to the Study, in order to gather the views, aspirations and demands from young people for peace and security issues. For more information about the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security (hereafter: the Study YPS), please click here.

The Asia Pacific Consultation, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 16-17 May 2017, was the second of a series of regional consultations for the Progress Study. It was organized by UNFPA, UNV, UNDP, the Peacebuilding Support Office, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNODC, UN ESCAP, UN HABITAT, ILO AND IOM. For the concept note of the event, please click here. 40 young participants (15 to 30 years of age) from the region were selected out of a targeted open call and nominations for applications. Participants came from 21 different countries: Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Pacific Islands, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam[1] (see Annex A). Participants were selected through a selection process emphasizing innovation and creativity, as each applicant was asked to submit creative content on youth, peace and security to be a part of this event. Their creative submissions were evaluated by a selection committee including youth specialists from UN Country Offices and Regional Office, with support from some members from the Advisory Group of Experts for the Progress Study. Applications were evaluated on the basis of participants' active engagement in peace and security issues, their involvement with youth-led or youth-focused peacebuilding organizations, or affiliation with peacebuilding networks and non-violence movements, ensuring gender and age balance.

[1] Two participants from Afghanistan were also selected but could not obtain their visa in time to attend the meeting

The meeting was organized in three parts: the first two days were dedicated to the actual youth consultation for the Study YPS, following the methodology developed for all regional consultations. These two days were facilitated by two lead facilitators, with the support of four additional table facilitators through a series of parallel, interactive break-out discussions. The third day was a "partnership" day, to foster opportunities to build partnerships between the youth participants, peacebuilding NGOs, UN entities, peace research institutes and Member States representatives. The list of organizations that attended day 3 is included in annex B. The fourth day was dedicated to a training on Insider Mediation, generously conducted by The Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael.



"Diversity is our pride. We are one world."
Photo and quote by consultation participant (Mongolia, Female)

This report provides an analytical summary of the consultation segment of the event, i.e. the first two days of the event. The discussions in the first two days were held under Chatham House rules, and hence no comments or views expressed during the meeting are attributed in the report. Organizers, facilitators and note-takers spent extra efforts to create a safe environment for participants to share their opinions, views, feelings and emotions without hesitation. Having this safe space allowed participants to share how their personal lives are impacted by violent conflicts during the consultation. It is important to note that these personal experience sharing moments created an observable emotional bond between participants. The report is limited to give an overview of the main issues discussed by the young women and men who attended the meeting, as well as their recommendations for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. In order to ensure objectivity and accuracy in the reflection of participants' views, draft version of the report was shared with participants then presented to them through a webinar. After the webinar two weeks were given to participants to share their inputs and comments on the document before it was finalized.

1. What does Peace and Security mean for young people in the Asia-Pacific region?

Peace and Security Start at an Individual Level

Recognizing role of feelings and emotions on peace and security issues is a necessary condition to understand what peace and security as a policy field means, according to young people from Asia-Pacific Regional consultation. Throughout the consultations participants strongly emphasized that youth, peace and security discussions should not be merely about violent armed conflicts. Personal feelings and happiness are undeniable part of young people's endeavour to achieve peace and security. "If you want peace, make yourself live in peace first – then you can convince others to work for peace" (Timor-Leste, male), and security is achieved when people do not have "mental tension and are not preoccupied with worries" (Iran, female).

> *"If you don't have peace in your heart, where do you get it from?" (Timor-Leste, male)*

Holistic view on Peace and Security

For participants, the concept of security is interconnected to their understanding of concept of peace. Discussions on the relationship between peace and security indicated that these two concepts vary depending on societal dynamics and the domestic political landscape. For example in Korea, intergenerational dynamics are important to consider in the context of youth, peace and security field, because "*the older generation feels more secure with more arms, the younger generation feels less secure with arms*" (South Korea, female). On the other hand, in smaller countries like Bhutan, security is not discussed in terms of war and ammunition, because *"security is a concept that can only be derived from the concept of peace"* (Bhutan, male). Alternatively, for participants from India, every concept including 'security' can carry both positive and negative meaning in local contexts. General agreement among participants was that peace and security discussions in relation to young men and women should not overlook the importance of economic and environmental security, gender equality and basic human needs. For these reasons, participants suggested that looking at peace and security issues through a holistic sense is the best way to address concerns and priorities of young people in this field.

