



EU Youth, Peace &  
Security Coalition

## Joint Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security

### *Outcome document of the Second European Union Conference on Youth, Peace and Security*

#### **Preamble**

We, young peacebuilders from around the world, gathered in Brussels from 10 to 14 November 2025 for the second European Union (EU) Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Conference and hereby adopt the following Joint Declaration.

We acknowledge our diverse realities — spanning from peaceful localities and rural areas to communities facing war, displacement, and occupation — and affirm that, notwithstanding these differences, the right to dignity, freedom, and peace is universal.

#### **Recitals**

- A. *Recognizing* the diverse and growing international challenges to peace, security and social cohesion around the world, including threats to the multilateral rules-based order, increasing polarization and recourse to aggression rather than peace, growing mistrust in institutions, a rise in violent conflict, situations of prolonged occupation, blockade, displacement and collective punishment, climate-related threats, shrinking civic space, socio-cultural barriers that limit youth agency and meaningful participation, and the under-resourcing of youth-led peacebuilding efforts, particularly in conflict – affected and restricted contexts;
- B. *Applauding* the resilience and profound impact of youth-led peacebuilding efforts despite these challenges, including those undertaken by youth in occupied and besieged contexts and *underlining* the need to strengthen intergenerational, international and institutional partnerships to support young people in these efforts;
- C. *Noting* the unprecedented scale of attacks on healthcare and education, the weaponization of starvation, mass abductions and conflict-related sexual violence, all demanding immediate compliance with International Humanitarian Law;

- D. *Noting with concern* that 2024 recorded the highest-ever number of attacks on healthcare workers (more than 3600) and therefore *urging* for systematic protection of humanitarian personnel;
- E. *Highlighting* that millions of crisis-impacted children are out of school and in this context *supporting* the Safe Schools Declaration;
- F. *Recognizing* the importance of youth participation in peacebuilding processes and the need to support youth-led initiatives, particularly in rural areas, urban peripheries, and among Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and LGBTIQ+ communities in contexts of authoritarian regimes and dictatorships where access to education, political participation, and sustainable funding remains limited, and reaffirming the commitment to create enabling environments that foster inclusive learning, leadership, and empowerment for all young people;
- G. *Recognizing* the specific risks and limitations faced by youth living under repressive or conflict-affected conditions, including restrictions on civic space, online surveillance, and threats to physical and digital security, and *affirming* the need for protective, flexible, and context-sensitive support mechanisms;
- H. *Recognizing the need* to actively collaborate and engage with youth workers, and youth work organisations as allies to support capacity building; *proposing* youth for the purpose of inclusive representation of marginalised young people in youth peace and security consultations and dialogue;
- I. *Recalling* the commitment of the EU to the multilateral rules-based order and the promotion and protection of human rights, and to its consistent application and accountability in all contexts, including under occupation; *condemning* all violations of the rules – based international order as enshrined in the UN Charter; *reaffirming* that the defense of the rules-based international order requires the protection of civic space and human rights for young people, including those engaging in peaceful activism within restrictive political contexts;
- J. *Recalling and reaffirming* existing European and global frameworks and commitments on Youth, Peace and Security, which in 2025 mark their tenth anniversary, including UN Security Council Resolutions 2250, 2419, and 2535, the Pact for the Future, the Youth

Action Plan in EU external action and previous EU Council Conclusions on YPS;

- K. *Noting* the EU's commitment to support the implementation of the YPS Agenda as stressed in the EU's Youth Action Plan in External Action 2022-2027;
- L. *Reaffirming* the centrality and urgency of fully implementing these official documents and their outcomes at regional and national level.
- M. *Noting* the progress made by the EU and its Member States in advancing the YPS agenda, while recognizing the need for continued and more coordinated efforts to implement the YPS agenda in EU institutions, in EU domestic and external policy and across EU Member States; *recognizing* the progress made by youth living in conflict-affected and fragile regions across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America, and *calling* for strengthened international solidarity and cross-regional exchange between Team Europe and youth peacebuilders from partner countries.
- N. *Recognizing* that lasting peace depends on reformulating social contracts and restoring trust between institutions and the populations they serve, including younger generations.
- O. *Reaffirming* the need for cross-institutional, inter-agency and international collaboration to tackle the interdisciplinary and interlinked nature of YPS policies.

