



Youth,  
Peace &  
Security

## SUMMARY REPORT

**KOSOVO<sup>1</sup> CONSULTATION  
FOR THE PROGRESS STUDY  
ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY**

# 1<sup>st</sup> UN KOSOVO YOUTH ASSEMBLY “ADVANCING YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN KOSOVO TOGETHER”

28 – 29 June 2017



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo in the present publication should be understood to be in compliance with UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

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## OVERVIEW

In the framework of programmatic activities under UNMIK Youth Strategy on Implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 2250, the Mission organized on 28-29 June 2017 in Pristina the very first UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo entitled “Advancing Youth, Peace and Security in Kosovo Together”.

The event followed the footsteps of the Global United Nations Youth Assembly in New York, and was conducted as the first Kosovo Consultation for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, in the framework of the global process of UN-led youth consultations. The importance of the event cannot be overestimated, as it provided the biggest platform so far of youth-driven discussions on mutual challenges and solutions beyond community lines. The event was coordinated by UNMIK Youth Focal Point and organized with invaluable contributions from UNICEF and UNDP.

The 1st UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo brought together over 140 young motivated people from all communities Kosovo-wide for a 2-day opportunity to exchange ideas, share concerns, and develop joint solutions and recommendations to the UN, international organizations and Kosovo institutions on the issues of Youth, Peace and Security.

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## A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### *Kosovo Youth*

Kosovo has the youngest population in Europe with 62 per cent of its population under the age of 25<sup>2</sup>. Young people in Kosovo are immediate stakeholders of all political, social, economic and environmental processes and are, as well, the ones who will be leading Kosovo in the coming future.

However, their opportunities for participating in political life, their chances of economic prosperity within Kosovo as well as their access to quality education remain at best limited. The segregation of communities along ethnic lines in Kosovo also has implications for the younger generation which did not experience the violent conflict themselves, but grew up in a post-conflict environment with narratives of heroes and sacrifices of their parents' generation.

Kosovo youth can and should play a crucial role in local and regional reconciliation and peacebuilding processes, yet there are many factors that challenge their involvement. While some of them are engaged in cross-ethnic communication due to studies and engagement in youth projects, the majority of Kosovo Albanian and Serbian youth do not interact with each other in their daily life and can only communicate by using a foreign language (usually English or German) as intermediary.

Kosovo as a post-conflict territory hosts many fragmented efforts that target young people in different thematic areas, with UNICEF, OSCE, GIZ and USAID being amongst the main actors. While the majority of projects are oriented on skills development and foster inter-ethnic cooperation through sportive, cultural and other activities, there is no platform so far that would continuously enable young people to share their needs, concerns and proposals in a constructive way.

### *1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo & Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security*

In May 2016, the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) appointed the first Youth Focal Point among all peacekeeping missions and adopted the Youth Strategy 2016-2020 on Implementation of the Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. The Strategy stipulates that UN-driven platforms for youth inter-ethnic cooperation should be established as part of UNMIK's reconciliation efforts.

In August 2016, UNMIK Youth Focal Point attended the UN Youth Assembly in New York. Being one of the UN DESA best practices developed in cooperation between the UN, diplomatic community, governments and civil society, the Assembly is a promising youth platform for sharing and developing best practices, synergies and dialogue between UN bodies and young people. That experience shaped the vision that inspired the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo, which was conducted by UNMIK in June 2017.

The First UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo was designed as an open multi-ethnic platform that would bring together young people from different communities across Kosovo and provide them

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<sup>2</sup> Kosovo Agency of Statistics (2015).

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with opportunities to outreach to the decision-makers on issues of mutual concern. Following-up on the global process of the Regional Consultations for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, the Mission decided to conduct the Youth Assembly in Kosovo as a Local Consultation entitled “Advancing Youth, Peace and Security Together”. The recommendations on Youth, Peace and Security coming from Kosovo youth were also seen as crucial for the development of strategic priorities for the Mission in the area of youth engagement and cooperation with other stakeholders.

The establishment of the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo addressed the serious gap between young people and decision-makers in Kosovo, and more specifically the one with the UN institutions in place. Since Kosovo unilaterally declared its independence in 2008, UNMIK’s role was challenged and remained unclear to many local people. Throughout several meetings between UNMIK leadership and substantive sections together with young people, it appeared that youth are very open to inter-ethnic peer-to-peer cooperation, but feel completely excluded from the processes driven by the local and international actors in Kosovo. They have commended reconciliation efforts from UNMIK and UNKT, but expressed their frustration with the absence of open platforms where young people could raise their concerns to decision-makers, without any prejudices based on their ethnicity while avoiding unnecessary politicization.

Therefore, the establishment of the UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo was a major step towards implementation of the UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and follow-up developments. Understanding the potential of Kosovo youth in being the crucial driving force of the local inter-ethnic trust-building processes, the UN Mission in Kosovo committed to maintain the UN Youth Assembly as an annual platform to evaluate and monitor the progress in the area of Youth, Peace and Security, with Kosovo youth being the key actors throughout the process.

## **B. OBJECTIVES**

- Improving young people’s understanding of the role of UNMIK in Kosovo by having at least 120 young people from different communities across Kosovo take part in the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo;
- Providing a safe and encouraging environment for young people from all communities to share their achievements, challenges and concerns on their involvement in building peace and inter-ethnic trust in Kosovo;
- Improving and visualizing young people’s role in providing advice to decision-makers by initiating public discussion and gathering recommendations for Kosovo Strategy for Youth 2013-2017 in light of SC Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security;
- Preparation of one report on the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Kosovo to be shared with local authorities and civil society organisations;
- Based on the provided recommendations, development of at least 5 concrete actions contributing to reconciliation and dialogue processes in Kosovo, with the mentorship and support of UNMIK and UNKT.

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### **C. PARTICIPANTS**

Out of 247 nominations in total, 140 young Kosovo people from diverse ethnic backgrounds took part in the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Kosovo Youth Assembly, which served as the first Kosovo Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security. Roughly 60% of the participants were young women. Gender balance was assured both during the selection process (e.g. asking each participating youth organization for two nominations, one boy and one girl) as well as during the workshop activities (e.g. in the composition of groups), with a specific focus on young women coming from rural and remote areas.

Age of participants ranged from 15 to 29 years old; the majority of participants were in the 22-24 age group. All participants were Kosovo citizens from different municipalities and ethnic backgrounds – both preconditions served to assure diverse and inclusive discussions. Participants self-identified as members of different ethnic groups, such as Kosovo Albanians, Kosovo Serbs, Bosniaks, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians and Turkish.

