

# OSCE-wide YPS Roadmap

Roadmap for strengthening OSCE efforts on  
**Youth, Peace and Security**





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# Foreword

Across the 57 OSCE participating States, over one third of the population is under 30. Young people bring creativity and fresh perspectives to their communities, and their active participation at the grassroots level is often both innovative and impactful. Meaningful engagement of youth also strengthens their trust in institutions, contributing directly to societal resilience.

Yet many young people face serious barriers to full participation in society – from economic insecurity and growing impacts of climate change to shrinking civic space and limited access to quality education. Young people’s underrepresentation in governance remains a concern, as do the consequences of ongoing conflicts – particularly Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, which has severely disrupted the lives of Ukrainian youth and eroded young people’s sense of security at large.



Recognising both the potential and the challenges, the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda – grounded in UN Security Council Resolution 2250 and its successors – calls for the meaningful inclusion of young people in peace and security efforts. In today’s fast-changing world, their role in shaping peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies is not only essential – it is transformative.

This is why Finland has made the YPS agenda a national and global priority, adopting the world’s first YPS National Action Plan in 2021, followed by a second in 2025. Both were developed in close collaboration with young people and other national key stakeholders, including civil society and academia. The Finnish experiences of YPS NAPs have also helped in advancing the international dialogue on YPS implementation.

As Chair of the OSCE in 2025, Finland has placed the YPS agenda at the core of its work, which culminates in this Roadmap. We launch it with the conviction that the OSCE can and should do more to promote meaningful youth inclusion. The Roadmap offers practical guidance and inspiration and owes much to the ideas and recommendations of the participants of the OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum, held in Helsinki on 29–30 July 2025. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping its direction, grounding it in real experiences, needs and ambition.

I invite all OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation and OSCE executive structures to take this Roadmap forward by reading, sharing and actively using it, while ensuring that it remains a living and evolving document.

Let us work together to ensure that young people are not only heard but also empowered to lead.

**Elina Valtonen**

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland



# Chapter 1: Rationale, aims and objectives

## 1.1 Purpose of the YPS Roadmap

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)-wide Roadmap for strengthening OSCE efforts on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) (*hereinafter YPS Roadmap*) is a product of the 2025 OSCE Chairpersonship of Finland. In the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Helsinki Final Act, and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250, Finland is launching the YPS Roadmap to highlight the positive, active and inclusive role of young people in the efforts towards sustainable peace and security in a comprehensive manner. The YPS Roadmap has been developed based on consultations conducted throughout the year, including with participants of the [Chairpersonship Youth Forum](#)<sup>1</sup> that took place in Helsinki in July 2025.

The YPS Roadmap provides the Organization's structures (within their existing mandates), participating States (pS) and Partners for Co-operation (PfC) a coherent and unified framework on how to more systematically advance the YPS agenda. The Roadmap facilitates greater cooperation between the different structures and actors of the Organization, while offering tangible options for concrete action for those who want to do more. The recommendations are meant to give practical guidance and inspiration to this end, are voluntary by nature and directed at different levels of ambition. In addition, the Roadmap provides an overview of OSCE commitments and activities on the YPS agenda, as well as guiding principles on meaningful youth engagement.

The Roadmap begins with an overview of the OSCE commitments regarding the role of youth, as well as the YPS agenda and the OSCE's role within it (Chapter 1). Second, the Roadmap explains what the OSCE is already doing in relation to the YPS agenda, including existing resources, networks and activities (Chapter 2). Third, the Roadmap identifies guiding principles for meaningful youth engagement (Chapter 3). Finally, the Roadmap sets out a range of concrete recommendations and options for future action for upcoming Chairpersonships, other pS and PfC, as well as the Organization itself (Chapter 4). These recommendations focus on areas where the OSCE can best add value, considering its existing mandates and its comparative strengths relative to other actors. In the Annexes, the Roadmap provides further examples of the OSCE's programmatic work related to YPS and offers a list of identified global good practices in implementing the YPS agenda.

The YPS Roadmap is a living document and may be updated and expanded as necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> The full recommendations given by the participants of the Chairpersonship Youth Forum can be found in Annex 3.

## With whom and for whom?

Youth should be understood as a heterogeneous group, constantly evolving and in transition from childhood to self-sustained adulthood. However, this transition does not always follow the expected path, as conflicts, crises or significant changes in a young person's life may lead to premature adulthood or hinder the achievement of autonomy.

Due consideration should therefore be given to young people of different genders, as well as those from marginalised groups or vulnerable situations, belonging to national and other minority groups, with disabilities or suffering from poverty, as well as those not in education, employment, or training.

Because people continuously age in and out of the definition of youth, youth inclusion must be a continuous and iterative process, ensuring inclusion for future generations as well as current ones. This approach helps prevent intergenerational grievances and the resurgence of conflicts.

In the absence of an OSCE-wide consensual definition of youth, the YPS Roadmap operates on the framework proposed by UNSCR 2250, which defines youth as persons between 18 and 29 years old, while acknowledging national level variations and taking into account the legal definitions applied in the host countries of OSCE field operations.

## 1.2 OSCE commitments on the role of youth

Over the years, the pS of the OSCE have adopted commitments on the role of youth, starting from the Helsinki Final Act (1975), which emphasized youth exchanges for fostering mutual understanding. More recent commitments include the Basel Ministerial Council Declaration on Youth (MC.DOC/3/14), Belgrade Declaration on Youth and Security (MC.DOC/5/15) and the Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on the Role of Youth in Contributing to Peace and Security Efforts (MC.DOC/3/18). These commitments:

- Acknowledge that youth require particular attention and that their needs, concerns and interests should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.
- Acknowledge the potential of young people to contribute to economic, political and social development.
- Stress the role young people can play to support pS in implementing OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE.
- Take note of UNSCRs 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018), on youth in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Based on the commitments built up over decades<sup>2</sup>, the OSCE continues to integrate youth perspectives into its security debates and the entire spectrum of its work.

In addition to commitments, it should be noted that some OSCE Chairpersonships and pS have organized OSCE-wide Youth Conferences, Forums or similar, producing recommendations by youth, such as the Malaga Youth Declaration (2017)<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> For a comprehensive compilation of OSCE commitments related to youth, see <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/6/6/455512.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Malaga declaration can be found in Annex 4.

## 1.3 Youth, Peace and Security agenda

The UNSCR 2250 (2015)<sup>4</sup> on YPS marked a pivotal shift in recognizing young people's positive and active role in maintaining peace and security. The origins of the resolution lie in the efforts of youth organisations and civil society organisations (CSOs) to raise awareness of the positive role young people play in promoting peace and security, and the aim to establish an international framework for this topic<sup>5</sup>. This YPS agenda was further complemented through UNSCR 2419 (2018) and UNSCR 2535 (2020), which strengthened youth political agency and youth protection in conflict zones, while also identifying practical means of engaging youth in prevention of conflicts and in peacebuilding efforts.

Since the adoption of these resolutions, an increasing number of UN Member States and regional organisations have committed to enhancing meaningful youth participation. However, challenges such as young people's distrust in governance, shrinking civic space and age-based discrimination continue to hinder meaningful youth participation in peace and security efforts.

### Key pillars of YPS agenda

The YPS agenda guides the work to promote the implementation of the UNSCR 2250. The Resolution's key pillars are:

- **Participation:** Promotes inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels for the prevention and resolution of conflict, including in peace processes, calls on taking into account the participation and views of youth, recognising that their marginalisation is detrimental to building sustainable peace in societies.
- **Protection:** Calls for all parties in armed conflicts to comply with obligations applicable to the protection of civilians, including youth, inter alia from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, reaffirming that states must respect their human rights during conflict and in post-conflict situations.
- **Prevention:** Urges facilitation of inclusive and enabling environments for youth actors, including youth from different backgrounds, to shape a culture of peace and tolerance.
- **Partnerships:** Strengthens collaboration with various stakeholders with youth as co-leaders and partners.
- **Disengagement and reintegration:** Supports meaningful pathways for youth to safely reintegrate into society as active participants.

Crosscutting themes in the Resolution are the intergenerational aspect and the prevention of intersectional discrimination and the promotion of equality.

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<sup>4</sup> The resolution can be found at [https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/2250\(2015\)](https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/2250(2015)).

<sup>5</sup> For more background on the process towards the resolution, see [The-Story-of-2250\\_FINAL-Dec-9-2020-compressed1.pdf](#).



## 1.4 The OSCE's role in the YPS agenda

As a regional organisation operating under the UN Charter, the OSCE is uniquely positioned to support and advance the YPS agenda. The OSCE's mandate spans the entire conflict cycle – early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation. This broad scope allows it to integrate youth perspectives at every stage of peace and security efforts.

Although the YPS agenda originated within the context of armed conflict, peace processes and peacebuilding, its scope has since expanded to encompass a wide range of interconnected security challenges affecting young people today. These include systemic issues such as human rights violations, discrimination and social inequality, economic insecurity, weak governance, as well as emerging threats related to climate change, cyber security, and disinformation – both as separate and increasingly interconnected phenomena. All of these are areas in which the OSCE, with its comprehensive security concept, is actively engaged and possesses significant expertise.

The OSCE's field presence in several pS offers clear added value compared to other actors. This feature enables the OSCE to maintain direct connections to local communities, engage youth in context-specific initiatives and ensure their voices are reflected in policy and practice. Simultaneously, the unique mandates of the OSCE institutions enable the Organization to offer specialised expertise that supports youth inclusion across diverse thematic areas. Furthermore, the OSCE has a longstanding tradition of working closely with civil society, including youth-led organisations and initiatives. These partnerships enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of the OSCE's YPS initiatives, while also contributing to building and strengthening trust between youth and key institutions.

