

## **Peacebuilding Commission**

### **Ambassadorial-level meeting on Youth, Peace and Security**

**7 June 2023**

On 7 June 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting to discuss regional efforts in advancing Youth, Peace and Security and the linkages between regional, national and local efforts, with the participation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Envoy, the African Union Youth Envoy, the Assistant Secretary

knowledge sharing on the YPS agenda. She highlighted efforts made by regional organizations in institutionalizing the YPS agenda, including the African Union's Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security, the joint action plan of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations and the development of a strategy by the League of Arab States. She further highlighted national level efforts to develop YPS strategic frameworks. She stressed the need to address remaining challenges, including inadequate resources, a lack of meaningful youth engagement in policymaking and decision-making processes, and a gap between input by young people and its impact. She called for: (1) addressing existing financing gaps for youth-led initiatives and youth organizations by designating sufficient resources for youth; (2) strengthening

efforts, including through developing the first Regional Strategy for Youth, Peace, and Security, in collaboration with the United Nations Liaison Office to the League of Arab States, UNFPA, UNDP, and Folke Bernadotte Academy. The Arab Strategy for Youth, Peace and Security (2023-2028), endorsed by the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports in March 2023, provides a guiding framework for the Member States to develop national plans and programme

YPS agenda. They commended the positive strides made by the Commission in implementing the Strategic Action Plan on Youth and Peacebuilding.

They recognized youth as a diverse group, with regards, for instance, to geographic regions, gender, and socioeconomic opportunities among others, and emphasized the need to avoid stereotyping and reinforcing negative perceptions of youth. They noted the importance of intergenerational dialogues to promote social cohesion.

They called for the full, effective and meaningful participation of youth in all aspects of peacebuilding and decision-making processes and underscored the importance of education, capacity-building and employment opportunities.

They stressed the need to avoid tokenization of youth and ensure that their participation is meaningful, including through hearing their voices and following up with youth.

They highlighted the importance of empowerment of youth and creating inclusive and sustainable economic opportunities.

They stressed the importance of adequate, predictable and sustainable funding towards youth-led initiatives, recognizing the responsibility of each Member State in this regard.

They called for development and implementation of regional and national action plans and regional frameworks to accelerate the implementation of the YPS agenda.

9. In response to the interventions on the floor, briefers underscored the importance of political will in the implementation of the YPS agenda and called for sustained efforts to support young people and their organizations working on peacebuilding. They emphasized the importance of creating an environment that is conducive for youth people to grow, develop, and lead. Such an environment would feature protection 000009