



Outcome Document of the Continental Stocktaking Conference on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)

Held in Nairobi, Kenya, 8 - 10 December 2025 under the theme: Reflections and Renewed Commitments for Africa

I. Preamble: A Decade of Resolve, A Future of Action

We, the participants of the Continental Stock-taking Conference on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), including **young peacebuilders, policymakers** from the **Member States**, the **African Union (AU)**, **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** and **Regional Mechanisms (RMs)**, **UN Agencies**, **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**, and **International Partners**, gathered in Nairobi to reflect on the decade since the adoption of **UN Security Council Resolution 2250** in 2015, united by the urgent need to fulfill the promise of this pivotal resolution and the five years of the **AU Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS)** and its **10-Year Implementation Plan 2020-2029**.

We **unequivocally reaffirm** the foundational principles of the YPS Agenda and its vital importance to Africa, the continent with the youngest population globally. We celebrate the **resilience and profound impact** of young Africans, who are key agents in preventing conflict, sustaining peace, and advancing the AU's Agenda 2063 vision of a peaceful and prosperous Africa;

Acknowledge the significant efforts made by the African Union (AU), Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms (RMs), CSOs, and other stakeholders including UN agencies and development partners to meaningfully engage youth in peace and security decision-making processes, conflict prevention, management, resolution and peacebuilding in Africa;

Emphasize the importance of strengthening youth partnerships with the AU, its organs, Member States, RECs/RMs, the private sector, CSOs, religious and community, academic institutions, think tanks, and other relevant bodies;

Yet, we **acknowledge the challenges faced** to fully implement the YPS Agenda as highlighted in the CFYPS.

This document outlines a **shared vision** and a **bold progress framework** to inspire and buttress





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the implementation of the YPS Agenda at the continental, regional, and national levels.

II. Shared Vision for the Next Decade: Four Priority Areas

To strengthen and accelerate the implementation of youth-centered intergenerational peace and security policies, our strategic focus areas are highlighted here. They are underpinned by the five pillars of UNSCR 2250 and the CFYPS - **Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnerships and Coordination, and Disengagement and Reintegration**.

1. Institutionalizing Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation

Dismantling structural and policy barriers that lead to the tokenistic involvement of youth. This requires:

- **Formalizing Youth Roles:** Institutionalizing the meaningful participation of young people, with all their diversity, as **equal and essential partners** in national and regional peace architectures, including peace negotiations, mediation, and governance and development processes, as appropriate and in line with nationally-led processes.
- **Strengthening Trust and Capacity:** Building intra and **intergenerational trust** as well as **trust between young people and institutions**, building the requisite capacity, and availing the needed resources to partner with youth meaningfully.
- **Harnessing Political Will:** **Strengthening intergenerational and youth-inclusive national strategies and action plans on YPS** across all countries on the continent, to optimize impact. Member States are encouraged to strengthen collaboration with **National Youth Councils, youth-led YPS Coalitions/Networks, and partners**.
- **Enhancing Inclusivity:** Prioritizing the representation and engagement of the youth, including young women, minority groups, persons with disabilities in conflict and climate-affected settings, to ensure their needs are mainstreamed in decision-making, policy preparation, implementation, and evaluation.
- **Advancing the Nexus Approach:** Embedding development and humanitarian intervention as core pillars of YPS, ensuring that programs are not only participatory but also directly linked to tangible socio-economic outcomes.

2. Mobilizing Resources and Accelerating Economic Empowerment

We recognize that limited financial resources and institutional ownership stunt the impact of youth-led initiatives. Therefore, we call for:

- **Investing in Peace:** Mobilizing all efforts and actively collaborating within our respective mandates to increase investment in youth-led peacebuilding.
- **Increasing Flexible Funding:** Advocating for **flexible, locally-led, and sustainable funding** to youth-led and youth-focused peacebuilding efforts.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Investing in **conflict-sensitive economic opportunities** including financing local entrepreneurship, income generating activities, and vocational training.





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3. Protecting the Physical and Digital Civic Space

We note the need to strengthen the safeguarding and protection of young people in digital and physical spaces due to emerging challenges affecting the civic space, and increased threats to youth.

- **Protecting Peacebuilders:** Establishing clear, context-sensitive mechanisms for ensuring the **physical and digital safety** and protection of young peacebuilders in line with national frameworks.
- **Digital Peacebuilding:** Integrating deliberative technologies/Artificial Intelligence into peacebuilding and national YPS strategies.
- **Youth-Friendly Wellbeing Support:** Promoting accessible **mental health and psychosocial support** under the YPS Agenda, recognizing that human security should be grounded in social well-being and access to quality social services and economic opportunities.

4. Future-Proofing the Agenda: Cross Cutting Emerging Trends

We recognize that the YPS Agenda needs to be responsive to emerging, pressing and cross-cutting issues such as climate change, new technology and AI, pandemics and public health crises, illicit financial flows, media and information integrity, piracy and maritime security, amongst others, which fundamentally reshape the peace and security landscape.

III. The Common Impact Framework: Translating Commitment into Progress

The Conference reflected on the Common Impact Framework as a tool to monitor and report on the progress and impact of YPS Agenda implementation across the continent. This framework, which is designed to be simple and inclusive, helping to understand the social return on investment (ROI) of the YPS Agenda, has been successfully tested in some Member States.

The Common Impact Framework is built around **five vital signs**, which provide a simple, common language for monitoring and evaluating YPS relevant and specific interventions:

1. **Increasing Positive Youth Agency:** Measuring the capacity and opportunities made available for young people, with all their diversity, to meaningfully participate and lead peace and security efforts.
2. **Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Responsiveness:** Measuring the capacity and responsiveness of key institutions (AU, RECs, Member States) to support youth participation in peace and security initiatives.





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3. **Improving Intergenerational Trust and Reducing Polarization:** Measuring the degree of cohesion and mutual respect and dignity within and between communities and generations.
4. **Improving Safety and Reducing Violence:** Measuring the structural drivers that jeopardize the well-being of the youth and may contribute to violence against young people.
5. **Improving Resourcing for YPS:** Measuring the level of dedicated, accessible, and flexible financial, technical, and political support for the YPS Agenda.

This related process will have **three critical feedback loops** that link action to results:

1. **Lived Experiences:** Systematically integrating the **perspectives of and data collected by young people** at the grassroots level to ensure policies reflect the realities on the ground.
2. **Aligned Measures:** Enhancing the use of shared indicators across national, regional and continental levels to support consistent tracking of progress and to promote effective and efficient implementation of the YPS Agenda.
3. **Expert Observations:** Leveraging technical insights and evaluations from academic, civil society, and institutional partners to provide rigorous, evidence-based direction in the course of action.

This Framework is specifically designed to build on the structural and financial challenges identified in the **Continental Framework on YPS (CFYPS)**, linking them directly to the aforementioned vital signs to measure progress:

IV. Conclusion

We, the participants of the Continental Stock-Taking Conference in Nairobi, **commit to championing and leading** the implementation of this outcome document. **Our commitment is not mere words, but a genuine commitment to collective, measurable action** that ensures the **next generation inherits a more peaceful, just, and equitable Africa**.

We encourage the African Union, its Member States, RECs/RMs, and all partners to **review, consider, align with, and formally endorse and adopt this document** to guide the reflection on the upcoming five years of the CFYPS.

We particularly implore the **AU Champion for YPS, H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi**, to use his high office to ensure the **integration** of this outcome document into continental, regional, and national platforms on YPS through a clear PSC resolution that would anchor accountability, unlock resources, and guide AU Member States to deliver on the promise of UNSCR 2250 and the AU's own CFYPS.

