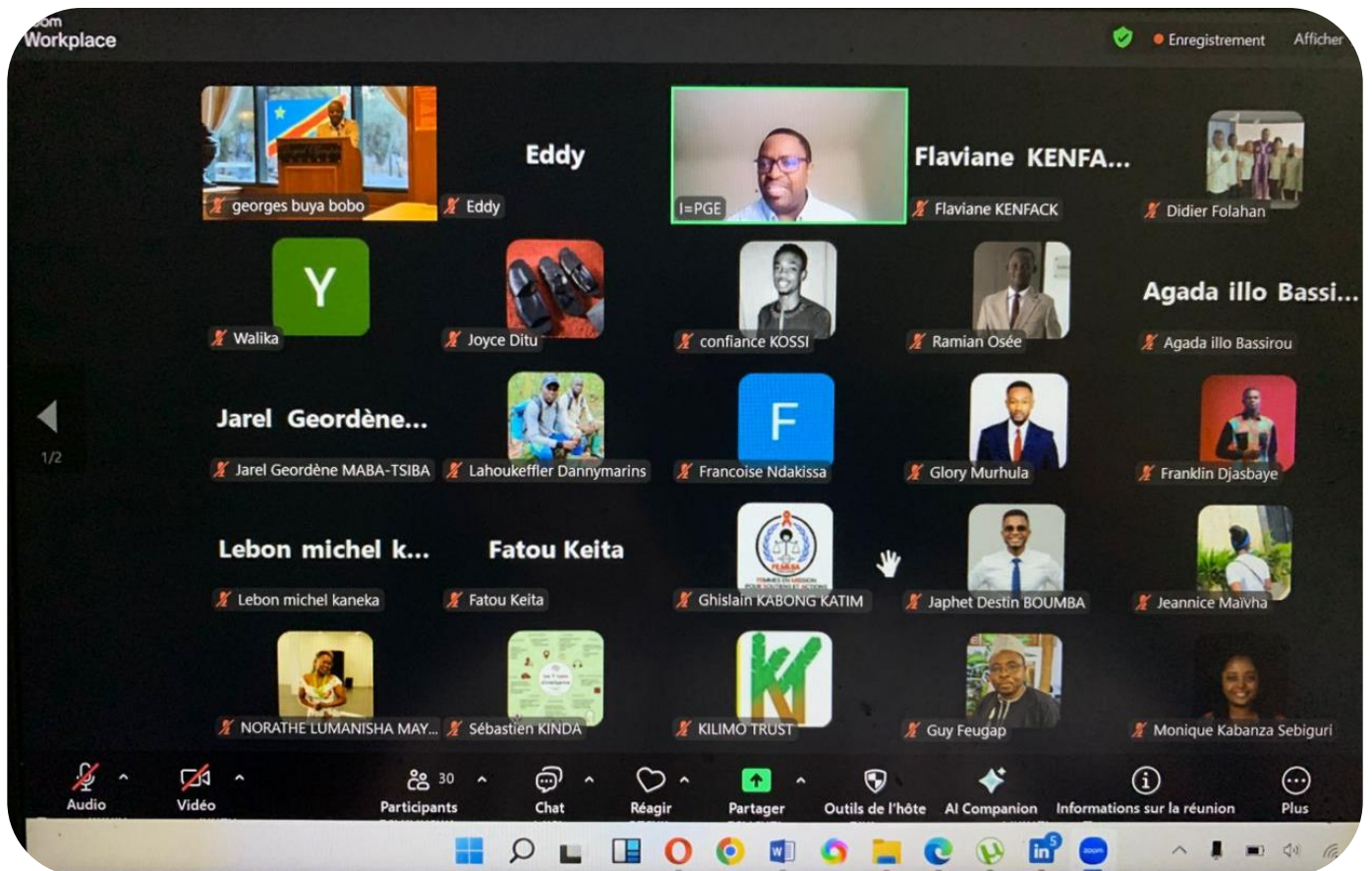




# REPORT OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY YOUTH CAFE HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2026



February 27, 2026

## I. INTRODUCTION

On February 27, 2026, the consortium consisting of the Panel of Experts of Resolution 2250, Isoko Partners for Peace and Gender Equality and the Regional Technical Committee in charge of the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Central Africa, the regional office of the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Youth Synergy for Peace and Security, Salama Peace Initiative, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Hue Manity, The Youth Crossroads for a Prosperous Africa and the African Network for Peacekeeping, organised the first session of the youth, peace and security café with the main theme of education in relation to the World Youth Programme of Action, the Sustainable Development Goals and the youth, peace and security agenda.

