



Security Council Background Guide 2023

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2023 National Model United Nations Germany Conference (NMUN • Germany)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Security Council. Eileen Austin is the Director and Johanna Kaufhold is the Assistant Director. Eileen is a Senior Free Cash Flow Analyst for Danone North America and is based in Connecticut in the United States. Johanna is completing her bachelor's degree in International Relations and Economic Sciences at the University of Erfurt.

The topics under discussion for the Security Council are:

1. The Role of Youth in Peace and Security
2. Strengthening Women's Resilience and Leadership as a Path to Peace in Regions Plagued by Armed Groups

The Security Council is the United Nations organ that is dedicated to maintaining international peace and security. The Council is unique in that it can adopt both binding and non-binding resolutions, in addition to releasing press statements, presidential statements, and reports by the Secretary-General, while also authorizing peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. The Council's legal authority and broad reach makes it the leader of the international community's efforts to maintain international peace and security.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 November 2023 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the [NMUN • Germany Position Papers](#) page.

Two resources, available to download from the [NMUN website](#), serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions:

1. [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#) - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact Estefani Morales Zanoletti at dsg.germany@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Sincerely,

Eileen Austin, Director
Johanna Kaufhold, Assistant Director

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Committee Overview

Introduction

The Security Council is one of the main bodies of the United Nations (UN) ensuring international peace and security, and overseeing the admission of new members to the UN General Assembly and changes to the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).¹ As the Council is the only UN body that can create legally binding decisions that all Member States are required to comply under Chapter VII of the Charter, it has a unique and impactful mandate to set norms and govern state actions.² Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions, as well as the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises.³ With the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council has begun to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability, peace, and security.⁴

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House in London.⁵ After its first meeting, the Council relocated to its permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City.⁶ At that time, five permanent members and six non-permanent members were part of the Council.⁷ In 1965, the number of non-permanent members was increased to 10.⁸ However, as the body's structure has remained largely unchanged, debates over the Security Council's efficacy and authority as a mediator on issues of international security continue.⁹

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The mandate of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security and to take action whenever peace and security are threatened.¹⁰ The Council's authority is particularly relevant with respect to the UN's four primary purposes, as specified in the Charter: maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating in solving international problems; and promoting respect for human rights.¹¹ The capabilities of the Security Council are highlighted in Chapters V–VIII.¹² Chapter V establishes the structure, membership, functions, and powers of the Security Council.¹³ Chapters VI and VII specifically concern the range of actions that the Security Council can take when settling disputes.¹⁴ Chapter VI by itself aims to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation and judicial settlement.¹⁵ Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken regarding threats to peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression.¹⁶ This chapter also authorizes the Security Council to implement provisional measures aimed at de-escalating conflict situations.¹⁷ Chapter

¹ United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.

² *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. ch. VII.

³ Council on Foreign Relations. *The UN Security Council*. 2021.; Encyclopedia Britannica. *United Nations Security Council*. 2022.

⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.

⁶ United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.

⁷ United Nations, Security Council. *Voting System*. n.d.

⁸ Global Policy Forum. *Background on Security Council Reform*. 2021.

⁹ Council on Foreign Relations. *The UN Security Council*. 2021.

¹⁰ United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.

¹¹ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 1.

¹² *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. ch. V-VIII.

¹³ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. ch. V.

¹⁴ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. ch. VI-VII.

¹⁵ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. ch. VI.

¹⁶ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. ch. VII.

¹⁷ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. ch. VII.

VIII allows the Security Council to call upon other regional agencies or arrangements to enforce appropriate operations and intervene if necessary.¹⁸

Whilst the following list is not exhaustive, the mandate of the Security Council can be summarized as:

- The Security Council **will generally**: call on members to apply economic sanctions and measures not involving the use of force; call for arms embargos, enforce disarmament, and call upon international criminal mechanisms to become active; use diplomatic tools to investigate situations that might lead to aggression (between states, non-state groups, and within state territories); and take military action against states or entities threatening international peace and security.¹⁹
- The Security Council **will not generally**: intervene in situations and enact enforcement measures unless it is determined that there has been a threat to international peace and security.²⁰ Furthermore, the Council will not encourage the use of force unless it considers that non-military measures, which have already been taken, are proven to be inadequate.²¹

Governance, Structure, and Membership

The Security Council is the only UN body that has the power to adopt legally binding resolutions, which place an obligation on Member States to accept and carry out the Council's decisions under Article 25 of the Charter.²² The Security Council also has a variety of other tools to address issues on its agenda.²³ For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the Council's position.²⁴ Although not legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to ongoing conflicts.²⁵

The five permanent members of the Security Council are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, often colloquially referred to as the "P5."²⁶ Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.²⁷ Member States elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests of their region, and they usually have influence at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest to their foreign policy.²⁸

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote.²⁹ Votes on all matters require a supermajority of nine Member States.³⁰ However, if one of the five permanent members of the Security Council votes

¹⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. ch. VIII.

¹⁹ United Nations, Security Council. *Functions and Powers*. n.d.

²⁰ United Nations, Security Council. *Actions with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*. n.d.

²¹ United Nations, Security Council. *Actions with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*. n.d.

²² *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. Art. 25; United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.

²³ Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure*. 2019. pp. 36-38.

²⁴ Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure*. 2019. pp. 36-38.

²⁵ Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure*. 2019. pp. 36-38.

²⁶ United Nations, Security Council. *Current Members*. n.d.

²⁷ *Ibid.* 2022.

²⁸ Global Policy Forum. *Background on Security Council Reform*. 2021.

²⁹ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 27.

³⁰ United Nations, Security Council. *Voting System*. n.d.

“no” on a matter of substance, such as a draft resolution, it does not pass.³¹ This is known as “veto power.”³² In the 1950s, Security Council Member States made frequent use of their veto power, but its usage declined in the 1960s, rising again in the 1970s and 1980s.³³ In the last decades, the use of the veto power has been comparatively rare.³⁴ In recent years, the Council has adopted many resolutions by consensus and has only been divided in a very limited number of issues.³⁵

Annotated Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. 1945. Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>

The Charter of the United Nations provides a thorough explanation of the powers, and functions authorized to the Security Council. For instance, the Charter outlines where the use of force is acceptable and how the council is structured to combat threats to international peace and security. As the fundamental principles of the Security Council are written down in the Charter, this document should be the first resource for delegates to consider to fully understand the mandate of the committee. Articles 27-32 outline the voting procedures of the committee and the structure of how the committee conducts its business. Article 23, which sets the membership structure, and Articles 23–26, which discuss basic functions and powers, are important to understand both the structure and functioning of the Security Council. The Charter can also be particularly helpful for delegates in understanding the powers and limitations of the body. Delegates will find Chapters VI and VII particularly helpful when researching the mandate of the Security Council and proposing actions and solutions.

Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure*. 2019. Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/the-un-word-security-council-handbook-by-scr-1.pdf>

This source outlines the key aspects of the UN Charter and how it is applied to the work of the Security Council. It describes the rules that are specific to the Security Council, how the Council votes, how the Council functions, and how the Council works with other bodies within the UN system. This source aims to be a handbook for members of the Security Council and for anyone that is trying to learn how it functions internally. Delegates will find this source useful while they are writing their Position Papers and are in committee since it is a detailed guide for how the Council functions and how to apply the rules to the topics being discussed.

United Nations, Security Council. *Functions and Powers*. 2022 Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/functions-and-powers>

This resource provides delegates with a comprehensive overview of the mandate and functions of the Security Council. Created by the Security Council itself, it provides official guidance on the powers of the Security Council and actions that can be taken through resolutions and statements. Delegates will find this resource useful when determining options available to respond to international issues or crises at hand.

Bibliography

³¹ United Nations, Security Council. *Voting System*. n.d.

³² United Nations, Security Council. *Voting System*. n.d.

³³ Security Council Report. *In Hindsight: The Veto*. 2013.; Security Council Report. *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*. 2013.

³⁴ Security Council Report. *In Hindsight: The Veto*. 2013.; Security Council Report. *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*. 2013.

³⁵ Security Council Report. *In Hindsight: The Veto*. 2013.; Security Council Report. *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*. 2013.

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1. The Role of Youth in Peace and Security

*“A holistic approach to preventing conflicts and peacebuilding is needed — one that integrates peace and security with issues such as gender, climate and human rights. Young people are already making these interlinkages and leading by example. From monitoring ceasefires to defending democracy to taking climate action, young people have been innovating to mobilize broader constituencies and to create solutions.” – António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations*³⁶

Introduction

Young people are often the catalysts for change and improvements in discussions about peacebuilding and sustaining peace.³⁷ It is estimated that there are 1.3 billion youths in the world, and about one billion of that group live in developing countries that are prone to conflict or have been subject to conflict in the past.³⁸ This makes the youth population uniquely able to provide knowledge and insight into conversations about peacebuilding.³⁹ Youths are often eager to bring rapid change, are willing to take on more responsibilities, and are more socially mobile than their older counterparts.⁴⁰ As such, the UN is increasing their support to young people and ensuring their role in peacebuilding efforts.⁴¹

The United Nations (UN) defines youth as 15-24 years old, but recognizes that different Member States define youth differently.⁴² Additionally, the Security Council defines youth as anyone ages 18-29 years, while also acknowledging that there are different definitions depending on the group that is defining it.⁴³ The Security Council and other UN organizations operate under the youth, peace, and security (YPS) agenda, the agenda aims to ensure that young people are globally active in initiatives to prevent violence and build lasting peace.⁴⁴ The youth population are key actors in peacebuilding.⁴⁵ Peacebuilding encompasses any initiative that works to strengthen national capacities, and incorporates conflict management towards a non-violent outcome.⁴⁶

The Security Council has reiterated the importance of the YPS agenda, highlighting the role that economic opportunities provide to youth post conflict, advocating for their participation in peace processes.⁴⁷ The positive impact that youth peacebuilders can have on conflicted-affected areas is exponential, if they are provided the proper training and if they are given the space to meaningfully participate.⁴⁸ Therefore the social, economic, and political barriers need to be lifted to allow for youth to truly do their part in creating lasting peace.⁴⁹

³⁶ United Nations Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. *World leaders renew commitment to “Youth, Peace and Security” agenda*. 2022.

³⁷ Ozerdem. *The Role of Youth in Peacebuilding: Challenges and Opportunities*. 2016

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ United Nations, Department of Global Communication. *Security Council Underlines Vital Role of Youth in Building Peace, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2535 (2020) (SC/14251)*. 2020.

⁴² United Nations and Folke Bernadotte Academy. *Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook*. 2021.

⁴³ United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2419(2018))*. 2018.

⁴⁴ Altiock, et. al. *We are here: An integrated approach to youth-inclusive peace processes*. 2019.

⁴⁵ United Nations and Folke Bernadotte Academy. *Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook*. 2021.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ozerdem. *The Role of Youth in Peacebuilding: Challenges and Opportunities*. 2016

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

International and Regional Framework

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which the General Assembly adopted in 1948, sets the foundation for the fundamental rights for all humans, including for the youth population.⁵⁰ These founding principles include the right to be recognized as a person under the law, the right to take part in government, the right to work, and the right to education.⁵¹ Then, in 1965 the General Assembly adopted the *Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding Between Peoples*.⁵² This declaration asserts that young people are important to the peace process and urges including them in all aspects of discussions surrounding peace and security ensures that all human rights are being upheld.⁵³ The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* was adopted in 2015 and is the main framework for peace and development.⁵⁴ The agenda is comprised of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all of which focus on a different aspect of achieving global sustainable development.⁵⁵ Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) aims to achieve sustainable development through providing peaceful societies, and admits that protecting and including youth voices in those discussions is a key point to hopeful success.⁵⁶

The *World Programme of Action for Youth* (WPAY) was developed in 1995 and works to address challenges that youth face, including matters of peace and security.⁵⁷ This framework explains that young people are often the most affected populations during armed conflict, due to physical harm, loss of family, loss of their home, inability to receive a proper education, and emotional scars.⁵⁸ For these reasons, this framework advocates for youth participation in matters related to peace and security.⁵⁹ Youth participation in the peace and security agenda was directly addressed by the youth population through the *Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security* (2015).⁶⁰ Through this declaration, the youth population calls for an established global policy framework that directly addresses the needs of youth both during and after conflict, as well institutionalizing the role of youth in future policy discussions.⁶¹ In 2016 the General Assembly adopted its resolution 70/262, on “Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture,” and the Security Council adopted its resolution 2282, on “Post-conflict peacebuilding.”⁶² These resolutions are known as the “twin resolutions for sustaining peace,” and focus on preventing conflict and sustaining peace at all stages.⁶³ These resolutions acknowledge the important role that youth populations play in conflict prevention and call for Member States to allow these youth populations to meaningfully participate in peacebuilding efforts.⁶⁴ The *United Nations Youth Strategy* (Youth 2030) was published in 2018 and functions as a follow up to the SDGs.⁶⁵ The purpose of Youth 2030 is to advance the rights of youth populations and increase their participation in discussions about topics that directly

⁵⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948.

