



**Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**

A group of five young professionals, three men and two women, are standing in a row. They are all dressed in business attire. Each of them is making a peace sign with their right hand. The background is a plain, light color.

**1<sup>ST</sup> IGAD HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR  
on YOUTH in  
PEACE PROCESSES**

**Towards:** Sensitizing IGAD Member States to Set Up Mechanisms to Enable Young People to Participate Meaningfully in Peace Processes and Dispute Resolution as per UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018)



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## **SUMMARY REPORT**

# High Level Seminar

## **TOWARDS A YOUTHFUL AGENDA: YOUTH in PEACE PROCESSES**

**Sensitizing IGAD Member States to Set Up Mechanisms to Enable  
Young People to Participate Meaningfully in  
Peace Processes and Dispute Resolution  
as per UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018)**

**20-22 AUGUST 2019**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

## SUMMARY REPORT



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



## Acknowledgment

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Special Thanks to African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) for the continued collaboration

## Disclaimer

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This information is readily available on the website of the IGAD Mediation Support Unit <http://mediation.igad.int/>

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## ACRONYMS

ACCORD	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
R-ARCSS	Revitalized- Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan
AU	African Union
CSO	Civic Society Organizations
DDR	Disarmament Demobilize Reintegration
EU	European Union
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IPSS	Institute of Peace and Security Studies
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
MSU	Mediation Support Unit
NAP	National Action Plans
REC'S	Regional Economic Communities
PoM	Permanent Mission
PSC	Peace and Security Council
UNHOA	United Nations Horn of Africa
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council
YSE	Youth Special Envoy
YPS	Youth in Peace and Security
Y4P	Youth for Peace- Africa
WPS	Women in Peace and Security

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia witnessed the 1st IGAD High Level Seminar for Youth Participation in Peace Processes held from 20-22 August 2019. The seminar was graced by youth from IGAD member states, senior peace mediators, government representatives, ACCORD, African Union (mediation support unit), United Nations Office to the African Union, United Nations Mission to the Horn of Africa, Fem-Wise-Africa, Institute for Security Studies, Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Youth 4 Peace- Africa, and Young Women Mediators.

Over the two days, participants had robust discussions on how to sensitize IGAD member states on how to meaningfully include and engage youth, do gauge how the existing normative frameworks have been effected into National Action Plans (NAP's) and how to create synergies amongst youth in peace processes from all sectors. More so, it looked at the current peace processes taking place in the IGAD region and in Africa, focusing on how the young people can be engaged to impact positively to the outcomes. This platform conceptualized the meaning of youth and young people.

This report presents a summary of the agenda, key discussions and presentations. For more information and/or inquires please contact [ayan.nuriye@igad.int](mailto:ayan.nuriye@igad.int), [aleu.garang@igad.int](mailto:aleu.garang@igad.int) and [variemap@gmail.com](mailto:variemap@gmail.com).



## BACKGROUND

Africa has about 420 million young people aged 15 to 35 and this number is expected to increase to 830 million by 2050 and approximately 46% of Africa's labour force will be young people aged 15-35 by 2016. With these numbers, it is evident that about 65% of the total population of Africa is below the age of 35 years, and over 35% are between the ages of 15 and 35 years; making Africa the most youthful continent. By 2020, it is projected that out of 4 people, 3 will be on average 20 years old in Africa. These statistics clearly show the importance of youth inclusion in peace processes. According to the IGAD State of the Region Report (2016)<sup>1</sup> the demographic age structure in the IGAD region shows that 55% of the population are youth. These numbers underscore the importance of involving youth and their concerns and perspectives in peace processes.

## JUSTIFICATION

Given that 55% of the population of the IGAD region comprises of young people aged 15-35, there is a need for more deliberate and genuine inclusion and representation of youth in peace processes and dispute resolution. Moreover, it is mandatory for young people to take proactive initiatives to engage and participate in peace processes. They need to create an agency for themselves to be included and show that they have something valuable to offer and that they are in a position to strategically engage, in order to make themselves difficult to ignore.

The need for creating a safe space for young people to freely express their ideas is a tool for meaningfully engaging youth at national levels. There is a need to identify both institutional and physical mechanisms to coach, mentor and nurture young people to participate and deliver in peace processes. Furthermore, political will is crucial to the creation of spaces for youth participation.

Young people cannot participate meaningfully in peace processes if they do not have the capacity to meaningfully engage. The unifying

<sup>1</sup>

quality for youth participation is increased capacity in mediation, negotiation, diplomacy, peace-building and peace-making. Young people are known to voice their agenda with energy which is in most cases contrary to the modus operandi of government institutions. Therefore, it is vital to train the youth, and enhance their capacity and knowledge in diplomacy, mediation and peacebuilding in order to achieve durable and sustainable peace. Institutions should create enabling environments for the youth to participate in Track I diplomacy as well as in Track II, and III diplomacy. This will in turn increase the multiplier effects, and fill the gaps in the different levels of mediation.

Additionally, relevant institutions need to develop and enhance the skills of young people beyond the regular/normal education systems. To this end, the essence of research and digital skills is key. It is pivotal to create apparatus which support skills development and contextualised learning methods.

Young people need research and entrepreneurship skills as alternative means to building their capabilities across thematic areas and as a way of them setting the and dictating the narratives.

## KEY NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2419<sup>2</sup> addresses the need to maintain international peace and security and buttresses the role of youth in peace processes.

The United Nations Security Council adopted the Resolution 2250 at its 7573rd meeting on 9 December 2015.<sup>3</sup> In essence the resolution works as the framework that shapes youth participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration in several facets chief among them peace processes.

