



# GPPAC Youth Policy

Integrating Youth Perspectives  
into the Work of GPPAC

May 2019



A Network of People  
Building Peace

*\* This version of the Youth Policy was approved by the GPPAC International Steering Group in May 2019*

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# 1. Introduction

This document defines objectives and strategies for increasing the effectiveness of the GPPAC network in promoting and achieving meaningful youth participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It will provide a foundation and implementation strategy for mainstreaming youth throughout GPPAC's network structures and work. In doing so, the youth policy will also tackle the following questions:

- Why is meaningful youth participation key in achieving GPPAC's mandate?
- How can we mainstream youth in GPPAC's policies, programmes and projects?

The proposed policy is designed **to inform participatory, inclusive and inter-generational peacebuilding strategies and programmes that systematically promote and ensure participation and contributions of young people in the work of GPPAC and its member organisations.**

## TERMS & CONCEPTS USED IN THE YOUTH POLICY

**Youth** – Youth is a social construct that refers to a transitional phase in life from childhood to adulthood. Youthhood “is associated with diverse cultural, psychosocial, developmental, political and economic milestones or rites of passage that signal the acquisition of relative autonomy and recognition of adult status which vary across the world”.<sup>1</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 defines youth as 18–29 years, but notes the variations that exist on national and international levels. The terms youth, young people and youth groups are used interchangeably in this document.

**Gender** – Gender refers to socially constructed roles and relationships, personality traits, attitudes, behaviours, values, relative power and influence that society ascribes to the two sexes on a differential basis. Where biological sex is determined by genetic and anatomical characteristics, gender is an acquired identity that is learned, changes over time, and varies widely within and across cultures.<sup>2</sup> Gendered stereotypes of youth in contexts of violent conflict are very common, with young men being seen as perpetrators of violence and young women as helpless victims.

**YPS agenda** – The Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda was formally established on 9 December 2015. This is when the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security (UNSCR 2250). The resolution is the first document of its kind to recognise the positive role youth play in the field of peace and security, marking a paradigm shift in perception of youth: from sources of conflict to seeing them as resources for peace and development.

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<sup>1</sup> Simpson, Graeme (2018). [The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace, and Security](#).

<sup>2</sup> GPPAC Gender Policy (2019). <https://gppac.net/publications/gppac-gender-policy>

***Youth Inclusion, Mainstreaming or Participation?*** – Adults can “include youth” as a passive beneficiary; they can “mainstream youth” views, needs and concerns into every aspect of an organisation; but adults can’t “participate youth”. Youth participation underlines young people’s agency and their active participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.<sup>3</sup>

***Youth Participation*** is understood as young people’s ability to shape decisions that affect their lives. Participation that is meaningful can only occur if it entails the active, informed, and effective involvement of youth in decision-making at various levels in an organisation and within different stages of a programme.<sup>4</sup>

***Intergenerational Approach*** – Youth participation in peacebuilding does not by definition exclude the participation of adults. Conflict prevention can only be achieved on the basis of collaborative efforts between youth and older generations as equal partners. An intergenerational approach is also key to find common ground for action, develop mutual respect and bridge trust gaps between youth and other members of society.

## 1.1 Youth & Conflict Prevention

### THE NUMBERS:

- 1.8 billion of the world’s population is between the age of 10 to 24 years, which is the largest youth population the world has ever known.
- 408 million youth (aged 15-29) reside in settings affected by armed conflict or organized violence.
- This means that at least 1 in 4 young people are directly affected by violence or armed conflict.
- Yet the vast majority of young people are not involved in, or in danger of participating in, violence.

**THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2250 ON 9 DECEMBER 2015**, as a result of youth-led advocacy in close partnership with key allies within international CSOs and the UN system. This historic document is important for young peacebuilders worldwide as it brings recognition and legitimacy to their efforts. Resolution 2250 sheds light on the positive role youth play in the field of peace and security, and requests for policies and programmes by the international community and member states to ensure meaningful contribution and participation of youth in the peace and security agenda.

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<sup>3</sup> Freechild Institute (2010). [Youth participation](#).

<sup>4</sup> CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality and YouAct (2017). [Flower of Participation](#).



## RESOLUTION 2250 IDENTIFIES 5 ACTION AREAS:



*Participation* – calling for the meaningful participation of youth in the peace and security agenda, not only as beneficiaries but most importantly, as equal partners.



*Protection* – recalls the obligations to protect civilians, including young people, and in particular from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.



*Prevention* – recognizes the role of youth in preventing violence. It also highlights the need to facilitate an enabling environment and improve investments in socio-economic development and quality education for youth, and to create mechanisms to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue that involve youth.



*Partnership* – UN entities, international organisations and civil society to actively increase political, financial, technical and logistical support for young people's participation in peacebuilding. It also highlights the importance of partnering with youth, local communities and non-governmental actors in countering violent extremism.