⁵¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948

⁵² United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding Between Peoples (A/RES/2037(XX))*. 1965.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *The 17 Goals*. n.d.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

⁵⁷ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Programme of Action for Youth*. 1995.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security. *Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security*. 2015.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ponzio. *The UN’s new “Sustaining Peace” Agenda: A Policy Breakthrough in the Making*. 2018.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262)*. 2016.

⁶⁵ United Nations Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. *Youth 2030: Working with and for young people*. 2018.

affect them.⁶⁶ This strategy hopes to understand their needs, empower young people to take ownership of their futures, and provide them with opportunities to lead global efforts.⁶⁷ These frameworks act as a guide for the committees and civil society organizations that work within the UN system to advance the YPS agenda.

Role of the International System

In 2015 the Security Council adopted resolution 2250, on “Maintenance of international peace and security.”⁶⁸ This resolution outlines five pillars for action on the topic of YPS, which includes participation, protection, prevention, partnership, and disengagement and reintegration.⁶⁹ These pillars aim to ensure that the youth population participates in decision-making, protect the youth population from crimes committed against them, prevent violence against youths, partner with youths on initiatives, and invest in their futures.⁷⁰ This resolution created a tool for protection of youth populations that are actively working to sustain peace.⁷¹ Furthermore, the Security Council continued its support of the YPS agenda in 2018 through its resolution 2419, on “Maintenance of international peace and security.”⁷² In this resolution the Security Council reaffirmed the need to promote and protect the human rights of the youth population while also recommending that the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) include the YPS agenda in its discussions on how to build and sustain peace.⁷³ In 2020, in resolution 2535, on “Maintenance of international peace and security,” the Security Council calls upon civil society organizations (CSOs) to report to the Security Council on topics that are country-specific that will affect the YPS agenda.⁷⁴

The Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth is Jayathma Wickramanayake, and she serves as an advocate for addressing the needs and rights of young people within the UN system.⁷⁵ The Envoy has worked with her office to include youth participation in the Transforming Education Summit, and incorporated a Children and Youth Pavilion at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27).⁷⁶ Her workplan focuses on three main pillars within the YPS agenda.⁷⁷ These pillars are: ensuring youth participation with the UN system, within intergovernmental organizations, and engaging young people in the YPS agenda.⁷⁸ They have been implemented through the lens of achieving sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian actions.⁷⁹ The Youth Envoy utilizes these pillars to maintain the involvement of young people while also acknowledging how integral their participation is in peace processes.⁸⁰

Within the UN, PBC also advocates for engaging youth in peacebuilding measures, as evidenced by *The Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding*, which the Commission adopted in 2021.⁸¹ The purpose of the Strategic Action Plan is to guide and monitor the participation of youth populations in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, through the work of the twin resolutions on the UN peacebuilding

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2250(2015))*. 2015.

⁶⁹ United Nations and Folke Bernadotte Academy. *Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook*. 2021.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Berents, et al. *More than a milestone: The road to UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security*. 2020.

⁷² United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2419(2018))*. 2018.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2535(2020))*. 2020.

⁷⁵ United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. *Envoy’s Workplan*. n.d.

⁷⁶ United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. *Year in Review (2022)*. 2022.

⁷⁷ United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. *Envoy’s Workplan*. n.d.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission. *The Peacebuilding Commission’s Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding*. 2021.

architecture.⁸² There are other UN organizations that are working to advance the YPS agenda, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which has outlined four recommendations for advancing the YPS agenda.⁸³ These recommendations include, acquiring more data so that the lived experiences of the youth populations can be better understood, to protect youth activists from harassment and retaliation, finding ways for young people to meaningfully participate, and accelerating the implementation of the YPS agenda.⁸⁴ UNFPA reiterates these pillars through promoting the importance of Security Council resolution 2250, and also the Secretary-General's second report of youth, peace and security (S/2022/220).⁸⁵

The UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) is the UN's inter-agency mechanism for all matters related to youth, which works with the UN and its committees and other agencies to promote youth participation in all topics, including peace and security.⁸⁶ IANYD acknowledges that youth participation is an important piece of the peacebuilding process, both during and after conflict, through hosting forums as a way to exchange information, participates in joint-advocacy, and facilitates youth involvement in these discussions.⁸⁷ In addition, the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security was started by IANYD and is co-chaired by the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the United Network of Youth Peacebuilders (UNOY), and Search for Common Ground (SFCG).⁸⁸ The Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security actively works to forward the YPS agenda, while also advising UN organizations and CSOs how to accurately interpret Security Council resolution 2250, "Maintenance of international peace and security."⁸⁹ Through the work of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security and IANYD the *Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding* was adopted.⁹⁰ This framework outlined nine principles that aim to ensure the meaningful involvement of young people in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.⁹¹

Economic Inclusion and Decent Jobs for Young People

Disengagement and reintegration are a pillar of Security Council resolution 2250.⁹² A key component to ensuring that young people can participate in peacebuilding efforts is to provide decent work and economic growth opportunities through these stages.⁹³ Economic opportunities are thought to be key elements in preventing youth from engaging in conflict, which can in turn, create the correct formula for lasting peace processes.⁹⁴ It is also imperative that young people are provided opportunities to contribute to each step of the peace process, including in disengagement and reintegration processes, to gain critical knowledge from their experiences.⁹⁵ This way, youth can remain engaged and committed in the

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ United Nations, *Population Fund. Remarks by UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem at the Arria Formula Meeting of the Security Council on the Implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda*. 2022.

⁸⁴ United Nations, *Population Fund. Remarks by UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem at the Arria Formula Meeting of the Security Council on the Implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda*. 2022.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth and Development*. n.d.

⁸⁷ United Nations, Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. *Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*. 2016.

⁸⁸ Youth4Peace. *Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security*. n.d.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2250(2015))*. 2015.

⁹³ United Nations, Security Council. *Youth and peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/220)*. 2022.

