A wide view of the Security Council Chamber as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (on screen) of Ukraine, addresses the Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine. UN Photo/Loey Felipe
Source: https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115632

After the world suffered two world wars, one of the greatest achievements in global history was the creation of the United Nations (UN) as an intergovernmental organization with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, creating the conditions conducive to economic and social development, and advancing universal respect for human rights. The Security Council became one of the six principal organs of the UN; it was given the primary responsibility of preserving international peace and security. This changed globally the perception of wars, domestic conflicts, and regional threaths from localized matters to international concerns and meant that world leaders and member states are required to act collectively. The parallel development of international principles and regional standards later reinforced this call for universal accountability.

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House in London. After its first meeting, the Council relocated to its permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City. At that time, five permanent members and six non-permanent members were part of the Council. In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to 10 and discussions regarding a change in configuration took place frequently. As the body's structure has remained largely unchanged, debate has arisen over the Security Council's efficacy and authority as a mediator on issues of international security. Matters such as the war in Ukraine, the Syrian Civil War, Russia's annexation of Crimea, and The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear weapons program have posed challenges to the Security Council.

Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to peacekeeping missions, political processes, as well as the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises. However, with the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council has begun to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability, peace, and security. Some important crosscutting issues the

Council is currently addressing include human rights and the protection of civilians for conflict prevention and sustainable development; Women, Peace, and Security; and the prevention of conflict and sustaining peace.

Governance, Structure, and Membership

In the United Nations system, the Security Council has an exclusive power: it is the only body with the power to adopt legally binding resolutions. The decisions of the Security Council are formal expressions of the will of this body responsible of maintaining international security and peace. More importantly, the Members of the United Nations, according to article 25 of the Charter, "agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter."

The Security Council has multiple tools at its disposal to address issues on the body's agenda. For example, the President of the Security Council may issue **press statements** or **presidential statements** to communicate the Council's position. Although these are not legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to ongoing conflicts. In addition, the Security Council can achieve its goals through various mechanisms, which have evolved in its history. It can propose peaceful settlements of disputes by diverse means, including mediation processes, negotiations, peacekeeping operations, and calls for ceasefires. The Security Council can also impose sanctions to the Member states, and ultimately, as a last resort, its members can authorize the use of military force. The traditional role of the Security Council in implementing strategies to tackle issues related to disarmament, political development, peacekeeping, humanitarian crises, and to the protection human rights has also changed and has been revitalized.

An hourglass from Thuringia ensures greater discipline. Ambassador Christoph Heusgen introduced it with a twinkle in his eye at the start of Germany's UN Security Council Presidency in April 2019. The aim was to remind Security Council members of the time limit of speeches. Members may not generally speak for longer than five minutes.
https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/service/archive/media-center/01-an-hourglass-from-thuringia-ensures-greater-discipline-ambassador-christoph-heusgen-introduced-it-with-a-twinkle-in-his-eye-at-the-start-of-germany-s-un-security-council-presidency-in-april-2019-the-aim-was-to-remind-security-council-members-of-the-time-limit-of-speeches-members-may-generally-speak-for-five-minutes--1771832

The Security Council is a body of 15 members. There are five members which have permanent membership: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. Along with the five permanent members, 10 non-permanent members serve in the Security Council. The General Assembly annually elects by a two-thirds the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term. Security Council elections are held six months before the term starts in June. This change allows Member States sufficient time to prepare for their new role.

Currently, Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, and the United Arab Emirates are the non-permanent members for the 2022-2023 term.

A wide view of an installation ceremony of the national flags of the countries of the newly elected non-permanent members to serve on the U.N. Security Council for the term 2022-23 is held at the United Nations headquarters building in New York City, January 5, 2022. Credit: U.N. Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Consistent with the Council's mandate, the essential factor for eligibility is a member state's contribution "to the maintenance of international peace and security" reflected on the potential states' financial or troop contributions to peacekeeping efforts or its leadership roles on regional security. Another aspect considered is the "equitable geographical distribution". To promote geographical inclusion, since 1965 the Council includes 3 seats for the Group of African States (GAFS); two seats for the Asia-Pacific Group, one for the Group of Eastern European States (EGG); one for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC); two for the Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG). Each group has its own electoral norms. An Arab seat alternates between the African and Asian blocs by informal agreement. Turkey and Israel, which has never served on the council, caucus with WEOG.

States participate in a highly competitive process to be elected for the non-permanent seats on the Security Council; this includes long campaigns and statements of interests. Once states are elected to serve on the Security Council, they are expected to represent regional interests; these states are usually influential at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest to their respective foreign policy regional agendas. Each member of the Security Council can be represented at all meetings. In the Provisional Rules of Procedure, Rule 13 allows for Members to be represented by an accredited representative," such as a Head of Government.

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The Security Council today   The Security Council in the past
Source: https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/adlaistevensonunitednationscuba.html

The mandate of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security and to act whenever peace and security are threatened. The Council's authority is particularly relevant with respect to the UN's four primary purposes, as specified in the Charter: maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating in solving international

problems; and promoting respect for human rights. The Security Council's capabilities are highlighted in Chapters V–VIII. Chapter V establishes the structure, membership, functions, and powers of the Security Council. Chapters VI and VII of the Charter specifically concern the Security Council and the range of actions that can be taken when settling disputes. Chapter VI of the Charter by itself aims to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation and judicial settlement. Chapter VII explores further actions the Council can take when responding to threats to peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression. This chapter also authorizes the Security Council to implement provisional measures aimed to de-escalate the situation. Chapter VIII of the Charter allows the Security Council to call upon other regional agencies or arrangements to enforce appropriate operations and intervene if necessary.

Under Article 41 of the Charter, the Council can call upon UN Member States to enact economic **sanctions** and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or end violence. Some of these measures include arms embargos, enforcing disarmament, or calling upon international criminal mechanisms to become active. Regarding diplomatic tools, the Council is mandated to investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to aggression between states, with other non-state groups, or within states' territories. The Council may also take military action against a state or other entity threatening international peace and security and may further decide on the deployment of troops or observers.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers offer hope to villagers in Northern Mali
Source: https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/bangladeshi-peacekeepers-offer-hope-to-villagers-northern-mali

The Council may also decide upon the deployment of new UN peacekeeping missions to be led by the Department of Peace Operations. The Security Council creates a peacekeeping operation by adopting a resolution that outlines the mandate and size of a particular mission, and UN peacekeepers are assigned to appropriate regions to address conflicts. The Council also cooperates with several international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to implement its decisions.