> *"Social and economic empowerment and gender equity, both need to go hand in hand – it is important to change mindsets of people in addition to creating opportunities for livelihoods." (India, female)*

A Process, not a Goal

It was agreed by all participants that peace and security should not be defined as an end goal which can be achieved in the short term: peace and security should rather be presented as a long term process. By emphasizing this, participants reiterated, in their own words, the common notion "peace is not absence of war", and to a great extent peace is about achieving social justice and working for perpetual human development goals. Participants stressed when they talk about peace and security, they mean: eradicating social and economic inequalities, providing public services for all social groups, maintaining national social and health security systems, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women.

> *"Peace to me is a state where my affirmative actions are able to contribute to self and society's development, to peacefully subvert negative opposing force. A state which allows me the freedom to express freely without hurting the conscience of others. A state where critics are affirmatively listened to allow dissent, if needed and succumbed accordingly. A state where diversity proliferates not division, but unity." (India, male)*

About Personal Freedoms

Participants recognized their freedom of expression as an element of peace and security. They felt when they are not allowed to raise their voice or when they are being told what to wear in public (especially young women), they think their peace and security is threatened. Peace and security was in a way described as having the opportunity and capability to exercise individual freedoms. Participants from multiple countries emphasized young people's endeavours to promote and protect human rights is a form of peace and security work which must be integrated into the understanding of youth, peace and security.

> *"Express your feelings and trust easily - that's peace". (Fiji, male)*

Harmony through Diversity

Participants defined peace and security as a form of social harmony, which enables people from different cultures, religious, ethnic and other backgrounds and genders to live together peacefully. In this regard, recognizing, respecting and protecting ethnic and religious differences and ensuring gender equity are necessary conditions to build peace and security in the region as stated by participants. In a world, where ethnic

> *"Living together in harmony regardless of religion and ethnicity is my definition of peace". (Vietnam, female)*

and religious differences are mostly mentioned as the root causes of violent conflict, participants emphasized identity-related differences need to be framed as an opportunity to build peace, because peace is about "*about being able to speak about identity, religion, and ethnicity safely*." (Fiji, male)



Illustration by Swati Khurana;
Edited by Ai Van Tran (UN Online Volunteer)

2. Challenges and Opportunities to Youth, Peace and Security in Asia Pacific Region

Lack of Regional and National Policy Frameworks

One of the major concerns of participants is that UN SCR 2250 is not backed up by regional and national frameworks. Although in theory UN SCR 2250 is not far from what young people do and is also perceived as helpful advocacy tool, UN SCR 2250 as a global policy document does not directly support youth peace work on the ground, which is predominantly at local or national levels. In this regard, the lack of regional and national frameworks was a key challenge identified by participants. Looking at lessons learned from the implementation of SCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, for which it took 10 to 15 years for national governments to act on it, participants are concerned they would have aged out of the youth category by the time their governments start concretely implementing SCR 2250.

> *"We do some educational activities. SCR 2250 could help to foster the work that I already do at the local level. At the national level, a document similar to 2250 would be more useful for me." (Sri Lanka, male)*

Governments' Mistrust on Youth Peace Work

According to participants, there is a general tendency among governments to stigmatize youth's desire for positive social change. According to the experience of multiple participants, it is often the case that when young people participate in awareness raising campaigns on peacebuilding, social and/or economic development or even on environmental issues, they are accused to be anti-government agents by local security authorities. Although in many cases participants' own initiatives actually support the policies of their governments, they are perceived as people who are backed by foreign organizations and trying to threaten national peace and security or harm economic development. This creates difficulties for youth organizations to establish networks and build partnerships with governmental or non-governmental organizations. The mistrust not only creates major obstacles to enhance youth participation in peacebuilding, but also prevents governments from enhancing the effectiveness of their own local peacebuilding efforts. The

> *"My government's main concern is keeping youth as quiet as possible. Youth has power, flexibility and voice. These are the three main pillars that can change everything, but not all governments are happy that this is the case." (female)*

mistrust towards youth is revelatory to the fact that governmental bodies - including military and police - need to understand youth peacebuilding work is beneficial for governments.

Partnerships

Participants prioritized partnerships, which is also one of five the pillars of the SCR 2550, as an opportunity to enhance the impact of their peacebuilding projects. Building partnerships among the consultation participants themselves, as well as working with diverse social groups and stakeholders was presented as a key to implement UN SCR 2250 in the region. Building partnerships with governmental bodies, UN country teams, international organizations active in the region, educational organizations (including private schools), human rights organizations, civil society organizations, religious institutions and leaders, and social movements were mentioned as important milestones for peace and security in the region. Participants also highlighted the idea that families should be seen potential partners for peace and security agenda, since family engagement is an important aspect to build the link between youth and elders.