*Disengagement & Reintegration* – Support the meaningful reintegration of young women and men directly involved in armed conflict or other violent activities (gangs, etc.).<sup>5</sup>

Resolution 2250 also requested the UN Secretary-General to bridge the evidence gap on young people's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution by carrying out a Progress Study. In June 2018, Resolution 2419 was adopted by the UN Security Council, noting the previously published Progress Study and reaffirming the importance of youth inclusion in peace processes.

## THE MISSING PEACE: INDEPENDENT PROGRESS STUDY ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

has made an important contribution to understanding the diversity and complexity of young people's engagement for peace:

- The study documents the growing inter-generational trust gap between young people and their governments, multilateral organisations, and even international CSOs. Young people's mistrust in systems of patronage and corrupt governance has triggered their

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<sup>5</sup> UNOY Peacebuilders, Ortiz Quintilla, R. (2018) [Youth4Peace Training Toolkit](#), The Hague.

scepticism about formal politics and other institutions, leading them to create alternative spaces for participation.

- This lack of trust is reciprocal and has fuelled policy panic in relation to the “youth bulge”, youth migration and violent extremism. The result has been disproportionate investment in hard-fisted security measures, which address the symptoms of violent conflict rather than the root causes of the structural and psychological “violence of exclusion” faced by young people.
- Narrowed civic space disproportionately affects young peacebuilders who have long been at the forefront of political and social change, challenging the status quo through peaceful protest, artistic expression and online mobilisation.
- Young people organise themselves in diverse ways. Youth-led organisations are an important channel for youth leadership in building peace. Youth also organise through movements, networks and other systems which might not look like “organisations” in the traditional sense.
- Most youth-led peacebuilding organisations are modestly funded or underfunded. Half of the organisations surveyed for the Progress Study operate on a budget of 5,000 USD per year or less. These organisations are largely driven by volunteers, united around a vision for positive change in their societies.
- The study shows that the interests of young people and the work they do naturally traverses the pillars of peace, development and human rights and all phases of peace and conflict cycles, from prevention to humanitarian support to the post-conflict truth and reconciliation processes.

### **THE PROGRESS STUDY PROPOSES THREE MUTUALLY REINFORCING STRATEGIES:**

1. Fostering intergenerational dialogue and partnership where young people are viewed as equal and essential partners for peace;
2. Transforming the systems that reinforce inclusion through youth participation in decision making and protecting youth civic spaces;
3. Investing in young people’s capacities, agency, and leadership in peacebuilding.

## **1.2 Origins and objectives of GPPAC’s Youth Policy**

Youth has always been one of the cross-cutting priorities of GPPAC’s work. As early as 2005, the Global Action Agenda emphasized the necessity to ensure the inclusion of youth CSOs on national, regional and international levels and to build on youth capacities for prevention and peacebuilding. Youth is a cross-cutting issue in GPPAC’s strategic plan for 2016–2020, which focuses on the strategic objectives of enabling collaboration, improving practice and influencing policy. Local ownership, inclusion, sustainability and dialogue are among GPPAC’s core principles and values. The start of the development of this youth policy dates back to mid-2018.

## WHY ARE YOUNG PEOPLE KEY TO ACHIEVING GPPAC MANDATE?

- *To ensure local ownership* - Youth often form the majority of the population in countries that are affected by developmental challenges, conflict, crime and other forms of violence. They must be engaged in peace processes as a key demographic in local communities.
- *To build inclusive societies* - Young people face multiple forms of exclusion - from economic, social, and political processes. Youth empowerment is key to building inclusive, diverse and vibrant civil societies.
- *To guarantee sustainable peace* - Social exclusion is an important factor that triggers a relapse into violent conflict. Young people are key stakeholders in peace processes, in shaping decisions that will affect the rest of their lives and preventing the recurrence of violence by peaceful means.
- *To foster dialogue at all levels of society* - Intergenerational dialogue rebuilds social cohesion, reduces mistrust between youth and their communities, and transforms conflict through non-violent means.
- *To build on and foster the agency of people working to build peace & prevent conflicts* - the involvement of young people is needed to achieve longer term successes as youth are not only the actors now but also leaders of tomorrow.

GPPAC believes that sustainable peace can only be achieved when all members of society are engaged and participate, regardless of their gender, age, religion, race, class or nationality. Peacebuilding interventions have a far greater chance of success if they foster social cohesion and trust through an inclusive and participatory process.

