



Operationalizing the Stockholm Declaration: Translating commitments on Youth Peace and Security into IDPS work plan and action

The Global Meeting of the International Dialogue held in Stockholm on 5th April agreed on several key priorities for the IDPS to focus on over the next few years. In the declaration the International Dialogue commits to contributing to implementing the 2030 Agenda by using New Deal principles. It is stated that the New Deal is a key framework for achieving resilience and development results in fragile and conflict-affected environments and for meeting the commitment to 'leaving no one behind'. It is also recognized that there can be no sustainable peace without the meaningful inclusion of civil society including youth led and youth focused organizations.

The International Dialogue commits to **“recognising and harnessing the positive potential of youth for peacebuilding and statebuilding by aligning the implementation of the New Deal with UNSCR 2250”**. CSPPS is pleased with this recognition/commitment being included in the Stockholm Declaration and would like to outline overall principles and specific proposals to follow-up on this commitment and to facilitate its effective operationalization.

I. Overall Principles

Operationalizing Stockholm commitments on Youth Peace and Security (YPS) effectively requires applying several key principles in the development of the IDPS mandate and work plan, including:

- **LNOB - Youth as actors of peace/agents for change.** The International Dialogue underscores the Agenda 2030 commitment to 'leaving no one behind'. In the Stockholm Declaration a specific commitment recognizes the pivotal role of youth in contributing to sustainable peace.
- Adopting a **youth-focussed approach** that examines potential involvement of youth in all aspects of the Dialogue's work. The Dialogue should enhance its efforts to include and increase youth representation and their engagement in its decision making at all levels and build on the positive potentials of youth as change agents in transitions towards resilience.
- Application of a **multi-tier approach** that combines 1) The dialogue focussing on bringing on board youth as actors of peace and participants on pathways towards resilience; 2) developing narrative on this to depict youth as actors for positive change; 3) have the ID relate to other relevant aspects of the unanimously passed UNSCR 2250; 4) look at concrete options to link focus on YPS to broader debate on need to bring about meaningful perspectives (and avoid their marginalization) in FCAS. Address issues that contribute to youth's vulnerability and focus on countering trends that make this group in particular receptive to trends towards radicalization in the implementation of the New Deal.
- Consistently ensuring **the meaningful participation** of youth, youth representatives /institutions and young political and business leaders involved in the implementation of UNSCR 2250, SDG 5, 10 & 16, and related initiatives.
- Ensuring **youth expertise** is available for the design/implementation of IDPS/ND activities at country, regional and global levels.

II. Mandates for IDPS and Working Groups

In order to reflect and operationalize Stockholm commitments on YPS, the mandates for the IDPS and Working Groups should:

- Reference/reflect that the **Stockholm Declaration** commits to “**recognising and harnessing** the positive potential of youth for peacebuilding and statebuilding by aligning the implementation of the New Deal with UNSCR 2250”.
- The IDPS should build upon the existing capacities, networks and resources of young people (as peacebuilders as well as concerned citizens) in their countries and communities, as well as pro-actively reach out to their representatives and related platforms at the international level.
- Ensure that **IDPS structures at all levels** enable consistent and effective participation of youth and youth representatives/institutions working on the implementation of UNSCR 2250/SDG 16 (and related 5 + 10). In addition, youth expertise and representation should be routinely available for the design/implementation of IDPS activities.
- Identify and support youth-led organizations which focus on and **address gender inequality** and empower young women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

III. Action and Work Plans

In order to achieve this mandate and fulfil Stockholm commitments, the action and work plans should:

- Provide **actionable translation of commitment** to recognize and harness the positive potential of youth for peacebuilding and statebuilding.
- Support and follow-up on key strategic activities to align the implementation of the New Deal with UNSCR2250 and proposed activities coming out of that.
- Facilitate an **enabling environment** in which youth actors are recognised and provided with adequate support to implement violence prevention and peacebuilding activities.
- Create an ad hoc IDPS **working group** that elaborates policy recommendations for Youth inclusivity within the IDPS, as well as enshrining the value for embarking on youth-sensitive development.
- **Concrete tangible action** needs to be agreed upon that will enhance the inclusion of youth in the New Deal; affirmative action on the inclusion of youth in the various ND working groups and the inclusion of youth perspectives in fragility assessments.
- Provide **follow up support** on CSPPS-activities to date that include engagement in the work of the PBSO and the UN working group on Youth and Peacebuilding that includes an ongoing research to produce the UN Secretary General’s global report on Youth, Peace and Security; the planned side event on UNSCR 2250 during the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; and the renewed efforts to ensure that youth led and youth focused organizations are part of the country teams for the sustainable implementation of ND and other ID related priorities in the context of UNSCR 2250.
- The CSPPS championed global research on **preventing & countering violent extremism** and follow up initiatives and programs is another area where the IDPS can partner since the research has young people as one of its priorities. These activities have to include an inventory and analysis of youth perceptions about concepts of P/CVE and radicalization as embarking on a process like this might also yield a possible solution on how best to tackle these issues.

IV. Support Structure and Mechanisms at Country Level

To enable these activities, support structures and mechanisms should at a minimum:

- Ensure the consistent **participation** of youth and youth representatives/institutions working on the implementation of UNSCR 2250 and SDG 16 (5& 10), such as local and international youth civil society and young peacebuilders.
- Ensure **youth expertise** is routinely available for the design and implementation of IDPS activities at all levels.