The OSCE has demonstrated its commitment to youth and security through various initiatives and activities as outlined in Chapter 2. While these initiatives provide a solid foundation, a more robust framework and stronger institutional commitment are needed to ensure youth are not merely seen as beneficiaries but as essential partners and co-leaders in shaping the OSCE's peace and security agenda, in a cross-cutting manner across all three dimensions of security (politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimension). In addition, a more coordinated approach, including a clearer overview of existing projects, activities and networks (most of which are funded by extra-budgetary contributions) that the OSCE has at its disposal, is needed for the Organization to more effectively and meaningfully support pS in the implementation of the YPS agenda.

## Note on terminology

When 'OSCE' is mentioned in this document, it refers to the OSCE as a whole, including decision-making bodies and executive structures. Where specificity around a particular OSCE actor is required, this is clarified in the text. Some of the notable structures to which frequent reference is made include:

- **OSCE Chairpersonship** is held for one calendar year by the OSCE pS designated as such by a decision of the Ministerial Council. The function of the Chairperson-in-Office (CiO) is exercised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of that State. The Chairpersonship is responsible for overseeing the Organization's work, setting the agenda, and appointing Special Representatives to focus on specific issues.
- **OSCE Secretariat** assists the Chairpersonship and provides operational administrative support to the Organization. The Secretariat consists of administrative and programmatic departments and units focused on conflict prevention, economic and environmental activities, co-operation with partner countries and organisations, gender equality, anti-trafficking, as well as transnational threats, including anti-terrorism, border management and policing reform.
- **Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)** is tasked, inter alia, with assisting OSCE pS to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, providing support and expertise to pS and civil society. ODIHR observes elections, reviews legislation and advises governments on how to develop and sustain democratic institutions.
- **OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)** is a conflict prevention institution which works to identify and address causes of ethnic tensions and assists pS by providing analysis and recommendations.
- **OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)** observes media developments as part of an early warning function and assists pS to abide by their commitments on freedom of expression and free media.
- **Field Operations** assist host countries in putting their OSCE commitments into practice, fostering local capacities with concrete projects that respond to their needs. Field operations enable the OSCE to tackle crises as they arise, and in many places play a critical post-conflict role, helping to restore trust among affected communities. In this document, 'field operations' is used as a general term for all OSCE field presences, irrespective of their mandate or exact name.
- **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)** facilitates inter-parliamentary dialogue to advance the OSCE's goals of comprehensive security, providing a link between the governmental structures of the OSCE and representatives from the parliaments of the OSCE pS.





## Chapter 2: Existing resources, networks and activities

### 2.1 Diplomatic action

The **OSCE Chairpersons-in-Office have appointed Special Representatives (SR)** on Youth and Security / Youth, Peace and Security since 2015. While the SRs' exact mandates and activities are defined by and depend on the decisions of each Chairpersonship, youth-related SRs have consistently focused on advancing meaningful youth participation and mainstreaming youth perspectives within the OSCE. As OSCE Chair in 2025, Finland is the first Chairpersonship to nominate an SR whose mandate is specifically centred on the YPS agenda. The SR was selected through an open call, in a recruitment process conducted in collaboration with the Finnish National Youth Council and Youth Sector, a national service and advocacy organisation for the youth sector, with no political affiliation. The SR represents the Chair in all activities, processes and events relevant to the YPS agenda, while advocating for youth perspectives to be integrated into the OSCE's work across its three dimensions of security.

The **Group of Friends of Youth and Security (GoFYS)**, established in 2015, is an informal Vienna-based forum focused on advancing the Youth and Security agenda across the OSCE area. The group provides an informal setting for young leaders, pS, and PfC, as well as the OSCE executive structures to discuss and encourage meaningful participation of youth across the three dimensions of security. Since January 2021, the Group has been co-chaired by Spain, the United States of America and Kyrgyzstan. GoFYS meetings are held three times a year, with each meeting organised by a different co-chair. The meetings are open to all pS and PfC, as well as different OSCE structures. In 2025, the GoFYS launched a youth mentor programme to encourage senior officials from OSCE pS and executive structures to share their expertise with junior officers and help integrate youth perspectives into OSCE decision-making through actionable commitments.

The **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)** engages in YPS work through parliamentary diplomacy and structured engagement with young legislators and youth stakeholders. OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement, a position established in 2021 as part of the PA's "Call for Action – Helsinki+50 Process", is appointed by the OSCE PA President from among Assembly's members to promote the integration of youth perspectives into the Assembly's work and to support the implementation of YPS-related priorities. Also created in 2021, the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians serves as a platform for dialogue among elected representatives from across the OSCE region. It facilitates interparliamentary exchange and the sharing of good practices on youth-related policies across all three dimensions of security. The Network further promotes structured engagement with young people through the "Youth Perspectives" initiative, which includes consultations and workshops on topics relevant to the YPS agenda. Outcomes from these discussions have informed the preparation of resolutions adopted by the PA. Additionally, the Assembly contributes to the YPS agenda by organising thematic events, visits and discussions focused on youth inclusion in peacebuilding and democracy-building efforts.

## 2.2 Work of the OSCE executive structures

While the OSCE does not have a consensual organisation-wide strategy or plan for YPS-related work, it has developed an internal document titled “Secretary General Framework for Strengthening OSCE Efforts on Youth and Security”. This framework was presented to the pS during a GoFYS meeting in March 2019. The OSCE Office of Internal Oversight later evaluated its implementation, along with youth-related activities, in a Synthesis Report (2020)<sup>6</sup>.

Internally, the **OSCE Secretariat** facilitates a network of **Youth Focal Points** across institutions and field operations and maintains a list of **Youth Contact Points** within different sections and units of the Secretariat. This structure enables coordination of youth-related activities and helps avoid overlap. The network keeps Focal and Contact Points informed about relevant policies, activities, events and opportunities for youth.

To address the persistent underrepresentation of women and youth in the security sector, the OSCE collaborates with other international organisations to run an annual “Scholarship for Peace and Security” in the OSCE area. This programme focuses on conflict prevention and resolution for young professionals, with an emphasis on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. The OSCE Secretariat also offers tailored courses on Security Sector Governance and Reform for students and alumni of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, covering Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. In addition, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) promotes youth engagement in initiatives related to areas such as the water-energy-food nexus and renewable energy.

Since June 2024, the OSCE has maintained a network of more than 80 young professionals from across its region who seek to contribute to peace and security work. This network, called the **OSCE Pool of Young Experts**, aims to promote meaningful engagement of youth in OSCE security-related debates, enabling the Organization to benefit from young people’s contributions. The Pool also includes a mentorship component with OSCE Secretariat staff members.

**OSCE field operations** play a crucial role in supporting the pS in implementing their OSCE commitments related to the YPS agenda and broader youth engagement. Well-networked within their respective host countries, field operations maintain long-term engagement with governments, local communities, authorities, and civil society. The field operations run projects relevant to the YPS agenda across all three dimensions of the OSCE’s comprehensive concept of security. Some of them have established internal consultative youth mainstreaming mechanisms, such as Youth Advisory Groups, to integrate youth perspectives and provide channels for input and feedback from young people in planning and implementing programmatic activities.

The OSCE’s flagship initiatives – organised regionally by the Secretariat and nationally or locally by field operations – also include the **OSCE Schools and Model OSCE Conferences**. These initiatives enhance young professionals’ knowledge of comprehensive security, strengthen negotiation and analysis skills, and build alumni networks.

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/1/486457\\_1.pdf](https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/1/486457_1.pdf)

## Spotlight: Examples from the field <sup>7</sup>

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### **Support Programme for Ukraine (SPU): Involving and supporting youth in crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation**

This SPU has played a pivotal role in strengthening youth resilience amid Russia's war of aggression. Over 500 young professionals took part in crisis response trainings, and 16 youth centres received resources and equipment to maintain services during displacement or power outages. Findings from two national-level studies informed the State Target Programme "Youth of Ukraine 2026–2030", while regional roundtables contributed to practical guidance on "Standing Strong for Youth and with Youth". A major highlight was the All-Ukrainian Youth Forum "United by the Light," which gathered over 400 stakeholders. The project also launched Youth Cafés—informal spaces to foster cooperation among youth workers and promote resilient, well-resourced youth centres.

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### **OSCE Mission in Kosovo and OSCE Mission in Serbia: Dialogue Academy as a bridge builder between societies**

Established by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the OSCE Mission to Serbia in 2015, the Dialogue Academy empowers young women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade to lead efforts in peace and reconciliation. Over 250 alumnae have implemented more than 20 cross-community projects, reducing intra-community conflicts and fostering regional co-operation. Graduates join a network of alumnae (DANA) to continue working on peace and empowerment initiatives. In 2024, DANA developed its first roadmap to guide and strengthen the network's impact within and between the two societies until 2027. Presently, DANA contributes to various local, mid-level, and high-level discussions, conducts research, advocates for inclusive policies, and works on the ground to connect the two societies.

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### **OSCE Mission to Moldova: Facilitating dialogue between young people through art**

The Mission organised educational and cultural events for 41 art students from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River, fostering professional growth and trust-building across divided communities. Through dialogue and collaborative art, the project promoted cultural exchange and empowered young artists as future advocates for inter-community cooperation and conflict transformation.

