ANNUAL REPORT

2017
About UNOY Peacebuilders

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) is shaping the global agenda for youth, peace and security in partnership with 80 locally grounded organisations. We have members, in over 50 countries which reached nearly 5 million young people in 2017. We work towards a world free from violence in which young people play a leading role in building peace and transforming conflicts. We develop the capacities of our member organisations to mobilise youth as peacebuilders. We also develop the capacities of young people themselves to lead conflict transformation processes and advocate for non-violence and a culture of peace. We enable youth to act together through a global network, and we ensure meaningful youth participation in issues of peace and security.

Our origins

In 1989, a Russian UN diplomat called Nikolai Firjubin had a dream about a general assembly hall filled with young people discussing the major challenges facing humanity. Jointly with others that also shared his dream, such as Maria Kooijman, Nikolai decided to pursue his dream. Not long thereafter, the first group of young people from four continents met in Handel, the Netherlands and committed themselves to building a new international youth organisation, which they called United Nations of Youth (UNOY Peacebuilders). Based on the success of the international peace conference held in the Peace Palace in The Hague in 1993, UNOY Peacebuilders became an action-based loose network of peace organisations, later renamed to the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders). Since then, UNOY Peacebuilders has grown into an established network with members and affiliates all over the world.
Annual Report 2017
United Network of Young Peacebuilders

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List of abbreviations

AIR Annual Impact Review
A-YAT African Youth Advocacy Team
CSO Civil Society Organisation
EU European Union
E-YAT European Youth Advocacy Team
INGOs International Non-Governmental Organisations
IS International Secretariat
ISG International Steering Group
RC Regional Coordinator
UN United Nations
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UNSCR 2250 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250
UNOY United Network of Young Peacebuilders
Introduction

In 2017, crucial steps were taken to bridge the knowledge gap on youth-led peacebuilding and to localise United Nations Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (UNSCR 2250) adopted in December 2015.

Resolution 2250 requested the UN Secretary-General “to carry out a Progress Study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution.” UNOY Peacebuilders provided the Progress Study with the critical knowledge and evidence of the activities, achievements and aspirations of young people working on peace and security. We published a report entitled ‘Mapping a Sector: Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding’ as a contribution to the Progress Study, and co-organised regional consultations in Europe, and Latin America and Caribbean.

2017 was also a year to further regionalise UNOY Peacebuilders, both our advocacy work and our organisational structure. Our advocacy focus shifted to regional intergovernmental bodies as part of the push for UNSCR 2250 to become binding in regional frameworks. In 2017, the European Union’s HR/VP Federica Mogherini expressed the EU’s commitment to UNSCR 2250 as a result of the successful advocacy work of our European Youth Advocacy team (E-YAT). We hope that our newly formed African Youth Advocacy Team (A-YAT), set to work with the African Union, will mirror our achievements with the UN and EU in shaping the African conversation around youth, peace and security.

The regional network development of UNOY Peacebuilders started with the appointment of Regional Coordinators (RC). Two pilot regions, Western and Central Africa and Asia, introduced the post and quickly saw a boost in the sense of community, ownership and participation to the network and to create strong regional communities of young peacebuilders. As a result new posts are planned for 2018 and beyond.

Gizem Kilinc and Sölvi Karlsson
Leading coordinators
Our Highlights from 2017

399 youth-led peacebuilding organisations mapped and surveyed, as a contribution to the UN-mandated Progress Study.

