

**PROPOSAL FOR PEACE AND SECURITY THEME FOR THE GLOBAL FUTURE'S FORUM, NEW
AGENDA FOR PEACE AND SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE**

**EMPOWERING YOUTHS AS AGENTS OF PEACEBUILDERS AND PEACEMAKERS GLOBALLY WITH
EMPHASIS ON YOUTH-LED DIPLOMACY**

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The role of youth as peacemaker has become clearer when the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth was appointed. The creation of the UN Youth Office has once again reacknowledged and affirmed the role and contributions of the youth. This was reflected by the inclusion of youth into the agendas of the New Agenda for Peace, which not just acted as a call for stakeholders to take youth into account, but also inclusion of the youth as one of the stakeholders.

Youth is a growing population that constitutes 16% of humanity, and becomes the thriving factor that gathers behind the surge in youth activism, awareness and participation of civil society. As youth's voices are gaining traction from the civil society, youth delegates and representatives at national, regional and international level become more significant than ever.

However, social disparity has divided the global youth by making resources and support inaccessible for the majority of the youths, which hindered their involvement in the peace process like their privileged counterparts, while the few voices and demands of youth could merely reach the policy maker, limiting it to a tokenistic level. Youths were not only being disenfranchised from the peacebuilding process, but many also ended up involved in destabilisation and violences. They are haunted by the turmoil of wars, instability, hunger, illiteracy, poverty, and deprivation of human rights.

With the acknowledgement of the above, Malaysian Youth Diplomacy proposes the following solutions to be reviewed and adopted in the Peace and Security thematic track of consultation:

1. Expand youth representation in international and regional forums

The UN and other international organizations can provide more opportunities for young people to participate in decision-making processes, by including youth representatives in key meetings and negotiations, even at the informal rounds of consultations. The creation of dedicated youth councils or advisory boards within the UN system could also help to ensure that the perspectives and ideas of young people are taken into account.

The formation of Youth, Peace and Security Agenda via the UNSC Resolution 2250 has been a changemaker, but the enforcement has been rather underwhelming as youths are not given the opportunity and resources to take into more multilateral, bilateral and even domestic modes of enforcing due to the lack of representation. Difficulties of getting accreditation to conferences, application of visa, financial hardship in bearing the cost and even submission of opinions to relevant authorities are often the main factors which increased the barriers of effective and meaningful engagement with the youths on advancing peace and security.

2. Provide training and mentorship opportunities

The UN and other organizations can provide more training and mentorship opportunities for young people, to develop their skills in diplomacy, conflict resolution, and other areas relevant to peacebuilding. This could include internships, fellowships, and other educational programs designed specifically for youth.

With such capacity building, we can generate incoming waves of peacebuilders that are not only aware that violence

and conflicts should be avoided at all costs, but also nurture values and promote resolving conflicts peacefully. Often times, such training and mentorship are given to certain regions for example UNAOC for Latin Americans, that often left out other marginalized youths in regions like Southeast Asia for instance to not have equitable access. Furthermore, the opportunities tend to be centered to people who are with a high level of knowledge and ability - leaving more disparity for women, people of color, children, people with disabilities and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds having more difficulties to promote the agenda of peace and security albeit they are most likely to be the victim themselves.

3. **Invest in youth-led initiatives**

The UN and other organizations can support youth-led initiatives in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, by providing funding, technical assistance, and other forms of support. This could include initiatives such as youth-led mediation and negotiation programs, community development projects, and advocacy campaigns.

The UN and other organizations can also support youth-led research and advocacy initiatives, to promote greater understanding of the challenges facing young people in conflict-affected regions, as well as their role in promoting peace and security. This could include the creation of youth-led think tanks and research centers, as well as platforms for young people to share their ideas and experiences to further adapt to situations.

4. **Encourage partnerships with youth-led organizations**

The UN and other organizations can build partnerships with youth-led organizations, to leverage their expertise and networks in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. This could involve collaboration on joint initiatives, such as peacebuilding projects, advocacy campaigns, and other activities.

Alternatively, there has been an increasing trend of having more partnership directly from major governments to certain youth-led organizations which are commendable. However, majority of this partnerships tend to be conditional that work not in the favour of promoting peace and security, but feed into certain states national interest. In addition, partnership should be also inclusive with Observers to the UN and major groups, not limited to the dynamics of UN-state-youth relations.

As a conclusion, we hope to see youth-led diplomacy shine in the discourse of having more empowerment for youths to become agents of preventing, building and responding to issues on peace and security. Intergenerational dialogues are significant, but ultimately youths have to pay the price of the future should aggression were to continue. Therefore, we need to push on a stronger note of having more demands on youth to laud their advocacy upon and be supported by the international community in achieving the mandate and goals set in the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

ABOUT MALAYSIAN YOUTH DIPLOMACY

Malaysian Youth Diplomacy is a focal point youth movement in the Malaysian diplomatic scene that aims to bridge Malaysian youths to diplomatic opportunities within four main focus areas - community, career, conversation, and consultation. MyDiplomacy is also member of the United Network of Young (UNOY) Peacebuilders, International Project Congress and UN Major Group for Children and Youth. For more information, kindly visit our website at www.diplomacymy.com.