“EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR RECONCILIATION, PEACE, AND STABILITY: SHAPING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW”.

A side event on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, organized by the Permanent Missions of Albania, France and Germany to the United Nations

14 December 2023, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
United Nations Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 8

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Overview

In December, the United Nations will be marking the eighth anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace, and Security. This pivotal resolution provides a comprehensive framework for engaging young people in the pursuit of peace and acknowledges their vital role in upholding and promoting peace and security. The Security Council adopted two follow-up resolutions, 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020). These two resolutions urged stakeholders to take young people’s views into account and facilitate their equal and full participation in peace and decision-making processes at all levels and framed operational provisions aimed at promoting and institutionalizing the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda by the Security Council, UN entities and member states.

The UN Secretary-General's report (S/2020/167) on Youth, Peace, and Security encourages meaningful youth participation in peace and security initiatives. Furthermore, the "Our Common Agenda" report emphasizes the commitment of Member States to collaborate with and empower youth, including young women and girls in political representation.

Regional organizations play a pivotal role in empowering youth and fostering cooperation among young individuals from various nationalities in reconciliation processes. Initiatives like the Berlin Process, the EU’s Western Balkans engagement strategy, the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), the Western Balkans Fund (WBF), and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) have
directly influenced youth activism in the region, particularly in peacebuilding, reconciliation, and social cohesion efforts.

Recognizing and supporting the diverse ways in which young people engage in state-building is a crucial step toward developing a cohesive and prosperous Western Balkan region. Youth-led organizations and initiatives have established new channels of communication across different ethnicities, becoming agents of change with a more constructive approach to reconciliation and rebuilding trust between societies.

Objective:
This event aims to exchange insights and best practices related to youth-led initiatives in the context of reconciliation and peacebuilding, highlighting the positive impact of young people in these processes.

In a broader context, it seeks to explore the most effective ways to incorporate the perspectives of young people in the development of regional programs, projects, and political agendas.

Tentative agenda

Statements by co-organizers

Opening and keynote address by H. E. Mr. Igli Hasani, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania

H.E. Mr. Thomas Zahneisen, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany

Ms. Diarra Dime Labille, Legal Adviser, Head of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs of France

Presentations by the briefers:

Dr. Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs

Mr. Albert Hani, Secretary General of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)

Mr. Tobias Bütow, Secretary-General of the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO)

Ms. Miljana Pejić, Secretary General of the National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMS)

Ms. Dhurata Sefa, YPS Agenda advocate and human rights activist from Kosovo

Interventions from representatives of Member States