## GPPAC HAS TAKEN SEVERAL INITIAL STEPS TO START WORKING ON THE YPS AGENDA:

- In 2016-2017, GPPAC conducted a mapping of activities that the network and its members are already undertaking with youth in relation to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The overview only looked into the activities which took place between 2014 and 2015 which were reported by regions in their annual reports.
- In 2017, GPPAC and its member La Paz Querida launched a project on intergenerational dialogue for a culture of peace in Colombia, and to empower Colombian youth to influence national policy.
- In February 2018, GPPAC Foundation in cooperation with its members, Foundation for Tolerance International and Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy started the project "Cameras in Hand: transformation and empowerment of Kyrgyzstani girls and boys" in 4 regions of Kyrgyzstan. This project makes use of participatory video methodology, which contributes to the creation of spaces for dialogue, reconciliation, and youth participation in decision making processes.
- In June 2018, the GPPAC thematic working group on youth, peace, and security (YPS WG) was established to move forward with mainstreaming youth in GPPAC's organisational structure and its work. The core group of the WG is youth-led and has steered the process of developing the GPPAC youth policy.

Many GPPAC members implement youth-related or youth-oriented activities, and some regions already have youth-led member organisations or youth focal points. With the development of a youth policy, GPPAC recognises the need for a more deliberate, systematic

and effective approach to strengthen youth participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

### **WHAT IS GPPAC'S STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE IN POSITIONING ITSELF IN THE YPS FIELD?**

- *GPPAC is a global network of civil society organisations*, and is well-positioned to uphold young people's civic spaces and to foster collaborative action where young people are viewed as equal partners for peace.
- *GPPAC is working towards a shift from reaction to conflict prevention*, and should invest in young people's capacities, agency and leadership to implement violence prevention activities and to support social cohesion.
- *GPPAC promotes regional approaches to preventing conflict*, and can thus support the development of regional frameworks that address YPS issues – in partnership with regional networks of young peacebuilders and regional intergovernmental bodies.
- *GPPAC shapes international policy by making voices from the ground heard*, and must increase the inclusive representation of youth in its advocacy work and promote international compliance with resolutions 2250 and 2419.
- The YPS WG has developed this Youth Policy to formulate a coherent and holistic approach to youth issues and youth mainstreaming within the Global Secretariat, the GPPAC network, its governing bodies and members, and all of its activities (including local, regional, as well as the activities of the other Working Groups). This policy document is the result of careful consultations with the working group members, Regional Liaison Officers, the gender coordinator, and other GPPAC Global Secretariat staff to identify and integrate youth perspective in GPPAC day-to-day activities.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH POLICY:**

- To recognize young people as leaders, partners and agents for peace and to support youth-led organisations, networks and initiatives;
- To guide GPPAC's youth participation at all levels of the network and programming;
- To embed youth, peace and security within GPPAC's advocacy and fundraising efforts;
- To enhance GPPAC's efforts to promote meaningful youth participation in its work and relations with other stakeholders;
- To contribute to the implementation of UNSCR 2250 and 2419 on youth, peace and security.

## **2. Mainstreaming Youth in GPPAC**

### **2.1 Guiding Principles**

The guiding principles provided below should underpin all efforts to mainstream youth in GPPAC. They were developed by the Subgroup on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding of the UN Interagency Network on Youth Development, which is now known as the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security.



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## On Young People's Participation In Peacebuilding

Lead to programmes and strategies that ensure youth are engaged as partners and agents of change in peacebuilding for political stability and economic prosperity



### Participation

- Prioritize young people's **participation** for peacebuilding.
- Promote that the majority of youth **strive for peace**; only a minority engages in violence.
- Link youth participation to all sectors (**social, economic, cultural and political**) and to all levels.



### Diversity

- Value young people's **diversity** and **marginalized** voices.
- Develop targeted strategies to involve young people from **different backgrounds**.
- Respect the **experiences of all**, including those associated with conflict.



### Gender

- Be sensitive to **gender dynamics**.
- Avoid **stereotypical assumptions** about the roles and aspirations of girls, boys, young women, men and transgender people.
- Identify strategies to seek **young women's engagement**.



### Leadership

- Enable young people's **ownership, leadership, and accountability**.
- Find them, Learn from them, and Support them.
- Facilitate **mechanisms** for communication to enable young leaders to be accountable to their peers and communities.



### Safety

- Always aim to **"Do No Harm"** and provide a **safe** environment for young people to participate.
- Ensure that facilitators are **trained** to handle difficult situations.
- Be cautious **not to incentivize violence**.
- Be sensitive to **inequalities**.



### Involvement

- Involve young people **in all stages** of programming.
- Have decision makers, institutions and organizations **commit to accountability** to youth.
- Offer alternative sources of power to youth who have attained power **using violent means**.



### Competence

- Enhance the **knowledge, attitudes, skills and competencies** of youth.
- Identify young people who can serve as **positive role models**.
- Develop **violence-prevention strategies** beyond security responses that nurture skills in **mediation and conflict resolution**.



### Partnership

- Invest in **intergenerational partnerships** in young people's communities.
- Increase **dialogue and opportunities for cooperation** among children, young people, parents and elders, in order to resolve violence.



### Policy

- Support policies that address the **full needs of young people**.
- Contribute to the establishment of **local, regional and national forums** that can enhance young people's participation in the development of public policies.