- *"I am planning to organize an event on SCR 2250 when I return to home. I would like to bring up the question of youth political participation. Maybe we can start coalitions on 2250 at the national level" (South Korea, female)*
- *"In Sri Lanka, we already did a national consultation on 2250 - we can be connected" (Sri Lanka, male)*

Challenges and Opportunities on Education

Discussions on the role of education in youth peacebuilding were a popular topic among participants. Two main obstacles were identified: first, that in some countries of the Asia-Pacific region, there are ethnically and religiously segregated schools. The problem with segregated school systems is they reproduce negative stereotypes, and thereby blocks youth peace work which aims to increase positive social cohesion among young people. The second obstacle participants highlighted is the shortcomings of formal school curricula. In multiple countries in the region, formal school curricula do not promote civic values and tolerance. School curricula fall short to integrate practical elements which are important to elevate youth peace work, such as sexual and reproductive rights, violence prevention methodologies, intercultural education, peace education and dealing with trauma.

"If youth are brainwashed for armed conflict, they can also be brainwashed for peacebuilding." (India, female)

Education was also seen by participants as the greatest opportunity to enhance peace and security in the region, in their countries and communities. Participants emphasized that innovative approaches need to be considered in order to use education as an effective strategy to overcome peace and security challenges, particularly through early age peace education programs. See recommendations section below to explore what participants considers opportunities related to education.

"We need to engage young people at a younger age - the curricula for children should also include peacebuilding, so they grow up with this mind-set" (Fiji, male).



"With just one pair of clean clothes,
one old tennis ball and a canine friend,
these four young men can't stop smiling regardless of their families' economic situation.
Why is there always money for gun but not for some books and toys for these kids?"
Photo and quote by participant (Cambodia, male)

3. Innovative and Creative Youth Peacebuilding work

This section provides a brief analysis of the innovative and creative peacebuilding practices and initiatives presented by the participants during the consultation.

Intermediary Role of Young People in Peacebuilding

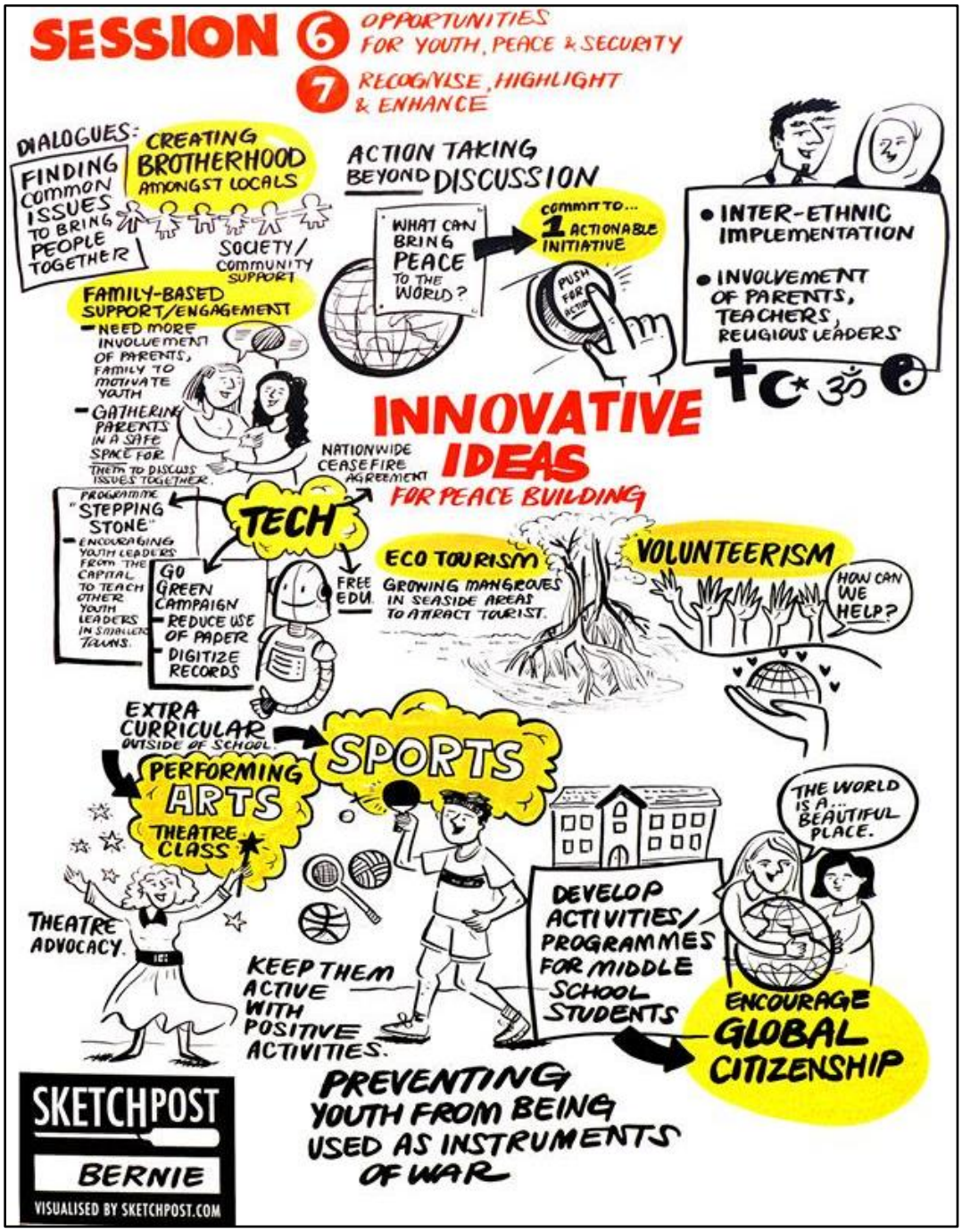
Young peacebuilders participated in consultation conduct social, cultural, development, environmental and education activities that brings young people from diverse and in some cases adverse social groups together to build peace and security. Participants in particular;

