



National Consultation on “Youth Building Peace”

August 11th, 2017

Background and Rational:

The International Youth Day (IYD), celebrated on 12 August each year, was established by the United Nations in 2000 as a means of raising awareness of issues affecting young people around the world. Each year the Secretary-General of the United Nations decides upon a theme for the day based on issues of concern to young people. It also provides platform to youth not only to celebrate but also create awareness regarding the issues currently youths are grappling with and how their contribution can their issues and their contributions. It is meant as an opportunity for governments and others to draw attention to youth issues worldwide.

The theme for the year 2017 is “**Youth Building Peace**” wherein the focus is now on developing young leaders for a better tomorrow which have also been reaffirmed by the adoption of Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2250 on youth, peace and security, which offers an important policy framework for peacebuilding interventions that meaningfully involve young women and men and support their leadership in peacebuilding.

In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2250, the first ever thematic resolution on Youth, Peace and Security. SCR 2250 affirms the important role young women and men can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts; recognizes that youth should actively be engaged in shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation and that a large youth population presents a unique demographic dividend that can contribute to lasting peace and economic prosperity if inclusive policies are in place.

With almost half of the global population is under the age of 25¹ , youth leadership in building peace have been considered as a vital process in creating sustainable peaceful societies where young people participate and contribute to youth-led peacebuilding initiatives and facilitate a safe space for dialogue and conflict transformation to bring the voices of young people to policy makers on a regional and global level.

The engagement of youth through volunteerism is also seen as a powerful tool in promoting social cohesion and reconciliation and helping in youth engagement process, all of which make a critical positive difference to peacebuilding processes and initiatives.

There is mounting evidence that volunteer engagement promotes the civic values and social cohesion which mitigate violent conflict at all stages and that it even fosters reconciliation in post-conflict situations. By

¹ UN’s State of the World Population Report for 2011



contributing to building trust, volunteer action diminishes the tensions that give rise to conflict and can also contribute to conflict resolution.

The country's National Youth Policy (2014) proposes to initiate affirmative and positive action to foster national values in all young people, especially among the youth volunteers working under the aegis of leading youth development agencies of the country – Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS). The policy proposes to engage with youth clubs and youth development agencies to play a pivotal role in developing appropriate initiatives for young people.

With the overarching aim of taking forward the National Youth Policy, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and UNDP have partnered to strengthen key youth associations in the country, the project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS” have been working towards supporting youth voluntary schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) to facilitate youth participation towards sustainable development goals

The project aimed at providing catalytic support to the existing youth volunteer schemes of the Ministry whilst instilling a strong sense of civic engagement and facilitating greater youth participation in achieving sustainable development goals, it will support young people in realizing their social, economic and human potential.

One of the core objective of the NYKS programme is to engage youth to contribute towards the processes of peace building and national progress and taking this forward, the National Consultation will provide a platform to understand the perception of youth's role in peace building process and recognising the role of youth led organisations in peacebuilding activities and promoting a culture of peace

Objective of the Event:

- Gather the voices of youth involved in peacebuilding on issues of peace and sustainability through volunteerism as a way forward in relation to SDG goals.
- Discuss perspectives, challenges and priorities to support the active participation of youth, considering their diversity, social cohesion, conflict transformation and local and national peacebuilding.
- Share knowledge and information stemming from recent research and analysis on this topic;
- Generate a youth network that promotes the active inclusion of young people in peace and security processes at the local, national and regional level

The event will further explore how youth continue to provide innovative and sustainable ideas to address the development challenges through volunteering.



Expected Participation:

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog
- Director General NYKS
- Director, NSS
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- All UNV-District Youth Coordinator under project 'Strengthening NYKS and NSS'
- Representatives from NYKS and NSS Headquarters
- 10 Representatives of Civil society organisations and youth groups
- Members of Expert Group Committee on Youth Volunteering including representatives from relevant UN Agencies (UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, and others)