A GUIDE TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2250

Everything you need to know about the first Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace and Security
A Guide to UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace & Security

On 9 December 2015, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 2250. This is the first resolution that deals specifically with the role of young people in issues of peace and security. The resolution is an important landmark for the recognition of the positive role young people can play in conflict and post-conflict setting.

But what exactly does this resolution say? Why does a Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace and Security matter? How can young people use this resolution to build more peaceful and safe societies? These are the questions we will address in this short guidebook to UNSC resolution 2250.

This guide is part of the 2250 Toolkit. To access the integral content, please visit unoy.org/2250-toolkit.
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What is the United Nations Security Council?

The UN Security Council is one of the five main bodies of the UN and it is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Some - though not all - decisions taken by the Security Council must be accepted and implemented by the members states, which gives a lot of political weight to the resolutions.

The Council is composed by 15 members in total:

5 permanent (with veto power)
- China
- France
- Russian Federation
- United Kingdom
- United States

+ 10 non-permanent, elected for 2-year terms by the General Assembly (no veto power)

The other four main organs of the UN are: the General Assembly; the Secretariat; the International Court of Justice; and the Economic and Social Council.

What is a UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR)?

The Security Council adopts resolutions on issues relevant to international peace and security. The resolutions can approach a wide range of subjects; it can be on a general topic, such as Countering Terrorism and promoting women's participation in peacebuilding, or it can focus on the situation of one specific country.

To be adopted, a resolution must receive at least nine votes and it cannot be vetoed by any of the five permanent members. That requires intense negotiation among the members of the Council.

You can read all the resolutions adopted by the Security Council here:

What is Security Council Resolution 2250?

UNSCR 2250 is a thematic resolution which deals with the topic of youth (defined as 18-29 years old in the document) from an international peace and security perspective. It provides a set of guidelines upon which policies and programs will be developed by member states, the UN and civil society.

This global policy framework explores how conflict impacts young people's lives and what must be done to mitigate its effects, as well as how youth can be meaningfully included in creating peaceful communities.

For this reason, the resolution is considered a landmark international legal framework that focuses not only on the devastating impact of armed conflicts on youth but also the crucial role that youth play in managing conflict and establishing peace processes.

➡️ Read full text of Resolution 2250

Why did the Security Council adopt Resolution 2250?

Resolution 2250 is more than anything the success of the joint efforts of youth organizations, the UN, civil society actors, and governments working in partnerships. The Security Council adopted this resolution because we cannot build long-lasting peace without protecting the lives and dignity of young people, and meaningfully engaging them in issues of peace and security.

➡️ Read The Path Towards a Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security on our UNOY Blog.
Why do youth need to play a pivotal role in peacebuilding?

At 1.8 billion, today’s young generation (10-24 year old) is the largest the world has ever known and youth are often the majority of the population in countries affected by armed conflict.

Ensuring their active, systematic, and meaningful participation of young people in issues of peace and security is a demographic and democratic imperative. It is also a way of preventing their marginalization and engagement in armed conflict.

Their actual contribution and further potential should be valued, recognized and supported as a key to shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation and economic prosperity.

Is Resolution 2250 legally binding?

Yes. The title of resolution 2250 is “Maintenance of International Peace and Security” which is a reference to Chapter 7, Article 39 in the UN Charter. Security Council Resolutions under Chapter 7 are binding.
Why is Resolution 2250 important?

Resolution 2250 is a historical document not only because it is the first resolution on Youth, Peace and Security, but also because:

It supports a new narrative: Youth is often portrayed either as victims or perpetrators of violence. However, the resolution recognizes that young people are also engaged in building peace. It’s an important step to change the negative perceptions and prejudices people hold against youth;

It provides recognition and legitimacy: It is not enough to build another perception of youth as peacebuilders. It is also crucial to recognize that a great part of young men and women are working at grassroots, local, national, regional and global levels towards sustainable peace. They deserve a seat at the negotiation table;

It brings visibility: The resolution provides a new focus on youth and peace, giving visibility to the initiatives, actions and projects initiated by young people and youth organizations towards peace, justice, reconciliation, promotion of diversity, etc.;

It ensures youth protection: The resolution reminds governments of their responsibility to protect young people in armed conflict;

It promotes youth representation and participation: The resolution asks member states to take youth’s needs and perspectives into consideration. It also demands their participation at all levels in peace processes;

It fosters partnerships: The resolution provides a platform for partners to work together and build partnerships with representatives of different sectors to generate inclusive peace processes, including the UN, governments, donors, civil society, youth organizations, etc.;

It provides tools for countering violent extremism: The resolution acknowledges the threat of violent extremism for youth, but also clearly shows that the majority of youth is not agents of violence. On the contrary, they play a role in countering violence and extremism and in establishing lasting peace. Investing in education and vocational skills is of the utmost important;

It ensures an evidence-based approach: The resolution requests the Secretary-General to carry out a process study on youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution. As a result, more effective policies, programs and responses can be designed;

It ensures accountability: The resolution calls for an annual debate in the Security Council to discuss the progress on the implementation of the resolution.
What does UNSCR 2250 say?

