



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

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.
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.

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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 for 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 temporarily 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.

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27. To invest in strengthening critical thinking capacities among young people and their ability to withstand propaganda and fake news.
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.

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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 for the Kosovo institutions and international organizations to undertake the following measures:

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:

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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.
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