It is worth noting that the youth peace and security café will address the major concerns of young people within the fifteen priority areas of the World Youth Programme of Action, which are:

- Education
- Employment
- Hunger and poverty
- Health
- Environment
- Drug abuse
- Juvenile delinquency
- Leisure activities
- Girls and young women
- Full and effective participation of young people in society and decision-making
- Globalization
- Information and communication technologies
- HIV/AIDS
- Armed conflicts
- Intergenerational issues

These areas have a direct link to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, especially since it is impossible to discuss peace without addressing these aspects.

Furthermore, the idea behind this approach stems from the virtual meeting co-organized with the United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, held on December 13, 2025, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Resolution 2250. This initiative provides a virtual platform for exchange among young people in the region. It also addresses the need expressed by several stakeholders on the ground for more capacity-building sessions and exchanges of experiences among frontline actors involved in implementing the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

It is in this context that a meeting will be held once a month, virtually and/or in person, on a specific topic drawn from the fifteen priority areas listed above. These meetings will result in relevant recommendations to guide the successful implementation of the Youth Peace and Security Agenda in Africa.

For this first activity, held on Friday, February 27, 2026, the official launch date, fifty-four people participated, representing various nationalities, including Congo-Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Togo, Senegal, Gabon, Burundi, Benin, Chad, Burkina Faso, Niger, Canada, France, and the Central African Republic.

## **II. CONDUCT OF THE ACTIVITY**

The event began with a welcome address by Mr. Christian NGENDAIMANA, Executive Director of ISOKO Partners for Peace and Gender Equality. In his remarks, he commended everyone's participation in this initiative, which encourages young people to fully play their role in shaping the world. He called upon all stakeholders to embrace innovation and solidarity to ensure the successful implementation of the youth, peace, and security agenda and its impact on the ground.

The second address was delivered by Ms. Fatou Keita, Gender Officer at the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa. In her remarks, she emphasized the current need for the full participation of young people in the peace process in various regions of Africa, as outlined in UN Security Council Resolution 2250, particularly given the current climate of recurring armed conflicts and uprisings in parts of the African continent and around the world.

She commended the commitment of all participants and the initiative of the regular Youth Peace and Security Cafés, a forum for dialogue and the exchange of information and experiences related to the youth, peace, and security agenda. She also encouraged participants to be more innovative in order to shift the narrative and positively impact implementation. She also reiterated, as before, the unwavering support of her office and that of the ECCAS, for the continuation of the activities of the peace and security youth café.

Speaking first, Mr. Georges Buya Bobo, representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the World Youth Programme, emphasized that peace is a necessity that aligns with the priority actions of the World Youth Programme (WYP). He added that, 30 years after the adoption of this programme by the United Nations General Assembly, it is time to assess the progress made in the fifteen priority areas listed above and to see how to link them to the Sustainable Development Goals. Since youth are the future, it is essential to seize this opportunity to put forward sound recommendations that can amplify the voices of young people at the highest levels of government. He concluded his remarks by acknowledging that all countries that have rigorously and diligently implemented the WYP have made their youth a true driver of development. Let all the actors present at this meeting unite their collective strength, in order to support each other and implement the instruments mentioned above.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Fatou Keita, Representative of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, emphasized the importance of the Women, Youth, Peace and Security agendas, as outlined in Resolutions 1325 of October 31, 2000, and 2250 of December 9, 2015, fifteen years later. The strength and results of Resolution 1325 demonstrated that women have truly fought for their rights worldwide and affirmed their ability to influence peace processes and conflict prevention. She also mentioned the existence of the ECCAS Regional Action Plan for the

Women, Peace and Security agenda, which is currently undergoing revitalization. The implementation of this agenda has seen progress, challenges, and lessons learned. Regarding progress, it is worth mentioning that women's voices have been widely heard by decision-makers, although the fulfillment of promises has been slow. The placement of women in leadership positions has also been remarkable in some ECCAS member countries.

Continuing, she also acknowledged some weaknesses in the implementation of this agenda, including:

- The persistence of cultural barriers;
- The limited availability of financial resources;
- The persistence of armed conflicts, which put the lives of women and children in dire straits;
- Difficulties in coordination and ownership.

In closing, the speaker invited those involved in Resolution 2250 to draw on the examples of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda to successfully navigate the long road ahead. She also commended the organizers of this youth peace and security café for their sense of responsibility and encouraged them to organize more such events to amplify the voices of young people at the highest levels.

Taking the floor next, Mr. Chris NGAL, President of the African Youth Synergy for Peace and Security, reiterated the central role of education at the intersection of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasized that education, and even quality education, is essential to achieving both goals. He noted that the nations that have prospered globally are those that have invested significant resources and, above all, time in their education systems. Africa, now more than ever, must strengthen the education of its sons and daughters to redouble its efforts and meet the challenges of global development. He also emphasized the importance of focusing on training as another form of education, one that empowers young people to become more responsible citizens. He concluded by affirming his organization's commitment to continuing its support for this program and to mobilizing as many stakeholders as possible to participate in this initiative.