### **D. PROFILE OF THE SPEAKERS**

Most of the speakers were young people from diverse ethnic backgrounds from Kosovo and the broader region, who provided significant contribution to youth, peace and security agenda through their work with civil society, media (peace journalism), decision-making structures (Local Youth Action Councils and Student Associations), educational initiatives, crowdfunding platforms, regional diplomacy and digital citizenship, as well as those representing interests of the non-majority communities (Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians).

### **E. ORGANIZERS AND FACILITATORS**

The 1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly was organized by the UNMIK Youth Focal Point Iana Minochkina, UNMIK External Affairs Officer Philippe Tissot and Mitrovica Regional Office Youth Focal Point Judit Ros Domingo.

The panel discussions were moderated by UNMIK staff: Assistant Civil Affairs Dijana Simijonović, Civil Affairs Officer Caroline Alice Onekalit and Youth Focal Point Iana Minochkina. The thematic workshops were facilitated by 8 persons from UNMIK and organizing partners, such as UNICEF, UNDP and NGO “Nansen Dialogue Kosovo”.

The 1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo was conducted in cooperation with UNMIK substantive sections, OSCE and relevant UNKT agencies, including UNV Office, UNICEF Innovations Lab, UNDP Human Design Center and OSCE Youth Dialogue Academy. The above-mentioned actors shared their expertise throughout thematic sessions on interethnic dialogue, reconciliation efforts, youth cooperation and advocacy, critical thinking, sustainable solutions and SDGs.

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## F. YOUTH TASK FORCE

Strong youth ownership was at the cornerstone of the 1st UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo, as the program sequence as well as some workshops were guided by the Youth Task Force – 24 young leaders from different communities who received an UNMIK-led induction training on Youth, Peace and Security during the “Kosovo Young Leaders Youth Exchange” on 23-25 June 2017.

The Youth Task Force members took a pro-active role in shaping the recommendations for the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security and expressed their commitment to form a follow-up group on implementation of the recommendations and build youth cooperation with the UN, international organisations and Kosovo institutions.



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## II. SUMMARY OF THE SESSIONS

The 1st UN Kosovo Youth Assembly introduced a multi-dimensional format of activities with panel discussions, workshops, interactive platforms and working groups for the co-design of the recommendations coming from young people to the UN, international presences, Kosovo institutions and other relevant actors.

### A. OPENING SESSION

The opening session offered a rather symbolic composition in relation to perspectives of young people in Kosovo, with the presence of UNMIK Deputy SRSG Christopher Coleman, two youth delegates Elda Brada and Arbias Lloluni, the OSCE Director of the Democratization Department Christopher Tuetsch, the Head of UNICEF Dr. Brandao C6, as well as the EUSR Youth Focal Point Anastasia Johansson and the representative of the Youth Department at the Kosovo Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Labinot Berisha.



“There aren’t many opportunities for youth from different communities in Kosovo to get together, but we wanted to challenge this and allow the voices of motivated young people to be heard beyond community lines and foster a peaceful and inclusive society,” said UNMIK DSRSG Coleman in his opening speech.

As if responding to him, the Youth Task Force delegate Arbias Lloluni (24) stated: “Young people share enthusiasm to dream possible – beyond ethnic, religious and other divisions. Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security is the recognition by the UN of the need to change the narrative of young people, not as victims or troublemakers but as important actors in forming sustainable peace, and shaping the path for a better future”.



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## B. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

The 1<sup>st</sup> UN Kosovo Youth Assembly developed around three key panel discussions that addressed: the positive role of youth in long-standing peace efforts in Kosovo; the state of play with inclusion of Kosovo youth in decision-making processes; and perspectives for young people.

At the panel session “*Positive role of Youth in long-standing peace efforts in Kosovo*”, UNMIK Youth Focal Point and key coordinator of the event Iana Minochkina (28) introduced the UNSCR 2250 to the audience and emphasised that “peace should be seen not only as the absence of conflict and violence, but rather as a holistic combination of freedom from ethnically or religiously-driven discriminations, equal opportunities for development, access to social services and incentives for inter-ethnic cooperation for all young people in Kosovo”.

Liridona Osmanaj (28), who attended the Istanbul Regional Consultation for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security in May 2017, briefed the audience about the scope of recommendations that came from the Balkan youth. The panel brought together young representatives of civil society and media, who raised the issues of transitional justice, conflicting historical narratives between Serbian and Kosovo educational systems – and, as a remedy, the importance of non-formal education on diversity as well as the role of young people in challenging ethnic divisions through peace journalism in Kosovo.



At the panel session “*Giving Kosovo Youth a Voice: decision-making and participation*”, member of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) Secretariat Krenare Gashi (26) spoke about her experience as a youth activist in advocating for more inclusive youth policies with Kosovo institutions, and informed that RYCO would be operational for Kosovo as of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017, thus opening the way to regional youth exchanges. The panellists coming from the Local Youth Action Councils – youth decision-making boards at the municipal levels – in Klokot/Klllokot and

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Gjakova/Đakovica municipalities recalled that out of 40,000 people who emigrated from Kosovo in 2016, 80% were under the age of 24. They voiced their concerns accordingly, and urged Kosovo institutions at the municipal and central levels to secure youth-sensitive budgeting and the development of youth centres.

Responding to the issue of the high emigration rate among Kosovo youth, at the panel session “*Giving Kosovo Youth a perspective*”, representatives of UNICEF “By Youth For Youth” platform, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), crowdfunding platform “Kosovo Ideas” and NGO “New Social Initiative” from North Mitrovica, spoke about the urgent need to invest in long-term perspectives for Kosovo youth, such as quality education, inter-ethnic youth cooperation, micro-credits for youth start-ups and youth spaces, especially in remote areas of Kosovo and small municipalities.



## C. WORKSHOPS

The two-day UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo offered a wide range of thematic activities and opportunities for peer-to-peer learning beyond ethnic lines through workshops on interfaith dialogue, critical thinking (UNICEF), creative approach to peacebuilding (UNDP), and “Stories from the other Side” on challenging prejudices and stereotypes conducted by UNMIK Youth Focal Points.

These workshops were conceived as a platform for the participants to showcase and share the work their organizations are currently doing on youth, peace and security, at the same time that they would explain the main challenges they are facing in dealing with peace and security work. Groups presented their findings and shared their prospects on the role of youth in building peace in socio-political context of Kosovo.

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## **D. DRAFTING KOSOVO ROADMAP ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY**

During the 1st UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo, the participants learned about various dimensions of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and their implications in Kosovo. On 29 June 2017, they developed a wide range of recommendations to the UN, international organizations and Kosovo institutions under the four pillars of the resolution 2250: Participation, Protection, Prevention and Partnerships. The fifth pillar of the resolution devoted to Disengagement and Reintegration was not addressed within a specific working group due to the particulars of the Kosovo context, however the issues were incorporated throughout each of the working groups.