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### **OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek: OSCE Academy as a flagship project on education and research**

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosts students aged 18-30 from Central Asia and beyond across the OSCE area in master's programmes on politics and security; economic governance and development; human rights and sustainability, and a bachelor's degree in economics. Ranked Kyrgyzstan's top educational institution in 2025, the Academy has over 700 alumni throughout the world, many serving in leadership roles across governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

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<sup>7</sup> More examples of OSCE projects relevant to the YPS agenda can be found in Annex 1.



*Students of Ministry of Interior universities upgrade cybersecurity skills during a training session organised by the OSCE Secretariat Extra-Budgetary Support Programme for Ukraine in Kamianets-Podilskiy, Khmelnytska Oblast. 6 July 2023. Photo credit: OSCE/Andrii Dziubenko*



*Participants taking notes at the 2025 Dialogue Academy for Young Women in Nova Gorica/Gorizia. Photo credit: OSCE*






*Participants of the plein-air event “Peace through art on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River”, June 2022.  
Photo credit: OSCE/Asthic Israelean*



*Graduates of the 2025 OSCE Academy at their graduation ceremony. Photo credit: OSCE*



As for the work of the OSCE's autonomous institutions, **ODIHR** works to ensure youth political and public engagement across pS to make democratic institutions more effective and inclusive. Its activities with and for young people include the Young Policy Advisers Course; ODIHR School on Politics, Leadership and Advocacy; Young Women's Leadership training; and support for the development of the Youth Progress Index. ODIHR also promotes meaningful political participation of youth through research publications, including new methodological approaches to support youth participation in political parties. Recent election observation activities have identified key areas requiring systematic assessment, informing ODIHR's comprehensive methodology for observing and promoting youth electoral participation. ODIHR further supports young people in defending human rights and fundamental freedoms and in advancing tolerance, non-discrimination, and social inclusion. ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues works to strengthen Roma and Sinti youth activism and participation in all areas of life.

**HCNM** focuses on youth from minority communities as key actors in building inclusive, stable societies through programmes and support for language and education policies. In line with its conflict prevention mandate, the HCNM promotes their meaningful participation in public, social, and economic life, and supports access to quality multilingual education. Recent efforts include promoting the implementation of HCNM recommendations on minority participation, advancing inclusive socio-economic policies, and supporting capacity-building initiatives that empower youth as bridge-builders within and between communities. Young people from national minorities often navigate complex identity processes, balancing integration with preserving cultural heritage and linguistic identity, while facing barriers such as language differences or discrimination. When successfully integrated, they serve as vital bridge-builders, contributing to social cohesion and conflict prevention.

**RFoM** promotes youth engagement, particularly among young media professionals and journalism students, through projects, events and conferences. In 2025, the RFoM held a workshop on safety in crisis situations for young journalists during the South East Europe Media Conference in Sarajevo and co-organized a Summer School in Kyrgyzstan for young journalists with the Office of the OSCE Secretary General, CPC, OSCE Academy and Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF). Youth are key stakeholders in the promotion and protection of freedom of expression and of the media, as well as the promotion of media literacy. Exchange with young journalists help identify new trends, emerging formats and platforms, and develop strategies to promote trust in journalism among young audiences. RFoM also works with journalism students to build capacity among the next generation of media professionals.



## Chapter 3: Guiding principles for meaningful youth engagement

This Chapter outlines key principles for a structured, inclusive, and effective approach to integrating youth as key co-leaders and partners in peace and security. These principles provide a framework for developing and implementing policies and activities that advance the YPS agenda, guiding the recommendations in this Roadmap. They are based on youth input from the Chairpersonship Youth Forum held in Helsinki on 29-30 July 2025.

Annex 2<sup>8</sup> details good practices by international and regional organisations, national governments, and civil society – including youth-led groups – illustrated with examples.

### Meaningful Partnerships

- **Youth Participation for Peacebuilding:** Systematically prioritise meaningful youth engagement across all sectors and levels, recognising youth as equal partners, stakeholders and experts in building and maintaining peace and security.
- **Mutual Benefit:** Recognise and respect young people's expertise and time in partnerships with institutions and decision-makers, providing tangible benefits for young people and youth organisations.
- **Intergenerational Partnerships:** Strengthen dialogue and collaborative action between generations, empower youth through adult allies, and enable youth involvement and leadership in government-led initiatives.
- **Sustained Engagement:** Build youth engagement on long-term relationships and sustainable platforms or mechanisms, including support for youth-led structures and organisations, avoiding one-off or ad-hoc interventions.

### Meaningful Processes

- **Co-creation and Co-management:** Engage youth as co-designers and co-managers of processes by empowering young people and advocating for them to take the lead in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of policies and processes which affect them.
- **Youth-focused Policy Development:** Advocate for youth-inclusive policies, institutionalise youth participation channels, and support research on youth in peacebuilding, promoting the development of policies that are responsive to the needs and aspirations of youth.
- **Accountability and Follow-up:** Establish mechanisms for accountability, follow-up and feedback to ensure youth insights are taken up in policy development.

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<sup>8</sup> Annex 2 has been drafted with the support of and expertise offered by [Search for Common Ground](#), one of the partner organisations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland on YPS-related issues.



- **Gender-Sensitive Approaches:** Integrate gender-specific experiences into peacebuilding strategies, create safe spaces for young women, and avoid gender stereotypes.
- **Safeguarding and Do No Harm:** Ensure safe, inclusive, youth-sensitive and trauma-informed environments for youth participation, rooted in a “do-no-harm” principle.
- **Adopt a Future Orientation:** Acknowledge that current actions have long-term and intergenerational consequences, particularly for youth and the world they will inherit.

## Meaningful Support

- **Inclusivity and Diversity:** Acknowledge diverse definitions of youth and ensure appropriate mechanisms to support inclusive participation of youth from marginalised groups or vulnerable situations, addressing discrimination as a root cause of conflict.
- **Financial Support and Compensation:** Provide financial support to remove barriers to participation and fairly compensate youth contributions.
- **Capacity-building and Skills Enhancement:** Support and engage with youth from an early age, through formal education, vocational training, and peer learning opportunities. Invest in leadership and conflict resolution training, mentorship programmes, violence prevention strategies, and positive role models for youth.
- **Access to Information:** Ensure that information is clear and accessible, adaptable and generationally appropriate, avoiding jargon and taking into consideration differing language needs, to enable young people to have the opportunity to make independent choices based on their own views.



*Participants and speakers of the OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum in Helsinki, July 2025.  
Photo credit: Markku Pajunen*



## Chapter 4: Recommendations and options for action

This section sets out concrete, optional actions that pS and PfC may consider to accelerate their commitment to the YPS agenda. These actions align with existing OSCE frameworks and mandates and are complemented by recommendations for the Organization to pursue the agenda in a more systematic, effective, and sustainable manner.

The recommendations presented aim to offer practical pathways to achieve these objectives. Rather than providing an exhaustive list, the chapter highlights selected actions deemed most impactful in promoting the YPS agenda. It draws on guiding principles for meaningful youth engagement and international best practices that have proven effective in advancing YPS goals, with the intention of replicating successes and addressing existing gaps.

The recommendations are organised into two categories, based on the relevant structure: actions for OSCE pS and PfC; and actions for OSCE executive structures, including institutions. Some recommendations may overlap and thus be applicable to both categories.

These recommendations were developed in consultation with youth, reflecting the proposals they presented, among others, at the Chairpersonship Youth Forum 2025.

### 4.1 Cultivating political buy-in

#### 4.1.1 Actions for pS and PfC

##### Advocate for youth inclusion in peace and security

- **Promote youth participation** in public discourse and decision-making by establishing inclusive structures and channels that ensure their voices are heard and acted upon.
- **Build capacity** of public authorities to engage and consult meaningfully with young people.
- **Integrate the YPS agenda** into national policy frameworks and strategic documents.
- **Amplify youth engagement** through statements at national and OSCE platforms (governments and parliamentary sessions, committees and youth caucuses, national youth councils, civil society forums, security dialogues).
- **Leverage diplomatic and public platforms**, including social media, to raise awareness of YPS and showcase youth-led initiatives and success stories.

##### Strengthen collaborative platforms

- **Establish and strengthen national and regional YPS platforms** uniting youth, government, youth-led organisations and initiatives, civil society, and international partners.

- **Support OSCE coordination through the Group of Friends of Youth and Security** to foster coordination and facilitate the exchange of good practices, ensuring regular, agenda-driven meetings and active involvement of Youth Focal and Contact Points within OSCE executive structures.
- **Leverage existing OSCE platforms** such as the Security Committee, Economic and Environmental Committee, Human Dimension Committee, and relevant Groups of Friends (e.g. Group of Friends of Mediation) to share good practices and advance YPS across all pillars.
- **Utilise these platforms for voluntarily reporting** on YPS-related OSCE commitments.
- **Designate YPS focal points** within Delegations to coordinate advocacy and maintain consistent engagement.

## Prioritise YPS during Chairpersonships and other OSCE leadership roles

- **Explicitly integrate YPS** into priorities and agendas of OSCE Chairpersonships and other leadership positions, including Committee Chairpersonships.
- **Appoint Special Representatives** with a dedicated focus on YPS through open calls conducted in collaboration with national youth-led organisations.
- **Embed YPS perspectives** into the mandates and activities of other Special Representatives appointed by the Chairperson.
- **Organise OSCE-wide Youth Forums** or similar events centred on youth participation and YPS, bringing together youth, OSCE structures, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders for inclusive security dialogue.
- **Integrate YPS aspects into the OSCE Ministerial Councils**, for example by organising side events and inviting young people to speak and participate in them.
- **Ensure meaningful follow-up** to YPS-related events and initiatives by publishing recommendations, outlining future actions, and gathering participant feedback.

