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Security Council
Background Guide Update

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I. Youth, Peace and Security

Youth, peace and security remains a topic of high importance to all branches of the United Nations. On Monday 24 September 2018, the *Youth2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy* was launched in New York.[1] It lays the United Nations strategy for the youth under the administration/office of the Secretary-Generals Envoy on Youth.[2] It considers the involvement of youth within the United Nations, as well as their involvement outside the UN system.[3] It is highly important for the topic of "youth, peace and security", because the main priorities of the strategy to empower young people are to amplify young voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world and supporting young people as catalysts for peace and security and humanitarian action.[4] The strategy's implementation is administered by the High-Level Steering Committee consisting of the Secretary-Generals Envoy on Youth, the co-chair of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth-Development, selected UN Entities (depending on the topic) and representatives of global youth-led platforms.[5] This underlines the general policy of the UN to get youth involved in the process of solving youth-related issues.

Following the launch of *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, the Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding was renamed to the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (GCYPS),[6] in order to comply with the recommendation of the Security Council to use "effective responses at local, national, regional and international level".[7] It still focuses on strengthening the participation of young people in policy making, but it is also responsible for creating cooperation between youth, civil society actors and governmental and multilateral structures.[8] Furthermore, GCYPS also oversees the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) and measures their impact[9].

The Security Council adopted the Resolution 2457 (2019) to foster the cooperation with the African Union (AU) in all fields of peacebuilding.[10] Whilst this cooperation was the main focus of the Resolution, the Security Council again emphasized the importance of the involvement of youth in the area of peace and security.[11] The Council expressed its support regarding the AU's efforts of implementing policies,

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[1] The Secretary-Generals Envoy on Youth, *Youth2030: United Nations Youth Strategy*, 2018

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Youth4Peace, *Flyer: Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2019, p. 1.

[7] Security Council, *Security Council Resolution 2250 [on youth, peace and security]*, 2015, p. 5.

[8] Maria Stage, *The Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2019.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Security Council, *Security Council Resolution 2457 [on ending conflict in Africa by 2020]*, 2019.

[11] Ibid.

guidance and training on the agenda "youth, peace and security".[12] Moreover, the Security Council reaffirmed its position that the youth should be part of the solution and not be seen as the problem, and encouraged all those involved in this area, to continue their important work, as it is key to promoting peace.[13] This strong position was again confirmed in the presidential statement 2019/15 where the Council focused almost entirely on the involvement of the youth in the process of peacebuilding, with a main point being ending conflict in Africa, as it was expressed in Resolution 2457.[14] It was stressed in the statement, that Member States should support the involvement of youth and women in peacebuilding, conflict mediation and counterterrorism.[15] The Security Council made it very clear that the continuation of its policy of youth participation in conflict resolution is a key part in the topic "youth, peace and security".[16]

> "The Security Council further recognizes that a large youth population […] can contribute to lasting peace and economic prosperity if inclusive policies are in place, and reaffirms the important and constructive role youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts as well as in post-conflict situations."[17]

To implement the Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018), the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth launched the policy paper *WE ARE HERE: An Integrated Approach to Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes* on 17 July 2019.[18] This paper provides evidence on how peace processes can benefit from the involvement of youth and tries to translate these policies into action.[19] One of the main points of this paper is that the engagement of youth in peacebuilding is mapped into three layers, "in the room", "around the room" and "outside the room".[20] These are the different areas in a peace process, with "in the room" being directly involved in the negotiations, "around the room" not being directly involved in negotiations but close by and "outside the room" participating in informal or alternative approaches.[21] The paper suggests an improvement of the involvement of youth in all three layers, in order to achieve better peace processes.[22] This policy paper was also discussed at a meeting of the Security Council in July 2019, where the Secretary-Generals Envoy on Youth introduced it to the Council, and the members reaffirmed the importance of the topic of *Youth, Peace and Security*.[23]

These recent developments show, that this topic will remain on the agenda of the Security Council for years to come, and that it gained importance over the years, especially regarding the fact that the youth have globally been a target of extremism, and the Security Council has to react to this development.

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[12] Ibid.

[13] Ibid.

[14] Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2019/15,* 2019.

[15] Ibid.

[16] Ibid.

[17] Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2019/15,* 2019, p. 1.

[18] The Secretary-Generals Envoy on Youth, *WE ARE HERE: An Integrated Approach to Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes,* 2019.

[19] Ibid.

[20] Ibid.

[21] Ibid.

[22] Ibid.

[23] Security Council, *8577th Meeting S/PV.8577*, 2019.

