

COALITION FOR YOUTH-PEACE-SECURITY CENTRAL AFRICA (CJPAC)

CJPAC Working Group Terms of Reference

1. Name:

Working Group of the Coalition for Youth, Peace and Security in Central Africa.

2. Purpose:

The Working Group of the Coalition for Youth, Peace and Security in Central Africa (WG-CJPAC) otherwise known as the Working Group (WG), is an ad hoc group that works with the support of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and other strategic partners, for the establishment and operational functioning of the Coalition for Youth, Peace and Security in Central Africa (CJPAC). Through CJPAC, the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250(2015), 2419(2018), 2535(2020), the Continental framework for Youth, Peace and Security in Africa and effective youth involvement in peace and security processes shall be strengthened in Central Africa.

CJPAC is the main platform with mandate to oversee the framing of a regional strategy and its implementation on Youth, Peace and Security in central Africa, while contributing to effective continental and global frameworks. As such, CJPAC has as mission to harmonize, coordinate and strengthen regional and national actions in the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018), 2535 (2020); the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS) and foster effective youth involvement in conflict prevention, peace building and security processes in Central Africa.

3. Background:

Young people under 35 represent more than 60% of the population in Central Africa. This rapidly growing young population presents similar characteristics and challenges in their respective member states, albeit at different intensities, collectively referred to as 'the youth problem'. The youth problem has had a negative influence on peace and security in a region characterized in recent decades as a hotspot of political instability, cross-border crimes, radicalization, violent extremism and all forms of terrorism, and young people play lead roles in the hostilities and are the main victims. These, despite their positive roles and intentions, have so often led society to consider young people as perpetrators of violence and insecurity and as such a threat to peace and security. Consequently, the traditional reaction of society to that has always been containment and exclusion of youths.

On December 9, 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). This resolution is the first of its kind to recognize the important and positive role young women and men play in maintaining and promoting international peace and security. UNSCR 2250 (2015) identifies five key pillars of action: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and disengagement and reintegration. The resolution urges member states and relevant United Nations entities to amplify the voice of young people in decision-making processes at the local, national, regional and international levels and to consider putting in place mechanisms that would increase inclusion of young people in peace processes. Resolution 2250 (2015) and the other related resolutions that followed: UNSCR2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020), have all drawn new attention and action for young people as peacemakers. This has led to a change in the narrative consideration of young people, from perpetrators of violence and insecurity to that of positive actors and reliable partners for sustainable peace and security.

Actions taken to localize UNSCR2250 in Africa and integrate youth into the AU peace and security agenda were accompanied by the inauguration of the Youth for Peace (Y4P) Africa programme under the Department of Peace and Security of the African Union in September 2018. Since then, several actions have been taken involving Central Africa to promote the implementation of the resolution. June 2019 saw the organization in Gabon of a regional

consultation on the Role and Contribution of Youth to Peace and Security in Africa hosted by the United Nations. In October 2019, civil society organizations from Central Africa further participated in Accra, Ghana in the validation workshop of the continental report on the roles and contributions of young people to peace and security in Africa and the validation of the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security. Meanwhile in 2019, the Commission of the African Union, through its Youth for Peace (Y4P) Africa Program of the Peace and Security Department appointed five African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP) one from each of the five (5) regions of Africa. The AYAP, whose second cohorts were appointed in 2021 work under the direct supervision of the leadership of the Peace and Security Department of the AUC to champion the promotion and advocacy of youth participation in peace and security issues at the regional level and across Africa.

In Central Africa, cross-border programs, built in partnership with the United Nations, national and local authorities, the civil society with the contribution of ECCAS are underway for the implementation of actions by young people as "Peace Builders" in their communities. At the end of these activities, the participants expressed the need to put in place mechanisms that will federate all the organizations working on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in the region, with the need for enhanced upstream work in their respective organizations and countries.

