



Policy Paper - Addressing the Root Causes of Global Insecurity through Empowering Youth Engaged in Conflicts

Complementing the 2025 C7 Communiqué recommendations on Humanitarian Action and Peace

Accept International Global Taskforce for Youth Combatants

Recognizing that global instability is rooted in complex and interrelated issues, the G7 must take a leadership role in promoting conflict prevention and resolution across all policy sectors. This includes leveraging its influence to advance holistic and sustainable responses to conflict and insecurity, in alignment with global commitments such as the **Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)** agenda.

As stated in the C7 communiqué under the section titled "*Invest in peacebuilding and conflict prevention*," it is evident that while global military expenditures are rising, insecurity remains pervasive. In various parts of the world, hard-power approaches such as airstrikes are often employed in attempts to resolve conflicts or respond to terrorism and other forms of violence. However, these strategies often harm civilians, raise ethical concerns and fail to effectively address the root causes of conflict.

To effectively mitigate global threats and break cycles of violence, the G7 should rebalance investment priorities, channeling greater resources into peacebuilding, diplomacy, and international assistance. This includes addressing the root causes of instability and enhancing support for individuals. We stress the importance of addressing these root causes by focusing on the disengagement and empowerment of those who engage in conflicts across the world. Many of these individuals fall within the internationally recognized definition of youth and are referred to as Youth Associated with Non-State Armed Groups (YANSAG). They also represent a significant proportion of the overall composition of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs). It is essential that the G7 champions their meaningful societal reintegration and participation.

In this policy paper, we propose the following actions:

1. **Shift investment priorities away from military expenditure and toward sustainable peacebuilding solutions that tackle the root causes of global instability**, including conflict and terrorism. The G7 should adopt measures that go beyond short-term responses and aim to break cycles of violence, which are often underlying the instability.
2. **Recognize YANSAG as youth, falling within the internationally accepted age category**, and ensure they are included in global youth empowerment agendas such as the Youth,

Peace and Security (YPS) framework. Their exclusion perpetuates cycles of violence and alienation.

3. **Critically reassess current approaches to YANSAG that focus on Counterterrorism/Countering Violent Extremism and Deradicalization through punitive or corrective frameworks.** Such models risk further alienating youth and may lead to disillusionment or re-radicalisation. The G7 should encourage evidence-based, non-punitive models that foster trust, reintegration, and sustaining peace.
4. **Promote an empowerment-based approach rooted in the principles of the YPS agenda,** framing YANSAG not as threats to be managed but as youth with untapped potential. Their lived experiences as former combatants can serve as a powerful foundation for becoming agents of peace and transformation.
5. **Support the development of a dedicated United Nations Human Rights Council resolution that highlights the human rights challenges faced by YANSAG,** who are often perceived merely as security risks. This includes recognizing the structural causes of their involvement in armed groups, such as abduction, persuasion, deception, or economic hardship, rather than ideology alone.
6. **Collaborate with international partners to advocate for a dedicated United Nations Security Council resolution reinforcing the YPS agenda.** Great attention should be paid to the disengagement and reintegration pillar, advocating for policies that are responsive to the current realities faced by conflict-affected youth.