



R /157/46 (2024)

Address the challenges of peace and security, in particular by promoting the involvement and empowerment of youth in African countries.

*Resolution adopted by the 46th Conference
(N'Djamena, 9 October 2024)*

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting in its 46th Conference on 8 and 9 October 2024 in N'Djamena (Chad),

Noting that Africa has the youngest population in the world with more than 400 million young people aged 15 to 35,

Stressing that such a young population requires increased investment in economic and social development factors, in order to improve the development index of African countries,

Considering that the demographic factor can constitute a dividend in favour of sustainable development, peace and security,

Recalling that the African Union has developed several youth development policies and programs at the continental level aimed at ensuring that the continent benefits from its demographic dividend; these policies include the African Youth Charter, the Plan of Action for the Youth Decade and the Malabo Decision on Youth Empowerment, which are included in the various programmes of Agenda 2063,

Recalling the landmark resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 2015, which recognized for the first time that “youth can play an important role in preventing and resolving conflicts, and in particular in stabilization, integration capacity and the success of peacekeeping and peace-building activities”,

Emphasizing that the resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security adopted by the United Nations Security Council is structured around five pillars: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration, emphasizing the role of young men and women in promoting international peace and security,

Also recalling United Nations Security Council Resolution 2419 adopted in 2018, calling for the full inclusion of young people in the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, as well as for greater participation of young people in decision-making,

Emphasizing that the “*youth, peace and security*” triptych is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs),

Considering that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an extremely useful resource for deploying holistic and integrated programmes for youth, peace and security,

Emphasizing the link between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the issue of youth, peace and security, in particular through the promotion of mechanisms for governance, access to justice and the fight against inequalities,

Convinced that conflict prevention and resolution are more sustainable when priority is given to the perspectives of young people,

Aware that in a context of increasing globalization characterized by the omnipresence of concerns related to terrorism, transnational organized crime and violent extremism, perspectives on young people are distorted by stereotypes contagious that associate them with violence,

Stressing the need to prevent political, economic and social marginalization that paves the way for extremism and violence,

Stressing that the main consequence of negative stereotypes is to marginalize and stigmatize youth by presenting them as a problem to be solved and a threat to be contained,

Regretting that this situation detrimentally distorts interventions and programmatic priorities for youth, peace and security in favour of ultra-security approaches that neglect prevention, ignoring the fact that in reality, most young people are not involved in violence,

Stressing that the participation of young people and youth community leaders in peace efforts, decision-making and institutional reform processes allows them to constructively influence areas that directly impact their lives,

Noting that the resilience of young people is demonstrated not only by their agency, but also by their ownership and leadership in peace-building,

Convinced that exclusively security-based approaches to combating violence are not against violent extremism often prove counterproductive and instead aggravate the exclusion and marginalization of young people,

Affirming that education plays a vital role in:

- promoting inclusion and social cohesion;
- building resilience and a culture of peace;
- preventing violent extremism;
- respecting human rights;
- empowering young people to contribute to their communities;
- building peace and resilience through a transformational process that fosters a social contract that empowers young people to positively shape institutions and their policies;

1. *Urges* African States to put in place, on the one hand, academic education policies adapted to the labor market and, on the other hand, education and technical and vocational training policies that reduce the economic vulnerability of young people that fuels insecurity and violence, meet the vital needs of populations and ensure food security;

2. *Calls for* the strengthening of access to quality education that teaches the skills needed for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and to offer training programs on mediation, conflict management and human rights from an early age;

3. *Calls on* African Governments to take measures to transform systems that fuel exclusion by establishing an environment conducive to the participation of young people, including by removing structural obstacles that prevent them from contributing to economic and social life in peace and security;

4. *Calls for* the participation of young people, particularly young women, in the development, implementation and monitoring of transitional justice processes, including truth-seeking, reparation and reconciliation programmes, institutional reform processes, criminal justice, and memory and commemoration programmes for future generations;

5. *Recommends* that African States encourage the active participation of young people in political and decision-making processes at all levels and create dedicated spaces where young people can express their opinions and influence public policies, especially by providing for quotas in electoral laws and laws on political parties;;

6. *Urges* African States to promote policies that promote the integration of young people in all political and decision-making processes and forums, at the national, regional and continental levels, allowing them to have a direct say in the formulation, design, implementation and evaluation of policies and approaches that concern them, ensuring that “participation” and “integration” are not the result of co-optation or figuration that allows for the use or manipulation of young people;

7. *Calls on* African States to attach importance to the leadership of young women and men working for peace and security;

8. *Recommends* the establishment of mentoring programmes where young people benefit from the advice and experience of leaders in the field of peace and security;

9. *Also Recommends* the promotion of partnerships and collaborative actions for peace in which young people are considered as equals and essential partners;

10. *Calls on* governments to establish an African Fund to support youth peace and security initiatives, especially through the provision of prizes, grants and awards;

11. *Calls upon* African States to:

- establish youth councils at national, regional and local levels;
- develop programmes for the reintegration of young ex-combatants into the economy, particularly in the agricultural sector;
- facilitate their access to regional and international networks to share best practices and experiences, and
- encourage cultural and academic exchanges between young Africans to strengthen mutual understanding and continental solidarity;

12. *Calls on* African States to promote economic opportunities and youth employment initiatives, particularly through social entrepreneurship and innovative sectors, and facilitate access to finance and mentoring for young entrepreneurs;

13. *Stresses* the promotion of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the opportunities they offer to young people and their use to raise awareness and mobilize young people around peace and security issues and to foster the creation of positive and educational content promoting tolerance and intercultural understanding;

14. *Calls on* governments and states to develop mechanisms to facilitate youth mobility within the continent where opportunities exist;

15. *Calls on* financial institutions to promote financing in African countries aimed at:

- provide low-interest loans for young people;
- addressing the multidimensional challenge of job creation for young people;
- providing direct support for private investment, particularly in landlocked economies;
- developing the empowerment of young people as key actors in promoting peace and human development;
- supporting the economic aspects of justice and security;

16. *Stresses* the need to tailor funding to the specific needs of youth organizations, initiatives and movements in order to empower young people with small-scale projects and initiatives and innovative programmes;

17. *Calls for* the participation of young people in decision-making on the allocation of grants for them, including within public, bilateral, multilateral and private funding agencies;

18. *Also calls for* the establishment of an African Youth Observatory to promote youth participation in peace, security and sustainable development;

19. *Calls on* States, regional organizations and United Nations organizations, including peacekeeping missions, to coordinate and increase their participation in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018), and to mobilize their own capacities in the field of youth and peace and security.

20. *Also Calls on* States to take measures to enable young people to participate in the development of intra-African trade and to benefit most from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