### **International law, human rights, accountability and protection**

**Article 1.** We, young people from around the world, in all our diversity, condemn all violations of the rules-based international order as enshrined in the UN Charter and call for consistent accountability for breaches of international humanitarian and human-rights law, including in occupied and besieged territories.

**Article 2.** We call on all relevant actors, including governments, international organisations, and non-state actors, to ensure the physical and digital safety and protection of young peacebuilders, human rights defenders, and youth activists, especially those operating in conflict and post-conflict settings. This includes establishing clear mechanisms for reporting threats, providing psychosocial support, and ensuring accountability for attacks against them.

**Article 3.** We recognise that meaningful and effective participation of youth in political and peace

processes must rest on a firm commitment to Do No Harm, including ensuring respect for young partners as experts, avoiding tokenistic participation and overburdening of youth partners, ensuring real space for youth to influence outcomes, and dedicated, holistic preventative and responsive protection support to address potential physical, psychosocial, or moral harms.

**Article 4.** We call for the integration of mental health and psychosocial support into Youth, Peace and Security strategies, recognizing that stigma around mental health undermines social cohesion. We urge governments and institutions to provide accessible, youth-friendly mental health services, including online support, especially in marginalized and conflict-affected areas.

**Article 5.** We reaffirm that open and inclusive civic spaces are essential for sustaining peace and democratic practices. Thus, we call on Team Europe, EU institutions, Member States, and international partners to safeguard and expand physical and digital civic spaces, ensuring the right of youth to organise, advocate and participate meaningfully in decision-making processes at all levels.

**Article 6.** We call on all relevant actors to embrace and translate into action the understanding that human security extends beyond the mere absence of violence or conflict. It must be grounded in access to quality education, the promotion of mental health, the creation of economic opportunities, and the assurance of social well-being for all.

**Article 7.** We acknowledge that lasting peace also requires confronting structural violence, colonial legacies, and all forms of domination that prevent communities from exercising their rights and freedoms.

**Article 8.** We call for urgent action to tackle the above challenges by integrating cultural, environmental, and social perspectives into every level of policy — ensuring that youth are not only protected but empowered to lead the solutions; we call on states and stakeholders to ensure the protection of youth from structural, cultural, gender-based, and state-violence in both online and offline spaces, and to include youth as equal partners in preventing said violence.

**Article 9.** We reaffirm that, by taking these measures, all relevant actors can prevent conflicts before they arise. This proactive approach to human security should be central to the implementation of this declaration and recognized as a key strategy for sustainable peace.

**Article 10.** We emphasize that the EU itself is a peace project, and the enlargement process shall be seen as an essential tool for postering lasting peace and stability in Europe, including the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership.

## **Youth participation in conflict resolution and mediation, inclusion and intergenerational collaboration**

**Article 11.** We emphasize the role of young people in all their diversity as equal and essential partners in the pursuit of sustainable peace and security and commit to institutionalizing their participation through formal mechanisms in EU and national policymaking. We salute the efforts of young peacemakers in areas occupied by de facto movements who continue to prove to the world that where diplomacy fails, young people are able to create spaces where listening and tolerance are the foundations of determination and self-sacrifice, and where violence is replaced by non-violence.

**Article 12.** We affirm that peace is inseparable from justice, dignity, and equality, and that youth-led peacebuilding must address root causes such as occupation, displacement, discrimination, and the denial of rights. We highlight the existing efforts of young people around the world to prevent conflict and build sustainable peace and security for all.