For more information about Guiding Principles, please visit [www.sfcg.org/guidingprinciples](http://www.sfcg.org/guidingprinciples)  
Brought to you by the Inter-agency Working Group on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding, co-chaired by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office and Search for Common Ground.  
Designed by Seulji Kim

## 2.2 Mainstreaming Youth in Network Structures

GPPAC is organised primarily through regional networks and global structures. This section proposes a series of strategies to mainstream youth within GPPAC's governing bodies, regional networks, working groups, and global secretariat.

## AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

### *Regional Networks & Regional Steering Groups (RSGs):*

1. GPPAC's regional networks and regional steering groups (RSGs) should proactively reach out to and include youth-led organisations working on peacebuilding in the region by: identifying existing youth-led CSOs and groups, learning from them in regional exchanges, and partnering up with them as equal and essential partners for peace.
2. GPPAC's regional networks should apply a youth lens in the monitoring of conflicts in the region, to identify issues and needs of specific relevance and urgency to youth, and to develop regional strategies for addressing these issues. Please check Annex 1 for the tool and how to apply youth lens in conflict analysis.
3. Member organisations of GPPAC's regional networks are encouraged to appoint youth as organisational representatives to the RSG to ensure a balance in age (as well as gender), and to enable youth participation in GPPAC's decision making processes at the regional level.
4. RSGs are encouraged to include sessions on youth, peace and security in their annual meetings, and to organise back-to-back workshops on how to implement the GPPAC youth policy and public awareness raising events on YPS. It would be good practice to invite representatives of the YPS WG or youth organisations in the region to lead and actively take part in discussions on YPS at the annual meetings of the RSGs.
5. RSGs are encouraged to conduct and support youth-led activities in the region. The RSGs are responsible for making sure that youth can actively participate in all the regional activities.
6. GPPAC's regional networks should promote participation in the YPS WG among youth-led and youth-focused members in their regions.
7. RSGs are encouraged to put young people forward as regional representatives to the international steering group (ISG) to enable youth participation in GPPAC's decision making processes at the global level.

### *Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs) and Regional Representatives (RRs):*

8. Exchange, learning and collaboration should be facilitated between RLOs and RRs and YPS WG at global and regional levels, for example by (but not limited to) having YPS WG meetings back-to-back to the RLO meetings to enable regional input to the activities of the YPS WG and the input from the YPS WG to the regions.
9. Encouraging regions to focus on building trust and respect between youth and older generations, including through intergenerational partnerships between RLOs and RRs and the YPS WG members, as well as other young peacebuilders such as UNOY's regional coordinators. The other ways in which such collaboration/ exchanges can be implemented are also encouraged.

## AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

### *The International Steering Group (ISG):*

10. When deciding upon strategic questions, the ISG ensures that YPS remains one of the crosscutting and funding priorities for GPPAC.

11. The ISG will ensure that at least one of its international seats will be filled by a youth-led organisation to ensure that youth voices are incorporated into GPPAC's decision making processes at the global level. The representative of this youth-led organization at the ISG will act also as the YPS WG representative at the ISG (and GSG) with the responsibility of representing youth voices of the GPPAC regional networks and member organisations.
12. The YPS WG representative at the ISG (and GSG) will act as a connecting point between the YPS WG and ISG to make sure that the YPS WG members have an opportunity to provide input in ISG discussions and decisions.
13. YPS will be a standing item on the meeting agenda of the ISG to report on progress of GPPAC's efforts to mainstream youth in its work and the implementation of the youth policy at global, regional and national levels.
14. The hosting organisation of the ISG meeting is encouraged to invite young peacebuilders in the country (region) to take part in the ISG meeting as non-voting observers where appropriate; or in events and activities connected to the ISG meeting, to share their experiences, challenges and achievements with the GPPAC ISG.

#### *The Global Secretariat:*

15. Must ensure a safe and inclusive working environment, equal opportunities and non-age-biased wages of the team members within the GPPAC Global Secretariat; and set an example towards member organisations which are encouraged to equally subscribe to these values in their respective organisational policies.
16. A Youth Coordinator should be appointed within the Global Secretariat to ensure GPPAC's accountability in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the youth policy at global, regional and national levels.
17. The Youth Coordinator will provide guidelines and tools for member organisations, enabling them to follow the strategies of the Youth Policy, developed in collaboration with young peacebuilders and the YPS WG.
18. At each ISG meeting, the Youth Coordinator will assess whether the youth representation in the ISG has increased, and whether there is a need to change the ways to ensure youth participation in GPPAC's decision making processes, for example by including more binding criteria in GPPAC's decision making processes.
19. The Global Secretariat via the YPS WG regularly encourages member organisations to follow the principles and strategies laid out in the youth policy, facilitates exchanges between the members of YPS WG and regional networks.
20. The Global Secretariat leadership is committed to including a youth perspective in all activities of the GPPAC network.
21. The Global Secretariat in coordination with RLOs must provide sufficient information to youth organisations that wish to apply for GPPAC membership on: the application process, benefits of joining GPPAC, as well as expectations towards member organisations.
22. Member organisations should provide information on the outcomes of their youth-led and youth-focused activities to the GPPAC Global Secretariat. The GPPAC Global Secretariat is responsible for collecting this information (for example, via bi-annual member survey, from reports during country updates at RSG meetings, via the GPPAC PM&E process or in other forms).