### *Methodology*

#### *A. Thematic break-out groups*

The participants were divided in four pre-set thematic groups of approximately 30 people each, following the principles of gender and ethnic balance. Each of the groups focused on one of the pillars of the resolution 2250, aiming at developing a set of progressive recommendations to the UN and decision-makers at all levels, based on the socio-economic context in Kosovo.

In accordance with the Guidance Note for Focus Group Discussions with Young People for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, the facilitated discussion in each of the working groups developed around the following questions:

- What do peace and security mean for you?
- What are the main peace and security challenges that affect you as a young person in Kosovo?
- What does Participation (Protection/Prevention/Partnerships) mean for you and how are they understood in the context of the resolution?
- What could be done to support your active involvement in contributing to positive social cohesion and building peace in Kosovo from the perspective of Participation (Protection/Prevention/ Partnerships)?
- What are the good practices of youth participation in building peace and inter-ethnic trust-building in Kosovo that you are aware of?

The working sessions combined the elements of brainstorming in a big group, interactive presentation, mind-mapping and work in smaller break-out groups. Each group had a representative of the Youth Task Force, who was responsible for taking notes on the process and recommendations.

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***B. Open Space working session***

By the end of the break-out working sessions, each of the groups had developed a list of progressive thematic recommendations to the UN, Kosovo institutions and international organizations under each of the pillars of the resolution 2250. Obvious concerns at this stage refer to difficulties in maintaining a broader perspective due to narrowing-down of discussions to one of the pillars, and potential overlapping of recommendations as a consequence of the inter-dependent character of the pillars. In order to eliminate these problems when compiling the final document of the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security, we used the Open Space methodology.

The Open Space exercise was organized in the main hall that was visually divided in four parts, each equipped with a big screen and a laptop. Each of the working areas was devoted to a specific pillar of the resolution, having on display the recommendations produced by the break-out groups. A facilitator and a Youth Task Force member responsible for reporting assisted at each of the working areas. All participants in their initial thematic groups were invited to rotate between the working areas in order to review the proposals of their peers and provide inputs on each of the pillars.

Upon completion of the Open Space process, the recommendations were compiled in the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security, which was presented by the Youth Task Force members at the closing session of the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo. During the two weeks following the event, which served as the Kosovo Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security, the recommendations were opened for online editing. At that stage, the document was shared with the youth-led civil society organizations, student networks and young people across Kosovo through social media. Approximately 450 Kosovo youth from diverse ethnic backgrounds took part in the online editing process.

The final recommendations tackled upon the need for non-formal education on diversity and conflict transformation in addition to regular curricula; inter-ethnic youth exchanges; prioritizing youth in municipal and central government budgeting; improving freedom of movement, and increasing efficiency of the Local Youth Action Councils. These recommendations were shared with the UN presences in Kosovo, international organizations, local decision-makers and civil society organizations, with a view to be reflected in the SG Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security.

Please, find the full text of the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security in the Annex II.

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### III. FINDINGS of the CONSULTATION

The two-day UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo saw meaningful discussions on understanding of peace, security and the role of youth in peace and security. These questions were incorporated through the panel discussions and workshops, and amplified during the drafting process of the recommendations on advancing Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Kosovo.

#### WHAT DO PEACE AND SECURITY MEAN FOR KOSOVO YOUTH?

Kosovo youth see **Peace** as the basis for a healthy-growing community that is free of inter-ethnic and inter-religious prejudices and is based on mutual respect, diversity and rule of law. It is interesting to mention that many respondents associated peace with critical thinking and ability to withstand political propaganda and community pressure.

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*Security is when you feel safe, and when that happens you are in peace.*

*Kosovo Serbian girl, 23*

The difference could be noticed in the responses of young Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs. While many Kosovo Albanian youth see peace as the freedom to express oneself in a traditional society, most of the Kosovo Serb youth respondents consider security as a pre-condition for peace. These concerns are a clear reflection of the perceived situation in Kosovo, and offer an explanation to socio-economic dynamics between the divided communities and participation of youth. Kosovo Serb youth, especially in the four northern municipalities, often feel threatened or uncomfortable when it comes to travelling across Kosovo. It is yet another issue, whether these threats are real or perceived, which does not minimise the problem. They also express concerns about the possible pressure from their own community that might discourage youth from being engaged in inter-ethnic activities within Kosovo.

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*I believe that social development could not be separated from economic development and the environment of peace and stability.*

*Participant*

The respondents agreed that peace in the community is impossible without reaching inner peace which comes with respect to diversity, ability to trust your neighbour and to develop oneself up to her/his potential. Many young people connect peace with the level of socio-economic development and the sense of belonging and integration into the local community. Referring to this, the participants spoke about youth-based violence which often occurs in the marginalised youth circles with potential to spill over in times of inter-ethnic tension. Therefore, education on cultural richness of Kosovo, creating conditions for inter-ethnic cooperation among youth from different communities, combined with efforts to strengthen the rule of law and ensure equal access to social services are seen as the key factors of sustainable peace. The issue of dealing with the past triggered a serious discussion among the participants: while many young people called upon the

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governments to come up with a solution, there was little hope that the problem may be resolved. Many young people agreed that in order not to fall victim of political manipulations, they would rather need to focus on moving forward and building the cooperation with their peers beyond the ethnic boundaries.

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*Peace generates security and make young people feel safe and belonging to their society. When you invest in one of these elements, it immediately contributes to the other, and vice versa.*

*Participant*

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The participants agreed that **Security** is possible only in an environment where human rights are respected at the individual and community level, and maintained through effective rule of law; when people are free to express their views and manifest their ethnic, religious or gender identity. Peace and security are perceived as inter-dependent factors that are essential predispositions for sustainable development. Young people emphasised that security does not refer only to one's safety, but incorporates the elements of human security in a broader understanding. It was voiced that equal treatment of documents issued by Kosovo and Serbian authorities (ID cards, driving licenses, medical insurances, school certificates, etc.), recognition of Kosovo-issued diplomas as well as respect of Kosovo Serbs language rights in the public institutions are very important technical pre-conditions for the fulfilment of human security expectations.

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*I do not feel secure, when I see that politicians take decisions that affect youth, without even trying to discuss them with young people.*

*Participant*

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Security is also seen as a consequence of effective transparency at the decision-making level and mainstreaming of youth concerns throughout public policies. Therefore, youth participation in decision-making processes in Kosovo combined with efforts to restore trust in the institutions, as well as trust between different ethnic groups are regarded as important elements that contribute to enabling a safe and secure environment.