Resolution 2250 has 5 main action areas:
(i) Participation; (ii) Protection; (iii) Prevention; (iv) Partnerships; (v) Disengagement & Reintegration.

**Participation**
Resolution 2250 asks governments to increase the participation of young people in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and in mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict. It also stresses the need for the Security Council to consider young people’s needs during its missions. For more on this, see:

- [Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding](#)
- [Practice Note on key strategic and programming considerations for supporting young people's participation in peacebuilding](#)

**Protection**
Resolution 2250 requires governments to ensure the protection of civilians, specifically including youth, at times of armed conflict and post-conflict, including protection from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence. It also demands countries to end impunity by bringing to justice those who commit genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against young civilians. For more on this, see:

- [For more information on UN action against sexual violence in conflict](#)
- [Learn more about the work of the UN in tackling gender-based violence in crisis situations](#)
- [Interesting insight into “Rape in War: Motives of Militia in DRC”](#)
Prevention

Resolution 2250 calls on governments to support youth’s engagement by creating spaces in which young people are recognized and provided with adequate support to implement violence prevention activities. The document also stresses the need to create policies for youth that would positively contribute to peacebuilding efforts, including for their social and economic development. The Security Council also calls on all relevant actors to establish mechanisms to promote a culture of peace and discourage youth from all acts of violence.

Partnerships

Resolution 2250 urges governments to establish and strengthen partnerships with relevant actors by:
- increasing political, financial, technical, and logistical support to UN bodies engaged in promoting peace, development and equality;
- considering the Peacebuilding Commission’s advice and recommendations on how to engage young people during and after conflict when developing peacebuilding strategies;
- engaging community actors and empowering local people(s) - including youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders - in countering violent extremism and promoting social cohesion and inclusion.

Read more:
Youth action agenda to prevent violent extremism and promote peace

Disengagement & Reintegration

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) are strategies used in the aftermath of a armed conflict as a way to achieve sustainable peace. It refers to removing the armament from the possession of paramilitary groups (disarmament) as well as disengaging their participants (demobilization) and reintegrating them into society (reintegration).

Resolution 2250 encourages all actors engaged in DDR to consider the impact of these processes on youth as well as the needs of young people affected by armed conflict. Aspects to be considered include: opportunities and policies in the fields of education, employment and training in preventing the marginalization of youth and promoting a culture of peace.
What are the next steps?

➢ The UN will work to improve the coordination and interaction regarding the needs of youth during armed conflicts and post-conflict situations;

➢ The UN Secretary-General will carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels;

➢ The Security Council will keep engaged with the issue.

How can I use Resolution 2250?

Even though member states are responsible for the implementation of the resolution at the national level, there are many ways in which young people and civil society organizations can take part in this process, from leading it to cooperating with other stakeholders on the local, national, regional and global levels.

You and your organization might choose how to use the resolution based on your capabilities and competences, and on the needs found on the ground. For this reason, it is important to contextualize your efforts: know the challenges and needs of young men and women in your community and country!

You will find below a few suggestions of how UNSCR 2250 can contribute to your work on youth, peace and security.
Spread the word!

People must know what resolution 2250 is, what it says, and why it matters so they can use it. So, spread the word to make sure that as many people as possible know about 2250. In order to do so, you can:

➤ **Introduce** the resolution to the members of your organization, activists, colleagues etc;
➤ **Attend** events relevant to the topic of youth, peace and security and mention the resolution during panel discussion, debates, networking sessions etc;
➤ **Write** a blog post for your blog or a partner's blog on the topic; create and share content in the social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) using the hashtags #Youth4Peace and #SCR2250;
➤ **Share** the content of this Toolkit with your organization, partners and network;

Advocate

You might want to go further and create an advocacy strategy around resolution 2250. Advocating for a cause means bringing it to people's attention so it will gain support and be addressed by policy-makers and other relevant actors. That will require a little more strategic planning than simply mentioning the document and sharing it on the social media. There are a few steps you can follow to start your advocacy campaign:

➤ **Brainstorm** with your organization and partners what kind of message you would like to advocate for (you can use one specific action area of the resolution or the document as a whole, for instance);
➤ **Select** the partners you would like to involve in this campaign (youth-led and youth-focused NGOs, youth clubs and councils, peace organizations, UN agencies etc.) and the target group;
UNOY has good partnerships with Search for Common Ground, World Vision, Mercy Corps as well as UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women. If you need help in reaching out to any of these organizations, contact us on advocacy@unoy.org.
➤ **Create** content for social media and blogs - don't forget to use #Youth4Peace and #SCR2250);
➤ **Organize** workshops and training on the resolution (feel free to use the content of this toolkit to support you in this, such as the power-point presentation);
➤ **Contact** the local media (newspapers, television channels etc.).
Lobby

Lobbying is a way of doing advocacy, except it targets policy-makers. Then again, you will need to be strategic and make a plan in order to make an impact. A good way to start is:

- **Review** policies and national plans in the field and peace and security (countering violent extremism, gender equality, youth policies etc.) and check the language used on youth. You can go even further and draft recommendations for those documents to introduce an inclusive language on youth and reference resolution 2250;
- **Send** policy-makers an e-mail (template available at unoy.org/2250-toolkit) bringing to their attention the importance of implementing the resolution in your country. Make sure you select people who showed previous interest and commitment to the cause;
- **If possible**, schedule a meeting with a policy-maker to discuss the issue in more depth. It is important to be prepared! Have a 2 minutes pitch prepared on why this is important and how that specific person can contribute. After the meeting, make sure to send an e-mail thanking them for their time and to follow-up on the commitments made.