### *Nominating Committee:*

23. The Nominating Committee is requested to ensure youth inclusion and gender balance in the Board of the GPPAC Foundation, including proposed Chair, Co-chair(s) and Treasurer.

### *Working Groups:*

24. The YPS Working Group is as a space for enhanced collaboration, thematic learning and coordination on mainstreaming youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts among regional networks. It will remain the key youth-led platform within GPPAC which guides and supports the mainstreaming of youth in the GPPAC network and programming, in close collaboration with the Youth Coordinator at the Global Secretariat. The YPS Working Group should be inclusive and representative of GPPAC regions.
25. Representatives of the YPS Working Group are members and act as the youth focal points of each of the existing GPPAC working groups (at least one YPS Working Group representative per each Working Group). The youth focal points to the Working Groups will make sure that the relevant information is shared with the whole YPS Working Group, including but not limited to fundraising opportunities, opportunities to participate in the Working Group's activities, consultations on any youth-related decisions etc; and bring a youth perspective to all aspects of the Working Group's work.
26. Working groups will ensure that youth focal points / young working group members can actively participate and contribute.

### *Board:*

27. When ensuring financial accountability, the board should ensure that YPS remains one of the cross-cutting priorities for GPPAC.
28. The Board should ensure a safe and inclusive working environment, equal opportunities and non-age-biased wages of the team members within the GPPAC Global Secretariat.

### **Member Organisations of GPPAC:**

29. Member organisations are encouraged to follow guidelines in youth policy and adopt tools provided by the GPPAC Global Secretariat to mainstream youth in their work.

## **2.3 Planning & Programming**

Peacebuilding programming generally frames youth as beneficiaries, target group, or recipients of its actions. Resolutions 2250, 2419 and the Independent Progress Study emphasise the importance of meaningful participation of young people, meaning: (a) inclusion of youth in their full diversity, beyond tokenism or supporting elite youth only; and (b) engaging youth in all phases of peacebuilding – from design to implementation and monitoring – on local, regional, national and global levels.

## PLANNING:

30. The ISG, RSG and Global Secretariat should ensure a strong commitment to the YPS agenda reflected in key strategic documents of GPPAC. The Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 and all following plans must continue to include youth as a cross-cutting priority.
31. Youth and gender inclusion must be included as the starting points within the Strategic Plan; youth and gender should be both included and referred through the specific objectives, activities and indicators across all strategic areas.
32. The YPS WG and Youth Coordinator will have an active consultative role in the development phase of strategic and annual planning processes.
33. GPPAC's Strategic Plan will include youth-specific indicators to support the monitoring of the implementation of the youth policy
34. GPPAC's annual plans and reports at global and regional levels will include YPS as a cross-cutting priority.
35. GPPAC's fundraising strategy will integrate YPS as a funding priority, and apply a youth lens in the development at funding proposals by the Global Secretariat.
36. To ensure implementation of the youth policy, activities outlined in the regional annual plans should reflect the needs of young people and the priorities of youth which will be secured, among others, through consultations and cooperation with youth representatives from regional networks, as well as through support for small-scale yet high impact projects and initiatives of youth-led organisations. The Global Secretariat will monitor this as part of its PM&E process.
37. The GPPAC ISG and Global Secretariat will remain committed to sustain the YPS WG as a space for enhanced collaboration, thematic learning and coordination on mainstreaming youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts among regional networks, and will ensure that the YPS WG has sufficient resources to fulfil this role.
38. The GPPAC Global Secretariat will ensure that any GPPAC funding for youth-focused programmes and projects will include partnership with at least one youth-led organisation. Youth-led partner organisations must be recognised by, and accountable to, the young people for whom and with whom they work.
39. Working with informal youth groups and movements should not be precluded, as not all young people work in registered organisations.

## PROGRAMMING:

40. The GPPAC Global Secretariat ensures that programmes and projects related to youth, peace and security are designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated with and by young people themselves. At least one representative of the YPS WG will be consulted in programming on YPS. Targeted youth will be consulted through a needs assessment in programme and project development, as well as during phases of implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
41. The GPPAC Global Secretariat and regional structures apply a youth lens in conflict and context analysis as a basis of programming. In order to ensure its incorporation, the questions from the tool in the Annex 1 should be used. The roles of youth and power dynamics between younger and older generations within society will be analysed and considered at the stage of planning all activities (not only the ones directly related to youth), and, where possible, during reporting and evaluation of these activities as well.
42. The GPPAC Global Secretariat and regional structures employ age-appropriate and tailored methodologies for young people to meaningfully participate in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation in peacebuilding programming.