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II. Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts

According to the most recent Global Terrorism Index of 2019 by the Institute for Economics and Peace, the total number of deaths from terrorism declined for the fourth consecutive year in 2019, falling by 15.2% to 15,952 deaths. This was especially due to the continued efforts against ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Shabaab, with Iraq and Somalia having experienced the largest falls in casualties from terrorism. Overall, deaths from terrorism are now 52% lower than their peak in 2014. However, while the total amount of deaths has fallen, the number of countries affected by terrorism is very high. 71 countries recorded at least one death from terrorism in 2018, the second highest number since 2002, indicating that terrorism continues to spread. Among all countries, Afghanistan had the largest, recording 7,379 deaths from terrorism, an increase of 59% from the prior year, followed by the Iraq and Nigeria.[24]

The revitalization of Taliban appears to be a clear sign that conflict-driven terrorism cannot be extinct as long as the conflicts themselves are not being tackled. Conversely, the drawback of the "Islamic State" might only be temporary. This was also the credo of the ninth strategic-level report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security (S/2019/612): ISIL may have lost its territorial foothold in Syria, but it remains a global threat through an expanding network of affiliates stretching from West Africa to South-East Asia and residual wealth estimated at up to USD 300 million.[25]

In consequence, the world again had to witness dramatic terrorist attacks in 2019. Among the worst incidents were the following: On January 20, ten 'blue helmets' from the UN Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) were killed following a terrorist attack against the mission's camp in Aguelhok, northern Mali.[26] On January 21, a suicide car bombing and shooting by Taliban in Afghanistan took the lives of about 190 people.[27] From February 10 to 11, shootings by the Fulani and Adara militia in Nigeria resulted in more than 130 people killed.[28] On Easter Sunday, April 21, bombings by the National Thowheeth Jama'ath with the help of ISIS caused about 259 deaths in Sri Lanka.[29] And from June 10 to 17, shootings, attacks and massacres by Lendu and Hema militias in the Democratic Republic of the Congo led to more than 240 deaths.[30]

Therefore, the Under-Secretary-General for the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkow, urged to "remain vigilant to mitigate the risk posed by the evolution of ISIL and its affiliates, deny it new recruits and prevent its resurgence," calling upon States to take a comprehensive, long-term view in that regard, underpinned by urgent political leadership and a principled approach based on international law.[31]

In addition, the 8685th Council meeting on December 16 was used to focus on "the bigger picture" of terrorism. Members discuss the "shared drivers of intercommunal violence and violent extremism" such as escalating conflicts between farmers and nomadic herders, limited access to land resources and resulting economic migration, damaged state legitimacy and large ungoverned spaces, gender inequality, and human rights violations and abuses by security forces, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel.[32]

In order to further combat terrorism, Security Council Resolution 2462 (March 28, 2019) focused on tackling the financing of terrorism via the prevention of money laundering, ransom payments and drug

[24] Institute for Economics and Peace, *Global Terrorism Index* 2019, 2019, p. 4.
[25] United Nations Security Council, *Ninth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2019/612)*, 2019.
[26] UN News, *Ten UN peacekeepers killed in a terrorist attack in northern Mali*, 2019.
[27] *Shah, Faiez/AP News, Afghan security service suffers heavy toll in Taliban attack, 2019.*
[28] Busari/Premium Times Nigeria, *Miyetti Allah releases names of 131 victims of Kajuru, Kaduna violence*, 2019.
[29] Aljazeera, *Sri Lanka spy chief, president blamed for Easter attack lapses*, 2019.
[30] United Nations, *Atrocity Alert No. 159: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar (Burma) and Sudan*, 2019.
[31] United Nations Security Council, 8605th meeting report, *Islamic State in Iraq and Levant Still Global Threat Boasting Affiliated Networks, Residual Wealth, Top Counter-Terrorism Officials Tell Security Council*, 2019.
[32] United Nations Security Council, 8685th meeting report, *Special Representative Stresses Urgent Need to Address Causes of Conflict between Farmers, Herders, as Security Council Considers West Africa*, 2019.

trade as measures of international organized crime. Notably, it also called on States to exchange information and enhance financial transparency, including considering to make publicly available their national or regional asset freezing lists.[33] Security Council Resolution 2482 (July 19, 2019) consequently reaffirmed the nexus between terrorism and international organized crime and continued urging States to prevent the financing of terrorism via cultivation and trade of drugs, money-laundering, manufacturing and trade of weapons, exploitation, trafficking and trade of natural resources and jewelry.[34]

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[33] United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 2462*, 2019.
[34] United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 2482*, 2019.