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote. **Votes on all matters require a majority of nine Member States. However, if one of the five permanent members of the Security Council votes "no" on a matter of substance**, such as a draft resolution, it does not pass. This is known as *"veto power."*

In the 1950s, Security Council Member States made frequent use of their veto power, but its usage declined in the 1960s—rising again in the 1970s and 1980s. Recently, the use of the veto power has raised new criticisms in the international community and has sparked discussions about the power structures within the UN system.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Russia Vasily Nebenzya casts the lone dissenting vote in the United Nations Security Council, February 25, 2022. Two days into Russia's attack on Ukraine, a majority of U.N. Security Council members voted to demand that Moscow withdraw. But one thing stood in their way: a veto by Russia itself. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File) Source: https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-united-nations-general-assembly-business-europe-states-3e1560d3b38bc0110d65fe388a6ea4ad/gallery/296ab8d924914e4b806b9e6015def31

Security Council members, from left, Britain's Ambassador to the UN Barbara Woodward; US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield; Albania's UN Ambassador Ferit Hoxha; and Brazil's Ambassador to the UN Ronaldo Costa Filho, vote in the United Nations Security Council, February 25, 2022. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig) Source: https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-vetoes-un-security-council-resolution-demanding-it-withdraw-from-ukriane/

Since 1993, the General Assembly deliberated several proposals to reform the Security Council. Key challenges to reforming the Security Council are its membership, transparency and working methods, and the veto power of the permanent five Member States. In 2018, delegates within the UN General Assembly called for expanding the number of permanent members and abolishing the permanent member's use of veto power.

The Security Council is one of the main bodies of the UN that ensures international peace and security, overseeing the admission of new members to the UN General Assembly, and changes to the UN Charter. The Council also has a unique and impactful mandate to set norms and govern state actions, as all Member States are required to comply with the Security Council's legally binding decisions under Chapter VII of the Charter, the only UN body to have legally binding decisions. The Council is the only UN body that can create legally binding decisions. Although the Security Council is the primary UN entity responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda signaled the increasing need to also discuss the linkages between peace and security, and issues of human security and development. The Council has begun looking at the intersection between the SDGs and international peace and security, namely through discussion and debates on

climate change. The Security Council also continues to address regional and country issues, as well as thematic issues, such as youth, peace, and security, and gender.

Jayathma Wickramanayake, the UN Secretary-General's
Envoy on Youth

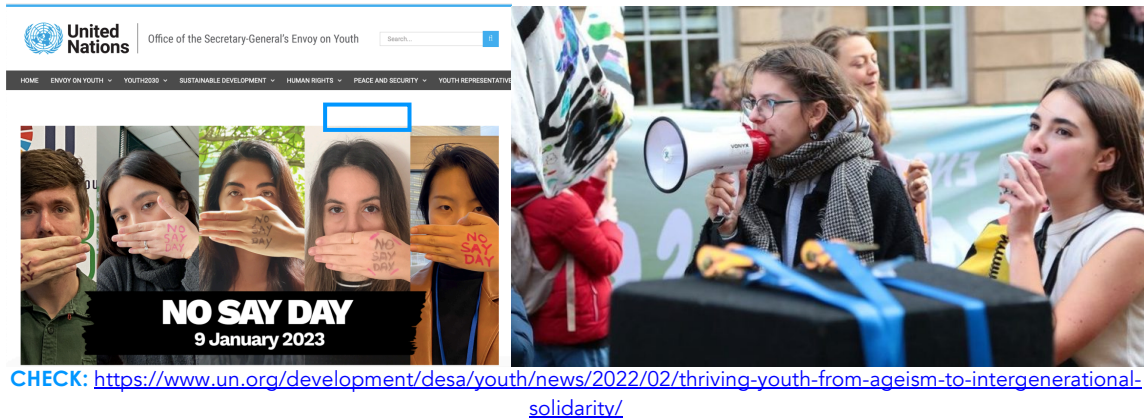Youth representatives embrace the Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs)

Since most actions are interconnected in the world, global policymakers have recognized the importance of youth in achieving sustainable development, peace, and security. With a population of **1.3 billion adolescents** in the world today, according to the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), more than ever before, making up 16 per cent of the world's population. **CHECK:** https://data.unicef.org/topic/adolescents/overview/, today's generation of youth is one of the largest ever seen in history. However, many youth are also disproportionately affected by conflict, with most fragile states having a median age that is below 25, therefore, they need to be of change. **LISTEN** to this: https://youtu.be/t_FvYZpfcbs and **CHECK:** https://southsudan.un.org/en/52116-youth-envoy-calls-political-representation-young-people

Source: https://www.osce.org/youth

Compounded with other factors such as poverty and inequality, statistics show that young individuals, particularly youth in Africa and south and southeast Asia, tend to have a lower life expectancy due in large part to high rates of crime, violence, and civil conflict. Although these young people are negatively affected by conflict and violence such as sexual violence, coercion, and lack of education, they are often stigmatized in these adverse situations. **Recent research suggests that youth have been traditionally viewed as "problems to be solved" rather than partners in developing solutions to pressing challenges.** This is shown through examples such as poor representation in governance and high youth unemployment. Events such as the Arab Spring and the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Boko Haram, where young persons are recruited into extremist groups, have perpetuated a narrative that youth are disruptive and catalysts for instability. In response, the international community has

been developing frameworks to better address the role and involvement of youth on key issues, especially peace and security. **CHECK** this resource to learn about how young people like you can participate in the society: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/yps_programming_handbook.pdf and the UN has officially created roles, spaces, and opportunities for youth representatives to lead. **CHECK:** https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/ to see all of the resources (**PAY ATTENTION** to the resources in "Peace and Security), and https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/workplan/ to get familiar with the Envoy on Youth's plan of action.

CHECK: https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/news/2022/02/thriving-youth-from-ageism-to-intergenerational-solidarity/

There is no universally agreed upon definition of youth, though various resolutions have described and characterized this group. In 1995, General Assembly resolution 50/81 defined youth as a group of individuals between 15–24 years of age. The *World Programme of Action for Youth* **(1995)** generally uses this definition for the sake of statistical consistency across regions, however this is done without prejudice to other definitions outlined by Member States and other definitions are used by different entities. Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on "Youth, Peace, and Security" defines **y o u t h,** within the context of the resolution, as persons between the ages of 18 – 29.

Through the advocacy of civil society and support from several Member States, the international community convened several meetings, such as the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security during August of 2015, which eventually led to the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250. This, among other frameworks has provided foundation to engage more productively on this topic through implementing policies that include youth in peace processes and political decision-making, tying socio-economic initiatives to the topic, and building robust partnerships.

Later, the Security Council adopted resolution 2419, the second resolution on youth, peace, and security and was unanimously adopted. It recognizes the positive role young people can play in negotiating and implementing peace agreements and conflict prevention. **CHECK:** https://youth4peace.info/system/files/2019-11/S_RES_2419%282018%29_E.pdf The resolution urges 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. In addition, the resolution requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution 2419 (2018) and 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security, no later than May 2020. **CHECK:** https://unrcca.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/unrcca_handout_yps_20201.pdf