43. The GPPAC Global Secretariat and regional structures engage diverse groups of young people, not only elite youth, in identifying critical interventions that can change the dynamics of conflict and violence.
44. GPPAC programming on YPS will promote young people's civic engagement and volunteerism for peace.
45. The GPPAC Global Secretariat will facilitate inter-regional sharing of best practices on youth inclusion (e.g. youth inclusion in early warning and early response approaches in West Africa).
46. The GPPAC Global Secretariat, regional structures and member organisations support the capacity building of young people in various forms, and these efforts have to be sustainable, with the utilization of multiplying principle according to which the trained people should train their peers as well.
47. A common understanding of youth inclusion and YPS agenda is built within GPPAC network. This can be done by organising training and sensitisation sessions on YPS within the Global Secretariat, at the regional level, and network-wide with the active involvement of young leaders and representatives of youth organisations as key experts. Such training (online or face-to-face) should be conducted on (at least) an annual basis and may include such information: updates in the Youth policy and its implementation, YPS WG work plan, UNSCR 2250 and 2419, other global trends and documents relevant for YPS agenda the tools to localize them.
48. The Youth Coordinator will update GPPAC's mapping on YPS bi-annually through GPPAC's existing reporting mechanisms, in order to assess and create visibility of GPPAC's internal capacities and work on YPS.
49. Intergenerational partnerships between GPPAC and UNOY members at the regional level are encouraged to: realise mutual synergies and increased capacities, bridge the trust gap, influence policies, and ensure access to decision-makers at different levels.

## 2.4 Advocacy

GPPAC convenes a joint civil society voice to promote and advocate for inclusive policies for prevention that are informed by local knowledge and expertise. GPPAC has a well-established advocacy programme with a focus on the UN and selected regional organisations, in collaboration with like-minded CSOs and networks. Below are recommendations to strengthen GPPAC's advocacy work in relation to YPS which is particularly important as building peace and preventing conflicts without inclusion of youth is impossible.

### **THE GPPAC LEADERSHIP, GLOBAL SECRETARIAT, WORKING GROUPS, REGIONAL STEERING GROUPS, AND ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS SHOULD JOINTLY:**

50. Build on the foundation offered by UNSCR 2250 and 2419 and the Independent Progress Study in developing new societal norms and frameworks for the institutionalisation and operationalisation of the YPS agenda.
51. Push for a reorientation from governments and the multilateral system from remedial responses to a prevention approach, and from investing in risk of a few to investing in the positive resilience of the majority of young people.
52. Highlight positive stories of young people in conflict prevention and peacebuilding to fully recognise, harness and support the innovation of young people's contributions to peace.
53. Prioritise the development of youth-inclusive policies as an important peace dividend.

54. Support the development of inclusive national policies that address the needs and aspirations of young people, contribute to young people's participation, development and empowerment in peace and security, and that are fully aligned with international human rights, regional instruments and key policy documents such as resolutions 2250 and 2419.
55. Advocate for and support institutionalising young people's participation and representation in local and national governance processes so that they can influence practices and policies affecting them and ensure youth have the appropriate training and support to engage in these processes.
56. Contribute to the establishment of or support existing local, regional and national fora and other appropriate channels of communication that can enhance young people's participation in the development of public policies which affect the lives of young people.
57. Have relevant decision-makers, institutions and organizations commit to accountability to young people. Establish mechanisms to communicate with and receive feedback from young people, particularly as part of any youth-focused programme and policy framework.
58. Support research on youth and peacebuilding that can be used as a reference for policy, and to deepen the emerging evidence base on youth, peace and security.
59. Advocate for youth inclusion in the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements as called for in UNSCR 2419 (2018) alongside with the inclusion of women and local stakeholders to encourage local ownership.
60. Ensure synergies between WPS and YPS as complementary yet separate agendas. In doing so, GPPAC will support the participation of young people in the WPS agenda, the participation of young men as allies in gender mainstreaming efforts, and the leadership of young women in the implementation of the YPS agenda.
61. Ensure synergies between the YPS agenda and national plans on the implementation of the SDGs and of WPS agenda, and define regular reporting and accountability mechanisms to monitor progress on implementation
62. Advocate for the need of flexible, youth-accessible funding opportunities designed with the specific needs of youth in mind, including opportunities for small-scale projects and initiatives, and innovative, risk-taking programmatic approaches.
63. Advocate and support regional bodies for local strategies on YPS as well as for increased dialogue with youth within the regions, to ensure youth inclusion on a local and regional level.
64. Actively work to increase youth participation in its advocacy activities and programming. In order to identify gaps in ensuring the inclusive and meaningful participation of young people in the work of GPPAC, the checklist in Annex 2 should be used.