- ✓ travel to environmentally, economically and politically most vulnerable areas to conduct reintegration projects,
- ✓ organize non-competitive gender neutral football tournaments to create safe social space for LGBTI members in their community,
- ✓ use ecotourism as a tool to bring divided social groups together,
- ✓ organize forum theatres in rural areas to prevent youth violence at community level eg: Community Based Theatre,
- ✓ integrate information and communication technologies to expand the outreach of peace education programs,
- ✓ establish agricultural social cooperatives that decreases economic inequalities by investing in social services,
- ✓ include families in peacebuilding and conflict prevention programs,
- ✓ use social media and establish community radios to catalyse social change,
- ✓ support local and national governments in development of economic opportunities for young people who are economically vulnerable.
- ✓ encourage businesses to invest in peacebuilding, build partnerships between business companies and peacebuilding organizations.

Participants emphasized that the way they build relationships with diverse social and political groups reflect the innovative aspect of youth peacebuilding. For example, since young people are chronologically at closer ages to children, they are able to understand, analyze and engage with the problems faced by children. In this sense, from the perspective of participants, being in the period between childhood and adulthood allows them to conduct projects early childhood peacebuilding and

> *Who would be the one, influencing young people most is their family and society…At this moment, there is not that many organizations bring the families in peacebuilding processes (Vietnam, female)*

violence prevention projects. Participants travel to rural areas to organize trainings, art and sport activities, which allow them to listen to the problems communities living in remote rural areas. Their tight connections with vulnerable communities in rural areas make them politically accountable actors to build links between rural and capital. Through conducting art, sport, tourism or business based projects, which are not directly focused on politics; they break down ethnic, religious and gender barriers that divide communities.



Illustrated by Bernie Quah (Sketchpost)

Poems for Peace

I hope we have something to fear

I hope we have something to fear For
I fear we will run out of fears,
Run out of oxygen.
Run out of water.
Run out of neighbors we complain about.
Run out of that uncle who repeats the same joke over and over again.
Run out of a lover, run out days we wished were never the same.

When we become the monsters under our bed,
When we care not of what happens to our brothers and sisters,
When we divide each other, forget we are one.
When we become the fear we once feared,
I am afraid we will run out of fears.