The African Youth Charter<sup>4</sup>, Article 11 speaks about Youth Participation

<sup>2</sup> UNSCR 2419/RES/SC, (2018), <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/2419>

<sup>3</sup> UNSCR 2250/RES/SC, (2015), <http://unoy.org/wp-content/uploads/SCR-2250.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> The African Youth Charter, (2006), [https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/african\\_youth\\_charter\\_2006.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/african_youth_charter_2006.pdf).

and states that, “every young person shall have the right to participate in all spheres of society.” This alone give the youth the mandate to ask for space and engagement in peace processes. The African Union Agenda 2063<sup>5</sup> reflects on the “Africa We Want”.

## OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the meeting is to Sensitize Member States to Set Up Mechanisms to Enable Young People to Participate Meaningfully in Peace Processes and Dispute Resolution as per UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018)

The specific objectives:

- Sensitize the IGAD member states on participation and inclusion of youth in peace processes,
- Raise awareness and establish consensus on normative frameworks on engaging youth in peace and security and their implications for mediation,
- To strengthen capacities of IGAD member states in understanding the roles of youth in peace processes and particularly in mediation and negotiations of comprehensive agreements,
- To create synergies amongst national institutions, youth groups, CSO's and youth in social and political processes,
- To create awareness and sensitization around the UNSCR 2250 and 2419, as well as the adoption and localization of these resolutions,
- To share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in youth participation.

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<sup>5</sup> The African Union Agenda 2063, <https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/agenda2063-first10yearimplementation.pdf>.

## SUMMARY OF PANELS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Day 1: 20th August 2019

#### Opening Ceremony

The opening was marked by a plethora of exciting activities chief among them was the way in which participants introduced themselves. To kick start the day, the opening and welcoming remarks were done:

**Dr. Garang the IGAD Mediation Support Unit (MSU) Director,** The IGAD (MSU) is elated that the young people, focal point persons and government representatives honoured the invitation. The main purpose of the seminar is to create this platform where youth representatives from the Member States get to network, engage and share lived experiences in peace processes. IGAD (MSU) has in the past been engaging and building capacities in the youth through attachments, research fellows and internships. In particular the Unit has worked with more young women and intends to work with the young men in the same vein.

The MSU is working hand in glove with other departments such as Social Affairs and our intention is to follow up this meeting with a Youth Forum. At this Forum, the youth shall take up the idea of enacting a Youth Special Envoy. The idea has already been adopted by the Committee of Ambassadors and a green light to this effect has been activated. This seminar is the genesis of all discussions surrounding the enactment of the Youth Special Envoy office. All our efforts shall be supported through technical expertise by our partner ACCORD.

**Ms. Samah Osman, ACCORD Youth Desk,** thanked the youth and young people who honouring the invite. Highlighting UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015), she lamented on how youth contribution in peace processes continue to be overlooked. She shared how youth activities at grassroots all the way to national and continental are either lacking in funding or inadequately funded. However, some young people are taking great strides in actualizing resolution 2250 and 2419 in active engagements that foster tolerance, trust and peace amongst the

youth. Slowly but surely the youth are participating in a bid to bring about sustainable peace in their societies and subsequently in their nations.



**Dr. Rukhs Temitope Ako, African Union Youth Desk,** shared his sentiments on how important this seminar was and how the conversation for youth meaningful participation in peace processes had to be deliberated with urgency. Thankful that IGAD (MSU) is leading the pack of the AU (RECs) in this endeavour. At the AU level, the first meeting dubbed the Youth For Peace (Y4P-Africa) event was held in Nigeria in a bid to ensure that youth voices are heard in conflict prevention and mediation processes. Y4P mandates is to carry out consultations and research, enact the representation of five (5) Youth Ambassadors for peace, one from each region and complete the youth peace and security framework. So far, the youth are doing fantastic work in this regard and as we live a world of information technology, I urge all participants to look up what other young people are doing out there. I therefore take this platform to challenge the youth to know the organizations so that synergies are created. In terms of formalizing all youth activities in peace initiatives, the AU Youth desk had a fruitful meeting with the AU (PSC), and once the organ makes a decision it will give the nod to influence regional policies. Concluded by encouraging IGAD and AU to intensify and synergize their efforts in this regard.

**Panel Session 1: Sensitize the IGAD Member State on participation and Inclusion of youth in peace processes, as well as understanding the role that youth play.**

The first panel was introduced and moderated by **Dr. Kebede Kassa, IGAD Social Affairs Department**, who shared a power point presentation on what the social development department does. He noted the gaps that currently exist between the department and MSU. He alluded to the fact that the department seeks to address the root causes of conflict by assisting in capacity building and training in entrepreneurial skills. He tackled the question of how to engage the youth and highlighted the importance of prioritizing employment, training and skills development and economic empowerment.



**Prof. Charles Ukeje, Y4P Consultant**, noted that peace and security threats affect the youth based on living and lived experiences. Although there are common denominators, the variants are central to understanding youth, the meaning, the context and hence youth are not monolithic. It is therefore of paramount importance to engage a wide constituency of youth and for some instance engage them in their comfort zones while in most cases it has proven wise to take them out of the environments so that they can engage meaningfully. However the approaches are done, youth issues must come from bottom-up approaches in order to realize the best results for conflict prevention.

The youth in Africa as a whole and IGAD in particular do not have a specific age range. It is because of this age differences that the question of WHY? We must engage the youth becomes of paramount importance. In Africa, the notion of youth is often not about age but always about responsibility. When is the right time to engage the youth? This question is often answered as obviously at the very beginning. But we do not see this happening on the ground in our various countries. This is due to another question of asked which is: Who should pave way for the youth? In my view, the youth must exercise agency and always have something to offer such that they can not leave you out of the discourse.