**Article 13.** We reaffirm that intergenerational collaboration and exchanges are central to sustaining positive peace and commit to establishing co – leadership models for trust-based collaboration between governments, civil society, and youth-led organisations, anchored in shared planning, co – creation of policy, joint leadership, transparent communication and accountability, supported by equitable access measures - safe mobility, digital protection, financial accessibility, and protection from reprisals - to enable meaningful participation of youth living under occupation or blockade. In this context, we underscore the pivotal role of the United Nations Youth Office and the Joint Youth, Peace and Security Secretariat in enhancing coordination among European and international stakeholders, including within the framework of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State building.

**Article 14.** We recognise that the causes and effects of conflicts in certain regions, particularly in the Great Lakes region of Africa and in Asia, are often cross-border and affect young people in particular. We call for inclusive national and regional dialogue mechanisms that actively involve young people, including in peace negotiations and talks.

**Article 15.** We encourage the creation of online cultural exchange programs and virtual dialogue sessions to connect youth from marginalized, occupied, and hard-to-reach areas with peers across regions. These initiatives will foster mutual understanding, broaden perspectives, and strengthen youth agency in peacebuilding.

**Article 16.** We call on EU Member States to promote meaningful opportunities for the political, social and economic participation of youth in conflict resolution and mediation mechanisms, including those belonging to marginalized groups, such as young women and girls, youth with

disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers, youth living under occupation and blockade, and youth belonging to ethnic, religious or sexual minorities, those facing intersecting forms of discrimination, as well as youth living in rural, remote, and conflict – affected areas, by ensuring safe mobility, legal protection, and equal access to civic and economic spaces, as well as any additional precautions required based on the specific conditions of each case. We also call on EU Member States to promote meaningful and accessible opportunities for the prevention of violence due to economic vulnerability, including investing in economic projects to support youth led local enterprises for the purpose of independent self-sustaining, stable and functioning society.

**Article 17.** We call for the inclusion of Indigenous youth, local communities, and young activists from climate-vulnerable regions such as Baluchistan, the Sahel, and the Pacific Islands in decision-making processes. Their traditional knowledge and lived experiences are essential to shaping sustainable and culturally grounded peace-building solutions.

**Article 18.** We further underscore the significance of acknowledging and supporting Indigenous youth within peacebuilding initiatives. We call on all stakeholders to guarantee the comprehensive, voluntary, and efficacious participation of Indigenous youth, and to implement culturally sensitive protection mechanisms that specifically address the risks they encounter, such as racism, discrimination, and criminalization.

**Article 19.** We urge the European Union and its Member States to actively facilitate cross-regional youth connection and mobility by supporting collaborative peacebuilding projects and addressing systemic barriers, and address particularly complex and restrictive visa procedures, that hinder the participation of young peacebuilders from developing and conflict-affected countries in international forums and exchange programs.

**Article 20.** We recognise the potential of youth mobility and migration as spaces for dialogue, mutual learning, and peacebuilding across regions and cultures, while reaffirming the need to protect the safety, dignity, and rights of people on the move, in line with the International Organization for Migration’s Strategic Plan 2024–2028.

**Article 21.** We call on EU institutions and candidate countries to fully support the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, ensure meaningful youth participation with all its diversity, strengthen protection mechanisms for young people, support youth-led peacebuilding efforts, recognize youth agency and demands, and expand access to existing and new EU opportunities for young people, in particular for conflict affected and marginalized groups.

## **Institutionalization of YPS, Governance, National Action Plans, role of the EU and accountability**

**Article 22.** We call for the integration of youth perspectives and the YPS agenda into the EU Strategic Compass and operational plans of EU Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, other Common Foreign and Security Policy actions, as well as Member State-led initiatives, including through youth liaison officers, digital feedback tools, and partnerships with local youth organizations in conflict zones, ensuring that youth perspectives and participation are meaningfully incorporated into conflict prevention, protection, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector governance, and peacebuilding. We urge EU member states to ensure the youth-responsiveness of national security and defence policies by actively integrating the perspectives of young people into relevant policy processes.

