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R. 148/42/19

**The importance of the contribution of the youth to the promotion of democracy,
peace, security and the Rule of Law in African countries**

*Resolution adopted by the 42nd APU Conference
(Djibouti, 29 november 2019)*

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 42nd Conference in Djibouti on 28 and 29 November 2019,

Affirming that the implementation of youth-friendly decisions will ensure political stability, social cohesion and economic development;

Convinced of the crucial importance of the occupation by young people of the political space that allows them to own and comply with public decisions, thereby strengthening democratic culture;

Emphasizing the role of the youth in the implementation of the sixteenth United Nations Sustainable Development Goal in the post-2015 development agenda, which aims to promote the development of peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure access to justice for all and establish effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;

Affirming that participation in formal political processes is a fundamental democratic right and that legislative and institutional provisions should be put in place to ensure the involvement of young people;

Recognizing the significant and positive contribution by young people to efforts to promote and consolidate peace and security;

Appreciating ongoing work by governments and organizations, at the national and international levels, to engage young people in peace-building;

Aware of the high number of young people who often make up the majority of the population in countries affected by armed conflict, including internally displaced persons and refugees;

Also aware of the role of young people in building sustainable peace in our communities as positive contributors to peace, justice and reconciliation;

Noting that young people are getting more involved in informal political processes such as demonstrations, that have become common place, and which, quite often, form the basis of reform movements;

Considering the vulnerable status of many young people, including young refugees and internally displaced persons;

Concerned about high unemployment rates and the presence of young unemployed graduates, both male and female, which can be a factor of social unrest and violence;

Concerned also about the increase in precarious jobs, which do not provide stability for young people and sustainable inclusion in the socioeconomic life of their countries;

Noting that a large majority of young people are prone to migration;

Convinced that one of the responses to terrorism and violent extremism could be by implementing a programme of action based on respect for the rights of young people, women and children and fundamental freedoms, as well as on sustainable development;

Recalling:

- The African Youth Charter adopted in 2006 by the African Union
- Security Council resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security
- Its resolution on the participation of citizens, particularly young people, in the promotion of democracy adopted at the 38th Conference (Rabat, November 2016)

1. *Invites* African States to remove obstacles that prevent young people from reaching their full potential in the service of society and thereby promote their participation in social and political life, development and environmental protection.

2. *Also invites* African youth to have a good grasp of their prerogatives in order to better assume their responsibilities, distinguish themselves by being exemplary and promote positive African values.

3. *Urges* national governments, local authorities, the private sector and civil society organizations, including religious institutions and leaders, to recognize the role of young people in preventing violence and combating extremist violence.

4. *Calls* on States to put in place education and training policies aimed at greater integration of young people into social life.

5. *Invites* the private and public media to promote the participation of young people in the various economic, political and social programmes in order to express their opinions.

6. *Urges* African States to adhere to policies to promote the participation of young people in political life and decision-making bodies, including UNESCO's youth strategy.

7. *Calls* upon international organizations and governments to ensure that young people, without exception, fully enjoy their fundamental human rights.

8. *Encourages* ongoing dialogue between civil society and public institutions on issues related to youth, peace and security and recognizes the importance of building trust and identifying new and innovative ways to include vulnerable groups.

9. *Calls* upon parliamentarians to create partnerships with youth organizations to increase the impact of parliamentary action.

10. *Calls upon* governmental and nongovernmental organizations, associations and bodies, including civil society, to involve young people in the implementation of the following actions:

- Establishment of appropriate participatory and inclusive mechanisms and partnerships with decision-making bodies;
- Establishment of effective mechanisms for youth leadership and participation in political decision-making at the local, national and international levels;
- Strengthening the role of young people as partners in building peaceful and sustainable communities, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations.

11. *Calls upon* governments and local authorities to ensure that young men and women have equal access to opportunities, compulsory quality education and employment, and to put in place mechanisms to combat gender discrimination, while stressing that the marginalization of certain groups such as women and young people is detrimental to building sustainable peace in all societies.

12. Also *calls upon* governments to ensure the preservation of the health and morals of young people in order to protect them against the risks of enlisting in terrorist groups or organized crime, by pre-empting upstream perpetrators and co-perpetrators and by securing victims downstream through social reintegration.

13. *Calls* for the implementation by African countries, of international commitments to promote and protect the rights of girls, and to combat all violence and ban harmful cultural practices and habits.

14. *Urges* African governments to adopt a national plan and establish a youth employment fund developed in partnership with youth organizations, especially to support volunteer programs or services for qualifying training.

15. *Invites* parliamentarians to review and examine government policies related to Agenda 2030 (SDGs), Security Council Resolution 2250 and other relevant processes concerning the youth, peace and security.

16. *Supports* South-South parliamentary cooperation for exchanging ideas and sharing success stories on preventing youth violence, and also for youth peace-building programmes in different regions.

17. *Calls* upon international institutions, national governments and local authorities to take measures to:

- Establish mechanisms for active political dialogue with young people in the area of peace and security;
- Establish mechanisms to meaningfully engage the youth in current and future peace processes, including formal peace negotiations;
- Support and work in partnership with youth-led organizations involved in peace-building, through capacity building;
- Ensure the participation of young people in the education system and in civic structures involved in building peace and the rule of law;
- Support the empowerment of young women for peace-building and conflict resolution;
- Promote, through review of the texts, the participation of young people in political parties, executive and representative bodies, particularly in parliaments, by possibly adopting quotas, while respecting human rights.

18. *Urges* governments to enhance the participation of young people in the work of international organizations, by including youth representatives in national delegations.