*“The Fear of Youth is the Beginning of Wisdom”*

**Ms. Samah Osman, ACCORD Youth Desk**, started by interrogating the discrepancies in the youth age group from within IGAD member states. She questioned how it would be possible help the youth if we can not tentatively say who they are? She highlighted and hammered on the importance of narratives. Who initiates the discourse on youth? Who narrates the youth as victims and perpetrators? Often at times it is never the youth themselves who initiate dialogue or who write the narratives. She further went on to speak about the importance of quotas as an entry point to representation. Asking these questions is important for purposes of getting a meaningful conversation started. She concluded that youth issues are often not taken seriously in Africa unless it is election time.

**Ms. Acquillyne Mbinya Mbaka, Deputy Director Youth Development: Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs**, started the discussion on the the relationship between the youths and the government. She highlighted the importance for the youth to work hand in glove with the governments. Youth have become such a big issue as they not only constitute the biggest chunk of the population, but are also key in achieving government goals for sustainable peace. It is a great asset and advantage that the youth have but this needs to be carefully addressed so that the issue of generational gap is handled amicably.

In the Q&A, the panelists were asked to unpack and give clarity on the conceptual difference between the youth and the young? The best practice on how to bridge the generational gap? How to ready the youth in mediation when they currently know nothing about mediation? How to have the “real affected youth” represented in the peace processes? The last question was on how to include the youth **“who are not funky and sexy”** for these meetings but crucial for peace processes.

In his response, **Prof Charles Ukeje** stated that top/down approaches that will rope in pockets of young people will be the best way to involve the youth. He noted how imperative it was to include the grassroots youth and not leave them out of the spaces created for youth. The

question of mistrust amongst the youth in CSO's or in government can best be addressed by increased interactions that strengthen relations. **Ms. Samah Osman** noted in her response that, it is imperative to have qualitative research of youth in conflict and non-conflict settings. She further noted that we the youth can not effectively push for peace if we ourselves are not at peace with ourselves. She highlighted the importance of an IGAD youth development index that speaks to highlighting, addressing and show casing youth led ideas in peace processes.

**Ms. Acquillyne Mbaka**, responded by urging the youth to a have youth representative who will be the focal person to engage leaders in government and also encouraged the youth to consider strongly the MSU proposal to enact the Youth Special Envoy (YSE). She further stated the importance of that youth being within the stated AU bracket. She further suggested that the YSE can be support a forum that has a concrete structure in place.



***Panel Session 2:* Awareness and consensus on normative frameworks on engaging youth in peace and security and their implications for mediation.**

The second plenary focused on the existing International, Continental and National frameworks. The participants discussed at length these frameworks and many noted that they were not popular in their countries and that information dissemination had to be intensified as is done for other frameworks like UNSCR 1325 on WPS.



**Ms. Varaidzo Mupunga**, MSU Intern and Fellow of the African Leadership Centre moderated the session. She introduced the panelists and to kickstart the session, she asked the participants if they knew of any frameworks that currently guide youth participation in peace processes. She alluded to the UNSCR 2419 (2018) and UNSCR 2250 (2015), she listed the five pillars as stated in the resolution as Participation, Prevention, Protection, Partnership - Coordination and Disengagement – Rehabilitation.

**Mr. Victor Ochen, Y4P Consultant**, shared his passionate story in which he chose the side of peace and not war. His story was a personal encounter of how he made a conscious decision to participate positively in conflict prevention.

How often do these frameworks transcend from the central to the periphery and be devolved? Challenged the youth to focus more on the grassroots activities and be known as torch barriers of conflict prevention. He stated that youth had the ideas, capacities and zeal to nip conflict in the bud and the voice to say NO! To conflict.

**Mr Kyateka Franic Mondo**, started by unpacking the 5 pillars in **UNSCR 2250**, he zeroed in partnership and coordination in youth

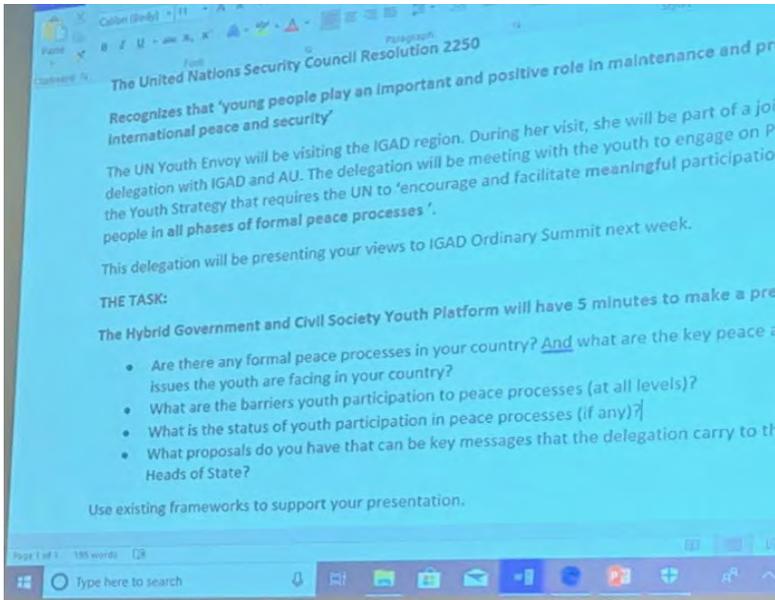
led mediation. Encouraging the youth to know formal and informal institutions that work in this area and create synergies. Alluded to the fact that what is most important in mediation is dialogue, and encouraged youth to constantly dialogue as this helps in conflict management after the conflict has emerged. Dialogue for conflict prevention as this helps identify the triggers and more dialogue for conflict resolution and transformation. He mentioned that so many frameworks exist, including the **AU Agenda 2063, UN Conventions on the rights of children**. He lamented how the youth did not know much about these frameworks. He suggested the translation into local languages of these frameworks in order for the youth to read for themselves. He ended by encouraging the youth to profile and map the conflict for purposes of effective mediation. To be tactful in their engagements with government and international organizations.