### 4.1.2 Actions for OSCE executive structures

#### Mainstream YPS in institutional processes

- **Integrate YPS considerations into institutional reporting** submitted by the Secretary General, heads of institutions, and heads of field operations, where relevant to their mandates.

- **Update, apply and, where necessary, create new youth-sensitive analytical tools** such as situation and conflict analyses, and introduce youth-specific indicators to be used throughout the project management cycle.
- **Introduce or expand Youth Marker systems** to track and assess youth-focused initiatives across OSCE structures.
- **Utilise National Action Plans (NAPs)** as a unified framework for implementing YPS-related work, especially in field operations.

## Recognise and promote youth leadership

- **Establish an OSCE Youth Award** to showcase best practices from executive structures and inspire broader engagement with the YPS agenda.
- **Create a Youth Leadership Registry** to track and promote YPS experts across OSCE structures.
- **Highlight youth-led initiatives** in annual reports or spotlight sessions at OSCE events.
- **Facilitate regular engagement between youth and OSCE structures** through accessible, youth-friendly channels, prioritising marginalised groups.

## Enhance accountability and resource mobilisation

- **Build strategic partnerships** to support the pS in implementing youth-related commitments.
- **Mobilise resources and strengthen funding mechanisms** for youth-focused programming, including by facilitating participatory budgeting that involves young people.
- **Adopt results-based reporting** to demonstrate the impact of youth investments to donors and stakeholders.

## Strengthen data and evidence for YPS

- **Collect and analyse demographic-disaggregated data** from OSCE meetings and programmes to inform policy and programming.
- **Utilise comprehensive tools** such as the Youth Progress Index (YPI), co-developed by ODIHR, to guide planning and implementation of youth-focused initiatives.
- **Evaluate YPS implementation** across OSCE structures with a long-term impact lens and support research demonstrating the value of youth participation.

## Develop and strengthen partnerships

- **Establish coordination mechanisms and find synergies and strategic partnerships** with international organisations (especially the UN) to ensure coherence and complementarity in advancing YPS.
- **Promote collaboration** among national and regional youth organisations, civil society, public institutions and other youth policy actors, particularly within field operations.

## 4.2 Institutionalising youth participation

### 4.2.1 Actions for pS and PfC

#### Develop and update national action plans (NAPs) or strategies on YPS

- **Co-create and adopt YPS NAPs and strategies** in partnership with youth, civil society, and academia through resourced co-creation processes, ensuring youth co-leadership in both design and implementation.
- **Integrate systematic data collection and reporting** to inform development, monitoring, and evaluation of YPS NAPs and strategies.
- **Promote regional exchange and adapt lessons learned** to internationalise existing NAPs and strategies for broader impact.

#### Embed youth engagement and intergenerational dialogue

- **Integrate youth perspectives into advisory and decision-making bodies** at national and OSCE levels, applying principles of meaningful participation across all OSCE dimensions (Permanent Council, Forum for Security Co-operation, Committees).
- **Promote intergenerational dialogue** and ensure youth representation in events and meetings, including inviting young speakers even when youth is not the primary focus.
- **Host YPS-focused sessions within OSCE platforms** to elevate youth voices and foster inclusive dialogue.

## Create dedicated funding streams for YPS within OSCE

- **Allocate staff and financial resources** within OSCE executive structures to support YPS-related activities.
- **Earmark funds for YPS-related activities** through existing OSCE funding mechanisms such as the Helsinki+50 Fund and co-sponsor youth-led projects and initiatives.
- **Provide financial support for youth participation** in OSCE events and conferences to ensure accessibility and inclusivity.

### 4.2.2 Options for OSCE executive structures

## Establish a comprehensive OSCE youth strategy


- **Develop an OSCE-wide Youth Action Plan or Strategy aligned with the YPS agenda**, built through participatory processes, time-bound, and resourced for implementation.
- **Consolidate previous Chairpersonship recommendations** and define youth participation as a distinct thematic area across all OSCE dimensions within the strategy framework.

## Enhance support mechanisms to advance YPS implementation

- **Provide assistance and guidance to pS and PfC** in developing, implementing, and reviewing YPS NAPs and strategies through toolkits, expert consultations and peer learning.
- **Facilitate regional exchange** via workshops, webinars, and study visits focused on YPS policy development and implementation.
- **Support pS and PfC in promoting youth-impact assessment** on national legislation and support alignment with international standards including integration of YPS into broader peace and security frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Institutionalise youth engagement mechanisms

- **Enhance the role of Youth Focal and Contact Points** by creating and further developing clear Terms of Reference with YPS-related responsibilities and ensuring leadership-level support with adequate capacity and resources.
- **Ensure adequate resourcing for the Youth and Security team** within the Office of the Secretary General to coordinate youth engagement, including convening regular meetings with and facilitating training for Youth Focal and Contact Points.

- 
- **Strengthen and formalise youth engagement platforms**, such as the OSCE Pool of Young Experts, to ensure continuity and legitimacy.
  - **Establish and strengthen Youth Advisory Groups** and other youth consultative groups through open calls, enabling them to guide programming, provide feedback, and mainstream youth perspectives.

## Strengthen youth inclusion in OSCE programming, operations, and capacity building

- **Apply a YPS lens across all OSCE programming and operations**, ensuring youth needs and contributions are reflected in design, implementation, and evaluation.
- **Integrate youth perspectives into conflict prevention and resolution efforts**, including mediation support, early warning systems, and policy advice, including but not limited to developing tailored toolkits and guidelines.
- **Embed youth considerations in legislative and policy review processes**, particularly within ODIHR's work.
- **Facilitate capacity-building for OSCE staff** on YPS through regular training sessions in collaboration with international organisations and CSOs, using both in-person and digital platforms.
- **Create youth-responsive programming frameworks**, including participatory assessments and feedback mechanisms, to ensure initiatives reflect youth priorities.

## Integrate gender perspective and align with the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda

- **Ensure gender-sensitive YPS programming** by systematically collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data and mainstreaming gender perspectives across all youth-related initiatives, with particular attention to the needs and leadership of young women.
- **Promote inclusive engagement** by removing structural barriers to young women's full and equal participation in OSCE activities.
- **Coordinate YPS efforts with WPS frameworks**, collaborating with international organisations such as the UN, to amplify youth and women leadership and promote coherence and mutual reinforcement between the two agendas.

## 4.3 Affirming youth agency and expertise

### 4.3.1 Actions for pS and PfC

#### Ensure transparent and inclusive decision-making

- **Raise awareness among youth from diverse backgrounds** about opportunities for participation and invest in building their capacity to contribute to decision-making, with emphasis on empowering young women.
- **Consult youth** in planning and implementing the OSCE Chairpersonship priorities, events and activities.
- **Establish clear timelines and accessible entry points** for youth and youth-led organisations to engage meaningfully in policy-making processes.
- **Guarantee barrier-free participation**, prioritising accessibility, safety, and inclusion of young persons with disabilities and youth from conflict-affected areas.

#### Invest in youth leadership and representation

- **Facilitate internships, scholarships, and fellowships** to strengthen youth agency and representation in peace and security processes
- **Recognise and compensate** youth contributions, including unpaid work, and enable continuity of education and employment opportunities for youth in conflict-affected areas.
- **Encourage structured and inclusive youth delegate programmes** for participation in national and international decision-making forums.
- **Support intergenerational mentorship and job-shadowing** to foster leadership development.
- **Include youth expertise in advisory roles and consultations**, ensuring youth-led organisations and professionals are represented.

## 4.3.2 Actions for OSCE executive structures

### Ensure accessibility

- **Increase transparency and accessibility** by providing simplified, youth-friendly summaries of key OSCE documents alongside executive summaries.
- **Use inclusive formats and communication tools** across OSCE platforms to engage youth from diverse backgrounds, including those with disabilities or limited access to traditional channels.
- **Apply safer space principles** for youth participation, especially those affected by conflict, by designating focal point roles or moderation where needed

### Build youth capacity and knowledge networks

- **Develop capacity-building programmes and training-of-trainers** for youth leaders using both physical and digital platforms, including AI-powered tools.
- **Organise Model OSCE events** across regions to promote youth engagement and understanding of OSCE processes.
- **Strengthen existing and establish new alumni networks** for OSCE youth programmes to foster peer learning and long-term engagement.
- **Enhance career pathways** through improved Junior Professional Officer programme and mentorship schemes, and transitions from internships/fellowships into long-term OSCE roles.

### Support youth-led research and protection mechanisms

- **Promote youth-led and co-led research** on YPS topics through institutions such as the OSCE Academy to generate evidence-based insights and inform policy development.
- **Involve youth in monitoring and evaluation frameworks** to assess the impact of YPS initiatives.
- **Conduct intersectional analysis** to identify and address needs and expertise of marginalised youth (e.g. those with disabilities, from national minorities, or in vulnerable situations) and use findings to inform advocacy and programming.
- **Establish safeguarding and protection policies** for young human rights defenders, security experts, peacebuilders, and journalists.