After years of intra-ethnic violence, South Sudanese youth leaders support the signing of a truce between the Kuei, Rup and Pakam communities. Photo by: UNMISS
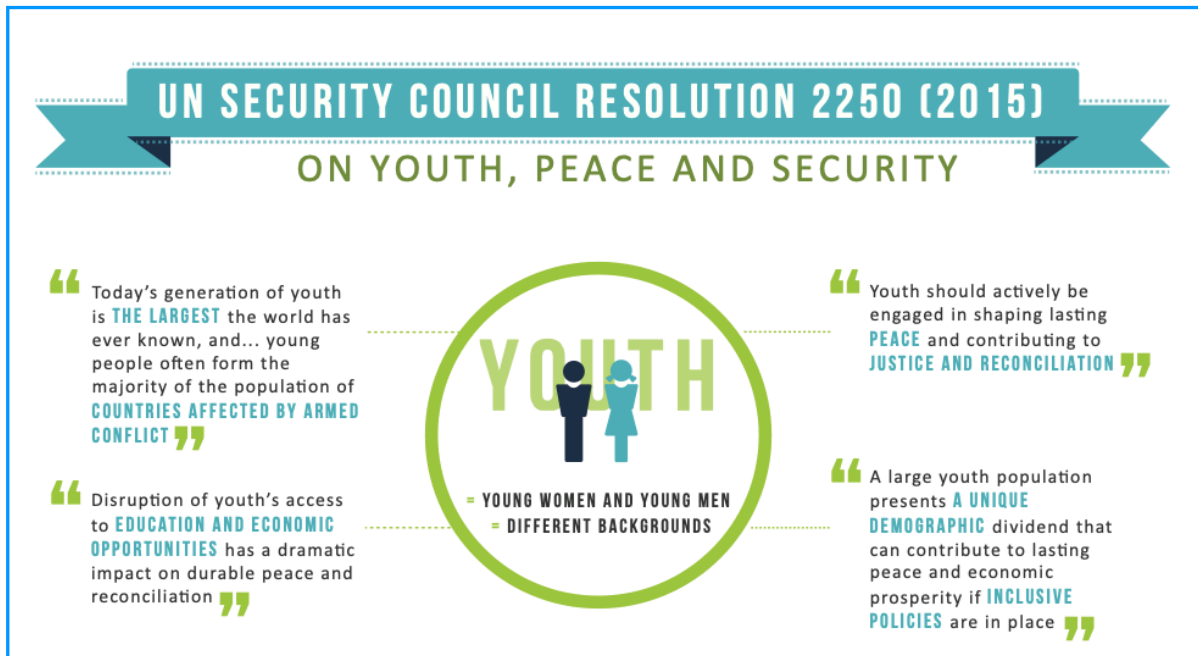
Bearing in mind resolutions 2419 and 2250, other UN agencies and departments have promoted actions to connect with young leaders and to integrate them for a world for all ages and to combat ageism. **CHECK:** https://www.who.int/teams/social-determinants-of-health/demographic-change-and-healthy-ageing/combatting-ageism/global-report-on-ageism to learn about ageism, a form of discrimination that can be addressed. Likewise, multiple projects have worked to create opportunities for intergenerational solidarity. **C H E C K:** https://lac.unwomen.org/en/stories/noticia/2022/08/solidaridad-intergeneracional-creando-un-mundo-para-todas-las-edades and https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/resources/

International and Regional Framework

The *Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding Between Peoples*, adopted by the General Assembly in 1965, contains some of the earliest principles that outline youth's role in international peace and security. This declaration outlines six principles that emphasize that youth should be raised and educated in the spirit of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity, and be provided with the facilities and capacity to take part in cultural exchanges. The youth, peace, and security agenda has since developed out of various collaborative initiatives and frameworks between civil society, the United Nations, and Member States. In 1995, the General Assembly adopted the *World Programme of Action for Youth* (1995).

The exact subject of youth, peace, and security was further explored in August of 2015 at the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security in Amman, Jordan, which brought together non-governmental organizations, governments, and UN entities. The forum yielded the *Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security* (2015), https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/amman_youth_declaration.pdf which **calls for action in increasing youth participation in governance, recognizing youth-based networks and associations, reducing gender-based violence, and investing in youth socio-economic development.** These areas are

youth participation and leadership in peace and security, youth preventing violence and building peace, gender equality, and young people's socio- economic empowerment.

Security Council **resolution 2250 (2015)** is the landmark resolution that helped catalyze other initiatives on this topic and advance the agenda of youth inclusion in peace and security. Funds have been devoted and target goals have been defined to make the resolution become a reality for youth representation in meaningful processes. **WATCH:** https://youtu.be/sFZcvSAdlO4

The resolution identifies **five areas of action**:

1. PARTICIPATION

- Member States should consider ways to increase **inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels** for the prevention and resolution of conflict
- All relevant actors should take into account, as appropriate, **the participation and views of youth** when negotiating and implementing peace agreements

2. PROTECTION

- All parties to armed conflict must take the necessary measures to **protect civilians**, including those who are **youth**, from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence
- States must respect and ensure the **human rights of all individuals**, including youth, within their territory

3. PREVENTION

- Member States should facilitate an **enabling environment** in which young people are recognised and provided adequate support to **implement violence prevention activities** and **support social cohesion**
- All relevant actors should promote **a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue** that involve youth

4. PARTNERSHIP

- Member States should increase their **political, financial, technical and logistical support**, that take account of the needs and participation of youth in peace efforts
- Member States should engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to **counter the violent extremist narrative**

5. DISENGAGEMENT AND REINTEGRATION

- **Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities** must consider the needs of youth affected by armed conflict, including through evidence-based and gender-sensitive **youth employment opportunities** and **inclusive labour policies**
- All relevant actors should invest in building **young persons' capabilities and skills** through relevant education opportunities designed in a manner which promotes a culture of peace

This is the first UN Security Council resolution that directly calls for Member States to consider establishing mechanisms that will enable youth to meaningfully contribute to peace processes.
READ the resolution at: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/413/06/PDF/N1541306.pdf?OpenElement

More importantly, in **resolution 2250** youth like you are not considered solely as a group to be protected (as victims), nor as a group to be protected from (as perpetrators of violent acts), but rather **they are considered valid and positive agents of change in their communities.** The resolution demands to give voice to young people in peace processes, urging governments, private and public entities, and civil society and institutions —including UN agencies— to provide both the tools and the necessary funding to transform the text into real policies and specific projects. If you want to learn more about resolution 2250, **CHECK:** https://youth4peace.info/ACTon2250 and **READ** the in-depth explanation of its content, the UN agreed language on Youth, Participation, and Peacebuilding and other interesting topics.

USIP Generation Change Fellow Ekomo-Soignet addresses a Security Council meeting on the maintenance of international peace and security, with a focus on youth, April 23, 2018. (UN Photo/Manuel Elias)

In 2020, the UN Security Council adopted **resolution 2535,** which **for the first time mentions the implementation established steps of the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agenda** in UN peace operations settings. **READ** the complete text of the resolution:
https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/182/94/PDF/N2018294.pdf?OpenElement

The relevance of youth participation has been in peacebuilding efforts has been recognized in important ways because as the senior office of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Rebecca Ebenezer-Abiola, and the USIP Generation Change Fellow Ekomo-Soignet reflected **"Russia and China have previously opposed the inclusion of youth issues at UNSC deliberations. Resolution 2535, however, was passed with unanimous support, demonstrating that the international community is reaching a consensus on the vital role of youth. CHECK:** https://www.usip.org/blog/2020/09/recognition-action-un-affirms-vital-role-youth-peacebuilding

Resolution 2325 (2020)"...calls on Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations system, including peacekeeping and special political missions, to coordinate and increase their engagement in the implementation of resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018), and 2535 (2020), to ensure dedicated capacities with regard to youth, peace and security."