**Article 23.** We call on the European External Action Service to establish Youth Advisory Mechanisms linked to EU Delegations and relevant CSDP missions in conflict-affected areas, including Palestine, and to designate YPS Focal Points responsible for integrating youth-generated analysis, protection priorities, and community perspectives into mission planning.

**Article 24.** Recognizing that sustained peace requires continuous engagement, we call for regular discussions and meaningful cooperation of YPS in honoring:

- Article 21 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, ensuring participation in government and public affairs;
- Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with its right to participate in public affairs;

across all relevant EU fora and institutions, including the Council of the EU, the European Commission, European Parliament, EU agencies, in informal consultation spaces, in dialogues with partner countries, multilateral dialogues as well as for an overall mainstreaming of the YPS Agenda in the work of EU institutions across the board. We recognize the cross – cutting nature of YPS and call for integrating a youth lens across different EU policy sectors.

**Article 25.** We further call for regular discussions and cooperation on YPS in informal consultation spaces, and with partner countries and multilateral and regional organizations to enhance coherence, strategic alignment and mutual learning across policy domains, ensuring facilitated participation for youth from conflict-affected, occupied, and restricted contexts, including through visa facilitation and secure remote modalities.

**Article 26.** Furthermore, we call for the establishment of permanent, participatory mechanisms within EU institutions to ensure that YPS is integrated across EU policy-making structures, enabling structured, inclusive youth engagement, dedicated funding, and sustained institutional support. In this framework, we call for the establishment of a permanent Youth, Peace and Security Coordination Platform within EU structures to facilitate regular consultations, track implementation, and ensure continuity between conferences.

**Article 27.** We welcome the recent adoption of Finland’s second National Action Plan on YPS, as well as Italy’s first YPS National Action Plan. We also commend the past and present National Action Plans of Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, South Sudan Burundi, Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan and Liberia and recognise the ongoing efforts of countries currently developing theirs. We further welcome the growing global consensus on the importance of such national frameworks, and call on EU Member States to develop and implement such frameworks in a youth – inclusive manner guided by clear, results-oriented commitments and indicators to ensure a regular follow-up and accountability of relevant stakeholders. We urge EU member states to accelerate efforts to develop National Action Plans or similar frameworks as well as a regional strategy to implement YPS.

**Article 28.** We encourage knowledge sharing and mutual exchange on lessons learned among different stakeholders and regions to inform further processes of YPS implementation across world regions.

**Article 29.** We call for the establishment of a coherent and durable implementation and accountability framework for the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, requiring the following but not limited to:

- the development and periodic revision of inclusive, impact-oriented and youth-co-created National Action Plans, as well as other relevant policies and concrete strategies on regional, national, and local levels;
- in addition to National Action Plans, supporting alternative pathways to advancing and implementing the YPS agenda, such as strengthening YPS coalitions on (sub-)national, regional and global levels, and integrating YPS objectives into projects;
- the creation of synergies with or expanding upon existing legal and accountability frameworks to ensure accountability and effective follow-up processes.

**Article 30.** We urge all the relevant actors to ensure that YPS actions are effectively incorporated

into national and EU global and regional strategies and action plans as well as across the board of EU Institutions' work, including on youth, peace and security, participation, preparedness, fragility, and prevention, and to link these actions with climate adaptation, humanitarian and development strategies, by moving beyond mere rhetoric to tangible implementation, including minimum duty-of-care standards—mental-health and psychosocial support, digital and physical safety, as well as mechanisms to prevent and address technology-facilitated gender-based violence. YPS efforts should be included in existing and future strategies and policies covering foreign and domestic action on youth, peace and on security of the EU and its Member States, including the next EU Youth Strategy and other relevant EU internal and external policies.

