In Securing Our Common Future, young people are recognized as a tremendous force for change in the world, noting how they have “proved their power time and time again in support of the cause of disarmament”.

Young campaigners have worked at the forefront of successful international campaigns to ban landmines, cluster munitions and nuclear weapons. Every member of the staff of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons was under the age of 35 when it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. Recognizing the important role of young people as key agents of change, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) launched its youth outreach initiative, “#Youth4Disarmament” in 2019 to engage, educate and empower young people with the aim of facilitating their meaningful and inclusive participation in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

“A Tremendous Force for Change”

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Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

In 2015, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2250, the first ever thematic resolution on Youth, Peace & Security. The landmark resolution recognized the positive contribution of youth in efforts to maintain and promote peace and security. In 2018, the UN Security Council unanimously reaffirmed the important role that youth and youth-led civil society can play in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in resolution 2419. The important and positive contribution that young people can make in sustaining peace and security was reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly in 2019 through its unanimous support for a new resolution entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation”.

Inclusivity

90% of young people reside in developing countries

Over 60% of the world’s youth live in Asia and the Pacific. This translates into more than 750 million young women and men aged 15 to 24 years. Almost half of these youth are concentrated in South and South-West Asia. Engaging with these youth is central to pursuing a sustainable peace.

What can we do …

- Increase youth participation and create space for young people to make meaningful substantive contributions.
- Impart knowledge and skills to young people to empower them towards making their contributions, as national and world citizens.

5 PILLARS FOR ACTION

- Participation
- Partnerships
- Prevention
- Protection