CHECK: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/051/25/PDF/N1805125.pdf?OpenElement

Recalling the commitments of previous resolutions, for instance, on 23 April 2022, more than 350 young women and men from across Africa participated in the **Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace, and Security,** hosted by the Government of Burundi. In its capacity as Chair of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) for April 2022, the Government of Burundi hosted the dialogue in Bujumbura and online, with the support of United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The initiative aligned with the **Continental Framework on Youth, Peace, and Security** and its 10-year implementation plan, adopted in June 2020 by the PSC of the African Union. It also built on the recommendations made in the UN Secretary General's report on youth, peace, and security (March 2022), which recalls that **"inclusive partnerships with young peacebuilders are crucial to the youth and peace and security agenda and should be prioritized by all partners".**

The key objective of the dialogue was to promote meaningful engagement and active participation of youth in peacebuilding processes and in the formulation of peace and security policy and action plans at the national, regional, and continental levels. The dialogue was co-facilitated by **4 AU Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP)** and the **AU Youth Envoy,** who provided valuable insights during the forum. During the breakout sessions, the young participants made concrete and practical recommendations and shared innovative solutions addressing the five pillars of the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda.

https://www.undp.org/africa/blog/bujumbura-declaration-formulated-and-youth-key-milestone-youth-peace-and-security-agenda-africa

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also play an integral role in supporting the youth, peace, and security agenda. Though the SDGs help reinforce peace and security through setting and tracking improvements in many socio-economic indicators, they also introduced the first global goal related to measuring progress in peace, justice, and strong institutions, SDG 16. Many of the targets and indicators for SDG 16 strongly reinforce the youth, peace, and security agenda, such as strengthening inclusive participation in decision-making processes and ending exploitation of children. Young leaders and activists have been very active in promoting SDG. Voices from all parts of the globe have been heard and calls to actions have been made. **CHECK:** https://youth4peace.info/basic-page/rome-youth-call-action-sdg16

In July 2016, the General Assembly fully welcomed the plan of action in its fifth review of the *Global Counter Terrorism Strategy* by adopting resolution 70/291 The plan outlines seven pillars to address the growth and spread of violent extremism, with one pillar specifically focusing on youth empowerment. The resolution emphasizes that the international community

must identify better tools to support young people in taking up causes of peace, especially as current methods that connect society, such as technology, are being exploited by violent extremists. In a similar tone to this pillar directs the international community to promote the participation of youth in discussions and decision-making processes between stakeholders, and to support activities that facilitate their empowerment.

Role of the International System

The Security Council invested resources on this topic and commissioned a study, as authorized in resolution 2250 (2015), on "Youth, Peace and Security" to help better identify areas of engagement. This study was conducted over the course of 18 months and involved the input and voices of thousands of youth actors across the globe. The report, ***The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (2018) CHECK:** https://unoy.org/downloads/the-missing-peace/ was published in October 2018. It explores the contributions of youth involvement in peace and security and highlighted key areas of focus and policy recommendations to be considered by Member States.

The **Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth** is the primary entity responsible for streamlining the UN's youth efforts. Under its advocacy principle, the envoy on youth gives special focus to promoting the youth, peace, and security agenda and specifically the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015). For example, the office has been involved in leading advocacy efforts to encourage UN offices to adopt policies that align with resolution 2250. Recently, in September of 2022, the General Assembly passed **resolution 76/306 to establish an exclusive United Nations Youth Office in the Secretariat "to ensure that the voices of youth are more systematically integrated across the United Nations system." CHECK:** https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2022/11/summary-of-the-youth-consultation-on-the-establishment-of-the-un-youth-office/ **READ** resolution 76/306: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/587/26/PDF/N2258726.pdf?OpenElement and **EVALUATE** its strengths and weaknesses: https://www.ejiltalk.org/looking-behind-the-un-youth-office-considering-structural-limitations-of-youth-participation-after-the-party/

> *"With the establishment of the role of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in 2013, and the launch of the first-ever UN system-wide Youth Strategy "Youth2030" in 2018, **the profile of the youth agenda has been raised, and progress was made to institutionalize efforts on youth into the UN system.***
>
> *Notwithstanding, young people have called on the UN to deepen solidarity with the world's youth and to strengthen its capacity to support countries to meet their needs and protect their rights."*
> *Chandramouli Ramanathan in her introductory before the General Assembly*
> **CHECK:** https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0050/20221205/21at8fpxbIGJPlevqTfbUrreCHaq_en.pdf

The UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) is the UN's principle working group on all matters related to youth development, including youth, peace, and security. Consisting of over 50 entities, this working group has 15 priority areas of work, including youth participation in peacebuilding, and it supports and reviews the implementation of UN resolutions, conventions, and international goals related to youth. The Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding (WG-YPB) is a working group housed in IANYD and co-chaired by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the United Network of Youth Peacebuilders, and Search

for Common Ground. The WG-YPB brings together a coalition of civil society organizations, donors, UN entities, and governmental bodies that focus on the role of youth in peacebuilding. The working group focuses on building a community and culture that implements evidence-based practice for activities in youth, peace, and security. Moreover, it developed the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding (2014), which defines the principles of how to meaningfully involve youth in peacebuilding activities and influenced the policy discussions that led to the adoption of resolution 2250 (2015).

The UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is the primary UN body that deliberates peacebuilding initiatives and their implementation. As the commission takes on a broader scope of work to address social and economic drivers of conflict, the PBC is positioned to play a central role to build partnerships to support ongoing peacebuilding work, including the realization of the youth, peace, and security agenda. The PBSO is the primary office that coordinates and supports peacebuilding efforts within the UN system; it does so by providing strategic advice and policy guidance and administrating the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). The PBF specifically delivers financial support to over 120 projects in 25 countries that aim to build peace. The PBF also supports the youth, peace and, security agenda through its various initiatives, such as the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative in 2018.This initiative supports the empowerment of women and youth as central stakeholders within the UN's peacebuilding efforts. The initiative allocates funds to support the implementation of relevant frameworks including Security Council resolution 2250.

Soon after the Global Forum on Youth, the Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism was convened in New York in September 2015. This summit amplified the calls for action laid out in the Amman Declaration and focused on promoting the role of youth as change-makers and active stakeholders in countering violent extremism. This emphasis was meant to counter the narrative that youth are a security problem to be solved and to instead, build a culture of inclusion that encourages youth to be part of the solution. Furthermore, in 2016 the Secretary-General report on "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace" was adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council through General Assembly resolution 70/262 (2016) and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016). The resolutions welcomed the report, which underscores the role that youth have in contributing to international peace and security efforts.

CHECK: *https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/173/81/PDF/N1817381.pdf?OpenElement*

Representation in Peace and Security Activities

Many existing frameworks on youth, peace, and security emphasize that having youth meaningfully participate and engage in peacebuilding activities, policy conversations, and peace mediation is crucial for the advancement of this agenda. However, there remains a persistent absence of youth participation in peace activities, such as negotiation and mediation processes. Exclusion from peace processes and security decisions can exclude youth from decision-making processes that impact their livelihoods, risking them feeling disenfranchised;

in some cases, this can lead to youth further distrusting state-led peace and security initiatives and thereby exacerbate instability.

