

## OSCE Ministerial Council 2025

Vienna, 5 December 2025

### ***Joint Statement on Youth, Peace and Security***

*I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the following 43 participating States: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, the 27 EU Member States and my own country, Norway.*

Addressing security challenges effectively in the OSCE region requires meaningful engagement with, and participation of, youth. Young people have a vital role in supporting participating States in the implementation of their commitments across the OSCE's three dimensions of security. Young people are not just future leaders — they are making a difference today. Supporting their meaningful engagement helps to strengthen trust in institutions and to build a stronger, more inclusive future. This contributes directly to societal resilience.

However, many young people face serious challenges to full participation in society. Polarization and democratic backsliding have severe consequences for youth, and the effect of ongoing conflicts on youth remains a matter of deep concern. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has severely disrupted the lives of Ukrainian youth and eroded young people's sense of security at large.

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth Peace and Security (YPS) provides a good opportunity to underline the OSCE's key role in including youth in the field of security. We recall the OSCE commitments related to youth, including the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 2014 Basel Ministerial Council Declaration on Youth, the 2015 Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration on Youth and Security and the 2018 Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on the Role of Youth in Contributing to Peace and Security Efforts.

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<sup>\*)</sup> Corr.1 due to change of distribution status, the text remains unchanged

Building on these commitments, we strongly support the continued efforts on enhancing the YPS agenda within the OSCE. We recognize youth as essential partners in sustaining peace and preventing conflict. We emphasize the importance of strengthening the existing youth related OSCE initiatives and platforms.

The OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations have successfully advanced youth inclusion through networks and activities such as the OSCE Pool of Young Experts and Model OSCE Conferences. The Youth Focal and Contact Points within the OSCE executive structures play an important role in mainstreaming the agenda. We welcome the continuation of this work.

We acknowledge the efforts of the current and previous Chairpersonships and their Special Representatives, who have played an active role in ensuring that youth perspectives are reflected throughout the work of the OSCE. We recognize also the efforts by other participating States to support this agenda. This includes the Vienna-based Group of Friends on Youth and Security, which is an important platform for the exchange of good practices of youth engagement across the OSCE area.

We recall the OSCE-wide Youth Conferences and Forums arranged by previous OSCE Chairs and participating States. These events have produced useful recommendations by youth, such as the Malaga Decalogue produced as a result of the Malaga Conference held in 2017.

Madame/Mr. Chair

We welcome the Finnish Chairpersonship's focus on YPS, culminating in the OSCE-wide YPS Roadmap which is launched at the 2025 OSCE Ministerial Council in Vienna. The Roadmap has been built upon the work previously carried out and guided by the voices of the participants of the OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum, held in Helsinki on 29-30 July 2025.

We encourage all participating States, Partners for Co-operation and OSCE executive structures to utilize the YPS Roadmap and its recommendations as a tool to further institutionalize youth participation and affirm youth agency and expertise. Equally, we highlight the importance of applying the

Roadmap's principles for meaningful youth engagement when developing and implementing policies and activities that advance the YPS agenda.

In closing, we urge all the participating States to acknowledge youth as important partners in peace and security. We encourage continued and active discussion of the YPS agenda within the OSCE.