## Annex 1: More examples of OSCE projects on YPS

Executive structure	Example of YPS projects and activities
OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek	<p><b>Adoption of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security</b></p> <p>In 2025, Kyrgyzstan became the second OSCE pS to adopt a NAP on the UNSCR 2250 on YPS. The NAP was the result of a process supported by the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB) and coordinated with government bodies, youth organisations, civil society, and international partners. The NAP is built on the previous initiatives of the POiB and the Ministry of Culture, Information and Youth Policy, including, but not limited to, capacity-building of youth affairs specialists and local youth centres, development of the Volunteering Concept for 2025–2030, and regional networking through the Central Asian youth related activities. Adoption of the NAP as a strategic guiding document marks a significant achievement in institutionalizing youth participation in peace and security efforts and reinforces Kyrgyzstan’s commitment to the principles of the UNSCR 2250.</p>
OSCE Mission to Skopje	<p><b>National Youth Violence Prevention Task Force</b></p> <p>The OSCE Mission to Skopje supports the Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth for the National Youth Violence Prevention Task Force – the first national mechanism dedicated to preventing youth violence. The Task Force brings together institutions, police, and youth CSOs to enhance coordination, prevention, and youth engagement whereas security concerns will be mapped, risk assessments will be conducted, and solution-based activities will be designed. These efforts will be complemented by outreach and education initiatives to raise awareness of youth violence.</p>
OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe	<p><b>Central Asia (+) Youth Talks</b></p> <p>Developed and established by the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, the Central Asia (+) Youth Talks initiative provides a learning and dialogue platform for young leaders from Central Asia and beyond. The initiative helps to enhance participatory skills, capacities to elaborate and work together on joint projects and ideas in different thematic areas with peers from other countries, share knowledge with co-thinkers, and initiate joint regional activities. Laying the ground for the conflict prevention, confidence-building and collaboration, as well as promoting knowledge on principles and mechanisms of multilateralism and international co-operation, this initiative is currently implemented jointly with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan.</p>
OSCE Mission to Montenegro	<p><b>Launching a dialogue on meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes</b></p> <p>In 2024, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro supported the RYCO Local Branch Office in Montenegro and the Youth Network of Montenegro in launching a dialogue on meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes, cross-border youth exchange programmes, and the implementation of the YPS Agenda in Montenegro. The dialogue has since been carried out through a series of activities and consultations with young people, youth-focused organizations, high school</p>

	<p>teachers, civil society representatives and decision-makers at both local and national level and will continue to evolve in the period ahead. Building on these efforts, Montenegrin MPs from all parliamentary clubs signed the Declaration of Commitment to Youth Regional Cooperation, Intercultural Dialogue and Reconciliation in June 2025 during the YPS Conference “Regional Cooperation and Youth Participation in the Process of Reconciliation”.</p>
OSCE Mission in Kosovo	<p><b>Promoting diversity in the Kosovo Police for better, more resilient communities</b></p> <p>With the aim of increasing participation and contribution to a multi-community Kosovo Police (KP), since 2023, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo has been supporting a series of outreach meetings, information campaigns, and introductory workshops throughout Kosovo to encourage young women and men to join the KP. The Mission specifically targeted municipalities with significant youth from non-majority communities. The participants were informed about the application procedures, presented with an outline of a professional police training course, and informed about the vital role of the KP in promoting the well-being of all communities. These efforts led to an increase in the number of non-majority communities joining the KP in 2023. In that year, 205 candidates from non-majority communities applied for jobs; 113 successfully passed the initial phases of the recruitment, and 89 of them successfully graduated from the Academy in May 2024. In 2025, the number further increased to 212 applicants, pending finalization of the recruitment process. Many attendees credited the sessions with boosting their confidence, motivation to apply, and a better understanding of the recruitment process.</p>
OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	<p><b>Production of Social Video Clip “Youth Against Human Trafficking”</b></p> <p>In July 2024, the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, in collaboration with the Child’s Rights Ombudsperson and anti-trafficking NGO Istiqbolli Avlod, produced a social video clip titled “Youth Against Human Trafficking”. This initiative was dedicated to the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and aimed at raising awareness of trafficking in human beings and the pivotal role of youth in combating this issue. The video clip has been disseminated across various social media platforms.</p>
ODIHR	<p><b>Youth Audit</b></p> <p>ODIHR is currently developing the Youth Audit – an assessment methodology designed to help political parties evaluate and strengthen the meaningful participation of young people within their structures, decision-making processes, and political activities. The Youth Audit responds to persistent gaps in the institutional engagement of young people, seeking to move beyond ad hoc initiatives towards systemic change. Through this initiative, ODIHR aims to equip political parties with practical guidance to mainstream youth participation across their organisational frameworks, in line with broader objectives of democratic participation, intergenerational inclusiveness, and political pluralism. Ultimately, the initiative seeks to contribute to the development of more representative, transparent, and forward-looking political institutions throughout the OSCE region. The methodology is presently being piloted with selected political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p>

OSCE Secretariat, Conflict Prevention Centre	<p><b>South Caucasus and Central Asia: Cross-regional dialogue among youth</b></p> <p>Since 2024, youth from the South Caucasus and Central Asia have come together through OSCE Schools and Model OSCE Conferences in Tbilisi to build knowledge on comprehensive security and strengthen their negotiation, analysis and inter-personal skills. Alumni continue to engage through follow-up discussions and trainings focused on YPS-related research.</p>
OSCE Secretariat's Programme for Gender Issues	<p><b>Young Women 4 Peace</b></p> <p>In 2023, the OSCE launched the Young Women for Peace Initiative as part of its Networking Platform for Women Leaders, including peacebuilders and mediators. The initiative amplifies young women's voices in peace and security, ensuring inclusion and creating spaces for networking, learning, and sharing best practices for advocacy. It is implemented through the Gender Issues Programme WIN Project.</p> <p>In 2024, Young Women for Peace – Central Asia was launched to advance peace efforts. Eighteen young women from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan bring expertise in climate action, digital innovation, conflict resolution, and community engagement—key tools for modern peacebuilding. This programme goes beyond capacity building, fostering a dynamic ecosystem where young women leaders can thrive, innovate, and drive change.</p>
OSCE Secretariat, Transnational Threats Department and Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities	<p><b>Empowering young people in Kyrgyzstan against crime</b></p> <p>The OSCE supported Kyrgyzstan to develop a comprehensive and age-appropriate school and university curriculum on youth crime prevention. The curriculum helps young people build critical thinking skills, make informed decisions, and understand the risks of criminality. Rolled out nationwide, the curriculum reached over 800,000 students in the academic year 2023-2024. To amplify its impact beyond the classroom, the OSCE also partnered with national authorities in Kyrgyzstan to launch a social media campaign featuring youth leaders, influencers, athletes, and media personalities. Promoting values of hard work, education, fairness, and integrity, the campaign reached more than 1.5 million young people.</p>
OSCE Secretariat, Office of the Secretary General, External Co-Operation Section	<p><b>Study Visit Programme for OSCE Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation</b></p> <p>In 2025, the fourth round of the Programme offered young diplomats and experts from OSCE Partners for Co-operation a unique opportunity to learn about the OSCE's mandate and activities. It provided participants with in-depth knowledge of the OSCE's values, principles, commitments and competencies. Six participants from Australia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Thailand and the Republic of Korea spent two weeks in Vienna and Warsaw to participate in OSCE meetings and events.</p>
The OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague	<p><b>Promoting youth awareness about the OSCE</b></p> <p>The OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague has been organising workshops on CSCE/OSCE history, legacy and evolution for university students since the 1990s. The workshops are of interest not only for students from the universities of the pS, but also for PfC. In the fall of 2025, for example, students from Akita University, Japan visited the Centre on the 6th of October and learned about the negotiations and historical impact of the Helsinki Final Act, which addressed a range of prominent global issues.</p>

## Annex 2: YPS global good practices

This annex includes selected examples of YPS implementation practices, including practices of international organisations, national governments, and CSOs, including youth-led ones.

### Building political support and agenda-setting

Type of practices	Selected examples
High-level global and regional conferences	<p><b>National governments with UN entities and civil society</b></p> <p>Two conferences on youth in peace processes (Helsinki, March 2019 and virtually in January 2022), co-hosted by Qatar, Finland, and Colombia with civil society and UN partners, fostered important discussions and promoted this topic as a politically relevant topic globally.</p> <p><b>European Union</b></p> <p>"<a href="#">Youth, Peace and Security, Promoting Youth in Peace building</a>" Conference 23-24 May, Brussels, 2018.</p> <p><b>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)</b></p> <p><a href="#">COMESA High-Level Ministerial Conferences on Youth, Peace and Security</a> 2021-2024.</p> <p><b>African Union and UNDP</b></p> <p><a href="#">Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security</a>, Burundi, 2022.</p>
Youth experts as briefers in high-level decision-making spaces	<p><b>African Union</b></p> <p>African Union Peace and Security Council held three <a href="#">briefings</a> on the implementation of the agenda in the region, led by its Youth Ambassadors for Peace.</p> <p><b>UN</b></p> <p>Several <a href="#">Open Debates</a> were held at the UN Security Council where young people were invited as experts to testify.</p> <p><b>Colombia's National Council for Peace, Reconciliation and Coexistence</b></p> <p>Young people have been involved as members of both the Council and the Peace Committee, including the election of a representative of the National Student Movement.</p>
High-level Ambassadors on YPS (Political Champions)	<p><b>African Union</b></p> <p>The President of Burundi, Évariste Ndayishimiye, was appointed as the first <a href="#">African Union Champion for youth and peace and security</a>.</p>