Next, Mr. Geordène MABA, representative of the Panel of Experts of Resolution 2250-Chapter of Congo Brazzaville and expert in climate change, focused particularly on the possible solutions regarding education as a catalyst for the World Youth Action Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In his address, he presented the following link:

1. Citizenship Education: Integrate citizenship education into school curricula to promote the values of peace, tolerance, and respect for human rights.
2. Human Rights Education: Teach human rights and human rights protection mechanisms to promote justice and equality.
3. Conflict Resolution Education: Teach methods of peaceful conflict resolution and mediation techniques to prevent violence.
4. Education for Cultural Diversity: Promote cultural diversity and mutual understanding between cultures to prevent stereotypes and prejudices.
5. Education for Sustainable Development: Teach the principles of sustainable development to promote environmental protection and the management of natural resources.

He concluded by reiterating the importance of awareness campaigns to ensure effective ownership of the agendas at the local, national, and regional levels.

In conclusion, he emphasized the inclusive nature of peace, which requires the involvement of all stakeholders: states, institutions, youth, and civil society.

The final speaker in this first edition of the Peace and Security Youth Café was Mr. Ibrahim Aboulhoda, head of the Hue-Manity-Canada Group and the Quebec Chamber of Commerce.

In his address, he acknowledged that education is essential, serving as a vital lever for peace and security in Africa and around the world.

In a world marked by growing geopolitical tensions, security crises, and persistent inequalities, education appears more than ever as one of the most powerful tools for building peaceful, resilient, and prosperous societies. In Africa, as elsewhere, investing in education is not merely a matter of social policy; it is a strategic choice for guaranteeing lasting peace, stability, and security.

Education plays a fundamental role in conflict prevention. An educated population develops greater critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and the capacity for dialogue. It becomes less vulnerable to extremist rhetoric, manipulation, and violent ideologies. Societies with broad and equitable access to education are generally those where social and political tensions are better contained.

In Africa, where more than 60% of the population is under 25, education is directly linked to the continent's future. Young people deprived of education and economic opportunities become more exposed to unemployment, marginalization, and sometimes recruitment by armed or criminal groups. Conversely, educated, skilled, and engaged young people constitute an extraordinary force for development and stability.

Education is also a key lever for strengthening institutions and the rule of law. Educated citizens participate more actively in democratic life, demand transparency, and contribute to building strong institutions. This dynamic promotes more responsible governance, an essential condition for establishing lasting peace.

But 21st-century education must also evolve. It must integrate digital skills, technological innovation, entrepreneurship, and artificial intelligence to prepare new generations for the challenges of the global economy. For Africa in particular, this means developing education systems capable of training engineers, entrepreneurs, researchers, and leaders who can transform local economies.

In this context, international cooperation is essential. Governments, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society must join forces to strengthen education systems, invest in infrastructure, train teachers, and promote access to education for all, especially for girls and the most vulnerable populations.

Ultimately, the speaker emphasized that education is not only a fundamental right but also one of the strongest pillars of global peace and security. Building schools, training teachers, and giving young people the tools to understand and act within the world is undoubtedly the safest investment for preventing conflict and building a more stable and just future.

Pour l'Afrique, le défi est immense, mais l'opportunité l'est tout autant. En faisant de l'éducation une priorité stratégique, le continent peut transformer son immense capital humain en moteur de paix, de prospérité et de leadership global.

### **RECOMMANDATIONS**

Based on the presentations, discussions, and observations made throughout the activity, several recommendations were developed to strengthen the effective implementation of the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda and the meaningful participation of young people in decision-making processes.

- Create advisory committees in ECCAS member states to promote the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda;
- Continue community dialogues to amplify the role of young people in conflict prevention in all African countries, particularly those within the ECCAS region;
- Increase twinning initiatives between regional stakeholders for the implementation of the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda;
- Ensure that National Youth, Peace, and Security Action Plans are adopted by states that have not yet done so and strengthen their impact on states that have adopted them. This will encourage states to adopt a Regional Youth, Peace, and Security Action Plan.
- Continue raising awareness about the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in higher education institutions;
- Continue strengthening the capacity of frontline actors on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda at all levels: continental, regional, national, and local;
- Involve as many political actors as possible at the highest institutional levels so that they consider the specific needs of young people as national priorities;
- Organize a Youth Peace and Security Café webinar at least once a month for every two or more countries; each meeting should be accompanied by a report summarizing all discussions and decisions made during each activity.

The next Youth Peace and Security Café session will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026. The co-facilitating countries are Togo and Gabon.

Done in Kinshasa, March 07, 2026

For the consortium

**Mr Eddy YAV**

Rapporteur