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Enhancing interregional and multilevel cooperation to support local youth engagement in peace processes

Follow-up event of the North-South Centre's "Lisbon Forum 2018"

Concept Note and agenda

5 and 6 December 2019
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Venue:

Hilton Dead Sea Resort & Spa and King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center
Dead Sea Road, Hotels Area, Sweimeh, 11953, JORDAN

Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean

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Concept note

Since the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), researches, investments and practices for a more youth-inclusive agenda in peace processes are increasing.

Young people are now more than ever recognized as the “connecting tissue”¹ bridging the silos of development, human rights, humanitarian affairs, peace and security, from the local to the global level.

Interregional cooperation and multilevel glocal governance represent two fundamental elements for the implementation of the YPS agenda: on one hand, international and regional organisations are asked to reinforce their mutual collaboration and coordination efforts to ensure more inclusive mechanisms to sustain peace and democracy. On the other hand, youth-led organisations have the need to increase their advocacy and networking capacities in views of a more effective and structured dialogue with decision making bodies to channel their demands and achievements related to youth engagement in peace processes.

In this context, the Council of Europe plays an essential role in light of the universality of its values, its global outreach and its peculiar multi-stakeholder dimension where youth policies and youth participation are conceived as strategic priorities to achieve “democratic security”².

The North-South Centre, as instrument of the Council of Europe for regional and multilateral cooperation with the Southern Mediterranean and Middle East countries, act as a facilitator for structured cooperation and confidence building between governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society organisations with a bottom-up participatory approach.

On November 2018, the North-South Centre organised the Lisbon Forum on the theme “Youth, Peace and Security: Uplifting youth engagement in peace and democratic processes in the Euro-Mediterranean Region”.

The key findings of the Lisbon Forum³ built upon the recommendations from the Amman Declaration⁴ and converge with the most recent policy papers on YPS⁵: **the Lisbon Forum 2018 calls upon international agencies, national governments and local authorities to urgently establish policy dialogue processes with young people on issues of peace and security.**

This seminar intends to follow-up the Lisbon Forum 2018 conclusions by focusing on **how interregional cooperation and international mechanisms already in place can support the development of national and local youth inclusive strategies in peacebuilding process.**

The two-day seminar will **identify the “take-ins” that interregional cooperation and the exchange of knowledge and good practices from different stakeholders could bring in defining a more youth-inclusive global agenda for peace.** In this process, the transformative potential of young people will be further enhanced as tool for Council of Europe and other international platforms to promote and protect human rights, democracy and rule of law.

During the seminar, the active involvement of international organisations, governmental, parliamentary and local authorities’ representatives as well as of youth-led structures and researchers **will foster a greater cooperation between relevant actors in the Euro-Med region, increasing awareness about each other’s roles and relevance on issues related to youth, peace and democratic security.**

¹ [Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security](#)

² [Concept of Democratic Security: Council of Europe Contribution](#)

³ [Key findings and recommendations Lisbon Forum 2018](#)

⁴ [Amman Declaration](#) adopted during the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security (Jordan, 2015)

⁵ Policy paper: [We are here: An integrated approach to youth-inclusive peace processes](#)

Thursday 5 December 2019

08.30 - 09.00 Registration of participants

09.00 - 10.00 Institutional Opening

H.E. Dr. Fares Abdel Hafez Al Braizat
Ministry of Youth, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

H.E. Ambassador Maria Hadjitheodosiou
EU Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
(on behalf of European Union External Action Service)

Rocio Cervera
Deputy Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

10.00 - 10.45 Youth Participation in Peace Processes: a multi-stakeholder effort

Key-note speeches:

- [International institutional mechanisms supporting youth-focused peacebuilding work.](#)

Emilia Hannuksela
Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

- [Inter-regional cooperation to enhance the YPS agenda: from the "Progress study" to the promotion of youth participation in the Arab countries and beyond.](#)

Luay Shabaneh
Regional Director of UNFPA - Arab States Regional Office

- [The contribution of youth-led organisations for the implementation of the UNSCR2250](#)

Paloma Lainz
Researcher for United Network of Young Peacebuilders

- [National coalitions and national youth strategies: ensuring stability and democracy through youth policies](#)

Dr. Salem Al Hasanat
Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

10.45 - 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 - 12.30 From policies to practices: reflecting on the different layers of the YPS agenda

Panel and open debate building on the key-note presentations

- **Anouk Heili**
UN Women - Regional Office for Arab States

- **Sihana Nebiu**
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

- **Main Alshamayleh**
Consultant at the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Jordan

- **Ola Abdulhak**
Sheba Youth Foundation for Development and Peacebuilding, Yemen

Moderator: **Saji PRELIS**
Co-Chair "Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security"

12.30 - 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 - 16.00 Multilateral cooperation: what is the current state-of-art of the dialogue between grassroots initiatives and institutional mechanisms?

Key-note speeches:

Elin Lilijenbladh

Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

Mohamed Edabbar

African Youth Ambassadors for Peace of the African Union

Case studies' presentations

1) **Dania Dirani and Murad Bakz**

UNESCO, Amman Office

"Preventing Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia"

2) **Niklas Vaalgamaa**

2250 Network, Finland

"The world's first National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250"

3) **Olla Al-Sakkaf**

Youth without borders organization for development, Yemen

"A path for Peace in Yemen: the "Civil Alliance of Peacebuilding", the work with local authorities in rural areas and the relation with UN representatives"

4) **Amar El Moussawi**

Adyan - Foundation for Diversity, Solidarity and Human Dignity, Lebanon

"A youth network for inclusive citizenship through interfaith dialogue"

5) **Dr. Mohammed Arabiat**

Generations for Peace, Jordan

"Youth engagement in peacebuilding and conflict transformation across Jordan: turning UNSCR 2250 into concrete actions through a participatory approach"

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 - 17.10 Building up new opportunities: bridging civil society initiatives to institutional processes

Five parallel small breakout sessions to deepen the case studies presented, share similar experiences, take stock of the lessons learned and identify common challenges and opportunities.

17.10 - 18.00 Conclusions of the day

Sharing in plenary of the breakout sessions' outcomes and wrapping up the insights of the day.

Moderation and closure by:

Matteo Pugliese

Italian Institute for International Political Studies

(former OSCE Special Representative on Youth & Security)

19.30 - 21.30 Dinner