Groups of Friends and Champion Countries on YPS	<p><b>National governments with UN</b></p> <p>Permanent Mission of Finland and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the UN co-chair the <a href="#">Group of Champions at the United Nations to promote the YPS agenda</a>.</p>
Reporting mechanisms on YPS progress	<p><b>UN</b></p> <p><a href="#">UN Secretary-General Bi-annual Reports to the UN Security Council on YPS</a> Three reports have been published to date. Reports highlight advancements in institutionalising the youth, peace and security agenda, with many Member States and regional organisations developing new strategies and initiatives to promote the inclusion and meaningful participation of young people in peace and security affairs. There are efforts to better measure progress, for example, through specific indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 16 on youth-sensitive peace and security related programming.</p> <p><b>European Union</b></p> <p><a href="#">Youth Action Plan in EU External Action Monitoring Framework</a> Part one includes a specific objective “Contributing to the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda” with sub-objectives and indicators.</p>
Youth awards	<p><b>The Commonwealth</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Commonwealth Youth Awards</a> recognise young people (15-29) for their contributions to global development, from poverty reduction to peacebuilding. Each year, a Commonwealth Young Person of the Year is selected, along with regional winners from Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Americas, Africa, and Europe. This recognition amplifies young people’s political agency and leadership.</p> <p><b>African Union</b></p> <p>Youth, Peace and Security Award introduced in 2023</p> <p><b>Basel Peace Office - Municipality of Basel - Switzerland</b></p> <p><a href="#">Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth (PACEY) Award</a>.</p> <p>The awards are given at the annual Intergenerational Forum on Climate, Peace and Nuclear Abolition which <a href="#">Basel Peace Office</a> organises as part of the <a href="#">Basel Peace Forum</a>.</p> <p><b>Carnegie Foundation - The Peace Palace - The Netherlands</b></p> <p><a href="#">Youth Carnegie Peace Prize</a></p> <p>The Carnegie Foundation, owner and manager of the Peace Palace, and the Youth Peace Initiative award the Youth Carnegie Peace Prize every two years in order to garner good practices from young individuals or youth-led organisations and to put them in the spotlight. The prize recognizes the work of young peacebuilders and aims to encourage others to start their own projects.</p>

# Institutionalising YPS

Type of practices	Selected examples
YPS-specific sessions in key peace and security mechanisms	<p><b>UN</b></p> <p>Besides young people invited to testify as experts, <a href="#">specific sessions</a> were also held at the UN Security Council as open debates on the progress of the agenda.</p> <p><b>African Union</b></p> <p>The Peace and Security Council (PSC) convenes an <a href="#">annual thematic session on YPS</a> as an open session.</p>
Youth Advisory Boards	<p><b>UN Human Rights and Education Above All (EAA)</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Youth Advisory Board</a> strives to safeguard and promote the human rights of young people worldwide, especially those facing conflict and situations of vulnerability.</p> <p><b>European Union</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Youth Sounding Board (YSB)</a> advises the European Commission on youth participation in EU international partnerships. This gives young people a voice in EU external action, making it more relevant and effective for youth in partner countries across various priorities, including climate, digital development, gender equality, human development, migration, peace and governance, and sustainable growth.</p>
Youth Peace Ambassadors	<p><b>The Commonwealth</b></p> <p><a href="#">Youth Peace Ambassadors Network</a> Each year the Network publishes yearly reports highlighting its activities and progress during the year, social media impact, training overviews and future agendas and goals.</p> <p><b>UN Women Georgia</b></p> <p>Creation of “<a href="#">Women and Youth Peace Ambassadors</a>” Network for Women, Peace and Security.</p> <p><b>African Union</b></p> <p>Launched in 2018 under the AU's Youth for Peace Program, the <a href="#">African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP)</a> programme promotes youth leadership in African peace and security. Five regional ambassadors work with the AU Youth Envoy to champion youth participation in peace processes, promoting the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security's priorities (aligned with the AU Youth Charter and UN resolutions). Through briefings and advocacy, AYAPs connect youth with high-level institutions, demonstrating Africa's commitment to youth inclusion in peace and conflict prevention.</p>
YPS departments and teams	<p><b>Folke Bernadotte Academy – Sweden</b></p> <p>FBA has YPS as an <a href="#">area of expertise</a>. It offers advice, training, and supports research, coordinated by a YPS Specialist. FBA also seconded personnel working with youth, peace and security to international peace operations that Sweden contributes to, led by the EU, UN and OSCE.</p>



	<p><b>African Union</b></p> <p><a href="#">Youth for Peace (Y4P) Africa Programme</a></p> <p>Launched in Lagos, Nigeria in September 2018, the Youth for Peace (Y4P) Africa Programme promotes youth involvement in peace and security. This initiative by the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Department (PSD) supports various international and continental frameworks, including the AU Youth Charter, UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419, and a related communiqué from the AU Peace and Security Council. To ensure effective collaboration, the PSD created an internal task force with other relevant AU departments.</p>
Co-management systems	<p><b>Council of Europe</b></p> <p>The Council of Europe's co-management system exemplifies participatory democracy. The <a href="#">Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)</a>, composed of youth NGO representatives, and the <a href="#">European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)</a>, representing member state ministries, form the <a href="#">Joint Council on Youth (CMJ)</a>. This joint body decides on youth sector priorities, programmes, and budget, including "Peace and inclusive societies" as a key priority, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2250.</p> <p><b>The Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)</b></p> <p><a href="#">An intergovernmental organization</a> established by the Western Balkans Six (WB6) under the Berlin Process, with the mission to promote reconciliation, youth cooperation, and peacebuilding across the region. RYCO operates through a unique structure that combines political and youth representation, ensuring that its programs and policies reflect both institutional priorities and the needs of young people. Its headquarters are in Tirana, with Local Branch Offices in all six Contracting Parties - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, allowing for both regional coordination and local ownership.</p>

## Strengthening agency and institutional capacities

Type of practices	Selected examples
Online and on-site training courses	<p><b>UN</b></p> <p>The United Nations Staff College offers a two-month online course “<a href="#">Realizing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda</a>” including a module on youth-sensitive conflict analysis and in-country implementation, as well as a “<a href="#">Youth, Peace and Security Primer</a>” that establishes a common base for YPS work</p> <p><b>Columbia University – USA</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Youth, Peace, and Society Program</a> works at the intersection of youth leadership, social conflicts, and peacebuilding. The programme seeks to identify, analyse, and bring attention to the contributions that youth make to the peaceful transformation of violent conflicts and to building local and global peace.</p> <p><b>Youth Co:Lab</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Movers Workshop on Youth, Peace and Security</a> is world’s first youth-led, guided, online train-the-trainer workshop on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda. This 2-hour interactive workshop is developed by <a href="#">Youth Co:Lab</a> as part of the Movers Programme, with the support of the <a href="#">United States Institute of Peace (USIP)</a>, <a href="#">United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)</a> and <a href="#">UNFPA Asia Pacific</a>.</p> <p><b>Organisation International de la Francophonie (OIF)</b></p> <p><a href="#">Senghor University</a> (Senegal), in partnership with <a href="#">OIF</a> organizes a four-month training on YPS for students from 14 OIF member countries.</p> <p><b>Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF)</b></p> <p>The aim of the course “<a href="#">Youth, Peace and Security in Peace Operations and Peacebuilding</a>” is to equip participants with knowledge and skills for youth-sensitive work and the implementation of the YPS agenda.</p>
Mentorship programmes	<p><b>European Union</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Young Women in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Mentorship Programme</a> seeks to engage young women in the field of non-proliferation, arms control, and disarmament, and promote awareness about these issues.</p> <p><b>Finnish and South African Foreign Ministries in cooperation with Interpeace</b></p> <p><a href="#">The Youth Peace Mediator’s Mentoring Programme</a>, a one-year-long capacity-building project implemented by Finland and South Africa’s Foreign Ministries gathers young peacebuilders from around the world to learn, discuss and be mentored by experienced peace mediators and practitioners.</p>



Intergenerational  
dialogue and  
actions

### **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Intergenerational equity and solidarity lie at the heart of the Convention and the Paris Agreement and, in particular, in its article 6 and article 12 respectively, commonly known as [Action for Climate Empowerment](#) (ACE). The overarching goal of ACE is to empower all members of society across all walks of life to engage in climate action through education and public awareness, training, public participation and access to information, and international cooperation in these matters.

### **European Parliament – European Commission**

Since December 2024 the European Union has its first-ever Commissioner dedicated to Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport and has been tasked to develop a strategy on intergenerational fairness as a follow-up of the Summit of the Future commitments.

### **International Youth Organization for Ibero-America, Colombia and the UN**

A regional intergenerational meeting was organised to explore opportunities for the agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean with representatives of 10 countries from the region.

### **Finland in cooperation with Search for Common Ground, national governments and youth-led organisations**

A [community of practice](#) brings together public officials and young leaders from 30+ countries to share experiences and lessons learned on YPS implementation at the national level.

YPS knowledge  
and resource  
hubs

### **Griffith University – Australia**

The [YPS Database](#) is a resource library of publicly available materials, including a search engine.

### **United Network of Young Peacebuilders – The Netherlands – Global**

This youth-led network hosts a [Resources](#) section in its website which includes youth-led research reports, articles and policy documents.

### **UNDP**

[SparkBlue YPS](#) resources.