**Ms. Mukondeleli Mpeiwa, FemWiseAfrica Director**, noted that the region leads in the number of child soldiers, the youth are recruited in violent extremists groups. How can we use the existing frameworks to assist in mitigating this? With her vast experience at FemWise-AFRICA, she lamented that very few young women have been involved in conflict prevention and mediation training. She further went on to note that when the youth are roped in, they are at the periphery and often at times as time keepers. It is imperative to have the right skills so that when the time comes the youth are found ready and not wanting. FemWise-AFRICA is what it is today as a result of creating a network of like minded people who will be a bigger voice to ask for space. She concluded by encouraging IGAD, to work hand in glove with FemWise-AFRICA in a bid to capacitate more young people and to continue with more capacity building workshops.

**Ms. Pauline Adeno, United Nations Office to the African Union**, asked participants to group in their respective countries and take part in **THE TASK:**

*In country groups, delegates must answer the questions that shape what they want representative of IGAD, AU and UN to tell their heads of State. The presentation was strictly timed to 5 minutes as an indication of how busy the Heads of States can be. Hence the essence was to capture and deliver the important message.*

**The task witnessed the participants focusing more on challenges rather than proposals.**



## THE QUESTIONS:

- Are there any formal peace processes in your country?
- What are the barriers to youth participation in peace processes?
- What is the current status of youth participation?
- What proposals do you have that can be even a key message to the Head of State, which the delegation from IGAD, AU, UN can take with?

## COUNTRY REPORT BACKS



### SOMALIA

The representative from Somalia **Mr. Abdirashid Abdullahi Huriye**, reported that:

There are current peace processes in Somalia, but very few youth are engaged and sometimes not involved at all. The barriers range from mistrust to outwitting each other amongst the youth groups. Youth are currently interested in participating in economic issues and the message to the Head of State is that it is of paramount importance to create jobs and train youth in entrepreneurial skills in a bid to rid unemployment. The youth in Somalia do not trust each other to work together and they also do not trust government as wanting to include them in decision making. Hence the trust needs to be built.



### **SOUTH SUDAN**

The representative **Ms Irene Eward**, reported that:

There is a peace processes in South Sudan led by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (JMEC). There is a youth desk in JMEC, but the desk does not involve all the youth hence there is a lot of mistrust amongst the people which has brought about tensions. The barriers are noted as lack of political will amongst the leadership to honestly involve the youth. There is favouritism in selecting the youth who can represent and that very few are often picked. Proposed to involve the youth in the conflict zone more and to strengthen their skills in conflict resolution and mediation. Encouraged youth rallies as a way of capturing a wider audience.



### **KENYA**

The representative **Mr. Mohamed Skanda**, reported that:

They are several legal frameworks stemming from the Youth Council, Youth Policy that involve and engage the youth formally in peace processes. The barriers were noted as that there was a concentration on political peace processes and less on socio-economic peace processes. Hence the levels in domestic violence have increased and unemployment rate has also increased leaving the youth vulnerable and prone to conflict. Youth participate from various levels at church, in societies and at government levels. Challenges ranged from social injustice, border issues, terrorism, drug and substance abuse. There is inadequate training of the youth and ignorance amongst the youth.

Proposed youth dialogues as a form of engagement and equip the youth with more resources.



## **DJIBOUTI**

The representative **Mr. Mahamoda Saleh Mahamoda**, reported that: Reported that the youth were involved in peace processes at a National Dialogue in which the youth presented their issues to the Head of State (HoS). Outside the dialogue there are no formal institutions that involve the youth. The key message to the HoS is that there is a challenge of unemployment and proposed the government to teach young people entrepreneurial skills. The youth also need practical training in conflict prevention and mediation skills.



## **SUDAN**

The representative **Ms. Rayan Mhmoud Eldi**, reported that: the youth played a key role in the revolution that saw the ouster of President Bashir, but were not being involved or engaged in formal peace processes. Stated that the youth also want to be included in the peace commission and other commission by being given a quota. The current status of youth participation is that they take the lead in taking to the street but not on the table when negotiations take place. The proposal to the HoS is to include the youth as nominees to commissions and government institutions.



## **UGANDA**

The representative **Mr. Julius Kateregga**, reported that the youth are involved formally through the Youth Council and government institutions. However, he indicated that all is done on a partisan lines and the youth are hand picked and do not represent the youth at grassroots or the students. Hence the barrier is lack of trust amongst the youth. Proposed that there be inclusivity in involving and engaging the youth in peace processes.



## **ETHIOPIA**

The representative **Mr. Abiy Hailemeleket** from Ethiopia reported

that: Peace issues are taken seriously in the country as noted by the mandating an entire Ministry for Peace. Proposed that the HoS should engage and involve the youth in practical negotiation processes. Reported that there is need to include peace education in the education curriculum so that the Ministry of Peace and that of Education can sync the curriculum in a way that peace is taught in schools.



**Ms. Pauline Adeno, concluded the task by pointing out how the youth lacked the ability to:**

- Keep time and present key issues within the set time limit.
- To offer solutions, many stuck to the challenges and spent a lot of time on them.
- To respond convincingly to the feedback questions they received from the IGAD,AU and UN representatives.