When it comes to the **Role of Youth** in building peace and inter-ethnic trust in Kosovo, the participants unanimously agreed that among all stakeholders, youth are the ones most open and capable of contributing to positive change. Kosovo has the youngest population in Europe with 62% under the age of 25, the majority of which are “digital natives” due to active usage of social media. While there is still a certain level of discomfort and mistrust when it comes to crossing of the ethnic boundaries, many young people from different ethnic groups maintain communication on social media.

There are many efforts led by local NGOs and international organizations that aim to promote and support inter-ethnic dialogue. However, young people themselves raise their concerns that these activities can only be sustainable when they bring youth together to address mutual challenges. Regardless of the ethnic background, young people express a strong commitment to be more

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involved in work on concrete issues that would lead to improvement of the situation in Kosovo and contribute to peace and security.

In accordance with Kosovo legal framework, young people are supposed to be involved in decision-making processes at the local and municipal levels through the Local Youth Action Councils. Unfortunately, these structures are regarded as highly politicised or subordinated to municipal authorities. Young people put a lot of hope in bringing transparency to the process and creating conditions for the Local Youth Action Councils to empower each other, exchange best practices, and therefore increase their ability to withstand political pressure. It especially refers to the recently created Local Youth Action Councils in northern Kosovo, which until May 2017 were blocked by the Serbian parallel structures. Supporting inter-ethnic exchanges between young leaders – members of the Local Youth Action Councils is seen as one of areas for potential intervention that would be highly beneficial for trust-building processes in Kosovo in mid- and long-term perspective.

Young people also regard themselves as young professionals and valuable contributors to the peace-related issues that need technical assistance. For example, some of the participants took part in the project implemented by the Justice Section of UNMIK which involved K-Serb and K-Albanian students of law in clearing the backlog of cases at the Mitrovica Basic Court in 2016 and 2017. The initiative created a win-win partnership by resolving an otherwise costly and complex issue, and provided students with a precious working experience. Along the same lines, youth shared an idea that language students from non-majority communities can be involved into translation of administrative documents, which remains one of the main challenges.

In general, there is a strong demand and desire from Kosovo youth regardless of their ethnic background to be involved in peace-building and inter-ethnic trust-building processes. Young people want to be regarded not only as a target group but also as valuable contributors to decision-making processes, and as young professionals in an environment where their professional contribution can be recognized without discrimination on age or work experience.

## CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES TO YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN PEACE AND SECURITY PROCESSES IN KOSOVO

Young people regard the following issues as the key challenges that prevent or discourage their participation in peace-building and inter-ethnic trust-building in Kosovo:

- **Lack of communication between different ethnic groups and the abundance of negative prejudices that are widespread by media and some political actors.** Most of the young people from different ethnic groups in Kosovo do not naturally engage in interaction. Kosovo Albanian and Serb youth do not study together because schools follow either Kosovo or Serbian educational system and **they do not speak the same language**, having English or German often serving as an intermediary language. When it comes to awareness about each other, Kosovo Albanians and Serbs learn from **opposing historical narratives** on the conflict in Kosovo and the overall situation in the Western Balkans, which makes creating an opportunity to find common grounds “with the other side” highly

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challenging. The situation is aggravated by the overall **media landscape** in Kosovo, which is highly **politicised and divided along the ethnic lines**, as well as by the **community pressure** that often discourages inter-ethnic communication.

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*After the war in Kosovo, we, Kosovo youngsters from each ethnicity were raised by nationalist calls, especially from Albanians and Serbs. All of this resulted in the lack of communications between us. We have lived for years in fear, being affected by propaganda from both sides. So, what I wanted to say, is that peace and security are important for one country to function.*

*Kosovo Albanian male, 21*

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- Often, engagement in inter-ethnic initiatives comes along with **security concerns** – real ones or perceived, especially for young people from Kosovo Serb minority. Our observations were reconfirmed by the participants themselves: while many Kosovo Albanians join community activism at the age of 15-16, the majority of Kosovo Serb respondents who got involved in such activities joined after they reached their 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. As they explained, that was the age when they were able to have a more independent position and stand for it in front of the community.
- **Poorly developed or dysfunctional youth policies in Kosovo.** While Kosovo Law on Youth Empowerment provides for one of the most sophisticated models for youth engagement in decision-making in Europe which was drafted up to the highest international standards, its implementation is rather poor and fragmented. Young people remain either not informed about opportunities to be involved in decision-making or other processes, or often are not able to use these structures efficiently due to nepotism and politicization. There are some efforts of the international organizations to strengthen capacity of these structures, but the progress is slow and sometimes discouraging.
- **Low level of social security for young people involved in civil society activism.** The culture of volunteering in Kosovo is not sufficiently developed: volunteering is often regarded by older family members as a free labour with no job-related perspectives. It is worth mentioning that around 57% of Kosovo youth are unemployed, and therefore cannot afford to live without parental support, which seriously limits their opportunities to engage in volunteering or social work. From the other hand, the labour market and Kosovo institutions do not provide sufficient opportunities for young people to realise themselves as young professionals.
- **Working with Kosovo authorities in the area of peace and security can be difficult for youth community-based organizations.** Misunderstandings on the purposes of such activities are frequent since peace and security are very sensitive and highly politicised topics.
- **Lack of resources for youth-led peace efforts at the local level.** Many community-based organizations and particularly youth-led NGOs experience significant difficulties in acquiring institutional and financial support for the activities. Often, when the support



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originates from the government-related institutions, it comes together with an expectation for these youth groups to support a certain political agenda as a form of pay back.

- **Lack of prospects for personal and professional development for young people in Kosovo.** Noting that out of 40,000 people who emigrated from Kosovo in 2016, 80% were under the age of 24, young people who took part in the Consultation urged Kosovo institutions at the municipal and central levels to invest in long-term perspectives, such as quality education, inter-ethnic youth cooperation and youth spaces, especially in remote areas of Kosovo and small municipalities. Lack of these opportunities creates a growing sense of apathy among Kosovo youth; being aggravated by high level of corruption, it creates an impression that no change is possible regardless the efforts.
- **Internationally-drafted solutions that lack local ownership.** While many young people in Kosovo enjoy opportunities provided by numerous reconciliation projects that are driven by international actors, they are often not sustainable due to a lack of local ownership. The participants called for the involvement of local youth in the process of co-design of such activities and throughout their further implementation, especially when it comes to long-term initiatives by the EU, UN, OSCE and other policy-oriented organizations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM KOSOVO YOUTH ON ADVANCEMENT OF YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY**

Annex II contains the original text of the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security, which entails 50 recommendations from the Kosovo youth to the UN, Kosovo institutions and international organizations.

The recommendations were developed in accordance with the four pillars of the resolution 2250: Participation, Prevention, Protection and Partnerships. As mentioned above, the recommendations under the fifth pillar on Disengagement and Reintegration were incorporated in the four key specific blocks, particularly on Prevention and Protection.