## Improving investments and resources

Type of practices	Selected examples
YPS-specific funding mechanisms	<p><b>UN</b></p> <p>The UN's <a href="#">Youth Promotion Initiative</a>, a peacebuilding fund focused on gender and youth inclusion, allocated \$46.7 million to projects in 2022. Of these, 14 projects specifically supported youth political participation, safety, security, and protection, directly advancing the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund</a> supported 43 youth-focused or young women-led organisations from 17 countries in 2022-2023.</p> <p>The <a href="#">World Bank Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence</a> (2020-2025) pledged to increase assistance to young people in conflict-affected regions.</p>
Youth participatory budgeting	<p><b>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLA) // United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)</b></p> <p>Youth participatory budgeting processes have been implemented in African, Latin, and North American local governments as recollected by the <a href="#">International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)</a>, a project of UCLG. The methodology consists of inviting young people to engage in the process of deciding the use of the youth municipal budget together with municipal officials. For example, safety, and gang violence were major issues of concern for young people, especially affecting young women, so projects were co-designed and funded to address these.</p>
Youth-participatory grant-making	<p><b>European Youth Foundation</b></p> <p>Grants are offered based on proposals of youth organisations and priorities set by its Joint Permanent Council.</p> <p><b>Search for Common Ground – United Network of Young Peacebuilders, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations</b></p> <p><a href="#">Youth 360</a> is a methodology to resource youth-led peacebuilding consisting of a three-step process: collaborative conflict analysis, participatory project design and grant making, and youth-led project implementation. It empowers young leaders to tailor projects to local needs and manage funding, offering embedded capacity development through mentorship and workshops on conflict transformation, impact communication, safety, and financial management. This approach has been used to support projects in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, and Sri Lanka, and regionally in Asia.</p>

<p>Youth marker in resource allocation and management</p>	<p><b>UN</b></p> <p>The UN's <a href="#">Youth Scorecard</a> system, introduced through Youth2030, represents a groundbreaking accountability tool for tracking youth-focused initiatives across the UN system. Already adopted by nine UN entities, this innovative tracking mechanism ensures transparency in both resource allocation and impact measurement for youth programmes, setting a new standard for how international organisations monitor and evaluate their youth engagement efforts. This systematic approach to tracking "results achieved" and "resources used" not only demonstrates institutional commitment to youth inclusion but also provides a model for other organisations seeking to strengthen their youth-focused work through data-driven accountability.</p> <p><b>Federal Government of Germany</b></p> <p>The GAD-Marker (Gender Age Disability Marker) was introduced in 2018 to evaluate project proposals and reports and to identify risks and barriers. It functions as a measuring tool and controlling mechanism to demand inclusion and equality in all humanitarian projects financed by the Federal Government of Germany.</p>
<p>Youth-responsive staffing and human resources policies</p>	<p><b>Council of Europe</b></p> <p>The COE Youth Department hosts a <a href="#">Pool of Trainers</a> which includes both senior and junior trainers, and projects need to include both of them.</p>
<p>Youth safeguarding and protection policies and programme support</p>	<p><b>USAID</b></p> <p><a href="#">Intersectional Rapid Gender and Protection Analysis</a> (IRGPA): Workbook and Toolkit  <a href="#">Youth Safeguarding and Protection Policies: Youth Excel</a> supports young leaders and youth-led and youth-serving organisations to strengthen their positive youth development (PYD) programmes across all sectors and to elevate their voices and priorities in development decision-making. It offers resources and technical support for them to conduct <a href="#">Research-to-Change</a> (implementation research), engage in intergenerational collaboration, and share their data and findings broadly.</p> <p><b>UNICEF</b></p> <p><a href="#">UNICEF's Safeguarding policy</a> and programmes</p> <p><b>Search for Common Ground</b></p> <p>Search, as the co-chair of the global youth protection working groups, has developed a comprehensive institutional policy for Search that addresses needs of children, youth and vulnerable adults in programming efforts that include focal points, budgeting guidelines and reporting mechanisms and tools. Resources available upon request.</p>

## Strengthening the evidence base

Type of practices	Selected examples
Handbooks and guides	<p><b>UN and national governments</b></p> <p>Youth, Peace and Security: <a href="#">A Programming Handbook</a> developed between the Folke Bernadotte Academy and UN partners was intended to be used by country, regional and global teams in the UN system, but it can also provide insights and guidance to field practitioners beyond the UN.</p> <p><b>UN, national governments and Global Coalition Youth, Peace and Security</b></p> <p><a href="#">The Guide for Public Officials</a>: Implementing the YPS Agenda at the Country Level was produced in collaboration between UN, civil society actors and supported by the Folke Bernadotte Academy and publicly launched at the High-Level Global Conference on Youth and Peace Processes.</p> <p><b>Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd (DUF)</b></p> <p>Future Agents NOW was a project, which aimed to support the participation of young people in international decision-making processes. This was done by strengthening the management and enhancing the diversity of youth delegate programmes, as well as building the capacities of youth delegates.</p>
Youth-led research and publications	<p><b>United States Institute of Peace with civil society organisations</b></p> <p>The report “<a href="#">Participatory Action Research for Advancing Youth-Led Peacebuilding in Kenya</a>” documents a pilot initiative to explore the utility and effectiveness of participatory action research as an approach for youth-led peacebuilding in marginalised communities.</p> <p><b>United Network of Young Peacebuilders</b></p> <p><a href="#">Journal of Youth, Peace and Security</a></p> <p><b>Search for Common Ground</b></p> <p><a href="#">Youth-Led Research</a> Approach-<a href="#">Listening &amp; Learning</a> provides step-by-step guidance on designing youth-led research approaches.</p> <p><b>UN Women</b></p> <p><a href="#">Regional research</a> implemented by UN Women and co-designed, conducted and developed by five young researchers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia aims to explore the linkages between youth development, gender equality, and social cohesion challenges in the region.</p>

Youth-focused  
country, regional  
or thematic  
reports

## **UN**

[Secretary-General report on youth, disarmament and non-proliferation.](#)

**Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, in cooperation with Justice Call, Search for Common Ground, UN Peacebuilding Support Office/Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and UNICEF**

Youth Peace Financing inception report: [Investing and Partnering with Youth for Peace](#)

## **DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance**

[The Youth, Peace and Security Agenda and Security Sector Governance and Reform.](#)

## **African Union**

A [Study On The Roles and Contributions of Youth to Peace and Security in Africa](#).

An Independent Expert Report Commissioned by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (2020).

## **UN Women**

[This brief](#) focuses on the situation of NEET youth from Ukraine by identifying the unique needs, challenges and capacities of youth displaced both in Ukraine and neighbouring countries (Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia) and the availability of opportunities for youth.



## Annex 3: Chairpersonship Youth Forum Recommendations (2025)

(Original document can be found at: <https://www.osce.org/chairpersonship/597264>.)

### OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum – from Helsinki to next 50 years

**Helsinki, 29–30 July 2025**

**Participants’ recommendations to OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Elina Valtonen, and OSCE Secretary General, Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu**

On 29–30 July 2025, the Finnish Chairpersonship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) convened the OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum in Helsinki.

The Forum brought together young participants across the OSCE region to discuss the OSCE’s engagement on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), reflect on what meaningful youth participation looks like in practice and develop recommendations to inform the drafting of the OSCE-wide Youth, Peace and Security roadmap, that Finland will launch during its OSCE Chairpersonship in 2025.

This paper reflects the outcomes of that process. It offers recommendations for the Finnish Chairpersonship on how to support the OSCE and its participating States to build on existing efforts and further integrate the YPS agenda across all dimensions of the OSCE’s work.

The discussion focused on two areas in particular: How to define meaningful youth engagement in peace and security and what options there are for OSCE’s future action in YPS.

### Principles for Meaningful Youth Engagement

Meaningful youth engagement at the OSCE requires the systemic integration and mainstreaming of youth into all relevant structures and policies. This means ensuring that young people are involved in policy discussions across all sectors, beyond traditional “youth matters”, recognizing that all policies affect youth. It also means a commitment to not engaging in tokenistic “tick box” exercises. Achieving this requires the OSCE to foster meaningful partnerships, meaningful processes and meaningful support.

#### 1) Meaningful partnerships, including:

- *Respect and Equal Partnerships:* Youth need to be recognized as equal partners, stakeholders and experts in building and maintaining peace and security.
- *Intergenerational Collaboration:* Meaningful youth participation requires intergenerational dialogue and collaboration, a commitment to intergenerational fairness and justice, and meeting youth where they are.

- *Sustained Engagement*: Youth engagement must build on long-term relationships and sustainable platforms or mechanisms, including support for youth-led structures and organisations, avoiding one-off or ad-hoc interventions.
- *Mutual Benefit*: Youth engagement processes must recognize young people's expertise and time, and provide tangible benefits for young people, youth organisations and youth more broadly – not just for institutions or decision-makers. Engagement is not meaningful if it only serves the goals of others.

## **2) Meaningful processes, including:**

- *Co-creation and Co-management*: Youth should be engaged as co-designers and co-managers of processes which impact them.
- *Peer Learning and Movement Building*: Processes should support peer learning and youth-led movement building to foster collaboration, exchange, and collective agency.
- *Accountability and Follow-up*: Robust mechanisms for accountability, follow-up and feedback need to be in place to ensure that youth insights are taken up and commitments are honored.
- *Ethical and Safe Practices*: Participation needs to be safe, inclusive and youth-sensitive in order to be meaningful, rooted in a “do no harm” approach. This requires trauma sensitivity and taking into account digital, physical, and psychosocial wellbeing.