**Article 31.** We commit to strengthening cooperation with the EU, its Member States, and other multilateral and regional partners to advance the implementation of YPS frameworks, prioritising direct engagement and flexible funding for youth and women-led organisations in conflict-affected, occupied, and blockaded contexts. We call for the establishment of a youth-inclusive Team Europe coordination and accountability mechanism to monitor YPS commitments, facilitate peer learning, and ensure transparent joint reporting. We further encourage the European External Action Service (EEAS), in coordination with the European Commission and Member States, to integrate Youth, Peace and Security principles across the EU's external action and to systematically include youth perspectives in peace and security dialogues, mediation processes, and programming cycles. We emphasize the need for these partnerships to meaningfully include young people in shaping, implementing, as well as monitoring and evaluating development and peacebuilding processes and to ensure mutual accountability for the commitments made – ensuring that our participation leads to tangible and lasting peace outcomes in our communities. We strongly oppose any form of tokenistic and performative youth engagement.

**Article 32.** We stress the need to establish, sustain, and support youth-led accountability and monitoring mechanisms which track the implementation of YPS commitments at EU, national, and local levels. At their core, these mechanisms should integrate participatory data-collection, periodic reviews, and structured dialogue between young people, institutions, and civil society.

**Article 33.** We invite the European Union to replicate and adapt successful national models of permanent youth mechanisms within its institutional framework, - with the example of the technical bi communal committee on youth established in Cyprus - strengthening youth participation in promoting peace, democracy, and intercultural understanding across Europe and beyond.

**Article 34.** We urge that structured youth participation mechanisms be systematically embedded within the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and the Common Security and Defence Policy Frameworks by ensuring meaningful involvement of youth in conflict prevention, mediation, peacebuilding, security and governance processes.

**Article 35.** We recommend that these mechanisms benefit from international and EU Support to enable coordination between different EU Stakeholders and to find resources for youth-led engagement in peace, defence and in security.

**Article 36.** We acknowledge the effort by decision-makers to increasingly incorporate the voices of the youth into decision-making. We also must address the often-felt lack of follow-up and therefore call for greater transparency and accountability within the decision-making processes.

**Article 37.** We condemn the pressures exercised against youth empowerment efforts by non – authorized actors acting outside the scope of the rule of law and international law.

**Article 38.** We reaffirm our collective commitment to advancing a coordinated Team Europe approach to Youth, Peace and Security, linking EU institutions, Member States, and youth partners from Europe and around the world, to promote sustainable peace, inclusion, and intergenerational solidarity.

### **Funding, resources and economic empowerment**

**Article 39.** We recognize youth work as an essential contribution to peace and security and therefore call for adequate financial compensation to ensure the work is economically and psychologically sustainable for youth.

**Article 40.** We call for greater, direct, flexible, locally led, more accessible, gender – transformative, multi – year and sustainable funding and encourage the leverage of existing EU instruments, including micro – grants, to prioritise equitable access and co-governance with youth in funding youth organizations with an intersectional approach; in this framework, we call for funding for youth-led peace and security initiatives, including youth-friendly funding mechanisms at EU and national levels with procedures, eligibility, and reporting requirements appropriate for smaller youth-led organisations, including those in hard-to-reach and conflict-affected areas, that include smaller/informal youth groups, women-led organisations and youth that face harsher environmental and political conditions. We urge for alternative disbursement channels or advance payments where banking restrictions impede transfers, so that access to resources never depends on geography or political status. Funding should be co – governed with youth to ensure equitable access for grassroots and Global South Actors.

**Article 41.** In this regard, we underline the importance of leveraging existing EU instruments to support youth participation in peace processes, conflict prevention, and inclusive governance. We encourage the EEAS and the European Commission to explore dedicated funding windows or sub-programmes that can channel flexible, accessible resources directly to youth-led organizations and

initiatives.

**Article 42.** We encourage and support young people in engaging with conflict management processes and call to ensure youth have opportunities to participate in conflict resolution activities.

### **Digital safety, media literacy and information integrity**

**Article 43.** We commit to ensuring YPS actions and partnerships reflect the lived realities of youth and are implemented in genuine partnership with young people to renew the social contract and reinforce institutional legitimacy. We recognize that restoring trust requires tackling online misinformation, promoting media literacy, and creating digital spaces where youth can safely contribute to democratic dialogue.