See: unoy.org/mapping-a-sector

Four NEW learning guides published to support youth-led peacebuilding

One NEW advocacy body introduced: The African Youth Advocacy Team

179 young leaders in MULTIPLIER positions gained new capacities to create change
The Network in 2017

- 80 locally grounded and youth-led members part of our network in over ...
- 50 countries, including in conflict-affected setting and post-conflict settings
- 4.90 million young people reached worldwide
- Members have an average turnover of €104,526 per organisation per annum

91% of staff under 35 years old
84% of volunteers

Key topics
- Peace education
- Civic action and community building
- Participation in peace processes
- Advocacy
- Gender equality
- Intercultural dialogue

*The average has been calculated based on the responses of 61 Member organisations for the Annual Impact Review 2017 (AIR 2017). There are great differences between regions, with the average annual turnover in Africa being 53,348 EUR in comparison to 153,379 EUR in the MENA region.
Empowering young people

We are focusing on creating change by:

- Developing young people’s capacity to lead conflict transformation processes and advocate for nonviolence and a Culture of Peace;
- Facilitating the build-up of member organisations’ capacity to mobilize youth as peacebuilders;
- Strengthening UNOY Peacebuilders as a global network with a shared feeling of ownership;
- Ensuring meaningful youth participation in issues of peace and security

Together these actions move us towards our vision of a world free from violence in which young people actively participate and lead in the peaceful transformation of conflicts and work towards cultivating a culture of peace.

Our strategy

Vision
A world free from violence in which young people lead and actively participate in the peaceful transformation of conflicts and work towards cultivating a culture of peace

Goals
- Young people able to build peace and transform conflicts, working together through global network
- Enabling environment for youth participation
- Young people work together through global network
- Young people have capacity to lead conflict transformation

Network action areas
- Organisations as mobilisers
- Building a global network
- Raising youth voices
- Young people’s capacities
Inspiring and developing young people as agents for change

Young people have a long tradition of advocating for peace. We believe that only by giving them leading roles and opportunities to contribute to conflict transformation can lasting peace be achieved.

They also need to be provided with the skills and tools to succeed in this and that is where we come in. By changing the lens through which young people understand conflict, we can open new opportunities for sustainable change by learning how to creatively and constructively deal with conflict in a way that helps us develop as individuals and communities. With understanding conflict comes the need to develop skills and competences to be able to deal with and transform it.

That is why this year training and providing cross learning opportunities has remained at the core of our work by running 5 workshops, training sessions and online courses.

As a network, we work together to empower young people in leadership positions to act as multipliers of these skills within their local youth communities, and to act as advocates for peace internationally as well as nationally and locally. In addition to the work done by the network as a whole to build young people's capacities, the network's member organisations also play a key role in training young people in their own communities.
Trainings

Training of Trainers on Conflict Transformation

Through two training of trainers on conflict transformation held in The Hague and new Delhi, 66 people came together to gain new skills and grow as peace trainers and facilitators. Energetic weeks of discussions, simulations, workshops built towards two days of practice labs, where the participants put what they had learned into practice by organising and co-facilitating their own peacebuilding session. Participants had the unique opportunity to put their learning from the online and face-to-face training into practice by organising their own educational activities.

Fundació Catalunya Voluntària (FCV) - Spain

“We followed up the training with five workshops, with the participation of close to 50 young people, some of them in partnership with other NGOs, including other UNOY Peacebuilders members.”
Training of Advocates

During a Training of Advocates consisting of theoretical and practical sessions, 18 young peacebuilders from across Europe were brought together. They developed increased knowledge and understanding of participants on EU and CoE institutions, identified possible entry points for young people to advocate for youth participation in peacebuilding agenda, while also strengthening their advocacy skills and competences. As a direct result of the training, the trainees developed a youth advocacy manual for peace to be integrated into UNOY’s 2250 toolkit and European Youth Advocacy Team (E-YAT) strategy. 5 trainees were selected to join the E-YAT through which they will be able to use the skills developed to hold meaningful discussions with European policy makers on youth participation in peacebuilding.

Participant:
“The training was a really inspiring experience. (...) The best things about it were: methodology of teaching and training: the non formal education was definitely an asset; the variety and diversity of people selected to participate at the training; the fact that we were never in the same group for the activities, which gave as the chance to know each other more; I also want to stress the great high level advocacy”.