## **3) Meaningful support, including:**

- *Inclusivity and Diversity*: The non-homogeneity of youth must be recognized, with appropriate mechanisms to support inclusive participation of diverse youth groups, prevent discrimination and ensure space for new voices.
- *Access to Information*: Meaningful youth participation is founded on the clear and transparent provision of information and processes. Information must be clear and accessible, adaptable and generationally appropriate, avoiding jargon, to ensure that the content is readily understood by all citizens, including young people.
- *Capacity Building and Empowerment*: For youth to be able to engage in a meaningful way, they need to be supported to engage with the topics at hand from an early age, through both formal education and informal community spaces, so they perceive themselves as valued agents of change.
- *Financial Support and Compensation*: Engagement opportunities must be adequately funded to overcome financial barriers to participation. This can include fair compensation for work, reimbursement of expenses, and paid opportunities.

# **Recommendations for OSCE action on Youth, Peace and Security**

## **1) Cultivating Political Buy-in**

- *Political Commitments*: Secure political commitments from individual participating States, future Chairpersons, tailor persuasive messaging to resonate with different stakeholders, and show governments that young people are allies.

- *Awareness Raising and Visibility:* Use relevant platforms and opportunities to raise awareness on YPS, leverage soft power and visibility opportunities, increase social media presence, and showcase success stories and youth-led initiatives. In addition to executive summaries, simplified summaries of crucial documents should be introduced to make OSCE work in general and the YPS agenda more accessible.
- *Link to Broader Agendas:* Frame the YPS agenda by highlighting alignment with national and international priorities, including SDGs, WPS, and human rights.
- *Research and Evidence-Based Policy:* Make a compelling investment case by demonstrating economic returns and social impact, conduct social and economic return investment analyses, and support research that supports the need for youth participation.
- *Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration:* Build strategic alliances with key stakeholders including governments, academic sector, civil society, and international partners, involve civil society and youth-led organizations as equal partners, and foster international partnerships between national organizations and NGOs.

## 2) Institutionalizing Youth Participation

- *OSCE Youth Strategy:* Adopting an OSCE-Wide comprehensive Youth Strategy
- *Advisory Mechanisms:* Establish dedicated units for YPS affairs at the OSCE Secretariat and executive structures and youth advisory boards to the Secretary General and field missions with internal and external youth members to advise OSCE staff on YPS. Develop a clear OSCE definition of 'youth' to guide these mechanisms and positions.
- *National Action Plans (NAPs) and Policy Integration:* Advocate for the development and drafting of NAPs, internationalize existing NAPs through regional exchange and adaptation of lessons learned, integrate youth perspectives into NAPs for mainstreaming, and utilize NAPs as a common framework for YPS work.
- *Data Collection, Monitoring, and Reporting:* Establish mechanisms for mandatory reporting of youth programs and OSCE commitments on youth, integrate YPS into common reporting frameworks, systematically collect and analyze age-disaggregated data, and implement YPS-focused monitoring frameworks.
- *Mainstreaming and Systemic Integration:* Work towards mainstreaming the YPS agenda, integrate youth-specific segments into all relevant fora and throughout processes, and clarify youth participation as a distinct thematic area within broader policy frameworks.
- *Youth Focal Points:* Establish regular cooperation for the YPS Focal Point Network, allocate dedicated time and budget for Youth Focal Points, and establish youth focal points in each OSCE Permanent Delegation.
- Unifying existing sets of recommendations developed by the previous chairs into an action on Youth Peace and Security
- Recognising and institutionalising existing mechanisms of youth participation (for example Network of Young Parliamentarians within OSCEPA)



### 3) Empowering Youth Agency & Expertise

- *Financial Support and Funding Mechanisms:* Establish earmarked budgets for YPS programs and mechanisms of meaningful youth participation as an organisational priority, including support for National Action Plans (NAPs), and create dedicated funding streams and earmark funding for YPS activities within existing funding mechanisms such as the Finnish Chairpersonship's Helsinki +50 Fund.
- *Capacity Building and Training:* Develop and enhance capacity building programs for YPS actors and youth leaders, provide training-of-trainers (ToT) for both youth leaders/civil society and OSCE staff on YPS, and facilitate international capacity building and knowledge exchange. This needs to strike a balance between both physical and digital, AI-powered, platforms.
- *Supporting Continued Engagement:* Establishing new and strengthening existing alumni networks of the OSCE youth-related programs (for example, OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security, WIN Project, YW4P (Young Women 4 Peace Initiative Central Asia) Dialogue Academy for Youth Women Supporting and strengthening cooperation between alumni networks of the OSCE youth-related programs to increase peer-to-peer learning and cooperation across the entire OSCE region
- *Knowledge Sharing and Best Practices:* Establish a cross-agency YPS learning platform and a digital knowledge-sharing platform/database to exchange experiences, share good examples, and map best practices in YPS across the region. This also covers youth engagement in mapping of relevant YPS actors, the assessment of impact as well as development of operational guidelines on YPS. This also covers youth engagement in mapping of relevant YPS actors, the assessment of impact as well as development of operational guidelines on YPS.
- *Chairpersonship:* Enhancing the transparency of decision-making processes by establishing clear timelines and entry points for civil society participation, with particular attention to enabling youth civil society to contribute meaningfully
- *Youth Delegates and Internships:* Implement an OSCE Youth Delegate program, include youth delegates in OSCE election observation missions, and introduce special YPS internships in missions.

The recommendations presented here represent the collective insights and experiences of the participants. They are intended to support the OSCE Chairpersonship, other participating States and the OSCE executive structures in further developing and implementing the YPS agenda in ways that are practical, inclusive and sustainable.

Participants emphasized that youth engagement is most effective when young people are seen as partners in shaping peace and security, not only beneficiaries of it. The participants commend the Finnish Chairpersonship for convening the Forum and for its leadership in advancing YPS during 2025 and hope these recommendations will serve as a useful contribution to the OSCE-wide YPS Roadmap and to ongoing efforts to promote inclusive peacebuilding and security across the region.

## Annex 4: Malaga Youth Declaration (2017)

(Original document can be found at:

<https://www.exteriores.gob.es/es/Comunicacion/Noticias/Documents/Decalogue%20youth%20conference%20Malaga.pdf>.)

We, young people from the OSCE participating States and partners for Co-operations, gathered in Mollina-Malaga on the occasion of the 2017 OSCE Youth Conference,


are convinced that youth mainstreaming bring added value to the OSCE in order to achieve the goals and the purpose of the Organization, and that young people can support participating States in implementing OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE, as recognized by the OSCE Ministerial council in Basel (MC.Doc/3/14) and Belgrade (MC.Doc/5/15).

As a result of our discussions, we have reached recommendations in the following areas:

- a) Youth, Peace and Security
- b) Youth and social media: countering radicalization and extremism
- c) Cybersecurity and the economic impact of malware
- d) Youth environmental platforms: creating a sustainable world
- e) Promoting tolerance and countering disinformation online
- f) Youth political participation

### Decalogue of recommendations

- 1) The OSCE should develop a cross-cutting OSCE Youth Policy and establish an inclusive and representative OSCE Youth Consultative Body with the authority to select a OSCE Special Representative for Youth and Security, supported by the Secretariat and funded through the Unified Budget.
- 2) Engage a broad alliance of stakeholders, including formal and non-formal education providers, families, communities and at-risk-youths in preventing and countering violent extremism leading to radicalization and terrorism, through joint online efforts, such as information sharing platform, social media campaigns and educational workshops in local high schools, featuring emotionally engaging positive counter narratives.
- 3) In order to address a lack of knowledge across society on cybersecurity issues, such as networks, personal data protection, evolving norms, etc., states should support programming and other educational mechanisms to promote computer literacy and online security awareness, starting from primary school, putting a special focus to young girls and women.
- 4) Identify the reasons for cyber threats, promote social inclusion and integrity, and reach out to vulnerable youth groups, creating opportunities and increasing motivation among young people to use their potential in a constructive manner. State and private entities should organize hackathons and international events with young professionals.
- 5) We, as youth, need tools to create awareness among young people on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. We call on the Participating States to support youth initiatives that demonstrate a real impact on environment and contribute to strengthening security. In addition, we encourage the creation of platforms and networks to share



knowledge, build capacities, exchange experience and new ideas among youth organizations and other stakeholders, by establishing clear mechanisms for youth engagement in the implementation, monitoring and review of SDGs at all levels.

- 6) In order to enable youth to contribute to the transition to green economy, we call on the OSCE participating States, partners for co-operation and the OSCE executive structures to support youth campaigns on the benefits of the green economy, and sustainable, innovative and greener initiatives. We believe that keeping youth active in research and development will provide a platform for quality dialogue, and will lead to more opportunities for sustainable employment through the creation of green jobs.
- 7) We encourage participating States and their formal and non-formal educational systems to promote civic education and democratic values in order to strengthen the capacity of young people to critically engage with media and the digital world.
- 8) We call upon all media and digital actors to acknowledge their social responsibility and influence, and their resulting accountability, by increasing the visibility of stories about young people, their opinions and views with particular attention to vulnerable groups.
- 9) Supporting OSCE participating States in promoting youth-impact assessment mechanisms on national legislation.
- 10) Establishing structural mechanisms for meaningful and inclusive participation of young women and men from participating States and Partners for co-operation, such as an annual OSCE Youth Forum and regional youth platforms to build capacity and foster mutual understanding through dialogue.

## Follow-up

We, the participants of the Youth Forum call on the OSCE to consider the above recommendations containing the perspectives of our generation, and to assure a follow-up towards their inclusion and implementation in the work on the Organization.

We ask the Spanish Chair of the Group of Friends of Youth and Security to bring these recommendations to the attention of the OSCE Executive structures, OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