The recommendations were developed around the following key issues of concern for the Kosovo youth.

**A. Providing prospects for young people within their own community.** As mentioned above, over the last decade, the emigration rate among Kosovo youth has been extremely high due to a lack of local professional or economic opportunities for young people. The participants called for both the UN and local institutions to invest in creating empowering conditions for youth to be active citizens in their communities. In the context of peace and security, efforts that provide opportunities for youth to become more integrated as contributors to their communities are seen as essential factors in prevention of youth-based violence and radicalised thought.

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This can be achieved through the following:

- Strengthening youth **participation and involvement in decision-making** at local and municipal level, with special attention to the inclusion of young women and girls in those processes – especially in rural and remote areas. To this end, favourable conditions should be created for the development of youth centres as hubs for peer-to-peer education among youth, as well as student councils and youth boards at the local and municipal level.
- Providing **channels for youth voices to be heard throughout policy-related developments** via online consultation with young people or in-person participation at the conferences and meetings on policy-related issues that concern youth.
- **Promotion of the culture of volunteering**, and more specifically through encouraging young people from divided communities to work on issues of mutual concern, such as local environmental and development initiatives.
- A mechanism **to recognise volunteering experience as a regular work experience** should be mainstreamed throughout Kosovo private and public sectors as a way to combat youth unemployment. While Kosovo made a step forward by adopting the legal framework in 2016, implementation requires awareness and commitment from all sectors.
- Awareness-raising activities on **women property rights** should be conducted Kosovo-wide with a specific focus on young women in rural and isolated areas.
- Development of **inclusive environment for young people with special needs**. In long-term perspective, this can be strengthened through sensitizing students of architecture, urban planners and public administration about the needs of young people with disability.

**B. Strengthening of youth inter-ethnic trust-building efforts.** This can be fostered through the following:

- Maintain a **regular annual platform that will provide opportunities for young people from different communities to meet each other**, exchange ideas and experiences and address issues of mutual concern to the decision-makers. The 1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo which led to preparation of the current report, should be considered as a benchmark achievement. The participants called upon the UN Mission in Kosovo and the UN agencies in place to continue with this practice on an annual basis.
- **Kosovo-wide multi-ethnic youth exchanges that focus on specific issues of mutual concern**, such as education, environment, employment, research, etc. These activities aim at strengthening the vision of Kosovo among local youth as a multi-cultural and complex society, with shared challenges and, therefore shared solutions.
- **Multi-ethnic exchanges that bring Kosovo youth together with young people from the broader region**. Divisions among Kosovo youth are reflective of the regional fractures, while the problems that young people face in the Western Balkans are rather similar. This

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calls for the development of regional youth exchange programs, such as the Regional Youth Cooperation Office<sup>3</sup>, which will be operational from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

- **Establish opportunities for learning both of the official Kosovo languages (Albanian & Serbian) on a free of charge basis for youth.**
- Development of **small-grants schemes for local youth-led initiatives** in the areas of inter-ethnic dialogue and peace-building.

**C. Peace awareness and education on diversity** are essential for mutual acceptance and inter-ethnic communication beyond prejudices; these efforts are especially meaningful when it comes to young people in divided communities, such as the ones in Kosovo. The following elements should be incorporated:

- Introducing **human rights education** with a strong emphasis on **education on ethnic, cultural and religious diversity** in Kosovo as an element in the school curricula, as well as through non-formal education.
- **Mainstreaming positive narratives of youth inter-ethnic cooperation** through traditional and social media, as well as through cultural and sportive events. Young people should be involved as the key contributors and “owners” of the process.
- Investing in **strengthening critical thinking** capacities among young people and their ability to withstand propaganda and fake news.
- Introducing **awareness sessions on non-violent communication and prevention of hate speech, bullying and cyberbullying in school environment** combining the elements of formal and non-formal education.

**D. Including young professionals and students as contributors to reintegration and stabilization processes** led by the international presences and Kosovo institutions. The participants were well aware about a few good practices in place, such as the involvement of law students in the reduction of backlog of court cases, and shared their enthusiasm about joining such an initiative – both from the prospect of working experience and overall importance for the society. Along the same lines, they proposed that Kosovo Serb students of linguistics be involved in translation of administrative documents, thus resolving a long-standing and costly issue of maintaining all official languages in legal or administrative systems.

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<sup>3</sup> During the Western Balkans Summit in Vienna, on 27 August 2015, the Prime Ministers of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have signed a “Joint Declaration on the establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office of the Western Balkans”, in which they declare that they have agreed to “create the Regional Youth Cooperation Office of the Western Balkans, as a regionally-owned structure that leads and coordinates youth cooperation in our region”, aiming “to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in our region”, following the best practices of the Franco-German Youth Office. RYCO will operate as an independent youth granting mechanism for the Western Balkans. Estimated date of the funds opening: 1 October 2017.

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**E. Using youth-friendly innovative approaches to combat long-standing social problems, for example:**

- **Raising awareness about sexual harassment and gender-based violence** among young people, using innovative tools, such as “Ec Shlirë” (“Walk Freely”) mobile application.
- Introducing **peer support groups on social media** for young people in complicated life situations that are connected with local NGOs, psychologists and other relevant professionals. The peer support groups, when properly developed in isolated and marginalised areas, can be used as a mechanism to identify and prevent youth radicalisation at early stages.
- Providing incentives for the **involvement of young people in awareness campaigns on prevention of all forms of violence**, including peer-to-peer violence and radicalization not only as receivers of information, but also as key actors in spreading the information among youth circles, inter alia on social media.

**F. Noting that environment-related risks constitute a form of violence**, which is very much the case in Kosovo due to aggravated air and soil pollution, the participants urged Kosovo institutions and international organizations to undertake the following measures:

- **Promoting scholarships and research in the field of sustainable consumption and renewable energies** in Kosovo targeting young people.
- **Raising awareness about eco-responsible behaviors** among young people and broader groups of population Kosovo-wide, with specific focus on prevention of water, air, soil pollution and recycling.

Concluding the recommendations, the participants expressed their strong commitment to continue advocating for their implementation under the UN umbrella in Kosovo. Thus, they announced the establishment of the informal network of young people from diverse ethnic backgrounds Kosovo-wide, who will be actively involved in the follow-up activities on the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security through cooperation with the UN, international organizations and Kosovo institutions on matters of implementing recommendations and monitoring their progress.

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## IV. NEXT STEPS

### YOUTH4YOUTH PROJECTS

During the course of the Assembly, a joint UNMIK-UNICEF board selected seven youth-led project ideas aiming at advancing inter-community trust-building among young people Kosovo-wide, which received small-scale financial support and assistance from the UN Mission in Kosovo.