The commissioned research report, the Missing Peace, identified many challenges to meaningful participation of youth in key peace and decision-making processes. One such challenge is the persistent stereotyping of youth as violent "spoilers of peace" that act as disruptive forces to further perpetuating social stigmatization. Moreover, the study identifies that while young men were common perpetuators of violence, policies and views that reinforced this narrative only strengthened negative perceptions of young men. The study highlights that harmful narratives are used to justify harsh and oppressive security measures such as harsh criminal penalties and counter-terrorism operations. Such security measures have also been used to exclude youth from taking part in policymaking discussions and activities related to security at the local and national level. This is especially harmful when the conflict in question has a strong youth element, such as the widespread use of child soldiers and the recruitment and radicalization of young men.

UN Photo/Eric Kanalstein | Women and girls in Monrovia, Liberia, staged a peaceful sit-in protest against gender-based violence in 2007.

"I will not ask you to let young people lead, as they are already leading. But they need inclusive and safe spaces and enabling environments to succeed,"

"My generation represents promise – not peril. We should be seen as an asset – not as a problem."
Jayathma Wickramanayake,
the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
CHECK: https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/04/1007962

Effective approaches to better include youth in governance and decision-making require platforms to engage in local and national issues to educate and empower youth. The Missing Peace emphasizes that protecting the rights of youth is crucial to helping them realize their rights and ability to positively engage in political and economic activities within their communities· Such activities can range from preserving the rule of law institutions, especially post-conflict or fragile states in transition, to setting up frameworks for safe spaces that promote dialogue in communities. One example is Conciliation- Resources, a UK-based global peacebuilding NGO, that set up youth "peace platforms" that created spaces for youth to engage on issues related to their community without fear of violence or reprisal.

Societal Inclusion and Prevention

Many states that have large youth populations and experience violence and fragility also suffer from conditions that reinforce poor societal cohesion. The World Bank Group's recent report, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violence*, suggests that policies that promote social and economic inclusion can help reduce violence. **One of the main pillars of Security Council resolution 2250 is prevention, which focuses on building societal conditions that strengthen youth resilience and prevent violence and conflict.** This effort

aims to ensure that youth are an integral part of building societal cohesion, especially in pursuing economic opportunities and education.

The UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs reported that less than 2% of parliamentarians around the world are in their 20s, showing that under-representation of youth in decision-making is still a widespread issue. Corruption and patronage systems have been identified as a key barrier in preventing youth from meaningfully partaking in civic activities, such as running for political office. This has created a strong demand to voice concerns and needs, but youth are often shut out from normal outlets of civic participation, such as running for office. Economic inclusion and opportunity is also critical to youth, peace and, security, as it is integral to societal inclusion and well-being. *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (2018) acknowledged that violence and instability disrupts economic opportunities, often forcing youth to take up work in the informal economy, which can lead to involvement in illicit activities, including the trafficking of drugs, humans, and weapons; these can in turn be used to support terrorism, armed militants, and transnational criminal groups.

Gender mainstreaming is another important cross-cutting issue in building resiliency and cohesion. For instance, conflict adversely impacts young women through sexual violence, forced migration, and deprivation of education and economic opportunities. Harmful narratives also characterize young women as passive victims, instead of stakeholders meant to take part in solution-building. New research suggests that increased opportunities need to be coupled with increased avenues for civic engagement. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women suggests that governments should aim to find synergies between Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) and 1325 (2000) to enhance efforts for the inclusion for young women in national peace and security decisions. Further, Security Council resolution 2419 (2018) calls for the Secretary-General's special envoys to take special consideration in including young women in the participation of decision- making processes and for Member States to do more in combating stereotypes that perpetuate violence against young women.

Partnerships for Youth, Peace, and Security

To help catalyze action on youth, peace, and security, the Missing Peace recommends that robust steps be taken to help build effective partnerships that would draw more resources and awareness. One of the key recommended areas for facilitating effective partnerships is in opening more avenues for dialogue and accountability for the youth, peace, and security agenda, especially within the UN and Security Council.

To broaden the participation of youth within the UN system, the progress report encourages the UN Secretariat to build synergies (alliances, coalitions) to address youth-related issues between its different offices and envoys. Facilitating such partnerships through the UN system helps streamline policies and action at the international, regional, and local levels. The study recommends the creation of an informal expert group to provide policy advice, to streamlining Security Council resolution 2250 in peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates, and to ensure that such mandates encompass an approach tailored toward youth issues. Actions can include appointing a lead youth adviser for key issues like what was done under the women, peace, and security initiative, and developing a system-wide roadmap to better help coordinate activities and monitor progress between all entities that conduct work in this area.

Another priority in partnerships is to support data collection and gathering evidence of impact when implementing these policy frameworks. The progress study identified that insufficient data has prevented efforts to fully understand the situation faced by youth nationally. Strong partnerships are needed in this area to encourage actors to implement and streamline data-collecting practices. Supporting these efforts is Sustainable Development Goal (Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)) 17 on partnerships, which has a specific emphasis on data, monitoring, and accountability.

Conclusion

The rise of global security threats in the past decade has led to security policies and frameworks that view youth as an issue to be solved, rather than a potential partner in building peace. This is especially true given that many extremists, militias, and criminal groups have targeted youth. Consequently, many governments have chosen policies that perpetuate the perception that youth are to be addressed as a problem, rather than part of the solution. The international community, particularly with support from civil society, have aimed to take a more inclusive approach that addresses youth's role in peace and security. **The youth, peace, and security agenda saw initial progress through the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250, but still requires greater recognition, understanding, and awareness from the international community.** With more resources and support, champions of the agenda can better promote its implementation at the international, regional, national, and local levels. Moving forward, the agenda will need the assistance of robust international partnerships to help raise awareness, pool resources, and advocate for its implementation.

Further Research

What should I discuss in the Security Council? What are the "problems"? You are encouraged to consider the questions provided below. You do NOT need to answer all of them, but they can provide you guidelines.

- How have Member States created meaningful, inclusive, and safe spaces for youth to be involved in and contribute to peace and security policy and programming? **What else is needed (funds, tools, human resources, new perceptions, and ideas about youth)?**

- What role has resolution 2250 played in how governments address the question of meaningful inclusion of youth, from peace processes to access to decision-making? What good practices and lessons learned exist regarding how the resolution has been translated into concrete action in most recent resolutions that expand its scope? **What is still missing in the agenda to engage youth in peacebuilding and international security?**

- **How can Member States continue to support the efforts of the Secretary- General to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the progress studies and the creation of the Office of the Youth Envoy in the Secretariat?**

- **What are the financial and political commitments given by governments to young people in line with an effective implementation of the youth, peace, and security agenda?**

- How have Member States engaged with the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, particularly the Peacebuilding Commission, in advancing the implementation of resolution 2250? What lessons learned and best practices exist?

Locals wait at a World Food Programme food distribution center to receive grain donations at a government-led feeding center in the Wagduf Temporary Resettlement site, Somali regional state. Photo by: UNICEF Ethiopia

Seven years ago, in their report *United We Stand: Reforming the United Nations to Reduce Climate Risk* (2016), Camila Born and Nick Mabey asked a question that is still relevant today. **They explored to what extent climate change poses a direct threat to the United Nations' mission.** At the heart of their reflection is the issue of the international system's ability to deal with climate risks – the impact from climate change that is already being experienced which is fragmented and ad hoc. This reality, they contend, will require a new leadership to create robust institutions to manage environmental risks, to change procedures, and to promote reforms in an international agenda that should be supported by all individual member states.