Build partnerships

Resolution 2250 portrays youth as partners in preventing violence, countering violent extremism and building peace. So it is time to engage with other stakeholders in order to make a greater impact. Some actions might include:

- **Map** the relevant actors in the peace and security field in your country and community; such as Ministries, Youth Councils, UN agencies, faith-based groups, etc;
- **Think** of how both parties can contribute in a possible partnership: you might know a lot about the local context and be able to engage young people, while the other part might have capacities or funds that you don't possess;
- **Reach** out to those actors and find out how you can collaborate. Be open to discuss different ways of contributing instead of having an “I want/need this from you” approach.
Mobilize resources

Many nonprofit and youth organizations struggle to implement their activities due to the lack of resources, especially financial. Resolution 2250 can be an important tool to mobilize resources as it provides recognition and legitimacy to young people’s efforts in peacebuilding. Therefore, you can:

- **Refer** to the resolution when applying for funding - mention how the Security Council urges states to build on youth’s capacities to act as agents of positive change;
- **Ask** for technical support to implement your project - that might include developing competencies your organization does not possess;

Organize a national launch of the resolution

Organizing a launch of the resolution at the national level is a good way to raise awareness on the topic and mobilize relevant stakeholders. The checklist below will assist you in the organization of this event:

**Start brainstorming!**

- What type of event will work best in your country to spread the message of UNSCR 2250? A press conference, a panel discussion, a forum...?
- Where will you host it? How will you get the word out?
- Who will you invite (government officials, youth activists, Civil society organizations...)?
- Who will be the speakers (make sure it is a diverse and inclusive team)?
- What is your budget? How will you raise the funds for the event?
  
  **Important:** make sure your event is strategic and fun!

**TIP:** Reserve a time and space in your program for local young peacebuilders to showcase their work. In the end of the event, the participants can elect the winner of the Young Peacebuilder Award. This will bring recognition for the positive role young people play in the community.

Ask friends, colleagues, or partner organizations to help promote your event.
Build a team!

- Reach out to youth groups, charities, schools, or media to partner with in the event and try to be as much inclusive as possible!
- In some cases, we can help connect you with organizations on the ground.
- Contact us: advocacy@unoy.org.

**TIP**: Prepare a press release with 5-10 priority action points from the local youth to the government, international agencies and civil society organizations.

Let us know!

- You might inspire others to do the same, so let us know about your launch and we will share it on our social media. Feel free to send photos, videos and stories! inform UNOY (advocacy@unoy.org) about the event, so that we can share info about it through our communication channels!
- Share photos, videos, and stories of what you're doing leading up to and on the day of your event by including #SCR2250 and #youth4peace

Other activities that can be carried out in parallel to the national launch or individually:

**National consultation**: In order to find out what are the most pressing issues and challenges for the youth in your country, organize an online consultation. Share it among young people, policy-makers, activist, CSOs, networks/alliances, academicians etc. The results can be used to support your advocacy work (both campaign and lobbying);

**Meetings at local levels**: Create spaces (or build on existing ones) for young people from your community to talk to inspiring and influential speakers. Invite community members, fellow advocates and decision-makers. The idea is to exchange experiences, share best and worst practices and bridge the different stakeholders;

**Artistic Interventions**: Organize an artistic intervention where you & others can draw or write creatively about the resolution, exploring the content and the importance of UNSCR 2250. It can include drawing, painting, dancing, staging a play, doing a flashmob, composing a song… be creative and don’t forget to share it in the social media using the hashtags #youth4peace and #SCR2250.
Consider some important competences when working on youth, peace and security:

**Be creative:** young people often represent innovation, energy, motivation and commitment. For that reason, you can let your imagination flow and be very creative when preparing activities. Think outside the box!

**Be inclusive:** youth comprises a wide variety of national, racial-ethnic, socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds. Be inclusive, respectful and sensitive when talking, working, and collaborating with young people.

Download the integral content of the 2250 toolkit at: unoy.org/2250-toolkit

Do you have any questions about Resolution 2250? Any suggestions on what should be included in the 2250 toolkit? Let us know at advocacy@unoy.org. Your suggestions are very welcome.

If you liked the Guide to UN Security Council 2250, share it on the social media using the hashtags #Youth4Peace and #UNSCR2250.