The selected projects focus on diverse areas, such as language exchanges between Serbian and Albanian students, inter-ethnic artistic actions, youth inter-ethnic learning through outdoor activities and activities for young people with special needs and Down syndrome from all communities, which, inter alia, will also include the parents of those children beyond ethnic boundaries.

### FOLLOW-UP

The Youth Task Force members took a pro-active role in shaping the recommendations for the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security during the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Kosovo Youth Assembly on 28-29 June 2017. In the aftermath of the UN Youth Assembly, these young leaders from diverse ethnic backgrounds across Kosovo formed a follow-up group on implementation of the recommendations and build up youth cooperation with the UN, international organizations, Kosovo institutions and other relevant actors.

During the event, UNMIK was approached by representatives of the OSCE, EUSR as well as the Kosovo Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, who emphasized the importance of the event and expressed their interest to cooperate on specific aspects of the recommendations. Of particular note was the intervention of a representative from the Ministry who offered to directly include the recommendations of the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security into the upcoming Kosovo Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2020.

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On 26 July 2017, UNMIK Deputy SRSG called for an internal discussion with the heads of substantive sections on potential areas of the Mission's engagement towards implementation of the Roadmap recommendations. Above all, it was decided that the Mission would support and mentor the Youth Task Force members in their work towards implementation of the recommendations and cooperation with relevant actors. Based on the success of the Youth Assembly and the initial very encouraging signs of local ownership received both from the side of Kosovo youth and the local institutions, UNMIK now considers expanding its role in the follow-up process on the recommendations. This together with the enhanced cooperation with the motivated, well-prepared and ethnically diverse members of the Youth Task Force under the UN umbrella could give a decisive advantage to the Mission in advancing its priorities in the area of inter-ethnic trust-building.

Inspired by the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Kosovo Youth Assembly, UNMIK committed to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Assembly in spring 2018 to evaluate the progress in implementation of recommendations of the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security.

## **V. CONCLUSIONS**

The 1st UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo paved the way for significant steps towards advancement of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Kosovo and inter-ethnic trust-building among Kosovo youth, backed by strong local ownership.

In the current absence of open platforms where young people can meet and develop synergies beyond ethnic lines, and the persisting lack of attention of Kosovo institutions towards youth-specific issues, UN Mission in Kosovo managed to create an encouraging space bridging motivated and talented young people from all communities Kosovo-wide with decision-makers, where youth voices and demands could be amplified by the legitimacy associated with the UN umbrella.

The participants shared that the event helped them to better understand the role of the UN in general and in the local context in Kosovo. Young people who contributed to the Consultation appreciated that it was conducted in the format of a Youth Assembly, because it gave them an opportunity to approach the topic from different perspectives and construct a bigger picture. For many Kosovo youth attending the Youth Assembly, it was the first time that they had a chance to communicate with their peers from different communities in an open and de-politicized space.

Due to the overall lack of channels for raising youth concerns to Kosovo decision-makers, the work on recommendations was perceived as a rare opportunity to contribute to a potential policy development, and therefore was taken seriously. Inspired by UNSCR 2250, the participants came up with 50 progressive recommendations to the UN, Kosovo institutions, international organizations and relevant stakeholders at all levels. The recommendations called for concrete improvements with involvement of youth in decision-making processes at all levels, inclusion of human rights education into school curriculum, involvement of students and young professionals as contributors to peace and stabilization processes, as well as creation of youth multi-ethnic platforms that seek to address the issues of mutual concern, etc. The recommendations also voiced

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that young people should be more involved in work on specific issues such as dealing with the past, internet governance and development of safe internet spaces, environmental justice and development of innovative solutions to social problems.

The Consultation/Youth Assembly became a starting point for many friendships beyond ethnic lines and led to the launch of several youth-led multi-ethnic initiatives. The Consultation had a strong youth ownership at its cornerstone with the UN Youth Task Force members – a group of 24 young people from diverse ethnic backgrounds across Kosovo, who took a proactive role in assisting with organization of the event and formed a follow-up group to support and monitor implementation of the recommendations.

The UN Mission in Kosovo developed a set of the follow-up actions on recommendations of the Youth Assembly that include, inter alia, facilitation and monitoring of their implementation in close cooperation with stakeholders at all levels. UNMIK also committed to maintain the UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo as an annual event that aims to evaluate the progress towards implementation of the recommendations and identify and address policy gaps in the area of youth, peace and security in a coordinated manner.

While Kosovo Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security conducted as the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo stands aside from the overall scope of the UN Regional Consultations, it paves a very important step for much necessary inclusion of youth, peace and security agenda in the work of DPKO and peacekeeping missions.

In light of the UNSCR 2250 that recognizes positive role of young people in peacebuilding, it is the conflict and post-conflict context of DPKO, where the resolution can be utilized up to its full potential. The UN peacekeeping missions around the globe are challenged by stagnating and frozen old conflicts, when attempts to reach out to stakeholders at different sides face the same militant rhetoric over the years. Acknowledging that socio-political context in Kosovo is rather specific and offers larger opportunities for multi-ethnic interaction than most of the peacekeeping missions, nevertheless, it vividly demonstrates potential role of young people in unlocking long-standing tensions in divided communities. This benchmark experience of incorporating youth, peace and security agenda throughout the work of a peacekeeping mission to facilitate reconciliation process can be transmitted as a DPKO practice, thus opening a new page in peacebuilding processes.

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ANNEX I

**1st UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo  
 “Advancing Youth, Peace and Security Together”**

**Agenda**

**28 June 2017, Wednesday**

<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Session</i>
09:00-09:30	Registration, Distribution of participants' packages
09:30-10:30	<b>1.1. Official Opening</b> Christopher Coleman, UNMIK Deputy-SRSG Elda Brada and Arbias Llojuni, Youth Task Force of the Assembly Christopher Tuetsch, OSCE, Director of the Democratisation Department Dr. Brandao C3, Head of UNICEF Anastasia Johansson, EU Youth Focal Point Labinot Berisha, Kosovo Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport
10:30-11:00	Coffee-break, Family photo
11:00-12:30	<b>1.2. Youth, Peace and Security in Kosovo: Recognizing positive role of youth in long-standing peace</b> Iana Minochkina, UNMIK Youth Focal Point Liridona Osmanaj, UNDP Teuta Hoxha, Youth Initiative for Human Rights Verka Jovanović, Human Rights and Peace Activist Cristina Mari, Representative of Kosovo 2.0 <b>Q&amp;A session</b>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:00	<b>World Caf3: Presentations of the Youth4Youth projects</b>
14:00-15:00	<b>1.3. Giving Kosovo Youth a Voice: decision-making and participation</b> Krenare Gashi, Kosovo Branch Officer of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office Andi Batusha, Gjakova/ Đakovica Local Youth Action Council Sanja Vukoti3, Klokot / Klokot Local Youth Action Council Kadrije Krasniqi, Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians Valon Nushi, YEP-Youth Empowerment Platform, UNICEF Innovations Lab <b>Q&amp;A session</b>
15:00-15:30	Coffee-break
15:30-18:00	<b>1.4. Simultaneous workshops</b> Workshop 1      Workshop 2      Workshop 3      Workshop 4