Online workshop on advocacy

We organised our first online workshop to facilitate learning experiences for members while promoting regional cooperation on the African continent. 25 young leaders from our members based in West and Central Africa, Southern- and Eastern Africa, and Northern Africa, focusing on advocacy, led to increasing the participant’s knowledge, but also to familiarize the participants with the political context in which youth advocates in Africa have to navigate.
Strengthening organizations as mobilisers

Members may be different sizes and be situated within very different contexts but many common organisational challenges. For example; fundraising, organisational learning and assessing the impact of their work. We coordinate activities to enable members to support one another.

Network publications in 2017

A key focus for the year was developing guidelines and practical tools for organisational development. We published:

- **The Learning Curve**: a guide for monitoring and evaluation, it offers guidance and assessment tools for youth workers, in the peacebuilding field, to be able to better plan, monitor and evaluate their work and learn from it.
- **Designing Learning for Peace**: a competence framework for peace education. It provides a springboard for educators, learners and organisations to create further educational programmes and partnerships to promote Peace Education.
- **2250: A Youth Toolkit**: an extensive pack to support our member organisations work on implementing UN Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security
- **Translating Youth, Peace and Security Policy into Practice** - a practical guide to organising kick-off activities aimed at setting up national coalitions to work together on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2250.
Organisational trainings

Act on 2250

We held an online training session to empower 70 young people to act as “mobilisers” of Resolution 2250 in their local communities, nationally and internationally. The training was in part based on the aforementioned guide and toolkit.

Action des jeunes pour le Développement Communautaire et la paix (ADECOP) - Democratic Republic of Congo

“At the local level, the Act on 2250 helped us to analyze the local context of the UNSCR 2250 in our community and making some internal strategies and perspectives of action, at the regional level we are created some contacts with we still studying ways to work together. At the regional level, we are currently represented in the UNOY Peacebuilders A-YAT advocating for the implementation of the UNSCR 2250 at the African Union an in Africa.”

Annual Impact Review

The Annual Impact Review is a survey of the member organisations of UNOY Peacebuilders. Its purpose is to gather information about the network’s functioning and members activities and is an important opportunity for the network to highlight the work of members and better understand their needs in order to continue improving our own work.

The AIR evidenced the following:

★ We have 80 members totalling 383 paid and 4253 unpaid staff in over 50 different countries;
★ Key strengths of our members are the ability to mobilise other youth as well as their communities more broadly, remarkable commitment of their staff, and networking and advocacy;
★ The three themes driving change with our members is peace education, striving for gender equality and civic action;
★ 71% of respondents to this survey, said that UNOY Peacebuilders has helped address their needs over the last year;
★ 65% of respondents stated that they have made use of the resources made available by the UNOY Peacebuilders network;

★ One of the biggest challenges remains funding. On average, only 34% of members' grant applications were successful in 2017;

★ Challenges faced by young peacebuilders vary significantly depending on where they are based. While funding seems to be major issue for member organisations based in Africa, the conflict ridden environment is the main challenge for members based in Middle East and North Africa.

It also evidenced key Areas for UNOY Peacebuilders to strengthen in 2018:

★ Extending opportunities for member participation and sense of community in the network;

★ Enhancing IS communications with members;

★ Increasing support for capacity development of members through training and also fundraising efforts;

★ Strengthening member understanding of the International Steering Group (ISG) and support stronger communications of representatives with member organisations.
Fostering a global community of young peacebuilders

As the leading global network of youth peace organisations we can provide cross-learning opportunities not available anywhere else. Therefore, it is vital that we foster a shared sense of community to enable this by:

- providing effective communication and representation mechanisms;
- organising face-to-face networking opportunities;
- providing effective regional structures within the network;
- gathering more information about the community which we represent.

Regional Network Development

The network has grown significantly in recent years. To respond to this and to be able to better serve the needs of all members, the IS introduced two RCs, with plans to expand these roles to further regions in 2018 following a successful first year. The roles in Western and Central Africa and Asia are now improving communication, partnerships and planning of projects between members at the regional level. Both RCs hold monthly online meetings with members and have created a regional action plan leading to more collaborative activities.