**DAY 2: 21st AUGUST 2019**

The day opened with a recap from previous day and participants asked to recap one thing that stood out the most for them.

**Professor Apuuli, IGAD Roster Member**, facilitated Session 3: Strengthening capacities of IGAD member states in understanding the roles of youth in peace processes and particularly in mediation and negotiations of comprehensive agreements.

He noted that the region is characterised as the most conflicted region in Africa and that CEWARN identified IGAD as having 60 conflict issue. He alluded to how difficult it was to get the youth involved despite them being central in all these conflicts. He noted that in 2008-2009, in Somalia, the youth and the women were not part of the peace process. The clans in Somalia would not bring these groups to the table and the

women created their own table by being the 6th clan in the discourse. He noted how it was sad that Africa could not harness the youth bulge and take advantage of the fact that it has more young people.

He concluded by noting how IGAD region is in transition and how the youth must transition with the region.

***In a break out session, participants were tasked to discuss on the following questions:***

- 1. What is the role of the youth?*
- 2. What are the challenges faced by the youth?*
- 3. How can they be involved?*
- 4. What are the best practices when they do get involved?*

***Session 4 involved group presentations and a plenary discussion.***

### ***Summary of Group Presentations***

#### ***Role of the youth:***

- Tools of war*
- Tools of peace*

#### ***Challenges of youth:***

*Lack of Education*  
*Lack of Information*  
*Mistrust*

#### ***Best Practices:***

- Centralizing the role of youth*
- Leadership programmes*
- Trust*
- Mutuality*
- Counter Narratives*
- Inclusion*
- Sports*

#### ***How can the Youth be Involved?:***

*Shadowing mentors*  
*National Youth Service*



**SESSION 5: *Creating synergies amongst national institutions, youth groups, CSO's and youth in social and political processes.***

The session was moderated by **Mr. Rayan Mamoud Eldei- IGAD Focal Person for the Republic of Sudan** and **Ms. Apuk Ayuel – IGAD Focal Person for the Republic of South Sudan**. The session focused on the ways in which member states can work towards creating stronger synergy and cohesion amongst the various sectors, nationally and amongst states to foster youth inclusivity in peace processes. The session will further address the intergenerational gaps that exist and ways in which this can be strengthened.

**Mr Eldei**, noted that it was important for the state to work with CSO's in order to fully deliver on expected outcomes especially in social development issues. In the same vein, the national institutions are

always open to working with youth groups and as such synergies must be created and relations strengthened. Efforts of constant engagement enable trust between national institutions and government. He concluded by stating that the national institutions, CSO's, youth groups if they work in harmony can push and pull in the right direction for all forms of empowerment.

**Prof. Charles Ukeje - Y4P Consultant**, noted that some states have seen the importance of CSO's to the extent that they creating their own. However, often at times these are brief case CSO's. It is important to consult and involve CSO's throughout the entire process and not to have them validate or rubber stamp important peace processes. He stated that civic groups are in competition with each other and this hindered their participation as they often are preoccupied with elbowing each other out. He also reiterated the importance of youth groups engaging amongst themselves. He concluded by stating that peace processes are collective efforts and usually take time and efforts.

**Mr Madut Bakathian Bak - Lawyer, Republic of South Sudan**, shared that in South Sudan, youth are usually involved in peace processes but never in the actual deliberations. Their involvement is usually as secretariat. The R-ARCSS has created a youth desk and it coordinates activities with various youth groups. He noted that it was important for youth to know the role they want to play in these peace processes and not just as activists. In South Sudan, synergies are witnessed between government institutions, DDR Commission, Peace and Reconciliation Commission and the Institute for Peace together with Youth Unions always work hand in glove in South Sudan.

**Mr. Julius Kateregga - Makerere University, Uganda - Student Leader**, stated that synergies need to be created from the family level. The youth are ready to occupy sensitive positions from household levels as some are now having their families or some are the bread winners. He alluded to how it is important to also consider the private sector in the discourse of creating synergies. In Uganda, there are Peace Centres that host dialogue sessions in which topical issues are

discussed freely without fear or favour. Such dialogue spaces are were the youth voice inputs into peace processes as those in authority are often invited. The centres for dialogue even look at issues and topics in IGAD, Africa and the world over. He suggested that IGAD take lead in creating platforms for youth to youth dialogue, where the youth can share ideas and lived experiences.

**Ms. Apuk Ayuel, IGAD Focal Person for the Republic of South Sudan**, spoke about responsive governance being about engagement and that this will entail peace processes not being instituted outside the country. In order to eliminate suspicion amongst each other she stated that synergies require constant engagement and compromises. She encouraged the youth to consider going for the “low hanging fruits”, for peace processes. She concluded by stating the importance of aligning objectives and having the same energies and for youth groups, national institutions and CSO’s not to antagonize each other.

**SESSION 5: *Plenary Discussions, listed the hinderances towards creating synergies as:***

- Lack of a defined agenda and vision amongst the different groups.
- Fear of losing independence.
- Politics of funding.
- Engagement frameworks are often not clear.
- Lack of accountability by both CSO’s to the people who they represent.



The plenary also listed the positives of synergies as:

- Having groomed future leaders in youth councils.
- Constant negotiation of space
- There are umbrella institutions that coordinate these synergies.