(Bhutan, male)

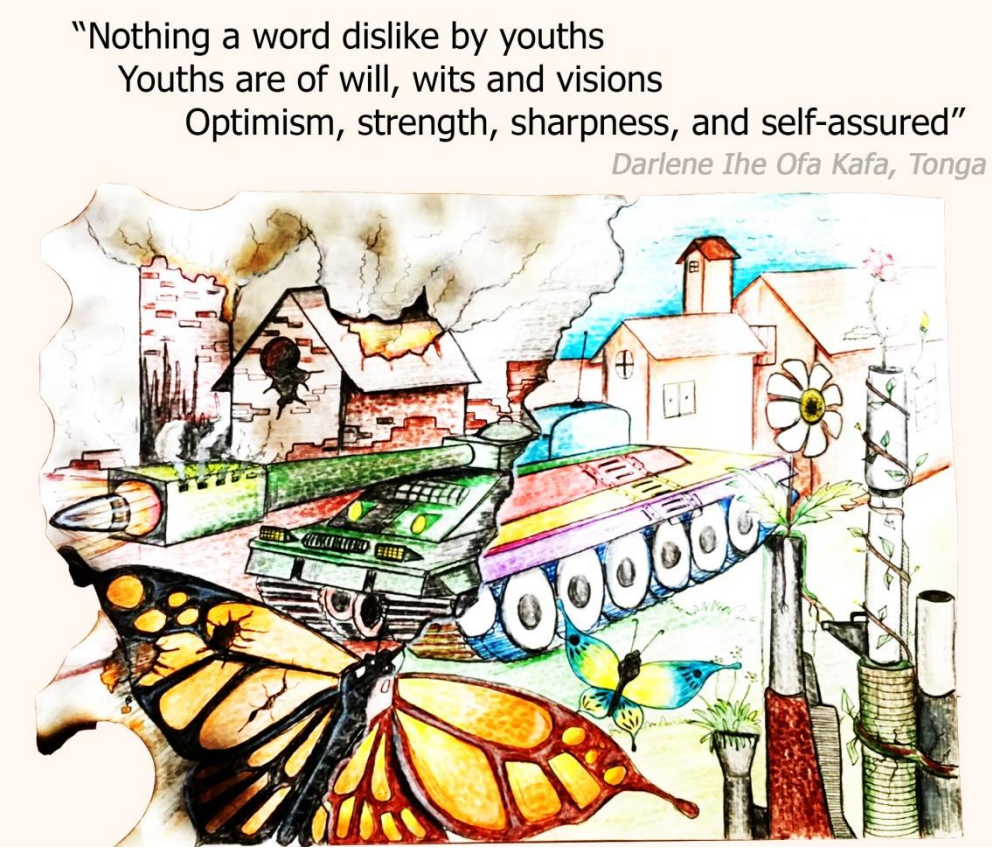


Illustration by Yohaan Sivaneshan;
Edited by Ai Van Tran (UN Online Volunteer)

Scared to ask for PEACE

I am now scared …
when one says Go girl, that's your world
enjoy and swing,
be a warrior – conquer it.
they dont know; I'm now scared
to unfurl my wings

I am scared to fly
as we are now tired …
to mourn our dead
and say goodbye

Its stupid of us now to dream;
to dream of being sustainable
to dream of being inclusive
to dream of earth being a safe place;
as we are the one killing our own human race
(symbol of peace) they've killed the dove;
and our dream of a land full of love;
where no one is superior; My Dream of equality;
every single dream
they've shattered with cruelty

I feel myself a fool of how happily i dream
when they say "you can fly"
Its stupid when i dream to cross the sky
when all you know is somewhere someday
for no reason; your going to die
I am scared now to pray for peace
when i see blood around
I am scared of seeing me falling back to ground

Its stupid to dream of a world so free
where you can't run n hide nor scream or flee
with every killing they paralyze us
making life difficult
where you can't go out
you can't have fun
you can't raise voice
(Stay indoor) don't see the sun
all they want is, us to obey them
beg to them from our core
Please leave my people n do ignore
No ! I really dont want to fly anymore

but then we think; if not us, then who
we have to tell them; We are Stronger than You
We must stand back; We must fight
Our will is great n vision bright
our future is us and we are strong
the idea of killing us; we'l prove that wrong
we will grow again, we'l defend our home
as 'tis the place where from we belong

Hope is a light to soul; no dearth
May Peace prevail on mother Earth !!
(p.s: My country, for long, has been a victim of Internal Terrorism, this week too Pakistan has experienced 9 blasts in 4 days. I do still Hope May Peace Prevail the World)

(Pakistan, female)

Peace; Yet, we may accomplish one day, despite all impossibilities

Tiny tassels blossom gently
in a wide world, so uneven
Through flip-flops they reach puberty
Passing score years to eve in

Entering an exhilarating chapter, the youth
In the span of their lives
Blessed with energy and wisdom tooth
Laddish conduct filled in their drives

Albeit, most often than not
They linger in despair
Soaked in the cyber stream, they rot
With indefinite funk, not so rare