“For Asia, the most diverse and largest region of UNOY Peacebuilders, regional coordination is a challenge. This position has really made a difference. It has been an amazing journey to act on vision, mission and values of UNOY Peacebuilders and bringing it out in the networking and partnership for the member organisations.”

Mridul Upadhyay
Global Mapping and Survey

Our new Global Mapping and Survey captures the activities, impact and visions of youth-led peacebuilding organisations from across the world. The study's findings and recommendations formed an important part of the UN Secretary General's *Progress Study on Youth, Peace, and Security* published in April 2018.

*Mapping a Sector: Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding* is a descriptive analysis of the 399 responses from the Global Survey. It provides a snapshot and broad overview of the activities, achievements, strengths and needs of youth-led organisations as reported by them.

With the findings, UNOY Peacebuilders, and the global peacebuilding community has a renewed evidence base to inform the work we do and make sure it is relevant. It will also enable us to reach out to organisations which should be members of the network but which have not had the chance to join.

The UN Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, by endorsing the finding of this Mapping, as given renewed strength to the young voices it conveys.
Raising youth voices

We bring the voices of young peacebuilders to the attention of international policy-makers, advocating for increased youth participation in issues of peace and security, and a culture of peace. The focus of our advocacy work is primarily towards the United Nations, as resolutions and policies developed at the UN set a global standard for peace and development.

In addition to the work done by UNOY Peacebuilders at the international level, individual member organisations continued to advocate for youth participation in peacebuilding at the local and national levels, with support from the IS.

Advocacy milestones

Support to the Progress Study development

UNOY Peacebuilders continued its involvement in the Steering Committee of the UN Progress Study on Resolution 2250. The network also put six facilitators forward from its members for the consultations in Asia and Pacific, West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa. The overall aim of the progress study was to develop sound knowledge of the activities, achievements and aspirations of youth-led organisations working in peace and security around the world. The study Mapping a Sector: Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding referenced earlier is included in the Study.
Outreach and localising 2250

Our member organisations and national partners under the UNOY Peacebuilders banner supported national and local events on 2250 in Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, Tunisia, DR Congo, among other countries.

In close cooperation with our member organisations Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT) and URU, we have supported advocacy for national implementation in Afghanistan and Central African Republic. In the Netherlands, and other selected donor countries, we have built partnerships and cooperation at institutional level with governments, pushing for national implementation, and for supporting the grassroot level

European support for youth, peace and security

The European Youth Advocacy Team (E-YAT) has seen substantial growth this year:

- It was invited to brief the EU's informal task force on Women, Peace and Security on UNSCR 2250 and shared concrete recommendations for its implementation.
- It brought on youth voices on peace and security to the attention of policy and decision makers at the European level in both Strasbourg and Brussels.
- It met with five European Union (EU) Member States, three Parliamentarians, 14 EU staff, It met with three Council of Europe (CoE) Member States, the Youth Department, two PACE members
- It attended a conference for INGOs in Strasbourg and the European Consultation for the Progress Study in Brussels.

As a result the, Bulgarian presidency and E-YAT co-drafted a Council Conclusions on Youth Peace and Security (YPS). The E-YAT also supported UNOY Peacebuilders co-funding the European Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding, a Europe-based coalition of CSOs seeking to promote meaningful participation of Young Voices at the EU level.
African support for youth, peace and security

After the online pilot advocacy workshop in Africa in November, an African youth advocacy team was appointed to begin working to raise awareness among decision makers within African regional intergovernmental organisations of the role of youth in peacebuilding. The first mission will take place in 2018.