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⁹⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *Youth and peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/220)*. 2022.

efforts to creating lasting peace.⁹⁶ However, economic opportunities alone do not mean that they are automatically included in peace processes.⁹⁷ There are still many barriers to entry and participation, including cultural elements, that may prevent elder populations from seeing the benefit of including youths in discussions.⁹⁸

There continues to be a struggle to disengage young people from violent situations or conflict areas.⁹⁹ It is also difficult to reintegrate youth affected by conflict back into society post-conflict in a way that will set them up to be successful.¹⁰⁰ Often, when they are reintroduced into their communities post conflict, it is important to address the economic, social, and political factors that led to the conflict in the first place.¹⁰¹ Evidence based and gender sensitive youth employment opportunities, the creation of inclusive labor policies, and opportunities for youth to build valuable skills should all be considered as part of creating lasting peace, especially post conflict.¹⁰² In particular, investments in building young peoples' capabilities and skills to meet labor demands can prove effective in keeping young people disengaged from conflict.¹⁰³ One way of doing this is in implementing national youth employment plans that provide job opportunities in peacekeeping.¹⁰⁴ The the Republic of the Congo sought to implement these principles when it utilized the World Bank-financed Skills Development for Employability Project (PDCE) in 2020.¹⁰⁵ This project allowed for youth to learn skills that will help them advance in the labor market.¹⁰⁶ With this mechanism, the Republic of the Congo was able to establish a Competitive Fund, which provides funding for trainee programs.¹⁰⁷ This program has seen the participation of 10,000 youths, and is aiming to continue the work that they are doing.¹⁰⁸

Additionally, young people have proven to be integral to furthering peace efforts through engaging with and actively reaching out to their peers, while also working within their communities.¹⁰⁹ The Security Council recognizes and emphasizes the need for youth skilling, which includes helping train and provide the youth population with the skills that they need to thrive in the workforce.¹¹⁰ This can lead to youth empowerment by spurring entrepreneurship opportunities that will help lead to economic growth, which can be critical to post conflict affected regions.¹¹¹ Through its resolutions 2250, 2419, and 2535 the Security Council furthers the YPS agenda by reinforcing the idea that young people are influential peacebuilders and can be agents for positive change.¹¹² However, providing "skills only" training will not lead to success unless there are also opportunities for youths to apply the skills that they learned.¹¹³ Once

⁹⁶ United Nations, Security Council. *Youth and peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/220)*. 2022.

⁹⁷ Altiok, et. al. *The USIP Learning Agenda: An Evidence Review: Fostering Meaningful Youth Participation in International Peacebuilding*. 2023.

⁹⁸ Altiok, et. al. *The USIP Learning Agenda: An Evidence Review: Fostering Meaningful Youth Participation in International Peacebuilding*. 2023.

⁹⁹ United Nations, Security Council. *Youth and peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/220)*. 2022.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2250(2015))*. 2015.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ The World Bank. *Enhancing Youth Skills Development and Employment Opportunities in the Republic of Congo*. 2022.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ North Atlantic Treaty Organization. *Youth, peace and security: What is it and why should we care?*. 2022.

¹¹⁰ United Nations, Development Programme. *Why does the youth, peace, and security agenda matter to young people of South Sudan?*. 2023.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ World Bank Group Jobs. *Supporting Jobs in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) Situations*. 2020.

youths have learned the skills needed to succeed, it is important that labor markets have the demand to provide these jobs.¹¹⁴ This is why partnerships are critical to building lasting peace processes.¹¹⁵

The International Labour Organization (ILO) developed the *Global Jobs Pact* in 2009, which outlined the financial and economic burdens that the populations are facing, including youth populations.¹¹⁶ This serves as a guide to encourage the adoption of national and international policies to stimulate economic activity.¹¹⁷ The *Global Jobs Pact* aims to maintain the fundamental right to work, which increases social protections while also strengthening voices and social dialogue, which is critical development in the field of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.¹¹⁸ These increased opportunities can lead to social protections and integration for young people, which encourages personal development and freedom to organize and share concerns.¹¹⁹

Youth Participation in Peace Processes

Although it has been stated that youth participation in peace processes is an important aspect of the maintenance of international peace and security, there are still challenges to allowing the youth population to meaningfully participate.¹²⁰ The forms in which young people can participate varies, from political participation to civic participation.¹²¹ Young people have been excluded from participating in decision making that will directly impact their lives and well-being.¹²² Youth can also lack trust in the institutions and leadership that they navigate, and at times, institutions and leadership also do not trust youths in return.¹²³

This mistrust in institutions contributes to the youth disengagement in political processes.¹²⁴ Youth exhibit low voter turnout globally for a multitude of reasons, with trust being just one factor.¹²⁵ This is a growing example of young people's mistrust of the systems of which they are a part, and highlights their overall dissatisfaction with the way in which their societies are run.¹²⁶ It rare that young people work for or volunteer within their home countries' governmental systems, or working for a public administration or any decision-making body.¹²⁷

In recent years, there has been a minute increase in youth participation in governments, however the increase is very minimal.¹²⁸ Age restrictions also play a barrier to youth participation in political processes.¹²⁹ Many countries impose a minimum age for a person to stand for an election, or even cast a vote.¹³⁰ This age varies throughout the world, and is often too high to allow young people to engage in the

¹¹⁴ World Bank Group Jobs. *Supporting Jobs in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) Situations*. 2020.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ International Labour Organization. *The Global Jobs Pact: Promoting Jobs, Protecting People*. 2009.

¹¹⁷ Global Policy Forum. *ILO Adopts 'Global Job Pact' Aimed at Creating Jobs, Protecting Workers and Stimulating Economic Recovery*. 2009.

¹¹⁸ International Labour Organization. *The Global Jobs Pact: Promoting Jobs, Protecting People*. 2009.

¹¹⁹ United Nations, Security Council. *Youth and peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/220)*. 2022.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Youth and peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General (S/2020/167)*. 2020.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ United Nations, Security Council. *Youth and peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/220)*. 2022.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

broader political process earlier, when they can develop a practice early on to be civically engaged.¹³¹ This limits a young person’s ability to meaningfully participate in their government which in turn limits the representation of young people as a whole.¹³²

Young people are increasingly concerned about the effects of global climate change.¹³³ Climate change is a known threat multiplier that can worsen the root causes of conflict.¹³⁴ Due to this intersectionality, there is a large overlap between the work being done by youth peacebuilders and young climate activists.¹³⁵ These groups understand that the growing issues with the climate and the continued issues of conflict around the world are usually mutually exclusive, but the inability to participate in peacebuilding conversations, or participate within civic society through voting or as members of their respective governments, young people can feel limited in their ability to share their knowledge and ideas on how to improve both issues.¹³⁶