Browsing tips to thrive with uncertainty
Submerged in piles of job-files
Breathing with frustration to the eternity
Perhaps beaten to the punch by the wiles

Dark clouds capsule the gloomy skies
Above the zones swallowed by war
Indeed, a painful sight for the eyes
And makes a person's heart sore

Cities annihilated, peoples' localities exploded
In the wink of an eye with distrust
Invaluable humanity, severely corroded
Rage flames of war, still combust

Lighting candles in the church
Chanting in Buddha's shrines
Singing hymns in content's search
People gather with offerings in lines

Praying recitations of Al-Quran
Worshiping dead and living beings
Engaged in multilingual duas
People of different colours yearn for peace

An endeavour to build peace
Among manifold breeds of communities
Not possible to reach with ease
Yet, we may accomplish one day,
despite all impossibilities

(Sri Lanka, male)

4. Recommendations

Participants decided to organize their recommendation around five main thematic areas, and separated in sub-groups to work on the details of their recommendations.

Asia-Pacific Youth, Peace & Security Recommendation Themes



Illustrated by Bernie Quah (Sketchpost)

A) *Support for Youth Organisations/Initiatives*

1. Establish a sustainable Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Fund.

- ✓ An international group of youth experts (working at the local level) should review and evaluate the applications for YPS fund. Youth experts should involve in impact assessment of the projects funded through the YPS fund. National Youth Advisory Groups (YPS) should be formed in every country and effectively utilized by giving responsibility of monitoring and evaluation of such funded projects. It can also be done through sub-regional councils: East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and North Asia.
- ✓ Information and communication technologies, such as Facebook, should be used to extend the outreach of this fund. Online platforms should also be used to train young people to apply to the YPS Fund.
- ✓ For the sustainability of the YPS Fund, an international youth ambassadors group should be established. YPS Fund Ambassadors should be responsible for the sustainability of the YPS fund. The ambassadors need to be trained and empowered to go to rural areas to explore how fund can access youth in these areas. The ambassadors should also be responsible to conduct trainings with their community partners in rural areas. Ambassador should also be responsible to create a list of all international and national funds, and approach donors with tailor-made proposals and ideas according to their interests and requirements.
- ✓ The YPS Fund should be able to allocate small grants for the youth-led peacebuilding organizations that are working at grassroots level. Most of the youth-led peace organizations are small, and therefore looking for small amount of financial support. Government and non-governmental organizations should also be encouraged to create small funding options. This is to serve one of the findings from the global survey of youth-led organizations (please click here for further info), working in peace and security, developed as a contribution to the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security and co-led by the United Nations Population Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office.
- ✓ UN country offices should be informed that the YPS Fund is specifically designed for peace and security projects undertaken by young people.
- ✓ The YPS Fund Awards Committee should be set up. The YPS Awards Committee must be made up of people who are knowledgeable and sensitive to the challenges young people who are working on peace and security issues.
- ✓ The YPS Fund should have categories or focus areas. Understanding and priorities of peace and security differs from country to country. The YPS Fund should be flexible enough to capture the different needs and challenges that young people face in different countries.
- ✓ The YPS Fund should recognize the language and technical challenges young people face in writing project proposals. Grant forms should be written in simple English language, where possible grant applications should be translated local languages. Young peacebuilders should be supported in writing project proposals in linguistic terms.
- ✓ Develop a youth-led mechanism to monitor and evaluate the YPS fund.

2. **Establish a global, regional, national, or local youth, peace and security network.**
   - ✓ A global youth peace network should be open to include all young people, who would like to be part of the network. The requirement to be part of this network will have to be assessed through understanding the realities of excluded and marginalized young people.
   - ✓ Merging already existing networks, by providing membership to this global network, should be a method to realize this recommendation. It is also necessary to explore innovative ways to develop youth peacebuilding networks, in a way that can prevent exclusion of any young people who could not be part of organized youth groups.
   - ✓ Vertical partnership should be built with UN agencies, governments, donors, private companies, universities and all other institutions working on peacebuilding to ensure the sustainability of this network. The Network should also serve as a matching tool between youth, who are working as individuals, and organizations/groups/local networks to be assessed and matched in the most suitable way.

3. **Create virtual and physical space for youth peacebuilding.**
   - ✓ Re-evaluate the virtual space that UN provides for youth peace and security (youth4peace.info), engage young people in designing this project; provide a practical toolkit for youth organizations, especially those who are working at the grassroots level and who need to train peace builders. Youth4peace.info website should act as the central point of communication and access to resources for young people in the area of YPS. A YPS membership registration system and a communication database should be established.
   - ✓ Online YPS mentor & resource people database should be established, so that young people working in the area of YPS can access resource people for advice and training guidance.
   - ✓ Provide low cost venues for youth organizations to hold peacebuilding workshops and events.