III. The Situation in Myanmar

The ongoing crisis of the Rohingya being persecuted and forced to seek refuge in the neighboring countries heavily encumbers political relations in South Asia. In September 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Md. Yanghee Lee, concluded before the Human Rights Council (HRC) "that the evidence that infers genocidal intent on the part of the State…has strengthened, that there is a serious risk that genocidal actions may occur or recur".[35]

Since renewed violence against the Rohingya with an extent never seen before has occurred, the Security Council (SC) has been in session many times to discuss possible solutions.[36] Unfortunately, no consensus between the Member States has been found and therefore there has been no resolution passed.[37] In February, the Special Envoy Christine Schraner Burgener, who visited Myanmar in January 2019, briefed the committee on her findings.[38] In her speech Ms Schraner Burgener presented the mentioned findings and demands to end the violence in Rakinhe State, to provide "unfettered access to affected people, addressing the root causes and spurring inclusive and equitable development".[39]

In March 2017, the Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted resolution 34/22 and "decided… to dispatch urgently an independent international fact-finding mission" on Myanmar (IIFFMM), which is mandated until September 2019.[40] The IIFFMM published its first report in September 2018 (A/HRC/39/CRP.2). The report demonstrates the strategic arbitrariness of the government of Myanmar to persecute and violate the Rohingya but also shines light on the severe conditions of the refugees in the camps. According to the first report refugees are in fear of kidnapping and sexual assault as well as constant violence within the community in the camps. Additionally, they feel endangered by natural catastrophes, as many of their camps are located nearby the sea.[41] With the mandate of the IIFFMM being exhausted they allocated a second report in September 2019 (A/HRC/42/CRP.5) to gather some further needed basic information.[42] In the second report the IIFFMM states that the situation in Myanmar and in the neighboring countries has worsened compared to the year before.[43] About six hundred thousand Rohingya are still left in the Rakhine State.[44] The IIFFMM called upon the SC to bring the situation in Myanmar before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court or to establish an ad hoc tribunal.[45]

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) passed a resolution in November 2019, which asks Myanmar to show its goodwill to the international community and "to ensure the safe and sustainable return of the Rohingyas".[46] As this clearly did not happen the Third Committee of the GA approved another resolution concerning the situation in Myanmar in December 2019 which "condemns [the] human rights abuses against Myanmar's Rohingya".[47]

In November 2019, The Gambia, with the support of fifty-seven Member States of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, filed a case with the ICJ and alleged "that the Myanmar military's atrocities in Rakhine State against Rohingya Muslims violate the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of

[35] *Genocide threat for Myanmar's Rohingya greater than ever, investigators warn Human Rights Council*, UN News, 2019.

[36] *The Rohingya Crisis*, Council on Foreign Relations, 2019.

[37] *UN Documents for Myanmar*, Security Council Report, 2019.

[38] Ibid.

[39] *S/PV.8477*, Security Council, 2019.

[40] *Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar*, UN Human Rights Council, 2019.

[41] A/HRC/39/CRP.2, UN Human Rights Council, 2019.

[42] *Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar*, UN Human Rights Council, 2019.

[43] *A/HRC/42/CRP.5*, UN Human Rights Council, 2019.

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[45] *Myanmar's Rohingya Persecuted, Living under Threat of Genocide, UN Experts Say*, UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, 2019.

[46] *UNGA adopts resolution asking Myanmar to ensure safe, sustainable Rohingya return*, Dhaka Tribune, 2019.

[47] *UNGA resolution condemns abuses against Myanmar's Rohingya*, Al Jazeera, 2019.

the Crime of Genocide".[48] From December 10 to 12 2019 the delegation of Myanmar, including the de facto head of the state, Aung San Suu Kyi, had their first hearings before the ICJ. According to several reports the delegation, and especially the state's leader and also foreign minister, denied all accusations.[49] A fast progress concerning this trial is not been expected.

Besides the fact that people are going to be persecuted and even killed, another strong side effect of the crisis is the current migration of Rohingya to neighboring countries. Mostly, those countries are not able to handle the situation by themselves and rely on international support. The current migration situation looks the following: More than nine hundred thousand Rohingya people have fled to Bangladesh, more exactly Cox's Bazar, which makes it the largest refugee camp worldwide.[50] The second most affected country is Malaysia with one hundred thousand migrants, followed by India, Thailand and Indonesia.[51] The main problem about the refugee situation is the following: in the named countries the Rohingya people have no legal right once they have fled to the country, except for Bangladesh.[52] But as Bangladesh has two legally official refugee camps, these are totally overcrowded and undersupplied.[53]

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) publishes in regular intervals the Settlement and Protection Profiling (SPP) Assessment "to support evidence based monitoring and analysis of cross-cutting protection issues in Rohingya refugee settlements".[54] The sixth version of the SPP was published in November 2019. In comparison to the SPP published in November/December 2018[55], the food security in the camps has increased to nearly one hundred percent. But besides this, only small improvements have been achieved. According to the latest SPP, the main threats within the camps are still kidnapping, sexual assault and violence in the community[56] and leading a normal public life is still not possible within the camps.

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