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the root causes of conflict by magnifying the pre-existing socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities that were happening globally.¹³⁷ Young people were at the forefront of the COVID-19 response, through mitigating the spread of misinformation and supporting their communities, especially marginalized groups.¹³⁸ Young people were innovators when it came to maintaining connections and rebuilding communities virtually during the pandemic.¹³⁹ Peacebuilding efforts were maintained throughout this time through digital workshops and hybrid meetings, and young people were key facilitators in that process.¹⁴⁰ The number of young peacebuilders grew during this period, with the growth of the internet and digital footprints there are more opportunities than ever for young people to get involved peace processes.¹⁴¹ Young people have greater access to express their opinions and participate in conversations than they have had in the past.¹⁴² However, there are still challenges that are not being addressed to ensure that young people remain included in this work, including ensuring access to the internet, improving digital literacy, making sure services are affordable, protection during online use, and gender-based protection while online.¹⁴³ Specifically, the Security Council has been involved in investing in the YPS agenda, specifically by utilizing young people to implement technological advancements that combat hate speech and the spread of disinformation.¹⁴⁴ However, there are limited financial resources funneled toward youth initiatives, as well as a weak infrastructure to allow for meaningful youth participation.¹⁴⁵

Conclusion

Young people are often overlooked as important participants in peacebuilding efforts.¹⁴⁶ There are 1.3 billion youths in the world, and the potential that this population has to enact real societal political and

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ United Nations, Security Council. *Youth and peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/220)*. 2022.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ United Nations, Department of Global Communication. *Human Rights Compliance ‘Best Antidote to Inequalities’, High Commissioner Tells Security Council Debate on Future-proofing Trust to Sustain Peace (SC/15273)*. 2023.

¹⁴⁶ Ozerdem. *The Role of Youth in Peacebuilding: Challenges and Opportunities*. 2016.

economic change when it comes to peacebuilding is still being discovered.¹⁴⁷ Youths are uniquely able to provide knowledge and insight into conversations about peacebuilding and sustaining peace, since they can both be the victims of violence and conflict, while also being the courageous catalysts that are eager to bring rapid change.¹⁴⁸

Further Research

What more can be done to ensure that young people further meaningfully participate in peace processes? What economic and social factors can be addressed that will improve young people's involvement in peace processes? What can be done to improve young people's civic engagement? How are young people already involved in peacebuilding conversations? What is the Security Council's role in furthering the YPS agenda? How can the Security Council further advance the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda and ensure the meaningful participation of youth in conflict and post-conflict situations, including in UN peacekeeping transitions?

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https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/yps_programming_handbook.pdf

This handbook was published through a partnership with the United Nations and civil society organizations. It provides documentation and research that can be used by these organizations to further the youth, peace and security agenda. This source is important because it provides clear action items on how to further the agenda, as well as the exact viewpoints of civil society as to why the topic is important and what can be done to maintain and grow the initiatives. Delegates will find this source useful because it provides the opinions and ideas of civil society, and it will help provide them with ideas that can be brought before the committee.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Programme of Action for Youth*. 1995. Retrieved 2 May 2023 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay2010.pdf>

This source is the World Programme of Action for Youth that was developed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This outlines the challenges that the world's youth populations face and what actions need to be taken in order to address these challenges. This source is important because it provides the framework that feeds into the youth, peace and security agenda. Delegates will find this source useful because it will help them understand all of the background info that led to the development of the youth, peace and security agenda over the years.

United Nations, Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. *Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*. 2016. Retrieved 14 May 2023 from:

<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/50155%20-%2002%20-%20Guiding%20Principles%20on%20Young%20Peoples%20Participation%20in%20Peacebuilding%20-%20web.pdf>

This source is the guiding principles for peacebuilding within the youth, peace and security agenda. It describes where the role of youth currently stands and what are the approaches that can be taken in order to make achievements in this regard. This source is important because it very clearly states what the necessary changes are that need to be made and how young people can be incorporated into those changes. Delegates will find this source useful because it will provide the basis for what other UN organizations

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

are prioritizing within the youth, peace and security agenda, and it will allow them to build off this when they are doing their research.

United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. *Youth 2030: Working with and for young people*. 2018. Retrieved 2 May 2023 from: https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf

This strategy was developed in 2018 as a response to all the work that was done within the youth, peace and security agenda in the past. It outlines not only what the next steps need to be in order to achieve success in this field, but it also describes what all the obstacles are. This source is important because it is one of the most recent frameworks that has been adopted within the youth, peace and security agenda. Delegates will find this useful because it has the most relevant information on the topic. It also clearly connects the Sustainable Development Goals to the youth, peace and security agenda.

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This resolution is the one of the most recent resolutions that the Security Council has adopted on the youth, peace and security agenda. It is a landmark resolution that shows what the stance of the Security Council is on the topic. This resolution is important because it is one of the first resolutions that is youth-driven but adult-supported in its ideals. Incorporating the youth voice into the language reiterates how important youth involvement is in the peace and security agenda. Delegates will find this source useful because it provides the basis of what they can accomplish as a committee.

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2. Strengthening Women’s Resilience and Leadership as a Path to Peace in Regions Plagued by Armed Groups

Introduction

Armed groups, as defined by the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, are not affiliated with States and have the means to fulfil their intentions by armed force.¹⁴⁹ As they “are not under the control of the State(s) in which they operate,” holding them accountable for their actions and effectively combating them proves difficult.¹⁵⁰ There is a rising trend in non-state violence, reaching a total of 83 non-state conflicts in 2022.¹⁵¹ Pluralistic perspectives on conflict resolution are vital, and women’s participation in peace processes results in more sustainable peace.¹⁵² Peace agreements are 35% more likely to last at least 15 years if women are involved.¹⁵³ Women also often advocate more urgently for ceasefires, peace agreements, and gender-sensitive reforms.¹⁵⁴

However, women are often excluded from leadership or face barriers to political participation because of their gender.¹⁵⁵ Gender parity, the proportionally “equal contribution of women and men to every dimension of life,” is still not achieved in many governments.¹⁵⁶ This means that there remains a lot of unused potential.¹⁵⁷ Women’s movements hold great mobilizing power within UN peace mission contexts.¹⁵⁸ Their resilience to and perseverance through crises can be an anchor for communal stability and societal cohesion.¹⁵⁹ Resilience, according to the UN Sustainable Development Group, is the ability to respond efficiently to risks and recover quickly from negative effects without compromising long-term well-being.¹⁶⁰

As the UN was founded on the principle of maintaining peace, it is a core tenant of the system to work towards an end to all kinds of armed conflict and the ways in which conflict inhibits people’s welfare.¹⁶¹ Addressing women’s positionality in conflicts and their role in peacebuilding processes has received attention within the UN system for decades.¹⁶² Efforts have included the development of landmark documents like the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1996), and establishing the UN system-

¹⁴⁹ Mc Hugh et.al. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Humanitarian Negotiations with Armed Groups: A Manual for Practitioners*. 2006. p.6.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

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¹⁶⁰ United Nations, Sustainable Development Group. *United Nations Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies*. 2020. p. 11.

