

Annual Youth Forum for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel

10-12 December 2018, Ouagadougou

OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION OF YOUTH FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL

We, young women and men and representatives of the national and regional youth organisations and civil society, meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, during the "Annual Regional Forum of Youth for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel" jointly organised by UNOWAS and ECOWAS from the 10 -12 December 2018 with the support of the Government of Burkina Faso,

RECALLING that the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) call upon States to take measures to prevent the radicalization of young people and to remove its causes, and to invest in youth,

RECOGNIZING that effective involvement of young women and men in the process of consolidating peace and security is an efficient measure to enable West African and Sahelian youth to play their full role,

CONCERNED about the growing threat to peace and security, radicalization and violent extremism of youth in the region, and aware of the potential of the youth in consolidating peace,

1. CALL ON the Governments of West Africa and the Sahel, regional organisations and the United Nations to take effective measures to systematically involve young men and women at all stages of all conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives;
2. REQUESTS Governments of West Africa and the Sahel to ensure the protection of young men and women and civil society organisations that are in the forefront of conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives,
3. URGE all Governments of West Africa and the Sahel to strengthen the capacity of young people through a functional educational system which serves as a basis for stable societies;
4. URGE all governments to implement the ECOWAS Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security of 10th December 1999, and its supplementary Protocol, the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) enacted by the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council in January 2008 (Regulation MSC/REG.1/01/08);
5. CALL ON regional organizations, notably ECOWAS, G5 Sahel, the Mano River Union and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, as well as development partners, to engage youth organizations and civil society organizations from the region in the design and implementation of their projects and initiatives relating to peace, security and development, in the spirit of Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018).
6. RECOMMEND the provision of necessary support and funding for the implementation of the ECOWAS` entrepreneurship and mentoring program as well as the regional youth mentoring program validated during the forum as an effective measure to promote and consolidate peace and security processes in the region.
7. CALL ON the Governments of West Africa and the Sahel, regional organisations and partners to support the implementation of all recommendations contained in the study "Young Women and Men in Peace and Development Processes in West Africa and the Sahel",

8. RECOMMEND the ownership of resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) by young people in West Africa and the Sahel and the institutionalization of the annual Youth Forum for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel;
9. CALL UPON technical and financial partners to continue supporting youth organizations and civil society organizations to achieve the implementation of resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) in West Africa and the Sahel.

Done at Ouagadougou on December 12, 2018