### **SESSION 6: *Share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in youth participation***

The session was moderated by **Mr. Hassan Sheikh Abdi Abubakar-Director of Planning , Ministry of Youth and Sports, Federal Republic of Somalia**, who kicked off by stating that as youth, platforms like the one created by IGAD, are not for us to whine and lament but to share ideas and lived experiences. He alluded to the challenges that hinder youth participation and singled out lack of information and exclusion. He suggested some of the solutions as creating formalized employment channels for youth and have formal and informal education that will enhance capacities amongst the youth.



**Mr. Victor Ochen, Youth for Peace, Lead Consultant**, encouraged the youth to think about their legacies and start cresting them now. He stated that the youth must have values that they uphold. He tracked back the formation of the AU and IGAD and the founding values that cement the institutions. As such he encouraged the youth to uphold conflict prevention as a value. He encouraged the youth to use platforms like these not to whine but instead share ideas and cement relations. He concluded by reiterating that the domestic level is where the chain of violence needs to be broken and that conflict prevention measures were necessary at this stage. Hence he emphasized the need for conflict prevention mechanisms to take lead.

**Ms. Irene Edward - Young Women in Mediation**, shared on how young women are active in peace processes in South Sudan. She spoke about the Young Women Mediators and their efforts in peace processes in South Sudan. The best practices included but not limited to having the necessary skills and training in mediation processes before engaging government institutions and other CSO's. She mentioned the need for youth to create an agency in themselves which makes them indispensable, dependable and reliable. The South Sudan lesson teaches that when the youth are called to the table they must know the issues, the content and the context and hence there was need for the youth to be in constant touch with not just the realities on the ground but with the national, regional, continental and global frameworks.



**Mr. Mohamoda Salah Mohamoda - Member State Speaker - Djibouti**, the 17 year old, scholar started by sharing a quote from Nelson Mandela “the most efficient empowerment is education”. He shared the experience of the 1991 conflict which he stated he had read about to have ended in 1994. Current conflicts in Djibouti are however between neighbourhoods and it is as a result of ethnic tensions. In 2018, Djibouti youths had a high level conference and the youth spoke at length about their challenges and they shared solutions of how to overcome. He concluded by urging the youth to take the route of entrepreneurship and skills development in order for them to economically empower themselves.

**SESSION 6 : PLENARY DISCUSSIONS**

**Mr. Stephen Asek, African Union, Mediation Support Unit (AUMSU)**, spoke about collaborative non confrontation technique which he suggested that the youth must use to engage government actors. He noted that it was important to identify and know government interests so as to merge and work hand in glove with government



efforts. He noted that the technique can work well with gatekeepers and bureaucrats in government. This technique also includes how to package messages for purposes of engagement.

He concluded by encouraging the youth to be active in politics, stating that politics is ubiquitous and often at times it is easier to change things from within.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. AU, IGAD and Member States** need to start looking into development of a Youth Development Index (define youth, for the main purpose of harmonizing regional policies)
- 2. Meaningful Linkages between African Union and IGAD on YPS Agenda**
- 3. Capacity Building and Training for Youth/Young People**
  - » Increasing the capacity on young people/youth in conflict Prevention, Resolution and Management
  - » Conduct A Capacity Gap Analysis
  - » More efforts need to be made to build the capacity of youth/young people by having Capacity Building Training on Mediation, negotiations and Conflict Prevention.
- 4. Increased Participation and Inclusion**
  - » Participants called for more engagement with IGAD, i.e., linking them to mediation networks
  - » Advocate for Inter-country exchange Programmes to act as mechanisms for promoting experience sharing as well as strengthening National Apparatus which support inclusion and participation of Youth/Young people in Peace and Security issues.
- 5. Policy Interventions**
  - » Creating awareness – through teaching history. Therefore, there is need to Advocate for Integrating and introducing mediation

and negotiation into the curriculum, with the aim of promoting a culture of peace)

- » Creation of National Youth Taskforce
- » Creation of an IGAD Youth Forum (HESAD)
- » Creation of Youth Liaison Offices within the Ministries of Youth in member States (HESAD)
- » Engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Inclusion of Youth/Young People in Mediation and Peace Processes
- » Advocate for alternative education systems, vis-a-vis curriculum review, both physical and virtual such as coaching, mentorship, direct engagement, among others, (by Member States, IGAD, AU and INGOs).

**6. Facilitate Skills Development** in areas of mediation, communication, diplomacy, conflict prevention, among other areas

**7. Promote Bottom-Up Mediation Approaches.** (i.e. recognize the efforts of youth/young people in conflict prevention and mediation at the community and national level) – i.e. Identify, establish, recognize skills of young people and youth; then amplify, and enhance the efforts and interventions of youth and young people in Track I, II and III diplomacy. Etc.

**8. Encourage dialogue** and create spaces for dialogue between Government Apparatus and Youth/Young people to bridge the inter-generational gap.

**9. Documentation and Research**

- » Qualitative Research on Youth in Peace and Conflict Settings, including(Counter narratives that amplify the efforts and interventions of Youth in Peace and Security- YPS)
- » Research on trends in terms of tools that can be used to create spaces for youth/young people participation

## WAY FORWARD

- Follow up on the recommendation by the IGAD Committee of Ambassadors Resolution May 2019, to appoint a Youth Envoy to Peace Processes.
- Conflict Prevention and Mediation Training/Capacity Building Training for Young People (15-25 years)
- Creation of National and Regional Youth Forums.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS



The seminar concluded with final remarks from **Ms. Samah Osman**, ACCORD, who thanked the delegates for entrusting the team from IGAD and ACCORD with their personal stories. She stated that the youth must have at least 3 take homes which are:

- \* Know your institutions, systems and existing frameworks in order to be able to navigate the labyrinth,
- \* Arm yourself with knowledge and skills,
- \* Let us write and document our own narratives.