¹⁶¹ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. Preamble.

¹⁶² United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Women, peace and security in the work of the UN Security Council*. 2023.

wide Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, initiated by the Security Council in 2000.¹⁶³ To further promote women’s resilience and leadership in regions plagued by armed groups, strong networks and consistent inclusion of women at all decision-making levels is necessary.¹⁶⁴ Challenges persist in achieving this, including the provision of sufficient funding for women’s proper engagement, strengthening women’s political power, and incorporating women’s perspectives in Security Council workings.¹⁶⁵

International and Regional Framework

Peace lies at the very core of the UN, with the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) stating the maintenance of peace and security as its first purpose in Art. 1.¹⁶⁶ Similarly, equal rights and freedoms without distinction are stipulated in Arts. 1 and 55, emphasizing their importance for international stability and friendly inter-state relations.¹⁶⁷ This is underscored by art. 2 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), which was adopted in 1948 and declares the entitlement of everyone, regardless of their sex, to all human rights.¹⁶⁸ The UDHR formulates these fundamental rights to advance worldwide peace and well-being of all people.¹⁶⁹

In 1978, the General Assembly adopted the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, which reiterates the importance of including women in all aspects of life for the welfare of all, and defines provisions for ensuring equal rights in education, political participation, and economic development.¹⁷⁰ Building on this, the 1996 *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BPfA) formulates 12 areas of concern and distinctive strategic objectives to tackle inequalities and improve women’s livelihoods.¹⁷¹ Regarding the effects of armed conflicts, the BPfA seeks to increase women’s participation in non-violent resolutions.¹⁷² Additionally, it aims to increase women’s leadership capacity and opportunities at all decision-making levels.¹⁷³

Since 2000, the Security Council has been especially concerned with the interlinkage between women, peace, and security when it adopted resolution 1325 (2000) on “Women and Peace and Security”.¹⁷⁴ The resolution underscores the importance of women’s participation in decision-making and the incorporation of a gender perspective into negotiation and peacekeeping processes.¹⁷⁵ Resolution 1325 ignited the WPS agenda, which has since grown into a thematic pillar of the Security Council’s work and arrived in

¹⁶³ United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1). 1996; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Peace and security*. 2023; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security* (S/RES/1325(2000)). 2000.

¹⁶⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General* (S/2022/740). 2022. sec. III. para. 21.

¹⁶⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General* (S/2022/740). 2022. p. 30; Krook et. al. American Political Science Association. *The Cost of Doing Politics? Analyzing Violence and Harassment against Female Politicians*. 2019; United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. *Policy on Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*. 2018.

¹⁶⁶ *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. Art. 1.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (A/RES/217 A (III)). 1948.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (A/RES/34/180). 1979.

¹⁷¹ United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1). 1996.

¹⁷² Ibid. pp. 58, 60.

¹⁷³ Ibid. p. 83.

¹⁷⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security* (S/RES/1325(2000)). 2000.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

the work of other UN entities.¹⁷⁶ After resolution 1325, the WPS agenda was continuously extended with four more Security Council resolutions addressing women's participation in post-conflict peacebuilding processes and further involvement of women civil society organizations (CSOs), such as PeaceWomen or the NGO Working Group for Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG).¹⁷⁷

In 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1 *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) – a comprehensive set of visions arranged into 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with sub-targets for each SDG.¹⁷⁸ The 2030 Agenda addresses gender equality with goal 5 (gender equality) and calls for women's full and effective participation in leadership (target 5.5).¹⁷⁹ To advance their empowerment, women should be granted equal economic and social resources (target 5.a) and States should adopt legislation accordingly (target 5.c).¹⁸⁰

Role of the International System

Annually, Member States, UN agencies, and CSOs examine the implementation status of resolution 1325 at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security.¹⁸¹ The most recent Open Debate discussed various approaches and real-life examples to support women in times of conflict and in their ambition to become agents of peace.¹⁸² For example, a representative of the African Union stressed the importance of predictable funding for women's organizations in Mali, Somalia, or South Sudan to support women's leadership.¹⁸³ The Executive Director of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) spoke up about the need to go beyond only preparing women's inclusion and begin to actually, consistently involve women in decisive meetings.¹⁸⁴ Several international CSOs, such as NGOWG, also partook, showcasing their continuous engagement for the advancement of the WPS agenda.¹⁸⁵

For the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325, NGOWG published the 2020 Civil Society Roadmap on Women, Peace and Security, which highlights backlog in the systematic inclusion of women in formal peace processes and reaffirms the importance of meaningful peacebuilding participation of diverse women.¹⁸⁶ Its specific recommendations to the Security Council for addressing these issues include employing inclusive language in all documents and holding UN leadership accountable for representative

¹⁷⁶ United Nations, Peacemaker. *Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security*. 2019; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Women, peace and security in the work of the UN Security Council*. 2023; United Nations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. *Women, Peace and Security*. 2023.

¹⁷⁷ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1889(2009))*. 2009; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/2122(2013))*. 2013; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/2242(2015))*. 2015; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/2493(2019))*. 2019.

¹⁷⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid. p. 18.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *In Focus: Women, Peace and Security*. 2022.

¹⁸² United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Strengthening Women's Resilience and Leadership as a Path to Peace in Regions Plagued by Armed Groups – Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security*. 2022.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

¹⁸⁴ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *'Radical change of direction' needed in women, peace and security agenda*. 2023.

¹⁸⁵ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. *Statement by Ms. Zahra Nader at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security*. 2022.

¹⁸⁶ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. *2020 Civil Society Roadmap on Women, Peace and Security*. 2020. sec. II.

staffing of peace negotiations.¹⁸⁷ Another CSO concerned with advancing women peacemakers is PeaceWomen.¹⁸⁸ Their work includes regularly-held panel discussions for women peacemakers to create knowledge sharing opportunities – like their side-event for the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2023 where they discussed interconnections between disarmament, conflict resolution, and environmental protection.¹⁸⁹

In 2016, the Security Council Informal Expert Group (IEG) on Women, Peace and Security was established, which aims to ensure adherence to the WPS agenda within country-specific Security Council deliberations.¹⁹⁰ The latest IEG meeting in February 2023 focused on peacebuilding in South Sudan.¹⁹¹ The meeting called attention to the designated quota of 35% women in the executive branch that has not been reached yet.¹⁹² Also, projects were noted that enhance women’s leadership and economic independence, including a high-level conference on women leadership and providing women with business start-up opportunities through loan associations.¹⁹³

Sufficient international funding for women’s civil society undertakings remains low.¹⁹⁴ In 2020, the Secretary-General set the goal to allocate at least 15% of UN programmatic budgets to improving gender equality in conflict-affected countries.¹⁹⁵ A 2023 issue brief by UN Women analyzes this proclamation and suggests establishing more financial benchmarks to better track the achieved progress.¹⁹⁶ To financially support local women’s civil society projects in conflict-affected areas, the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) was established.¹⁹⁷ The WPHF’s latest cause is the Sudan Emergency Funding Appeal, to which Sudanese women’s organizations can apply to finance their humanitarian work and amplify their crisis response.¹⁹⁸

¹⁸⁷ Ibid. pp. 13-14.