**Article 44.** We call on Member States to foster youth political participation and advancing intergenerational efforts to build a healthy, inclusive and secure information ecosystem, both online and offline, including countering disinformation and ensuring digital safety for youth activists, to ensure continuous information exchange between generations and between policy makers and youth-focused civil society organisations and by safeguarding civic space and ending the criminalisation of youth human-rights defenders, journalists, and community organizers.

**Article 45.** We additionally call for increased investment in providing young citizens with innovative opportunities, particularly for digital spaces, to develop the values, attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary to address the growing risks of misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech; to critically analyse online content and safely navigate digital spaces, and use emerging technologies ethically and effectively, including media and information literacy, in line with and guided by relevant national, global and regional standards, including those of the United Nations system, the EU Digital Education Action Plan 2021–2027, the Council of Europe’s Digital Citizenship frameworks, and the safeguards established under the EU Artificial Intelligence Act.

**Article 46.** We also recognize the emergence of digital spaces as arenas where misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, harassment, and online violence can threaten young people’s security and social cohesion, and affirm that addressing these threats is essential to sustaining peace.

**Article 47.** We emphasize the major influence of the digital information environment on physical security and peacebuilding efforts. The digital sphere has become central to human security, yet it remains a space where civilians and young peacebuilders are increasingly exposed to disinformation, hate speech, and digital repression. We therefore call for the integration of digital peacebuilding across EU and national YPS frameworks to strengthen digital resilience, protect civic space online, and ensure the safety and participation of young peacebuilders and human rights defenders.

## **Education to peacebuilding, capacity building and knowledge sharing**

**Article 48.** We support the ongoing UN Second Independent Progress Study on the positive contributions of youth to peace processes and conflict resolution, as called for in the Pact for the Future, and will ensure follow-up on relevant findings and recommendations, including explicit examination of youth contributions and challenges in occupied and blockaded contexts, and meaningful inclusion of their voices. We further support youth-led global, regional, and national data gathering and analysis efforts on the status and progress of implementation of YPS, in order to facilitate evidence-based decisions regarding future steps.

**Article 49.** We emphasize the importance of age-disaggregated data gathering and gender – responsive indicators and encourage Team Europe to support a regional study on YPS implementation in Europe. We recognise the need to strengthen peace education in formal and non-formal education sectors across Europe.

**Article 50.** We encourage regional consultations and partnerships beyond Europe to ensure balanced representation and mutual learning.

**Article 51.** We recognize reading and education as core components of youth peacebuilding strategies.

**Article 52.** We support initiatives that make knowledge accessible to all youth, especially those in marginalized or conflict-affected communities.

**Article 53.** We affirm that youth are not only beneficiaries of peacebuilding but active architects of peace. We call for the implementation of more formal and informal education and capacity-building projects on media literacy, civil and political education, youth agency, and peace education targeting youth to empower them in their role as critical agents and peacebuilders, and promote dignity, justice and equality.

**Article 54.** We call on Team Europe and decision-makers to recognise formal, informal and non-formal education as key and complementary parts of life-long learning for building and sustaining peaceful societies and invest in them, as well as to create a dedicated funding window for education for peace, human rights and sustainable development in each of these spaces, and especially in youth-led initiatives; to create training opportunities for those working with and for youth, especially teachers and youth workers on transformative, conflict-sensitive and human-rights-based pedagogy; to integrate conflict-sensitive, human-rights-based, and civic learning components into all EU Delegation programming; and to embed measurable peace education targets and learning outcomes and budget lines into all Youth, Peace and Security Action Plans;

**Article 55.** We recognize the protection and promotion of cultural heritage as powerful tools for resilience, reconciliation, and community rebuilding in conflict-affected and post-conflict contexts, and call for greater support for youth-led initiatives that protect, document, and raise the visibility of culture as a foundation for sustainable peace.