## 3. Implementation

### 3.1 Timeline

During the ISG meeting in May 2019, the Youth Policy will be deliberated and voted on. Additionally, during the ISG session, proposals for the incorporation of the youth policy in

GPPAC's structure will also be put up to the vote. Upon approval, the YPS core group will be working with GPPAC's Global Secretariat staff and the Regional Liaison Officers to ensure the sustainable implementation of the GPPAC youth policy.

Upon approval, the implementation of the GPPAC youth policy will start in the second half of 2019 with the dissemination of the policy in the regions and appointment of the dedicated capacity to mainstream youth in the Global Secretariat (Youth Coordinator). The principles of the youth policy will be integrated in the 2020 Annual Plan and the next Strategic Plan of GPPAC (2021-2025).

The first report on the steps taken to implement the GPPAC youth policy will be presented by GPPAC Youth Coordinator (or youth representative to ISG) to the ISG in 2020. After the evaluation, the policy will be reviewed and revised if necessary. The GPPAC Youth Coordinator will be responsible for further updates of the youth policy upon necessity and their presentation for ISG approval.

### **3.2 Integration into PM&E**

GPPAC's Global Secretariat requests the Regional Secretariats to make annual plans, and to report on them on a quarterly basis. The quarterly reports form part of an annual report, that is requested from all of GPPAC's regions. The guidelines in both the regional plans and reports are evaluated by the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Team and feedback is provided on the draft versions, before the submission of the final version. The information provided in the final plans and reports is used to report to GPPAC's donors, external communication, and internal learning.

In order for the youth policy to be implemented, it is necessary for the PM&E team to include youth mainstreaming in the guidelines provided to the regions prior to them drafting the annual plans, starting June 2019 with the guidance for GPPAC plans for 2020. When evaluating the plans and quarterly reports, the Regional Coordinators and PM&E team should verify that the planned and executed activities were actively inclusive of youth.

The implementation of the youth policy will also be monitored by the YPS WG core group through the following indicators:

1. Introduction of all the points mentioned in the chapters 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4.
2. The Regional Liaison Officers promote implementation of this policy at the regional level and encourage their regional members to be more inclusive in their activities. The regional networks take ownership of youth inclusivity within their work.
3. In their annual plans, the regions include supporting the active role of youth in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, youth empowerment and inclusion in peace processes.
4. The Regional Secretariats and the Regional Networks take active role in: (a) identification, (b) involvement and (c) membership of youth organisations in GPPAC. Each Region can set their own meaningful targets that are most feasible and suitable to each situation.
5. Number of youth-led peacebuilding civil society organisations become GPPAC's members.

6. Webinars or in-person workshops are organised with the support of the YPS WG at annual meetings of the RSGs to promote the GPPAC youth policy and support its implementation at the regional and member-organisation level.
7. The GPPAC Global Secretariat ensures their activities are inclusive of youth. This could include, but is not limited to, youth speakers on panels during conferences, youth trainers in capacity building workshops, and external communication about youth peacebuilding on social media.

More information guiding the introduction of the youth policy into GPPAC PM&E process can be found in the chapter 2.3.

The assessment of challenges, specified in Annex 3, should be taken into account in order to ensure successful implementation of youth policy.

### 3.3 Budget / fundraising

The activities of the YPS WG are financed through funding received from the core funding of GPPAC and additional fundraising. To advance the implementation of the youth policy and ensure its sustainable implementation, the YPS WG's core group will be working with the fundraising coordinator at GPPAC to develop a fundraising strategy. Additionally, a sub-committee within the working group composed of members with expertise and interest in fundraising can be formed to assist the working group's fundraising efforts.

#### INDICATION OF COSTS CATEGORIES NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY:

In order to enable the implementation of the youth policy, at regional as well as global level, we list some of the cost categories. This will support regions as well as the global secretariat to breakdown the budget for youth mainstreaming and to identify what targets for additional fundraising might need to be set.

##### *Costs categories at regional level:*

- Participation of the YPS WG members and representatives of other youth-led organisations in RSG meetings
- Regional training & capacity building of RS staff and GPPAC members about youth mainstreaming and YPS agenda;
- Developing Regional guidelines & Toolkits for regional youth mainstreaming;
- Policy implementation and dissemination (awareness raising);

##### *Costs categories estimated at global level:*

- Coordination: ISG Youth Liaison expenses;
- Global Secretariat Youth Coordinator;
- Supporting GPPAC partnerships with other organisations and networks;
- Training & capacity building (Global Secretariat staff);
- Meetings of the YPS WG members;
- Participation of the YPS WG members in high-level policy events.