¹⁸⁸ PeaceWomen. *About Us*. 2023.

¹⁸⁹ PeaceWomen. *News and Events*. 2023; Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. *WILPF and Allies are Pushing for Demilitarisation to be put on the Agenda of Bonn Climate Change Conference*. 2023.

¹⁹⁰ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/2242(2015))*. 2015. p. 4; United Nations, Security Council. *Guidelines for the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security (S/2016/1106)*. 2016. p. 2.

¹⁹¹ United Nations, Security Council. *Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security of the Security Council: Summary of the meeting on the situation in South Sudan, held on 20 February 2023 (S/2023/266)*. 2023.

¹⁹² United Nations, Security Council. *Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security of the Security Council: Summary of the meeting on the situation in South Sudan, held on 20 February 2023 (S/2023/266)*. 2023. p. 3; Intergovernmental Authority on Development. *Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan*. 2018. p. 5.

¹⁹³ United Nations, Security Council. *Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security of the Security Council: Summary of the meeting on the situation in South Sudan, held on 20 February 2023 (S/2023/266)*. 2023. pp.3-4.

¹⁹⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2020/946)*. 2020. p. 37; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740)*. 2022. p. 30; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and United Nations Population Fund. *Funding for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Programming*. 2020.

¹⁹⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2020/946)*. 2020. p. 37.

¹⁹⁶ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Issue Brief: Financing for Gender Equality and the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda*. 2023. p. 14.

¹⁹⁷ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325*. 2015. p. 385; Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund. *Terms of Reference*. 2016, updated 2022. p. 3.

¹⁹⁸ Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund. *Global: UN Financing Mechanism Launches Rapid New Funding Appeal for Women’s Civil Society in Sudan*. 2023.

Preventing Violence Against Women in Politics

To strengthen women's leadership opportunities, political participation and decision-making prospects need to be free from gender discrimination.¹⁹⁹ However, women are still underrepresented in politics, with gender parity goals within governments rarely achieved.²⁰⁰ Oftentimes, women in politics face various forms of violence, infringing on their basic freedoms and human rights, and critically, hindering women's full participation in the political process.²⁰¹ For example, women politicians in Sierra Leone were being intimidated by police in advance to elections, following as yet unproven accusations of inciting protests against economic hardship.²⁰² Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, mayor of the capital Freetown, found her house surrounded by armed police and Femi Claudius Cole, founder of the Unity party, an opposition to the national government, was also detained by police and whose passport was confiscated.²⁰³

International organizations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) do crucial work to collect data on violence against women in politics (VAWP).²⁰⁴ IPU published three studies on violence that women in parliaments experience (e.g., sexual, physical, psychological), compiled from interview results.²⁰⁵ They collected data at the global, European, and African levels, and itemized the interview questions and results by the different forms of violence.²⁰⁶ The findings suggest that women parliamentarians in every country experience harassment, sexism or violent attacks because of their political activity.²⁰⁷ ACLED's Research Hub provides real-time data on VAWP by curating media coverage and official reports on political violence into a database.²⁰⁸ This freely accessible data can be disaggregated for different forms of violence, regions, and targeted groups.²⁰⁹

While the Security Council's WPS agenda addressed women's political participation as well as gender-based violence against women in several resolutions, there has not yet been a resolution adopted specifically on the protection of women in politics.²¹⁰ Generally, critics of WPS resolutions argue against vague wording and a perceived one-sided focus on sexual violence that portrays women as dependent and defenseless, rather than as capable politicians and self-sufficient agents of peace.²¹¹

¹⁹⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. pp. 18, 21, 25.

²⁰⁰ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Facts and figures: Women's leadership and political participation*. 2023.

²⁰¹ Krook et. al. American Political Science Association. *The Cost of Doing Politics? Analyzing Violence and Harassment against Female Politicians*. 2019.

²⁰² Choat. *'Suffocating intimidation' female politicians in Sierra Leone on sexism and abuse*. 2023.

²⁰³ Choat. *'Suffocating intimidation' female politicians in Sierra Leone on sexism and abuse*. 2023; CIVICUS. *Dozens of protesters arrested in women's "Black Monday" protest against high fuel prices and cost of living*. 2022.

²⁰⁴ Inter-Parliamentary Union. *Women in parliament*. 2023; Armed Conflict Location & Event Data. *About ACLED*. 2023.

²⁰⁵ Inter-Parliamentary Union. *Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians*. 2016; Inter-Parliamentary Union. *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe*. 2018; Inter-Parliamentary Union. *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa*. 2021.

²⁰⁶ Inter-Parliamentary Union. *Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians*. 2016; Inter-Parliamentary Union. *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe*. 2018; Inter-Parliamentary Union. *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa*. 2021.

²⁰⁷ Inter-Parliamentary Union. *Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians*. 2016. p. 11.

²⁰⁸ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data. *Research Hub – Political Violence Targeting Women*. 2023; Armed Conflict Location & Event Data. *FAQs: ACLED Sourcing Methodology*. 2023.

²⁰⁹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data. *Research Hub – Political Violence Targeting Women*. 2023.

²¹⁰ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Dag Hammarskjöld Library: UN Security Council Meetings & Outcomes Tables*. 2023.

²¹¹ De Vido. *Violence against women's health through the law of the UN Security Council: A critical international feminist law analysis of Resolutions 2467 (2019) and 2493 (2019) within the WPS agenda*. 2020. pp. 8-12.

