

# 2025 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

## A Decade of Youth, Peace and Security: Fostering Intergenerational Action on Climate, Peace and Security



### Overview

At the 2025 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF) convened young leaders and decision-makers in an intergenerational dialogue on climate, peace, and security (CPS). The session built upon findings from [Beyond Vulnerability: A Guidance Note on Youth, Climate, Peace, and Security](#), published by FBA, SIPRI, and UNDP, and on KAF and SIPRI's youth-led research, [Resilience Rising: Youth Research Informing Global Climate and Conflict Responses](#). Young experts from diverse contexts shared their experiences, challenges, and successes in addressing CPS issues on the ground, including Sylvain Obedi (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Jayaa Jaggi (Pakistan), Kafia Abdifitah Ajab (Somalia), Nisreen Elsaïm (Sudan), Fatou Jeng (The Gambia) and Aaliyah Nabanga (Uganda). The session fostered meaningful collaboration across generations, allowing participants to engage directly with young experts and explore how youth-led CPS initiatives can be strengthened and scaled. The discussion was guided by the following key questions:

### Key Questions

“What concrete actions can governments, international organizations, or donors take to better support and scale youth-led initiatives working at the intersection of climate, peace, and security?”

“What action are you taking in your current role, and how can it be amplified?”



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# Outcome

From the discussions, participants identified the following recommendations for stakeholders at the intersection of youth- and climate-based issues:

## 1. Recognition and support towards the Youth, Climate, Peace and Security Agenda

- **Promote youth-led, locally-based and community-driven strategies to tackle shared climate, peace and security challenges:** Programs aimed at supporting the youth, climate, peace and security nexus should center partnerships with local youth networks and organizations while drawing upon local voices as a source of technical expertise. Governments and international organizations should ensure that both information and funding reach the local level, and that programming is shaped by local needs. Communities must work, with the support of local and national governments, to establish local youth bodies and networks, such as councils and advisory bodies, as a platform for amplifying youth perspectives and coordinating grassroots efforts.
- **Formally recognize Youth, Peace and Security as a national priority:** National governments should ensure young people’s meaningful participation in decision-making processes at all levels – as highlighted in the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda and the Pact for the Future. This also includes developing and adopting National Action Plans (NAPs) on Youth, Peace and Security to create space for youth leadership within official structures.
- **Institutionalize meaningful opportunities for intergenerational dialogue and co-creation:** Legislators and elected leaders should update existing legal and institutional frameworks to foster conditions for youth to meaningfully participate in peace and climate action and policy-making, including through bottom-up, government-supported platforms that promote intergenerational dialogue and youth inclusion at all levels of climate governance and peace and security decision-making. Representatives must similarly make space in existing governance structures for meaningful participation from young experts. Legislators must seek out youth expertise on climate policy while increasing government spending towards youth-led, community-based climate, peace, and security initiatives.
- Ultimately, policymakers should move beyond tokenism and merely consulting youth; instead, they should prioritize working hand-in-hand with young people to co-create solutions and shape outcomes together. More systematic support is needed for informal youth groups and spaces and start-ups to help ensure that the drive and expertise of youth actors is transformed into action.
- **Integrate youth leadership and CPS expertise into governance structures:** Climate, Peace and Security should be mainstreamed in current and future governance structures, while CPS mechanisms should be integrated in mediation and diplomacy and city-level violence prevention. Governments should also acknowledge, include, and consult with non-governmental youth and climate entities. When possible, governments should simplify bureaucratic processes to better facilitate engagement with informal youth organizations.
- **Include young people in international decision-making processes:** Youth representation must be prioritized by stakeholders at multilateral convenings on climate, peace, and security and related issues. This includes systematically including young people, promoting intergenerational dialogue, and raising youth priorities in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and other high-level international fora.