4. **Develop practical mechanisms to recognize and appreciate youth peace work.**
   - ✓ Distribute more awards, grants and honors for young activists and human rights defenders who are currently making a difference in terms of Youth Peace and Security.

B) Mechanisms for the Implementation of UN SCR 2250

5. **Develop National Action Plan (NAP) for SCR 2250.**
   - ✓ National action plans should start with a national convention or conferences on UN SCR 2250. It should be followed by building national frameworks for youth engagement in peacebuilding and violent conflict prevention, which should be adopted by each country, tailored to the reality of the situation in each country. NAPs should be linked with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aid in the implementation, monitoring and accountability Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Youth Parliaments needs to be considered as strategic partners because they

could play a key role to integrate youth, peace and security discussion in youth policies.

- ✓ Young people should be involved at all levels (international, regional, national and local) of implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of 2250. Independent working groups consist of youth and other stakeholders should be established in order conduct these processes.
- ✓ Create guidelines/ guidebook for youth organizations to engage in peacebuilding, identifying peace priorities related issues based on their specific national contexts. It can include awareness on terrorism, information of different forms of terrorism, notifications of terrorist threats in the area, safety measures people can take in the aftermath of attacks or while exposed to threat, ways to identify potential terrorist threats, ways to report potential radicalization.

6. **Translation of UN SCR 2250 into a Regional Context.**
   - ✓ The National Action Plan (NAPs) should feed into a regional framework (or it can also be other way around, where regional framework would support development of NAPs). Regional mechanisms should be developed, because these mechanisms would encourage governments who are facing similar situations on peace and security issues to take actions.
   - ✓ Monitoring of National Action Plans (NAPs) should be done by an independent committee, which allows young people from various backgrounds to participate and lead the process of implementation. At least half of the committee members should be young people in order to ensure the objectivity of implementation processes.
   - ✓ Regional networks of young activists working on peace and security should be involved in the development of regional frameworks, such as the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN) and similar networks. These youth networks should support and lead the development of regional framework by facilitating knowledge sharing and information flow between countries

7. **UN Country Teams should establish Youth Advisory Panels (YAP).**
   - ✓ The UN should provide practical models for youth participation in peace and security issues. Youth Advisory Panels (YAPs) should be standard practice for each UN country offices.

C) Political Inclusion

Following recommendations are suggested by participants in order to ensure inclusive (age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion) participation of youth in decision-making and policy-making processes.

8. **Create formal political participation mechanisms for young people to have a say in peace and security processes.**
   - ✓ Include Civil Society Organizations, youth-led organizations, and/or youth representatives as regular members of the working groups in peacebuilding

processes. Youth representatives should be allowed to join the formal talks on ceasefire, mediation and reconciliation. These types of processes should be more transparent to ensure youth participation.

9. **Collect data at the community level to develop evidence-based policies.**
   - ✓ Young people should also be part of data collection processes. Grassroots community consultations on YPS should be organized. These local level data would be brought up to the provincial and then national level policy discussions.

10. **Make data on security policies available to public.**
    - ✓ Issues on terrorist threats, youth sentiments around a country's safety and trust levels are important for young people in shaping their lives. Data collected by governments on peace and security issues should be accessible to the youth and their organizations for transparency and accountability.

11. **Close the gap between youth representation in formal politics and proportion of youth population.**
    - ✓ Temporary quotas should be used to close the gap between youth population and the representation of youth population. Using temporary quotas is a useful tool to include youth issues in peace and security discussions. Ensure that there will be a youth voice in national governments, and take active role in decision-making processes on peace and security issues.

12. **Develop protection mechanisms to ensure the participation of young in national and international level policy-making processes.**
    - ✓ Create safe spaces where they youth should be able to exercise their basic civil rights, such as the right to information, to freedom of expression, to assembly and association. The government should create safe spaces and conditions where the youth can undertake free and voluntary action in advancing the youth and peace agenda.