She further encouraged the youth to guard their CSO's, but also create meaningful synergies with other youth groups. These platforms must be used for networking and give each other tasks to tackle youth exclusion.

**Dr. Aleu Garang**, officially closed the seminar by thanking the focal points for putting together the young vibrant youths to share ideas and lived experiences in mediation peace processes. He thanked the AU/MSU, FemWise-Africa, IPSS, ISS and the UN office to the Horn of Africa for supporting the seminar with expertise. Thanked ACCORD, for putting together a great team of experts, their shared time and timely resources. Thanked the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the European Union (EU) for being instrumental in assisting IGAD to be visible. Lastly, he thanked the participants for an engaging, robust and fruitful seminar in which key recommendations have been brought forward and the MSU looks forward to implementing in the very near future.

## **AFTER SESSION INTERACTIONS AND NETWORKING**





## ANNEX:1- SEMINAR AGENDA

### High Level Seminar

#### **TOWARDS A YOUTHFUL AGENDA: YOUTH in PARTICIPATORY PEACE PROCESSES**

Sensitize IGAD Member States to Set Up Mechanisms to Enable Young People to Participate Meaningfully in Peace Processes and Dispute Resolution as per UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018)

**20 -22 August Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

### AGENDA

#### DAY 1: 20 August 2019

##### **09:00–10:00 Registration and Opening Session**

- **Opening Remarks** – IGAD - Dr. Aleu Garang, Director of Mediation Support Unit
- **Remarks** – Ms. Samah Osman -ACCORD
- **Remarks** – African Union: Dr. Rukhs Temitope Ako
- **Presentation on IGAD's Programs on Youth, Education, Labor Migration and Skills Development** by Dr. Kebede Kassa Tsegaye.

## **10:00– 10:30 Tea/Coffee Break and Group Photo**

**10:30 – 13:00 Session 1:** Sensitize the IGAD member states on participation and inclusion of youth in peace processes, as well as understanding the role that youth play.

The session will look broadly on youth in peace processes but more specifically on gaining a better understanding on what its mean to have participatory inclusion of youth in peace processes. The session will also reflect on what are the expectations of having youth involvement.

**Moderator:** **Dr. Kebede Tsegaye**

**Speakers:** **(15 minutes per speaker + 45 minutes Plenary Discussion)**

- **Prof. Charles Ukeje - Y4P Consultant**
- **Ms. Acquillyne Mbinyamba - Deputy Director Youth Development: Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs.**
- **Ms. Samah Osman - ACCORD**

## **13:00 – 14:00 Lunch**

**14:00- 16:00 Session 2: Awareness and consensus on normative frameworks on engaging youth in peace and security and their implications for mediation**

The session will firstly discuss on the existing frameworks at the international and continental levels on youth, peace and security. The key questions that will be addressed are on how well aware are member states of these frameworks; and are they being implemented. The discussions will reflect on how well this has worked and further what could be strengthened for these frameworks to be better implemented at the regional and national levels. The discussions will further reflect on what are the implications of these frameworks for mediation.

**Moderator:** **Mediation Support Unit Visiting Fellow (Intern) –**

**Ms Varaidzo Mupunga – African Leadership Centre**

**Speakers: (20 minutes per speaker + 45 minutes Plenary Discussion)**

- **Mr. Victor Ochen - Y4P Consultant**
- **Mr. Kyateka Francis Mondo - Ministry of Gender, Republic of Uganda**
- **Ms. Mukondeleli Mpeiwa – FemWise-AFRICA, Director**
- **Ms Pauline Adeno – United Nations Office to the African Union**

**16:00 – 16:30 Tea/Coffee Break**

## **DAY 2: 21 August 2019**

**09:00 – 10:30 Session 3: Strengthening capacities of IGAD member states in understanding the roles of youth in peace processes and particularly in mediation and negotiations of comprehensive agreements**

Session 3 will be a working session in which representatives will identify the mechanisms that exist within their states and how this has promoted inclusivity of youth. The working session will look at the challenges of these mechanisms and ways in which this can be strengthened.

**Facilitator: Prof Philip Apuuli** - Associate Professor, Department of Political Science & Public Administration. Makerere University

**10:30 – 11:00: Tea/Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 13:00 Session 4: Presentation and Plenary Discussion**

Representatives will have an opportunity to present on their findings and which will be followed by a plenary discussion. The discussions will assist to ascertain how well mechanism have been developed and

what other member states can learn.

**Facilitator: Prof. Philip Apuuli** - Associate Professor, Department of Political Science & Public Administration. Makerere University

### 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

#### **14:00 – 16:00 Session 5: Creating synergies amongst national institutions, youth groups, CSO's and youth in social and political processes**

The session will discuss on the ways in which member states can work towards creating stronger synergy and cohesion amongst the various sectors, nationally and amongst states to foster youth inclusivity in peace processes. The session will further address the intergenerational gaps that exist and ways in which this can be strengthened.

**Moderator: Mr Rayan Mamoud Eldei- IGAD Focal Person for the Republic of Sudan and Ms Apuk Ayuel – IGAD Focal Person for the Republic of South Sudan.**

**Speakers: (20 minutes per speaker + 60 minutes Plenary Discussion)**

- **Mr. Julius Kateregga – Makerere University – Student Leader**
- **Prof Charles Ukeje - Y4P Consultant**
- **Mr. Madut Bakathian Bak - Lawyer, Republic of South Sudan**

### 16:00 – 16:30 Tea/Coffee Break

## DAY 3: 22 August 2019

#### **09:00 – 10:30 Session 6: Share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in youth participation**

Given that the IGAD region has experienced volatility in its recent years, the session will focus on the role of the youth in the peace processes that have followed. Whether antagonists or protagonists

to the conflict, it would be important to understand the role, if any, and whether directly or indirectly, they have been included in these processes. This will include youth inclusivity in peace processes in situations such as South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea/Ethiopia, Somalia, among others.