Advocacy for youth-accessible funding

In addition to advocating for a strengthened commitment to youth participation in peacebuilding across national and regional policies, UNOY has been pushing to dedicated youth-friendly funding to be available for our member organisations and for our IS.
The ISG consists of six representatives of member organisations elected on a regional basis. The ISG has a representational, governing and advisory role within the network and works closely together with the network’s IS and the Board, both based in The Hague. Members of the ISG are elected by member organisations for a period of two years. Members of the ISG in 2017 were:

**Americas**
- Ana Maria Mendoza Garcia

**Asia**
- Ali Fayez

**Middle East and North Africa**
- Aya Chebbi

**West and Central Africa**
- Rashid Zuberu

**Europe**
- Tiphaine Coulardeau

**Eastern and Southern Africa**
- Tobias Saratiel
Board

The board is the legal body of UNOY Peacebuilders and supervises the activities of the International Secretariat. The board's main function is to approve overall plans and budgets, overview financial administration and make decisions related to the hiring of staff in the future, in consultation with the ISG. Board members in 2017 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-chair</th>
<th>Co-chair</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Len Middelbeek</td>
<td>Laura Lasance</td>
<td>Bryant Heng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siebrich Visser</td>
<td>Rojan Bolling</td>
<td>Gesa Bent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The honorary chairs of UNOY Peacebuilders:
Nikolai N. Firjubin; Rabbi A. Soetendorp; Maria Kooijman

International Secretariat

The International Secretariat (IS) consists of a young international team, led by two Leading Coordinators. The main function of the IS is to coordinate and implement the activities of the network. The staff of the IS in 2017 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading coordinator responsible for advocacy and policy</th>
<th>Leading coordinator responsible for strategy and network</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gizem Kilinc</td>
<td>Sölvi Karlsson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme coordinator</td>
<td>Finance coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imre Veeneman</td>
<td>Bart Horeman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interns and volunteers make up an essential part of UNOY Peacebuilders' activities. Internships generally span from 4 to 6 months on full- or part-time basis, and are unpaid. Volunteers furthermore make important contributions to events organised by UNOY Peacebuilders.

The interns and volunteers at the IS in 2017:
Viktoria Salhikova; Vera Houwaart; Sofia Achame; Marie Cucurella; Mai Tenda

The international and multicultural, young and dynamic atmosphere is especially appreciated. The turnover of volunteers remain high, and the management works to ensure that proper hand over takes place between volunteers in order to ensure continuity and sustainability.
## Finances

### Balance sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tangible fixed assets</td>
<td>1.408</td>
<td>1.877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables, prepayments and accrued income</td>
<td>29.715</td>
<td>70.035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>38.194</td>
<td>53.992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>69.317</strong></td>
<td><strong>125.904</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserve</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
<td>31.790</td>
<td>44.097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed capital fund assets conduct of business</td>
<td>1.408</td>
<td>1.877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisational development fund</td>
<td>1.905</td>
<td>1.905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35.103</strong></td>
<td><strong>47.879</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities, accruals and deferred income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>30.379</td>
<td>30.571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies to spend</td>
<td>3.835</td>
<td>47.454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>34.214</strong></td>
<td><strong>78.025</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Grand Total**                             | **69.317** | **125.904** |
Statement of benefits and costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incomes</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structural grants</td>
<td>66,996</td>
<td>66,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project grants</td>
<td>180,848</td>
<td>204,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results from investments</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sum of incomes</strong></td>
<td><strong>248,528</strong></td>
<td><strong>272,931</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct programme costs</td>
<td>248,865</td>
<td>239,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct fundraising costs</td>
<td>4,591</td>
<td>6,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and administration costs</td>
<td>7,849</td>
<td>8,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sum of expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>261,305</strong></td>
<td><strong>253,883</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULT**                     | **-12,777** | **19,048** |

More details can be found in UNOY Peacebuilders’ annual accounts, available online.
Donors in 2017

UNOY Peacebuilders is grateful to the donors which enabled the network’s activities in 2017. The following donors contributed to different programmes of the network:

- The European Commission's Erasmus+ programme
- The Council of Europe's European Youth Foundation
- The Secretariat of the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, jointly led by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office and UNFPA
- Cordaid
- Peace Nexus
- Anna Lindh Foundation
- Iona Foundation
- Haella Foundation
- Van der Linden Foundation