Born and Mabey's concerns are not new in the UN system. **Whether climate change is an issue that should be examined by the UN's peace and security body to begin with, has been the subject of controversy.** Some Member States believe that this is stepping on the toes of other UN entities, specifically mandated with taking a lead on social and economic development, or environmental protection.

What is the problem? What is climate change?

CHECK:
https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change

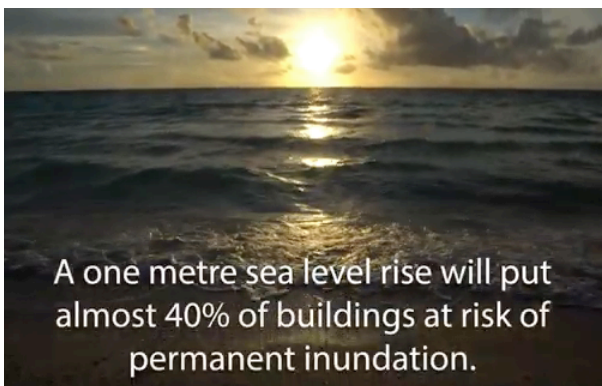**What is _exactly_ the problem with climate change and international peace?**

The problem is that climate change produces **extreme weather events** (heavy rainfalls, ocean acidification, extreme sea level risings, hurricanes, floods, typhoons, wildfires, heatwaves, droughts, and snowstorms). **These ecological challenges can (and will!) fuel competition for resources. We are looking at a potential problem of access.** Countries will have to compete intensely for resources (land, water, infrastructure, and food) and services (housing, transportation, education, health, technology). **The extreme competition linked to climate**

change can trigger big conflicts, produce economic tensions (lack of jobs opportunities, increased prices for essential products, supply chain disruptions, low productivity, limited economic growth and competitiveness), and ultimately, trigger social problems (migration issues, civil wars, armed conflict, vandalism, terrorism, and affect democracy (elections, citizen engagement). For instance, the most affected communities will need to be relocated, and the least affected countries might not be willing to let them enter their territories. At a larger scale, nations can get into extremely serious and negative conflicts. How negative can the situation get? Just to give you an idea consider the fact that, according to the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) **"studies have linked a 0.5°C warming with a 10% to 20% increase in the risk of deadly conflict." CHECK:** https://issafrica.org/iss-today/climate-change-and-violence-in-africa-no-time-to-lose

Likewise, other projections provide evidence to have other concerns. For example, thinking about migration. According to other reports, **"estimates are that, by 2050, the number of climate refugees will be between 150-200 million, spanning up to 10% of the global population. All in all, climate change is pervasive and poses significant security threats to our world today." CHECK:** https://unoy.org/downloads/young-and-green-peace/

Global warming has rendered many conscious of the fact that even land is a resource that is at stake: **it is projected that by 2050, 150 million – one in every 45 people in the world – could become displaced by climate change related phenomena such as desertification, seal level rise, water scarcity, etc.**

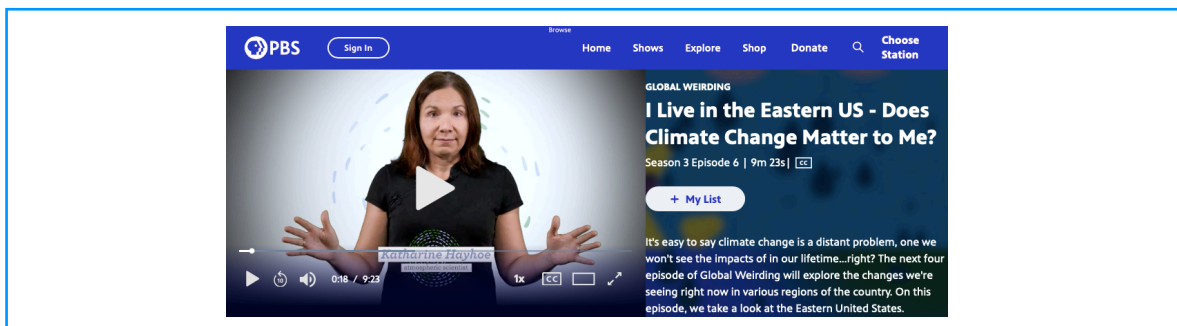A one metre sea level rise will put almost 40% of buildings at risk of permanent inundation.

The problem is very serious.
The Marshall Islands and "sinking neighbors" Kiribati and Tuvalu poignantly exemplify that islands can be submerged by rising oceans if the sea-level continues to rise.

Conflicts can be related to some countries…"disappearing." WATCH:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxWZBIDv6U0

CHECK: https://ourworld.unu.edu/en/does-climate-change-cause-conflict
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/25/disasters-linked-to-climate-can-increase-risk-of-armed-conflict
https://unfccc.int/blog/conflict-and-climate
https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2018/10/lessons-post-conflict-states-peacebuilding-factor-environment-climate-change/
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/17/rising-sea-levels-threaten-marshall-islands-status-as-a-nation-world-bank-report-warns

Does climate change matter to me and young people like me in the world?

Yes, it does. To get some ideas on how climate change has an impact not just globally but individually (in affects YOU as an individual at the local level) on our planet. **CHECK:**

Source: https://ga.video.cdn.pbs.org/videos/global-weirding/1edba5c6-ab2c-4c00-8950-ab7950a6c54a/2000073404/hd-16x9-mezzanine-1080p/1mel9f8g_new-england-south-eastytnew-16x9-1080p_333.m3u8

It also affects youth like you all over the world because it creates problems that more severely impact young people. For example, briefers in the report "Climate change, violence, and young people by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (2015), concluded that "Egypt is the most populous Arab country, with a third of Egyptians under the age of 15. Free education and limited economic opportunities have resulted in a high unemployment rate, fueling grievances with the government and civil unrest. **Egypt's vulnerability to water stress, sea level rise and food price shocks will increase as climate impacts accelerate. Its unstable political environment limits climate adaptation prospects and economic growth opportunities."** **CHECK:** https://climate-diplomacy.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/G7%20Briefing%20Note%207%20-%20UNICEF%20Climate%20change%20violence%20and%20young%20people_0.pdf

Please **CHECK** these: https://www.climate.gov/teaching

The first ever meeting of the Security examining the linkages between climate change and insecurity happened in April 2007. Since then, the UN body has increasingly taken steps that effectively acknowledge that the two issues are related: in July 2011, another open debate on the matter was held; in March 2017, resolution 2349 **CHECK: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/086/16/PDF/N1708616.pdf?OpenElement** and **NOTICE** that it "**Recognises the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of the Region,** including through water scarcity, drought,

desertification, land degradation, and food insecurity, and emphasizes the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies by governments and the United Nations relating to these factors;" in other words, this resolution highlighted the need to address climate-related risks to tackle the conflict in the Lake Chad basin; and in July 2018, a debate was held on "understanding and addressing climate-related security risks".

In a sign of how important the discussion is to many countries, the debate was attended by over 70 Member States and included statements in the Council chamber from a dozen Ministers, including Kuwait, Belgium, Indonesia, Germany, and Poland.