Further Streamlining the Women, Peace and Security agenda into the work of the Security Council

With the 25th anniversary of resolution 1325 approaching, the Security Council is reassessing the implementation of the WPS agenda in its own work.²¹² Mentions of WPS in Security Council decisions are steadily rising and reached 69% in 2021.²¹³ Women are also increasingly briefing the Security Council.²¹⁴ More often, Security Council reports now set quotas for women and gender expertise, and detailed language on WPS matters has received more attention.²¹⁵ However, women's participation must continue to grow throughout every step of the peace process.²¹⁶

In 2021, Ireland, Kenya, and Mexico launched an initiative to use their respective Security Council presidencies to prioritize WPS and take meaningful steps towards the full inclusion of women in all peace and security matters.²¹⁷ This commitment has since been further shared by 12 additional Member States.²¹⁸ However, the percentage of women in UN-led peace processes decreased from 23% in 2020 to 19% in 2021.²¹⁹ In order to trace this regression, independent monitors of the incorporation of WPS in the Security Council's work are vital, such as NGOWG and PeaceWomen.²²⁰ In addition, the 2016 founded WPS Focal Point Network aims to assist Member States and regional organizations in the implementation of WPS resolutions on national and regional levels, during the initial instances of decision-making.²²¹ Focus areas include promoting gender-responsiveness and strengthening women's participation in all peace efforts.²²² The 2023 co-chairs United States of America and Romania pledged to promote the WPS agenda as a design frame for policy change.²²³

For further active integration of gender equality, peacekeeping operations need to be gender-responsive and promote women leadership.²²⁴ Additionally, women networks are involved in peace dialogues and advocate for peaceful solutions in regions affected by conflict.²²⁵ For example, women's networks in Mali

²¹² United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security: Towards the 25th anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000)*. 2023.

²¹³ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740)*. 2022. sec. V. para. 100.

²¹⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740)*. 2022. sec. V. para. 101-103.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

²¹⁶ ²¹⁶ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740)*. 2022. sec. III. para. 20.

²¹⁷ Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN. *Statement of Shared Commitments 2022*. 2022.

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740)*. 2022. sec. III. para. 23.

²²⁰ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. *Monitoring & Analysis*. 2020; PeaceWomen. *Women, Peace and Security at the UN Security Council*. 2023.

²²¹ United Nations, General Assembly and Security Council. *Letter dated 1 March 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of Germany, Namibia and Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network Technical Operative Guidelines (A/72/782-S/2018/178)*. 2018.

²²² United Nations, General Assembly and Security Council. *Letter dated 1 March 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of Germany, Namibia and Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network Technical Operative Guidelines (A/72/782-S/2018/178)*. 2018. p. 3.

²²³ Women, Peace and Security Focal Point Network. *The United States and Romania are 2023 Co-Chairs of the WPS Focal Points Network*. 2023.

²²⁴ United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. *Policy on Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*. 2018.

²²⁵ United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. *Practice Note – Women's leadership and meaningful participation in peacekeeping contexts*. 2021. p. 8.

produced reform proposals to influence the country's transition to peace, and in the Central African Republic women organized a Walk for Peace to demand peaceful elections.²²⁶

Conclusion

WPS has long been a thematic pillar of the Security Council's work and women are a vital piece in the puzzle to achieving peace in regions plagued by armed conflict.²²⁷ Women are consistently voicing their discontent with plainly symbolic actions and demand actual, meaningful participation in peace processes, which is what CSOs continue to advocate for.²²⁸ With military spending increasing and armed conflicts on the rise, further involving women in peace negotiations offers a chance at a lasting path to peace.²²⁹ Specific language in Security Council decisions, as well as building networks and regional initiatives, can strengthen women's roles in these processes.²³⁰

Further Research

In their further research, delegates should consider the following questions: How do women's perspectives in peacebuilding processes contribute to long-lasting solutions? What motivates reprisals against women in politics or women activists and how can that be mitigated? What actions can be taken to achieve equal representation of men and women in governments, negotiations, and expert meetings?

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This document talks about the promotion of human rights and women's meaningful participation and leadership. It also emphasizes intersectional risks that affect women and therefore the need for disaggregated data collection. By giving recommendations to the UN and the Security Council, this paper clarifies the stance of civil society and illustrates the advocacy work that influences Security Council decisions. Delegates may find this helpful to understand CSOs' criticism of WPS work by the Security Council, and where activists wish for reform.

United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. *Practice Note – Women's leadership and meaningful participation in peacekeeping contexts*. 2021. Retrieved 11 June 2023 from: https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/dpo_practice_note_womens_leadership_and_meaningful_participation_2021_final.pdf

At the occurrence of the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations assessed women's role in peacebuilding processes by means of several case studies. Due to first-hand experience by women involved in peacekeeping missions, this Practice Note provides valuable insights into how women's inclusion in peacebuilding can succeed and why it is important. Delegates should utilize this source to get an idea of specific, executable methods to strengthen women's leadership as a mechanism to achieve lasting peace.

²²⁶ United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. *Practice Note – Women's leadership and meaningful participation in peacekeeping contexts*. 2021. pp. 8-9.

²²⁷ United Nations, Peacekeeping. *20 years of Women, Peace and Security*. 2020.

²²⁸ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *'Radical change of direction' needed in women, peace and security agenda*. 2023.

²²⁹ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740)*. 2022. sec. IV., C. para. 88.

²³⁰ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740)*. 2022. sec. V. para. 103; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740)*. 2022. sec. III. para. 21.

United Nations, Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Issue Brief: Financing for Gender Equality and the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda*. 2023. Retrieved 12 May 2023, from: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Financing-for-gender-equality-and-the-implementation-of-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda-en.pdf>

This document provides an overview of financing instruments and UN funding of measures for the implementation of the WPS agenda. It assesses the UN goal of attributing 15% of budgets to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Published in 2023, this data assessment presents the most recent recommendations related to financing WPS. Delegates will find this a helpful resource to understand existing financial benchmarks and which funds can be utilized to support their ideas.

United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325(2000))*. 2000. Retrieved 10 May 2023 from: [http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1325\(2000\)](http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1325(2000))

This Security Council resolution was the first to thematically connect women, peace and security. It underscores the role of women in negotiation and peacekeeping processes and emphasizes a gender perspective in the assessment of conflict situations. It marks the beginning of the WPS agenda and is often referenced by other WPS documents. As its 25th anniversary is approaching, the Security Council's progress on the implementation of this resolution is closely assessed anew. Delegates will find this helpful for understanding the WPS thematic pillar of the Security Council's work.

United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security – Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740)*. 2022. Retrieved 11 May 2023 from: <http://undocs.org/en/S/2022/740>

Each year the Secretary-General publishes a report on Women, Peace and Security. It is produced in response to the Security Council's request for an annual report on the application of WPS decisions. This report from 2022 addresses current conflicts, dangerous regions for women activists, and emerging issues related to the WPS agenda. The six distinctive sections address matters of highest topicality and provide a comprehensive overview on the status of implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Delegates may find this helpful in their research about women human rights defenders and on streamlining a gender perspective in the work of the Security Council.

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