

## **Draft Concept Note**

### **Safeguarding the Future: Addressing the Impacts of Conflict on Children, Youth, and Girls for Inclusive Socio-Economic Development Side Event at the 63rd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD63),**

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from 3-4.15 pm**

**Or Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 4.45-6pm @UNHQ**

#### **Background and Context**

The 63th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD63) offers a critical opportunity to champion inclusion, solidarity, and sustainable development as outlined in Agenda 2030. This side event, “Safeguarding the Future: Addressing the Impacts of Conflict on Children, Youth, and Girls for Inclusive Socio-Economic Development,” aims to draw attention to the compounded challenges faced by vulnerable groups in conflict settings and explore actionable pathways for inclusive recovery.

Conflicts disrupt essential services such as education, healthcare, and economic systems, amplifying cycles of poverty and inequality. For children, youth, and girls, these challenges are further intensified by limited access to safety, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Global crises, including pandemics and climate change, add layers of complexity, underscoring the urgent need for integrated and inclusive responses.

Guided by the strategic visions of the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), this side event provides a collaborative platform to address the socio-economic repercussions of conflicts, while fostering resilience, equity, and sustainable development.

#### **Objectives**

1. Highlight Long-Term Impacts of Conflict and examine the socio-economic challenges faced by children, youth, and girls in conflict zones, emphasizing barriers to achieving the SDGs.
2. Promote Inclusive Post-Conflict Reconstruction and develop strategies to enhance equity and resilience through access to education, healthcare, mental health services, and economic opportunities.
3. Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration and enhance partnerships among governments, international organizations, civil society, and academia to effectively address the needs of conflict-affected populations.
4. Empower Youth as Agents of Change and amplify youth leadership and innovation as key drivers of recovery and socio-economic development in conflict and post-conflict settings.
5. Leverage UN and OIC Frameworks and share best practices from UN and OIC initiatives to promote reconstruction and socio-economic development.

#### **Partners**

- Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF)
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) (TBC)
- Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysia (TBC)

- Permanent Mission of Qatar to the UN (TBC)
- University of Birmingham
- McGill Advisory Delegation
- Algerian Women Foundation

### **Structure and Format**

The event will feature a moderated panel discussion with high-level policymakers, youth advocates, and academic experts. Attendees will have opportunities for engagement through an interactive Q&A session, with actionable recommendations as a key outcome.

### **Agenda**

**Moderator: Representative from ICYF (TBC)**

#### **Welcoming Remarks**

Taha Ayhan, President of ICYF

#### **Keynote Address**

Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs

#### **Panel Discussion**

- Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN (TBC)
- Ambassador of Kuwait to the UN (Name TBC)
- Ambassador Tarek Bakheet, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian, Cultural, and Social Affairs, OIC (TBC)
- Ambassador of Qatar to the UN (Name TBC)
- Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysia (Name TBC)
- Dr. Sandra Patrik, Academic Expert, University of Birmingham
- Bella Sulvian, Youth Advocate, McGill Youth Advisory Delegation
- Merim Chehik: Founder and President of the Algerian Women Foundation (AWF)

#### **Q&A Session**

Open forum for audience engagement, sharing insights, and providing recommendations.

#### **Closing Remarks and Summary**

Delivered by the moderator.

**Live Broadcast:** Event will be streamed on ICYF's social media platforms for global accessibility.

#### **Questions for Panelists**

1. Ambassador Munir Akram:  
What collective actions can prioritize children and youth in post-conflict recovery plans? Could you share examples from both UN and OIC contexts?
2. Ambassador of Kuwait to the UN:  
How can Kuwait's humanitarian efforts, particularly in Gaza, serve as a model for education and healthcare initiatives for conflict-affected populations?

3. Ambassador Tarek Bakheet:  
What strategies is the OIC implementing to address socio-economic challenges faced by youth and girls in conflict-affected regions?
4. Ambassador of Qatar to the UN:  
How can Qatar advance youth-led recovery programs through global partnerships? Could you share successful practices?
5. Representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysia:  
How can sports and recreation initiatives contribute to resilience and mental health in post-conflict communities?
6. Dr. Sandra Patrik:  
What evidence-based interventions address the psychological and educational impacts of conflict on children and girls?
7. Bella Sulvian:  
From a youth perspective, what are the most pressing challenges in conflict zones, and how can young voices shape global responses?
8. Merim Chehah:  
How can grassroots civil society organizations effectively shape socio-economic recovery agendas, and what strategies can ensure the meaningful inclusion of girls in locally driven solutions?

### **Expected Outcomes**

Enhanced Awareness and increased understanding of the socio-economic impacts of conflict on vulnerable groups and implications for SDGs.

Policy Recommendations and actionable strategies to foster inclusivity and solidarity in post-conflict recovery efforts.

Strengthened Collaboration and enhanced partnerships among governments, international organizations, and civil society.

Youth Empowerment and amplified recognition of youth as key drivers of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development.