

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

On Young People's Participation In Peacebuilding

Lead to programmes and strategies that ensure youth are engaged as partners and agents of change in peacebuilding for political stability and economic prosperity



Participation

- Prioritize young people's **participation** for peacebuilding.
- Promote that the majority of youth **strive for peace**; only a minority engages in violence.
- Link youth participation to all sectors (**social, economic, cultural and political**) and to all levels.



Diversity

- Value young people's **diversity** and **marginalized** voices.
- Develop targeted strategies to involve young people from **different backgrounds**.
- Respect the **experiences of all**, including those associated with conflict.



Gender

- Be sensitive to **gender dynamics**.
- Avoid **stereotypical assumptions** about the roles and aspirations of girls, boys, young women, men and transgender people.
- Identify strategies to seek **young women's engagement**.



Leadership

- Enable young people's **ownership, leadership, and accountability**.
- Find them, Learn from them, and Support them.
- Facilitate **mechanisms** for communication to enable young leaders to be accountable to their peers and communities.



Safety

- Always aim to **"Do No Harm"** and provide a **safe** environment for young people to participate.
- Ensure that facilitators are **trained** to handle difficult situations.
- Be cautious **not to incentivize violence**.
- Be sensitive to **inequalities**.



Involvement

- Involve young people **in all stages** of programming.
- Have decision makers, institutions and organizations **commit to accountability** to youth.
- Offer alternative sources of power to youth who have attained power **using violent means**.



Competence

- Enhance the **knowledge, attitudes, skills and competencies** of youth.
- Identify young people who can serve as **positive role models**.
- Develop **violence-prevention** strategies beyond security responses that nurture skills in **mediation and conflict resolution**.



Partnership

- Invest in **intergenerational partnerships** in young people's communities.
- Increase **dialogue and opportunities for cooperation** among children, young people, parents and elders, in order to resolve violence.



Policy

- Support policies that address the **full needs of young people**.
- Contribute to the establishment of **local, regional and national forums** that can enhance young people's participation in the development of public policies.