## 2. Ensure safe and inclusive representation by bridging the gap between local realities and global policy:

- **Ensure inclusive participation for young people in all their diversity:** Youth is not a homogenous group, so the inclusion of diverse youth groups through an intersectional lens is paramount to tackling YPS and CPS challenges. Many young people are working to address climate change out of necessity, rather than choice: the conditions of poverty and conflict are especially exacerbated by climate change, emphasizing the need to address the YPS and CPS agendas via intersectional channels. Thus, stakeholders should foster dialogue with young people in all their diversity to shape inclusive policies that reflect how different young people experience and respond to the intersecting risks of climate and insecurity.
- **Uplift and amplify the climate leadership of young women through expanded WPS, YPS and CPS synergies.** Young women face unique and intersectional risks and barriers to recognition and inclusion; thus, programmes should actively work to ensure expanded WPS, YPS and CPS synergies and prioritize gender-sensitive support. The leadership of young women is critical to advance these agendas.
- **Protect youth in civic and political spaces:** Programs should ensure safe, discreet, dedicated, and principled support for youth partners. Programs should implement strong protection mechanisms for young people in the CPS space. Moreover, there is a need to support organizations at different levels, especially community-based organizations.
- **Ensure safe, accessible spaces for youth dialogue:** Stakeholders should facilitate discussion across topics, identities, and geographies while taking into consideration local needs and sensitivities. It is crucial that stakeholders ensure steadfast support to youth engagement through safe and discreet mechanisms in politically constrained environments. Programs should address barriers confronting marginalized youth, especially young women, and seek structural change to remove these.
- **Uphold high standards of transparency and accountability for supporting youth leadership in CPS:** Organizations should map and share data on their youth initiatives. Organizations should also track the distribution and impact of their grants across allocations and projects.



### 3. Increase investments and resources for youth leadership:

- **Commitment to flexible, accessible funding for youth programmes on CPS:** Funding mechanisms for youth programming must go beyond rigid project formats and offer flexible, accessible support that enables organic growth and long-term engagement for youth-led grassroots organizations. This includes offering un-earmarked, long-term, and accessible grants for youth-led organizations working at the intersections of climate, peace, and security. Local and national organizations should promote budgeting that prioritizes youth recommendations. Youth-specific grants and sub-grants for youth initiatives, particularly to non-traditional, informal, and early-stage groups, should be prioritized, along with mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities. International donors and funds should also mobilize local resources, both through government and private sector partnerships, while supporting local fundraising and resource mobilization efforts. Innovative approaches should be considered, such as video applications.
- **Investment in youth-led CPS research:** Donors should fund youth-led, youth-for-youth and youth principal-led participatory research on climate, peace and security. Researchers should also strive to understand how integrating CPS mechanisms in mediation and diplomacy improves overall development and peace outcomes.
- **Improve CPS literacy and educational access:** Legislators must ensure that themes of peace, climate, and civic engagement—shaped by input and recommendations gathered through consultations with local communities—are integrated into national education curricula. They should also promote both formal and informal education rooted in human rights, sustainable climate stewardship, and inclusivity. Educational actors should provide instruction, visuals, and key words to improve accessibility. Further, it is crucial to leverage local media (e.g. community radios) and ensure access to information and translation of materials in local languages.



### 4. Expand cross-sectoral support for youth and dismantle institutional silos:

- **Support youth leadership in humanitarian action:** While at the frontlines of humanitarian action and the YPS agenda, young people are still largely excluded from humanitarian decision-making and response structures. Youth-led action should be integrated into humanitarian responses at the intersection of the YPS and CPS agendas. Better targeting and end-to-end support is needed of marginalized groups, including youth climate refugees.
- **Break down silos and enhance youth, climate, peace and security integration:** Programs should work to break institutional silos between youth, climate, and peace and security agendas.
- **Support beyond capacity-building:** Support to youth on climate, peace and security should not focus solely on training and capacity-building and knowledge sharing, but move to shared decision-making power.
- **Create channels for intergenerational exchange:** Programmes should work to encourage knowledge exchange, mutual learning, and collaboration between different generations.
- **Embrace power-sharing with young leaders:** To foster an environment in which youth leadership can flourish, communities and partners must share decision-making power across generations and create space for meaningful impact.