As recently as December of 2021, the Security Council, in a contentious meeting, rejected a draft resolution co-sponsored by Niger (Council President for December) that would have integrated climate-related security risk as a central component of United Nations conflict-prevention strategies aiming to help counter the risk of conflict relapse. In a recorded vote of 12 in favor to 2 against (India, Russian Federation), with 1 abstention (China), the Council — acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rejected the draft owing to the negative vote by a permanent member of the Council. The vote followed an open debate of the Council on 9 December in which **nearly 60 speakers warned that people and countries most vulnerable to climate change also are most vulnerable to terrorist recruitment and violence**. Although the resolution did not pass, its elements are relevant. Their content build in part on existing UN practices. **CHECK** this: https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/unsc_climatechange_2022.pdf The Council has previously expressed concern about the implications of climate-related issues. For instance, the language of resolution 2349 (2017) was clear when in its operative clauses it **"recognizes the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of the Region, including through water scarcity, drought, desertification, land degradation, and food insecurity, and emphasizes the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies by governments and the United Nations relating to these factors;"** but the Council's handling of these matters to date has been ad hoc, and the UN's resources for addressing climate security remain limited.

Most UN field operations have no climate security expert to help them analyze threats arising from the loss of land or extreme weather events. The sole exception is Somalia, passed on August of 2021 with the adoption of **resolution 2592,** where the mission charged an official with monitoring such matters, a **climate adviser**.

MEET Christophe Hodder, the first United Nations climate and security expert within the framework of a UN peace mission. **READ** the interview in this link: https://unsom.unmissions.org/interview-un-environmental-advisor-somalia-christophe-hodder

PAY ATTENTION to his answers to important questions like: **You are the UN's first climate and security expert in the context of a UN peace mission worldwide. What is your role exactly?**

Because the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), authorized in resolution by 2592, did not have the capacity to implement the new climate-related aspects of its mandate, mission leaders worked with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to establish an **advisory post,** and an **environmental** and **climate adviser** was deployed to UNSOM in 2020. In addition to providing technical capacity on environmental and climate-related issues and their linkages to security and stability, the position was envisaged to bridge the mission's work on peace and security with UNEP's technical expertise on environmental analysis, climate adaptation, ecosystems management, and other related issues. UNSOM's environmental and climate adviser works to ensure that the mission incorporates environmental and climate-related considerations into its work where relevant, helps build the capacity of the mission and the government, and coordinates efforts among UN and external partners.

While the position was initially conceived as something of an experiment to fill capacity gaps in the mission, the concept has gained momentum, with mission personnel from other settings who are recruiting for similar positions.

As a special political mission, UNSOM does not directly implement programs but rather advises and coordinates programs implemented by partners, including the UN country team and national and local actors. Therefore, **the role is intended to be advisory in nature, though the adviser is sometimes asked to support the implementation of projects.** Based on UNSOM's mandate, the mission and UNEP have jointly developed the adviser's work around three pillars: (1) mainstreaming the environment and climate throughout the mission's mandated areas of work; (2) coordinating actors working on climate through a "triple-nexus" approach; and (3) supporting the government in developing its several other field missions following suit.

What are some examples of the strategies to manage climate change and to avoid global conflicts? There are multiple ways to deal with climate change to reduce its risks for the world. Nations, cities, and communities can create big plans: **CHECK:** https://www.climate.gov/teaching/resources/climate-wisconsin-adaptation-mitigation and **WATCH:** https://climatewisconsin.org/story/adaptation-mitigation
https://carnegieendowment.org/files/arctic_climate_change.pdf

Members of the Council, speaking before and after the vote, expressed pronounced disagreement on the content of the resolution, the consensus process, and the very notion that it should appear on that organ's agenda.

1 billion
Number of people projected to live in flood-prone coastal zones worldwide by 2050 – more than 1 in 10 people

Source: IPCC report Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

1 in 3
People currently exposed to deadly heat stress globally – projected to increase to up to 76% by the end of the century

Source: IPCC report Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

3.45 billion
Number of people highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – about 45% of the world's population

Source: IPCC report Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

Later, the Secretary-General recognized the findings of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (August 2021) --that the world is facing unprecedented risks from climate change and that every region is affected – as a "**code red for humanity".** Inevitably, given the magnitude of the climate emergency, its cascading effects extend. **WATCH** what Sir David Attenborough says about the situation that goes beyond the environmental sphere and into the social and political realm: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7I5Ala6KYc **While climate change is rarely – if ever – the primary cause of conflict, it can act as a risk multiplier, exacerbating underlying vulnerabilities and compounding existing grievances.**

CHECK: https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/ipcc-wgii-report

Understanding and responding to climate-related security risks has become a strategic priority for the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), as is reflected in its **Strategic Plan for 2020-22.** Such risks are highly context-specific, with impacts that vary across regions, countries, and communities, requiring integrated analysis and responses as women, men and youth are affected in different ways. The risks are greatest where past or current conflicts have undermined the capacity of institutions and communities to absorb the additional stress brought on by climate change or adapt to the changing environment.

As the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, stressed in a briefing to the Security Council in 2020, **climate change has major implications for our ability to prevent conflict and sustain peace around the world.** This is true in contexts where DPPA manages special political missions (the majority of which are deployed in highly climate vulnerable countries according to the ND-GAIN Index) as well as in non-mission settings, where DPPA supports UN Resident Coordinators on conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding, including through the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention. **CHECK:** https://dppa.un.org/en/climate-change-multiplying-factors-lead-to-insecurity-millions-rosemary-dicarlo-tells-arria-formula

DPPA is making targeted efforts to adapt its practices and methods to a climate changing world, including by integrating climate change considerations into analytical and planning mechanisms as well as into prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding strategies. Key activities include targeted analysis, coordination for action, environmental approaches to prevention, and the development of new guidance in DPPA core areas, such as the mediation of armed

conflict. In line with its Security Council mandate, the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia was the first UN field mission to deploy dedicated capacity on climate security to assess climate-related security risks, develop appropriate risk management strategies, and report findings to the Security Council. Similar efforts are underway in other contexts where the Council has recognized the adverse effects of climate change, among other factors, on stability. Since climate-related security risks are not felt equally by everyone, DPPA pays particular attention to the impact on women as well as the potential of women as agents of change.

Given the complex nature of the linkages between climate change, peace, and security, DPPA pursues in integrated approaches and multi-layered partnerships. In an effort to promote approaches that combine peacebuilding with resilience and adaptation efforts, DPPA, through the Peacebuilding Fund, invests in a growing number of climate-sensitive peacebuilding projects around the world. The Department also seeks to strengthen partnerships with regional organizations, governments, civil society, and the research community to build on existing capacities, support local solutions, and strengthen the global evidence base on climate-related security risks.

Climate Security Mechanism

An important component of DPPA's efforts to understand and address the linkages between climate change, peace and security is the **Climate Security Mechanism (CSM).** Established in 2018 as a joint initiative between DPPA, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the CSM seeks to help the UN system address climate-related security risks more systematically. See the CSM 2021 Progress Report here.