### **Women, Peace and Security, gender, intersectionality**

**Article 56.** Recognizing the critical intersection of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agendas, we further call for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and young women in all peace and security discussions, including at negotiation tables, mediation efforts, and post-conflict governance structures. In line with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, we urge the establishment of quotas and dedicated funding to ensure their presence and influence in conflict resolution processes, thereby strengthening the impact of the YPS agenda.

**Article 57.** We recognize that young people are central to the nexus between peace and security, development, and human rights. We recognize that their participation is critical for the achievement of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is also vital and complementary to the advancement of wider peace and security agendas, such as those on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC).

**Article 58.** We underscore the urgency of implementing WPS and gender-responsive commitments as inseparable components of YPS action, in a context of increasing number of conflicts, widespread violations of women's rights and rollback of gender equality, and reduced funding for gender-responsive initiatives globally.

### **Climate, environment and resource justice**

**Article 59.** We recognize the impact of climate change on injustice, conflict, discrimination, gender – based violence, exclusion and its negative impact on young people, including those facing environmental restrictions, land confiscation and resource denial in occupied and blockaded territories, particularly in limiting their access to safe and inclusive spaces for learning, participation, and leadership. We acknowledge that ensuring such spaces is essential to advancing youth empowerment, social cohesion, and lasting peace. Furthermore, we commit to supporting youth-led eco-peacebuilding and resilient livelihood initiatives.

**Article 60.** We commit to conducting dedicated climate risk analysis evaluating the impact of climate change on present and future generations, involving indigenous, marginalized and underrepresented communities. We call on the EU and partners to recognize the impact of gender

on climate injustice and we ensure accessible support through context-specific funding and gender-responsive planning and design.

**Article 61.** We commit to protecting communities most affected by climate change, including women, youth, Indigenous peoples, displaced groups, and those living in conflict-affected areas. Policies and peace processes must prioritize and address unequal climate impacts, ensuring access to resources, and upholding environmental rights. Young people must be supported to lead resilience, recovery, and eco-peacebuilding efforts financially and through the creation of cross-border youth climate-peace networks promoting dialogue, sharing local adaptation knowledge, and jointly addressing environmental degradation fueling instability and displacement.

**Article 62.** We emphasize the urgent need to integrate climate action into peacebuilding and security strategies, recognizing that the impacts of climate change such as floods, droughts, and displacement can fuel instability and deepen inequalities. We call for the European Union and its partners to strengthen climate - peace linkages, support community-based resilience initiatives, and empower youth as leaders in climate adaptation and environmental peacebuilding.

### **Concluding remarks and follow-up**

**Article 63.** To ensure the continuity and accountability of this Declaration, we call for the creation of a joint follow-up framework under the coordination of the EEAS, in partnership with youth networks and civil society, to monitor progress on the integration of the YPS agenda into EU external policies and financial instruments. This mechanism should facilitate regular dialogue between policymakers and young peacebuilders, ensuring that YPS commitments translate into tangible policy and funding outcomes.

**Article 64.** We commit to:

- Disseminate the present Joint Declaration widely, and remain actively engaged to ensure its swift and concrete and coordinated follow up at regional, national and local level;
- Expand the geographic scope of the Declaration to explicitly reference youth experiences and peacebuilding efforts in underrepresented regions, including the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America;
- Establish a stable, long-term mechanism for periodic review and amendment of the Declaration, co-led by youth representatives from diverse regions;
- Create a mechanism that allows youth from anywhere in the world to propose amendments to the Declaration at any time, with submissions reviewed by selected youth representatives.

**Article 65.** We also invite the EEAS and the European Commission to present periodic progress updates on YPS implementation within the framework of EU external action, reinforcing transparency, accountability, and mutual learning between institutions and youth actors.

*Written in Brussels on 14 November 2025 by the young peacebuilders having participated to the Second Youth, Peace and Security Conference.*

*The Declaration is open to the recognition and political support by the EU Member States, the community of practitioners and all other relevant actors in their individual and / or organizational capacity.*

*Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union.*