
BUILDING NEW COALITIONS BY LINKING GOVERNMENTS TO CSOS (WOMEN AND YOUTH)

BEST PRACTICES AND WAYS AND MEANS TO SCALE-UP ENGAGEMENT



“

WE CANNOT SOLVE OUR
PROBLEMS WITH THE SAME
THINKING WE USED
WHEN WE CREATED THEM.

”

– ALBERT EINSTEIN

BACKGROUND

- Every regional bloc and frameworks acknowledge the role youth could play in conflict prevention and resolution, recognizing that their marginalization was detrimental to building sustainable peace and countering violent extremism - the AU, EAC, COMESA, SADC- the ICGLR.
- From the beginning of the process, **youth**, together with the civil society, parliamentarians and women, were key participants in the joint AU/UN Great Lakes Peace Process, at national and at Regional level.
- This form of inclusiveness became a core principle of the **Dar es Salaam Declaration** and later, the Nairobi **Pact on Peace, Stability and Development**.

Article 18 of the Pact: The Programme of Action for Democracy and Good Governance

Project 2.5.2 adapted under the Pact on Peace, Stability and Development

BACKGROUND

- **Declaration of the ICGLR Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on “the Fight against Youth Unemployment through Infrastructure Development and Investment Promotion” (Nairobi, 24 July 2014)**
- **Collaboration with UN Habitat and UN Envoy’s Office for the Setting Up of Youth Centers for Peace:** Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Parliamentarians Forum Resolution for the promotion of Youth Employment in the Region**
- **First Youth Election Observation Mission to the United Republic of Tanzania**

- In all the lessons that we take, in every case, it is important to involve youth in security-related discussions at all levels, and to facilitate their equal and full participation in decision-making and development processes in shaping lasting solutions.

- Specifically, civil society cooperation in the field of Youth should aim at providing structural support to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and region-wide networks active in the field of youth and pursuing the aims of the Pact.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is best to use existing structures and processes- national frameworks, guided by national policies and guidelines and regional frameworks (learn, develop, reform and adapt when and where required)

- At the **UN level**, there is Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) and most recently, Security Council Resolution 2419 (2018), which both call for Member States to give youth a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels; and for the role of youth in negotiating, implementing peace agreements to be strengthened.
- At the **African Union** we have Agenda 2063 and African Youth Charter.
- At **national level** we have the national development frameworks and the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Integrate in national development frameworks so we are not creating parallel processes- which at the end of the day- lack ownership, recognition, and resources

- Long term and mid-term planning frameworks -consultative sessions for integration in plans, monitoring and reporting.
- Raise stakeholder awareness of regional policy agendas as well as the UN, AU and ICGLR strategies; ensure stakeholder participation in implementation; as well as dissemination of policy and Programme actions, results and good practice
- Increase stakeholder commitment and cooperation with governments for the implementation of policies and reforms, including recommendations issued by Heads of State and Governments in the framework of the AU and the ICGLR

RECOMMENDATIONS

Collaborations will work differently, depending on the countries and contexts. *Do not force 'our' way.*

- At regional level, it is important to have a desk at the ICGLR Secretariat, specifically for youth issues within the Governance Programme for coordination and follow up of activities; operational regional secretariat for the Youth Forum; and vibrant national youth forums at local level (civil society organizations working on youth issues, can include but not national youth councils) that go down to the grassroots level in close collaboration with the government.
- At regional level, through the desk, develop and implement a strategy to help us guide the management and planning of data-driven policies and action for youth and women
- Mapping, mobilization and engagement of CSOs with common objectives; and nomination of focal person/s in responsible ministries to follow up
- The aspirations of the AU, ICGLR and UN, for youth and women should be clearly embedded in the work plans, activities and deliverables of civil society organizations engaged within this framework.



The End