D) Education

13. **Reform school curricula.**
    - ✓ Integrate peace education to formal school curricula. Remove the materials that glorify wars in history books. Integrate materials on the history of peaceful activism and non-violence movements.
    - ✓ Make school curricula more practice focused. Integrate skill development programs and entrepreneurship promotion models to curricula. Offer courses youth-based violence prevention methods and how to reduce gender-based violence. Include cyber threats and crime awareness and cyber security measures in the curriculum.
    - ✓ Develop courses on gender/inter-racial/religion/ethnic topics. Hate materials should be removed and inclusive and Global Citizenship Education should be included. Incorporate peace and security to education, particularly in the long-life education for all people.

14. Transform education systems.

- ✓ Build partnerships with diverse organizations that are working at local, regional and international levels in the transformation processes of the education systems.
- ✓ Increase the budget allocated for education. More funding would mean more supplies, equipment and support for the youth to be in schools. Provide free education for all youth from primary to tertiary level.

15. Highlight that education is human right.

- ✓ Ensure that all refugees and asylum seekers have access to education from primary schools to universities.

16. Support researchers and academicians in the field of youth and peacebuilding to collect data at local level.

- ✓ Collect data on young people's positive impact on peace and security issues at the local levels. Work with local researchers in data collection in order access young people who are conducting grassroots peacebuilding projects.

17. Establish more UN Peace Universities.

- ✓ Currently UN Peace Universities are only in few places (University of Peace in Costa Rica and Institute for Sustainability and Peace under UN University Tokyo). Existing Peace Universities should be more accessible for young people who are economically in disadvantaged situation.

18. Build organizations that work with UN entities on integrating peace education in school curriculums.

- ✓ This specialized entity should be able to access hard-to-reach areas. This entity should support grassroots communities to develop their own organizations and to bring in peace education in their local schools.

19. Provide support for training of trainers (ToT) projects on youth & peacebuilding.

- ✓ ToTs are critical enhance capacity of trainers and young peacebuilders to work in schools, college and communities.

20. Provide more bachelor degrees in Peace Studies in universities.

- ✓ Ensure that bachelor degrees in Peace Studies exist in all countries. Encourage state universities to offer bachelor degrees in Peace Studies.

21. Encourage schools and UN country offices to work together

- ✓ Consider approaching schools/institutes to involve them in peacebuilding activities. Encourage education institutions to provide free workshops on youth and peacebuilding.

E) Social Media

22. Conduct a baseline research cybersecurity and cyber safety

- ✓ This research should collect data on what type of education practices could be developed to protect young people in online platforms and provide strategies to create safe space for young people in virtual spaces. As result of this research, interactive social media toolkits and infographics should be produced.
- ✓ Experts from various backgrounds (communication, counter-terrorism and young peacebuilders) should conduct this research in collaboration. Data collection processes should start at the national level in order to contextualize the situation and social media presence in the different countries.

23. Develop a special campaign for peer-to-peer approach in peacebuilding across the region by linking peacebuilding networks across the Asia-Pacific region.

- ✓ This can be led by existing peacebuilding networks, UN agencies, and other key players in youth peace and security.

24. Engage local social media influencers to raise their voice to amplify the issues of peace and security in the national context up to the regional and international level.

- ✓ This can be partnered with telecommunications companies, talent agencies, and ministries of the culture and arts.

Annex A:
Participants Profile

Country Profile

Country of Origin	Number of participants
Bhutan	2
Cambodia	2
China	2
India	3
Indonesia	2
Iran	2
Japan	1
Malaysia	1
Maldives	1
Mongolia	2
Myanmar	2
Nepal	2
Pakistan	2
Philippines	3
Pacific Islands	2
Sri Lanka	2
South Korea	2
Thailand	2
Timor-Leste	1
Vietnam	2

Age Profile

Age	Number of participants
15	1
16	1
19	1
21	3
22	3
23	3
24	6
25	3
26	3
27	2
28	6
29	3
30	1
34	1
NA	2

Sex

Sex	Number of participants
Female	20
Male	19

Annex B:
List of Organisations

	List of Organizations
1	USAID
2	Global Peace Foundation
3	RC Office
4	Department of Political Affairs
5	Institute of Human Rights & Peace, Mahidol University
6	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
7	AFPPD
8	Amnesty International
9	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
10	ARROW
11	Asia Foundation
12	Search for Common Ground
13	Embassy of Canada
14	The Peace Support Fund
15	University for Peace
16	Clingendale
17	Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation
18	Asia Pacific Youth Exchange
19	UNFPA
20	UNV
21	PBSO
22	UNDP
23	UNWOMEN
24	UNICEF EAPRO
25	UNICEF ROSA
26	UN ESCAP
27	UN Habitat
28	UNESCO
29	ILO
30	IOM
31	UNODC