Concept Note International Youth Day 2024

Theme: Empowering Young Persons to Foster Peace and Security through Global Citizenship

Date: 16 August 2024  
Location: Conference Room 4  
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm


Background Note:

International Youth Day 2024, set to be celebrated at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on 16 August, marks a significant occasion for youth empowerment and global collaboration. This year's theme, "Empowering Young Persons for Peace and Security," aligns with the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda, reflecting on a decade of progress since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015). This ground-breaking resolution recognised young persons as agents of positive change, particularly in peace and security, established the YPS agenda as well as its five pillars: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and disengagement and reintegration. The Security Council subsequently adopted two follow-up resolutions 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020), which urged Member States to consider ways to increase inclusive representation of young persons in decision making at all levels, including possible integrated mechanisms for young persons to participate meaningfully in peace processes and conflict resolution.

Amidst the backdrop of several security challenges, such as armed conflicts, climate change, political instability, terrorism and violent extremism around the world affecting societies, this event aims to shed light on the disproportionate impact that these security challenges have on young persons, especially young women, and their transformative contributions to resolve them. The event will also explore best practices in effectively integrating young persons in peace and security, including conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and transitional justice, highlighting the positive contributions of youth and women-led initiatives to peace and security.

At the pivotal juncture of the 2024 Summit of the Future and the implementation of the New Agenda for Peace, this event aims to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the YPS agenda and identify challenges and gaps for its full institutionalization. It will also be an opportunity to reflect on the findings of the third report of the UN Secretary-General on YPS (S/2024/207).

The event will also highlight the importance of meaningful youth participation in the upcoming Summit of the Future and the Pact for the Future, underscoring the critical role of young people in shaping a secure and inclusive future.
Speakers:

4:00 - 4:05 pm - Welcome: Yumna Khan, Director of the Youth Assembly, AFS
4:05 - 4:10 pm - Introduction: Daniel Obst, President and CEO, AFS
4:10 - 4:20 - Welcome Remarks: H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
4:20 - 4:25 pm - Remarks: Mr. Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary General for Youth Affairs, UN Youth Office (video)
4:25 - 4:35 pm - Remarks: H.E. Ms. Francesca Gatt, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Permanent Mission of Malta to the UN
4:35 - 4:45 pm - Remarks: Ms. Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General for Operations, IOM
4:45 - 4:50 pm - Remarks: Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO (video)
4:50 - 5:00 pm - Audience: Youth Remarks
5:00 - 5:10 pm - Remarks: Mr. Nhial Deng, Youth Advocate
5:10 - 5:20 pm - Keynote: Ms. Fanta Aw, Executive Director and CEO of NAFSA

Youth Panel
Moderator: Ali Mustafa, AFS Intercultural Programs
Youth Speaker 1: Lamar Zala Gran, Activist from Afghanistan
Youth Speaker 2: Khaled Emam, the Executive Director of Justice Call
Youth Speaker 3: Rehman Hassan the Youth Advisory Board representative for the Americas, UN Habitat Youth Advisory Board
Youth Speaker 4: Cayden Brown, Founder, Trespass Project