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<b>Stories from the Other Side: combating stereotypes and prejudices (YFP)</b>	<b>Pieces for Peacebuilding: a collaborative design workshop (UNDP)</b>	<b>Youth Interfaith Dialogue in Kosovo</b>	<b>PONDER Workshop on Critical thinking (UNICEF)</b>
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18:00-18:15 Wrap-up of the day (Main Plenary Hall)

**29 June 2017, Thursday**

<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Session</i>				
09:30-11:00	<p><b>2.1. Giving Kosovo Youth a perspective</b>            Emily Cullom, GIZ (youth employment)            Laura Racaj, "By Youth for Youth" program, UNICEF Innovations Lab            Diana Nokaj, Kosovo Ideas platform, Gjakova / Đakovica            Jovana Radosavljević, NGO New Social Initiative, Mitrovica North            Mary Drosopoulos, Consultant in the Field of Education and Youth, Thessaloniki  <b>Q&amp;A session</b></p>				
11:00-11:30	Coffee-break				
11:30-13:00	<p><b>2.2. Simultaneous working groups: drafting the Youth, Peace and Security Roadmap for Kosovo</b> (<i>work with recommendations for UNSCR2250 pillars</i>)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">Working Group 1 <b>Participation</b></td> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">Working Group 2 <b>Protection</b></td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">Working Group 3 <b>Prevention</b></td> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">Working Group 4 <b>Partnerships</b></td> </tr> </table>	Working Group 1 <b>Participation</b>	Working Group 2 <b>Protection</b>	Working Group 3 <b>Prevention</b>	Working Group 4 <b>Partnerships</b>
Working Group 1 <b>Participation</b>	Working Group 2 <b>Protection</b>	Working Group 3 <b>Prevention</b>	Working Group 4 <b>Partnerships</b>		
13:00-14:30	Lunch				
14:30-16:00	<p><b>2.3. Consultations and drafting of the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security</b>            1) Presentation of the recommendations at the plenary            2) Open Space: Facilitated Editing Process</p>				
16:00-16:30	Coffee-break				
16:30-18:00	<p><b>Adoption of the Recommendations for Kosovo Roadmap to UNSCR2250</b>  <b>Youth4Youth Project Awards</b>  <b>Certificates of participation</b>  <b>Official closing</b></p>				
18:00-20:00	Cocktail reception & live music Mitrovica Rock School				

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ANNEX II



## Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security

### Preamble

We, young people of Kosovo, coming from diverse ethnic backgrounds and united by our aspiration to take Youth, Peace and Security agenda forward,

Here at the very first United Nations Youth Assembly in Kosovo that was organized on 28-29 June 2017 in Pristina,

*Recognizing* the fact that youth in Kosovo comprise 2/3 of the population,

*Recalling* and being inspired by the groundbreaking UN Security Council Resolution 2250,

*Acknowledging* the role of youth-led initiatives in long-lasting peace efforts,

Call upon the United Nations, international organizations and Kosovo institutions to undertake specific measures in the following areas,

And commit to be actively involved in joint efforts towards progressive achievement of these recommendations.

### A. Participation

1. To ensure youth-sensitive budgeting at the municipal and central levels.
2. To include youth representatives in the governmental meetings on the issues related to young people in Kosovo.
3. To strengthen youth decision-making structures in Kosovo, namely the Central Youth Action Council and the Local Youth Action Councils by increasing their transparency, ensuring municipal support and resolving the issue of the legal status in order to distinguish them from the NGOs.

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4. To ensure cooperation between the earlier established Youth Action Councils at the central and local levels, and the newly established Local Youth Action Councils in northern Kosovo in order to strengthen their capacity and youth inter-ethnic cooperation in Kosovo.
5. To ensure that young men and women from all communities are represented in the Local and Central Youth Action Councils in a balanced way.
6. To ensure that every municipality in Kosovo has an operational youth center, in accordance with the Kosovo Law on Empowerment and Participation of Youth (2009).
7. To ensure that every municipality in Kosovo, disregarding ethnic composition, has available and reasonable public transportation to/from Pristina, as a pre-condition for access to Higher Education facilities.
8. To strengthen and further develop youth empowerment programs that create enabling conditions for youth participation in civic, economic and political life with a strong focus on youth inter-ethnic cooperation.
9. To support youth entrepreneurship and start-ups through tax-cuts and micro-credits.
10. To enhance financial and institutional support to Kosovo-based youth-led initiatives, especially those advancing regional cooperation.
11. To strengthen and further develop programs that support youth involvement in the civil society and volunteering initiatives.
12. To ensure implementation of the Administrative Instruction on Voluntary Work of Youth in Kosovo in relation to recognition of volunteering experience towards work experience, inter alia, through informing private sector and educational institutions about this provision.
13. To ensure that young males and females, especially those coming from rural areas, enjoy equal opportunities to participate in social, economic and political processes.
14. To amplify positive narratives and promote successful cooperation between young people from different ethnic groups in Kosovo and in the Western Balkans as such, through in-person contacts and online platforms.
15. To strengthen regional youth cooperation in the Western Balkans through youth exchanges, peace camps and joint initiatives, inter alia through the newly established Regional Youth Cooperation Office.

## B. Prevention

16. To strengthen inclusion of young people in decision-making processes at local and municipal levels in order to better tailor policies against youth-based violence, and ensure gender-balanced inclusion of young women and men from different ethnicities in those processes.

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17. To recognize the work of informal youth groups in preventing violence against/between young people, and to support these initiatives by allocating spaces for their development in each municipality, for example, on the basis of the youth centers.
18. To enhance partnerships between youth informal groups, youth-led NGOs, student councils, Kosovo institutions, international actors and faith-based organizations in an effort to create early warning mechanisms in relation to prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism.
19. To organize field campaigns for and by youth, including but not limited to informal lectures in schools, training sessions on prevention of radicalization lead by police officers, community events in community centers/shared spaces, themed movie nights, etc.