## Annex 1: Tool for Applying a Youth Lens in Conflict Analysis

Questions	Methods
<p><i>What is the demographic composition?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the size of the youth population?</li> <li>• What is the youth composition within the different ethnic groups?</li> <li>• How many youth are affected by conflict (through casualties, displacement, gender-based violence, loss of livelihood)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysing census data if available</li> <li>• Data collection through partners</li> </ul>
<p><i>Where are young people located in the peace process?</i></p> <p>As parties involved in the peace process, formal structures, youth civil society.</p> <p>What are the relations and conflict dynamics between different youth groups?</p>	<p>Stakeholder mapping</p> <p>Collaborative approach with civil society and parties involved in peace processes</p> <p>Capacity-development of local actors and youth organisations supporting the conduct of a mapping</p> <p>Focus Group Discussions with young people (Listening and Learning method developed by Search for Common Ground)</p> <p>Key informant interviews</p>
<p><i>How are youth organising and not organising themselves in this context?</i></p> <p>Quantify; - Where? - What forms? - Reach?</p>	
<p><i>What groups in society face exclusion due to factors other than their age?</i></p> <p>And within these groups who are the young people?</p> <p>Why are these groups marginalised, and how?</p>	
<p><i>What opportunities &amp; challenges do young people see for political, social &amp; economic participation?</i></p> <p>How do they feel about these opportunities?</p> <p>How do young people see their future and what do they need to achieve their aspirations?</p> <p>How do governments see these factors?</p>	
<p><i>What are the push &amp; pull factors for youth participation in peace process and violence?</i></p>	



## Annex 2: Checklist for Inclusive Youth Participation

<p><b>Participation is legitimate</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is or are these individual(s) representing a broader constituency of youth?</li> <li>• Are they active in youth organisations or youth groups?</li> <li>• Can they legitimately reflect young people’s experiences and needs?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Participation is inclusive</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have we ensured the equal participation of youth of all genders?</li> <li>• Have we ensured the representation of youth from various socioeconomic backgrounds, with disabilities, varied ethnic or religious backgrounds, the LGBTQI community and other minority groups?</li> <li>• Have we ensured the representation of younger age cohorts, including youth under the age of 25?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Participation is meaningful</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the issues being addressed of relevance to young people’s concerns, needs and aspirations?</li> <li>• Have young people been able to shape the content of the activities (not only youth-related ones)? Did they have a space to provide meaningful input?</li> <li>• Have we provided sufficient, accessible and diversity-sensitive information to ensure meaningful participation of youth?</li> <li>• Have we provided adequate time, resources and support to ensure young people are prepared and have the confidence to make meaningful contributions?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Participation is sustainable</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have we established a clear method for addressing and responding to feedback from young people on how their meaningful engagement can be improved?</li> <li>• Are we keeping young people informed on how their contributions are taken forward and if their participation has influenced outcomes?</li> <li>• Are we providing young people with opportunities for sustained engagement in follow up processes or activities, including monitoring and evaluation?</li> </ul>

## Annex 3: Challenges Assessment

CHALLENGE	LIKELIHOOD	MITIGATION
Differences in barriers for youth, depending on gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic background; some can be generalised and other cannot.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoiding generalisations</li> <li>• Careful tailoring programmes and strategies to the specific region/situation</li> <li>• Close communication between members and RLOs, consultation on specific barriers</li> </ul>
Include gender perspective into the implementation of youth policy in practice (might be perceived as added burden)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations with Gender Coordinator</li> <li>• Ensuring RLOs are informed of gender inclusion</li> <li>• Ensuring RLOs closely communicate with members on gender perspective</li> </ul>
Regional differences in access to resources (between countries, rural-urban areas)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tailor programmes &amp; strategies to specific region</li> <li>• Avoid generalisations within a country and between countries</li> </ul>
Application of youth policy in fragile or conflict-affected communities	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Context specific application</li> <li>• Careful tailoring of programmes to specific situation</li> </ul>
Include marginalised youth into implementation of youth policy	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tailor programmes / strategies to specific context</li> <li>• Ensure RLOs are educated on issue of marginalised youth and provide context-specific recommendations</li> </ul>

## Annex 4: List of Abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
GPPAC	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
GS	GPPAC Global Secretariat
ISG	International Steering Group
GSG	Global Strategy Group
LGBTQI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex
PM&E	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
RLOs	Regional Liaison Officers
RRs	Regional Representatives
RSGs	Regional Steering Groups
SDGs	The Sustainable Development Goals
UNOY	United Network of Young Peacebuilders
UNSCR-2250	United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250
WG	Working Group (at GPPAC)
YPS	Youth Peace and Security

## Annex 5: List of Supporting Documents

- Simpson, Graeme (2018). [The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace, and Security](#)
- GPPAC Gender Policy (2019) (to be published soon).
- Freechild Institute (2010). [Youth participation](#).
- CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality and YouAct (2017). [Flower of Participation](#)
- UNGA (1981), <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/what-we-do/faq.html>
- UNOY Peacebuilders, Ortiz Quintilla, R. (2018) [Youth4Peace Training Toolkit](#),
- UNOY Peacebuilders (2016). [2250: A Youth Toolkit](#).
- Inter-agency working group, Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding, <https://www.sfcg.org/guidingprinciples>





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