To this end, **the CSM supports field missions, UN Resident Coordinators, and regional organizations to conduct climate security risk assessments and develop risk management strategies.** The CSM has also established a UN Community of Practice on Climate Security as an informal forum for information exchange and knowledge co-creation. The group – which convenes around 25 UN entities – meets every few weeks and is open to all UN staff interested in this topic.
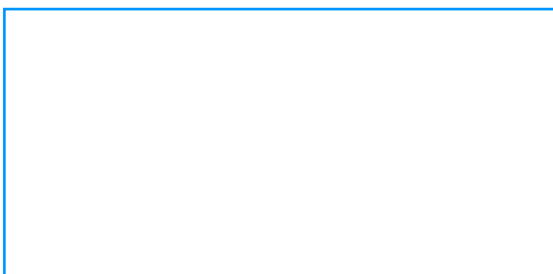
Scientists and Youth to Advise the Council

For the first time in history, the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) was invited to brief the members of the Security Council on climate and extreme weather issues. Professor Pavel Kabat, Chief Scientist at the WMO brought some clear scientific data to the table, to inform the debate. **"Climate change has a multitude of security impacts - rolling back the gains in nutrition and access to food; heightening the risk of wildfires and exacerbating air quality challenges; increasing the potential for water conflict; leading to more internal displacement and migration,"** he said. "It is increasingly regarded as a national security threat." He noted that WMO stands ready to support the UN and Member States with "cutting-edge science" and "expert information" so informed decisions can be made.

Before the floor was opened to Members of the Security Council, a youth representative and a researcher on environmental security, Lindsay Getschel, was also invited to speak.**: https://youtu.be/Mi1oBLdwM9E**
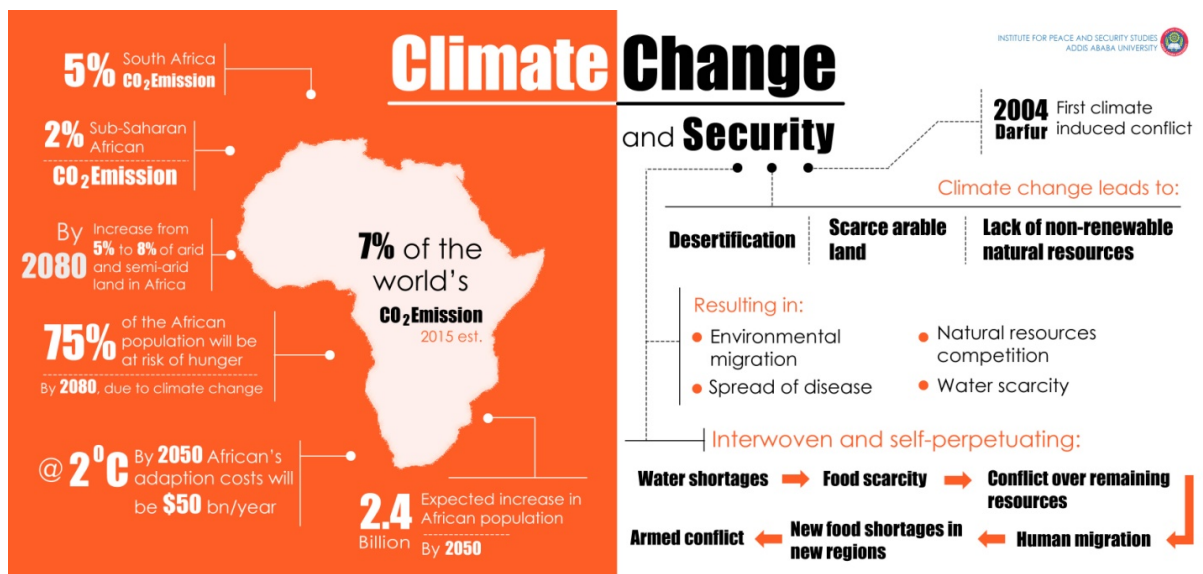
Climate Change and Security

INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

5% South Africa CO2 Emission

2% Sub-Saharan African CO2 Emission

By 2080 Increase from 5% to 8% of arid and semi-arid land in Africa

7% of the world's CO2 Emission 2015 est.

75% of the African population will be at risk of hunger By 2080, due to climate change

@ 2°C By 2050 African's adaption costs will be $50 bn/year

2.4 Billion Expected increase in African population By 2050

2004 Darfur First climate induced conflict

Climate change leads to:
Desertification | Scarce arable land | Lack of non-renewable natural resources

Resulting in:
- Environmental migration
- Spread of disease
- Natural resources competition
- Water scarcity

Interwoven and self-perpetuating:
Water shortages → Food scarcity → Conflict over remaining resources
Armed conflict ← New food shortages in new regions ← Human migration

What should your committee discuss?

> What's needed now are effective actions to mitigate climate change as a conflict trigger, as a crisis multiplier. What is needed is a new and consistent language to address climate change in the Security Council.

Your committee should consider questions like this:

- What are the next steps in the Security Council to address realities like this **"Eight of the ten countries hosting the most multilateral peace operations personnel in 2018 are in areas highly exposed to climate change. As such, climate change is not just an issue of human security—it is transforming the entire security landscape. Nonetheless, international efforts to build and maintain peace are not yet taking these emerging challenges systematically into account."** (https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/pb_1906_ccr_peacebuilding_2.pdf)**?**
- What efforts are needed to integrate climate change into country and regional specific goals?
- What actions are needed to strengthen the work of **climate advisers** in the Security Council's missions and other instances?
- **How can climate change be integrated more consistently in the language (operative clauses rather than preambular clauses) of the resolutions of the Security Council?** How can the inclusion of more operative clauses produce concrete changes and outcomes to address the interaction of climate change in peace and international security? Consider the information in the box below (https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2210_The-UN-Environmental-and-Climate-Adviser-in-Somalia.pdf):

Box 1. Climate language in UN peace operations mandates

The UN Security Council has recognized the negative effects of climate change in the mandates of a number of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. This language is often similar in wording, modeled after Resolution 2349 pertaining to the Lake Chad Basin, which was passed in 2018 following a Security Council visit to the region. In this resolution, the council recognized the "adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of the Region, including through water scarcity, drought, desertification, land degradation, and food insecurity" and emphasized "the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies by governments and the United Nations relating to these factors." Since then, several other mission mandates have included similar language.[11]

	Preambular Language			Operational Language		
	Recognizes the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes, and natural disasters on the security and/or stability of the respective context	Emphasizes the need for adequate risk-assessment and risk management strategies by the government and/or the UN	Emphasizes the need to take meaningful action to adapt to or mitigate the challenges posed by climate change and ecological change	Mandates the mission to support or assist the host government and/or UN country team on issues related to climate change	Requests the mission to consider the environmental impact of its operations when implementing its mandated tasks	Mandates mission to assess the risks of climate change
MINUSMA (Mali)		X			X	
MONUSCO (DRC)	X				X	
MINUSCA (CAR)	X	X			X	
UNMISS (South Sudan)	X	X				X
UNFICYP (Cyprus)	X					
UNAMI (Iraq)	X	X	X	X		
UNITAMS (Sudan)	X	X				
UNSOM (Somalia)	X	X		X		
UNOWAS (West Africa and the Sahel)	X	X				