Acknowledging that **education** plays invaluable role in prevention of violence against/ between youth, we call upon the Kosovo institutions and international organizations to undertake the following measures:

20. To address discrepancies between Kosovo and Serbian educational systems, and make steps towards shaping a comprehensive approach to the history of Kosovo and current processes.
21. To facilitate access to education materials in all Kosovo official languages.
22. To provide free of charge opportunities for young people to learn any of the official Kosovo languages in the places of their residence.
23. To foster cooperation between the University of “Hasan Pristina” and the University of Pristina located in North Mitrovica, and to provide incentives for students coming from non-majority communities to study in the Kosovo colleges and universities.
24. To further develop human rights education with strong focus on education on ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in Kosovo as an element in the school curricula, as well as through non-formal education.
25. To increase quality of secondary and higher education by investing in adjustment of teaching methods, modern learning materials and opportunities to invite foreign experts to teach on specific subjects. These experts, inter alia, can come from the UN and other international organizations located in Kosovo, in order to ensure that young people are properly informed about political, legal, economic and social developments in accordance with the European standards.
26. To improve evaluation methods in schools in accordance with the contemporary best practices and consider removing grading system for primary school, following the benchmark example of the Finnish Model.
27. To invest in strengthening critical thinking capacities among young people and their ability to withstand propaganda and fake news.

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28. To foster accountability of teachers by introducing a system that enables students to evaluate work and professionalism of educators.
29. To introduce a mechanism that can increase accountability and challenge corruption in the higher education.
30. To conduct a Kosovo-wide awareness raising campaign on the risks of bullying and cyberbullying and ways to respond to those threats, combined with non-formal educational activities that target young people, their parents, teachers and school psychologists.
31. Acknowledging that young people are “digital natives”, to educate children and youth about responsible behaviors online, as well as ways to avoid harmful online content and games.
32. To ensure that every educational institution in Kosovo has a psychologist, who is trained to provide an appropriate response to cases of violence against/between youth in languages relevant for a specific area.

Noting that **environment-related risks constitute a form of ecological violence**, which is highly relevant for Kosovo, we urge Kosovo institutions and international organizations to undertake the following measures:

33. To further increase infrastructure and frequency of the public transport to lessen the use of private vehicles and outdated illegal taxies, with a specific focus to commute between urban and rural areas.
34. To consider using sustainable energy resources, such as solar and wind energies, for example for street lights.
35. To promote scholarships and research in the field of renewable energies in Kosovo targeting young people.
36. To raise awareness about eco-responsible behaviors among young people and broader groups of population Kosovo-wide, with specific focus on prevention of water, air, soil pollution and recycling.
37. To provide incentives for organizations that work on waste recycling in Kosovo, for example by introducing tax-reduction.

### C. Protection

Considering peace and security in the broader context of **human security** and freedom from ethnic, religious, gender and other forms of discrimination, and equal access to social services for all young people in Kosovo, we call upon the Kosovo institutions and international organizations to undertake the following measures:

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38. To address the causes of gender inequality by empowering young women and girls and raising awareness about women property rights among broader groups of population Kosovo-wide.
39. To take specific measures to prevent child labor, and develop programs to address school drop-outs.
40. To raise awareness about sexual harassment and gender-based violence among young people, using innovative tools, such as “Ec Shlirë” (“Walk Freely”) mobile application.
41. To support integration of young people from marginalized groups through providing better incentives for their inclusion, and enabling peer-to-peer learning and empowerment through volunteering programs.
42. To develop inclusive environment for young people with special needs. In long-term perspective, this can be strengthened through sensitizing students of architecture, urban planning and public administration about the needs of young people with disability.
43. To strengthen mechanisms and structures that aim at **prevention and protection from youth-based violence** by the following measures:
  - a. Strengthening juvenile justice mechanisms in Kosovo and providing appropriate training to the police officers, prosecutors and social workers with specific focus on ethnically-divided areas;
  - b. Introduction of “violence against young people and children” as an aggravating circumstance in the Kosovo Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence;

#### D. Partnerships

Acknowledging that youth play a role as positive agents of change in long-lasting peace efforts in Kosovo, and noting our strong potential in shaping positive narrative of inter-ethnic cooperation through social media, we call upon the UN, international organizations and Kosovo institutions to undertake the following measures:

44. To ensure and support partnerships with young people in relation to development of policies and programs that affect young people at all levels both at Kosovo institutions and international organizations.
45. To consider an opportunity to include young professionals and students as contributors to reintegration and stabilization processes led by the international presences and Kosovo institutions (such as involvement of law students in reduction of backlog of court cases or engagement of students of linguistics into translation of the documents in accordance with Kosovo Law on the Use of Languages).
46. To create conditions and support youth cooperation with educational institutions, local NGOs, police and security forces, religious institutions, faith-based organizations and media in an effort to prevent radicalization in Kosovo.

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47. To provide opportunities for paid internships in the Kosovo institutions, media agencies and international organizations.
48. To provide incentives for involvement of young people in awareness campaigns on prevention of all forms of violence, including peer-to-peer violence and radicalization not only as receivers of information, but also as key actors in spreading the information among youth circles, inter alia on social media.
49. To provide necessary support for the establishment of the informal network of young people from diverse ethnic backgrounds Kosovo-wide, who will be actively involved in the follow-up activities on the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security through cooperation with the UN, international organizations and Kosovo institutions on the matters of implementation of recommendations and monitoring of the progress towards implementation of the recommendations.
50. To incorporate recommendations of the Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security in the upcoming Kosovo Youth Strategy and Action Plan.

29 June 2017

Pristina, Kosovo

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ANNEX III

SNAPSHOTS OF THE 1ST UN KOSOVO YOUTH ASSEMBLY





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ANNEX IV

**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS AND MATERIALS  
PRODUCED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ACTIVITY**

**Online publications**

- Future in their hands: young people seek change at the first UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo / Official website of the UN Mission in Kosovo (13.07.2017)  
<https://unmik.unmissions.org/future-their-hands-young-people-seek-change-first-un-youth-assembly-kosovo>
- First United Nations Kosovo Youth Assembly Held in Prishtina / Prishtina Insight (30.06.2017)  
<http://prishtinainsight.com/first-united-nations-kosovo-youth-assembly-held-prishtina/>
- Drawing the Roadmap for Peace / Official website of the UN Kosovo Team (03.07.2017)  
<http://unkt.org/en/drawing-roadmap-peace/>
- Pieces for Peacebuilding / Official website of the UNDP Kosovo (03.07.2017)  
<https://undpkosovo.exposure.co/pieces-for-peacebuilding>
- Building Peace: One Lego at a Time / Official website of the UN Kosovo Team (03.07.2017)  
<http://unkt.org/en/building-peace-one-lego-time/>

**Video materials**

- Official video of the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo produced by the UNMIK Office for Strategic Communication and Public Information  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgsB5GHpb-w>