**Moderator:** **Mr. Hassan Sheikh Abdi Abubakar- Director of Planning , Ministry of Youth and Sports, Federal Republic of Somalia**

**Speakers:** **(10 minutes per speaker + 45 minutes Plenary Discussion)**

- **Mr. Victor Ochen, Youth for Peace, Lead Consultant**
- **Mr. Mohamoda Salah Mohamoda- Member State Speaker- Djibouti**
- **Ms. Irene Edward – Young Women in Mediation**

**10:30 – 11:00 Tea/Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 12:30 Session 7: Way Forward and Recommendations**

The session will highlight some of the recommendations that have emanated from the discussions that will assist IGAD to identify efforts to promote youth inclusivity in peace processes in the IGAD region.

**Facilitator:** **Dr Aleu Garang**

**12:30 – 13: 00: Session 8: Closing Session**

- **Remarks - IGAD**
- **Remarks – Representative of the Chair of IGAD**
- **Remarks – Representative ACCORD**

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch and Departure**

## ANNEX: 2 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	NAME	DESIGNATION	GENDER
<b>KENYA</b>			
1.	ACQUILLYNE MBINYA MBAKA	DEPUTY DIRECTOR, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS.	F
2.	CAROLINE ATIENO AKELLO	CHIEF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS.	F
3.	TERRY MAPENZI	REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUTH GROUPS (TAHIDI AFRICA YOUTH INITIATIVE)	F
4.	MOHAMED SKANDA	STUDENT LEADER UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI.	M
5.	BENJAMIN R. S. MWAMBIRE	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	M
<b>SOMALIA</b>			
6	MR. HASSAN SHEIKH ABDI ABUBAKAR	DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS	M
7	MR. ABDIRASHID ABDULLAHI HURIYE	YOUTH AFFAIRS DESK, MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS	M
8	MS. MUNA MOHAMED AWALE	REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUTH LEADERS	F
9	MS. LUUL SALAD IBRAHIM	REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUTH GROUPS (CHAIR PERSON, NATIONAL INTEREST YOUTH ORGANIZATION- NIYO).	F
10	ABDULLAHI MOHAMED WARSAME	DIPLOMAT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.	M
<b>DJIBOUTI</b>			
11	MOUSSA ALI MOHAMED	MFA	M
12	MOHAMED AHMED SALEM	CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE DU MINISTRE DE LAN JEUNESSE ET SPORT	M
13	MAHAMODA SALEH MAHAMODA	LIGUE DE JEUNE	M
14	ROUKIYA HASSAN	DIRECTRICE DU CENTRE DU DEVELOPEMENT COMMUNAUTAIRE	F
15	MOUSSA ALI MOHAMED	MFA	M

<b>SOUTH SUDAN</b>			
16	APUK A A MAYEN	MFA	F
17	MOSES MAGOK	YOUTH IN MEDIATION	M
18	BAK ATHIAN BAK	LAWYER	M
19	PINYJWOK AKOL AJAWIN	MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFARS	M
20	DANIEL ABOCHA	MINISTRY OF YOUTH	M
<b>SUDAN</b>			
21	MOHAMED ELDEI ALI	MFA	M
22	RAYAN MHMOUD ELDI	YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE	F
23	SABA EL LAZIM ELBASHA	YOUNG WOMEN MEDIATORS	F
24	NAMARIG MUSA KOWA	YOUNG WOMEN MEDIATORS	F
<b>UGANDA</b>			
25	DR. EDITH NAMUTEBI	MFA	F
26	MR. KYATEKA FRANCIS	MINISTRY OF GENDER	M
27	MS. PIMER SYLVIA	MINISTRY OF GENDER	F
28	MS. JACKLINE NNASUBAGA	YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS INITIATIVE	F
29	MR. JULIUS KATEREGGA	MAKERERE UNIVERSITY	M
<b>ACCORD + FACILITATORS</b>			
30	SIBUSISIWE NKOSI	ACCORD	F
31	VICTOR OCHEN	LEAD CONSULTANT	M
32	KASAIJA APUULI	FACILITATOR	M
33	CHARLES UKUJE	FACILITATOR- YOUTH FOR PEACE	M
34	SAMAH OSMAN	ACCORD	F
<b>IGAD</b>			
35	DR. ALEU GARANG		
36	DR. KEBEDE KASSA TSEGAYE		
37	AYAN NURIYE		
38	VARAIDZO MUPUNGA		
39	SHARON KUKU		
41	ADOW WEHLIYE		

<b>AU + UN</b>			
42	PAULINE ADERO	UNOAU	
43	NYASHA BUNJIRA	UNHOA	
44	STEPHEN ASEK	AU MSU	
45	MUKONDELELI MPEIWA	AU MSU/ FEMWISE	
46	RAMA EL FEKY	AU FEMWISE	
47	RUKHS AKO	AU YOUTH DESK	
<b>YOUNG WOMEN IN MEDIATION</b>			
48	SILLA KEJI	YOUNG WOMEN MEDIATOR – ACADEMIA & RESEARCH	
49	IRENE EDWARD	YOUNG WOMEN MEDIATOR - DIPLOMACY	
50	AJAH KIIR	YOUNG WOMEN MEDIATOR – SOUTH SUDAN	
51	SELAM TEDESSE	INSITITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES	

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