In May 2021, with the aim of commemorating the anniversary of UNSCR2250, we, (civil society leaders working on the Youth-Peace-Security agenda) attempted to assess the progress already made in Central Africa and concluded that more still has to be done in its domestication and implementation in Central Africa. Hence the need to have an initial working group to prepare for the creation of a regional coalition for Youth, Peace and Security with the support of ECCAS, UNOCA and other strategic international partners.

CJPAC will be the main regional network of organizations working on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Central Africa, expected to federate, harmonize, coordinate and strengthen actions and contributions of actors and stakeholders at regional and national levels. Though independent and autonomous in its leadership and management, it is placed under the tutelage of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) with direct support of the United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) among other strategic international and regional partners. CJPAC was officially launched on 11 October 2022 in Kinshasa - DRC by ECCAS in partnership with UNOCA. Its operational aspects are expected to be finalized with the commitment of this Working Group according to an elaborate and validated action plan. It draws its vertical functioning vision from the Global Coalition for Youth, Peace and Security, the Youth for Peace Africa Programme of the AU and anchors its actions on civil society organizations and youth actors working in the Youth, Peace and Security agenda grouped under various national networks or coalitions of Youth, Peace and Security in the eleven member countries of ECCAS. It shall work in harmony with the mission of the AYAP to foster the course of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Central Africa. As such, it will rely on the services of the AYAP to open more avenues that promotes tailored activities of the CJPAC and its member-organizations in their respective countries. Vertically, it shall collaborate with other regional networks across the five regions of Africa and continents of the world including strategic partners and stakeholders.

Its overall objective will be **to strengthen the role and contribution of youth to sustainable peace and security in Central Africa.**

The specific objectives of the Working Group of CJPAC will be the following:

- I. Harmonize and strengthen youth-led and youth-inclusive interventions in various conflict prevention, peace building and security processes in Central Africa and coordinate their operational aspects at regional and national levels;
- II. Popularize the UNSCR2250, the CFYPS and engage in policy and advocacy for youth mainstreaming and inclusion in key decision making roles and peace processes;

- III. Promote networking, Communication and the sharing of experiences, best practices and common/critical areas of engagement to foster the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Central Africa;
- IV. Promote research and Strengthen the capacities of young leaders and civil society organizations involved in the Youth-Peace-Security agenda in Central Africa;
- V. Engage partnerships between youth related civil society organizations and various stakeholders to implement actions to prevent conflicts, build sustainable peace, foster post-conflict actions, security and development in Central Africa;
- VI. Mobilize various resources to support youth interventions in conflict prevention, peace building and security in Central Africa.

4. Members:

The members of the Working Group are representatives of active civil society organizations working on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda or issues in their respective countries. Its constitution is guided by the principles of **inclusiveness, representativeness and mentorship**. Inclusiveness calls for the participation of all active state and non-state actors and stakeholders without limitation to sex, class, religion or race at national, regional and international levels, and their freedom to contribute to the process within agreed plans. Representativeness provides for the inclusion of the voice, opinions and contributions of actors and stakeholders from all the eleven member states in the work of CJPAC and the ongoing process. Mentorship creates a learning-doing-succeeding together atmosphere among actors and members of CJPAC as a result of the participation of persons above the age of 35 whose past experiences and success stories shared with younger actors and members constitute important leverage to the expected results. However, the participation of this age group (above 35 year) that is based on their rich experiences and achievements in related issues shall not be above 25% of the total Working Group and officials of CJPAC. The WG shall complete its composition by integrating the representatives of all the 11 countries of the sub-region, thereby forming a more open and truly inclusive coalition from as time goes on. These representatives must have useful experiences that can leverage to the work and functional aspects of the coalition.

It is a peer group, which will be composed of at least two representatives from each member state and more than two in the case of Countries with larger land surface, population and increasing conflicts or vulnerabilities. It is structured as follows:

- I. A Coordinator;
- II. An Implementation Assistant
- III. Three (3) Rapporteurs ;
- IV. African Youth Ambassador for Peace (AYAP) - Central Africa;
- V. Commission in charge of Policy and Advocacy;
- VI. Commission in charge of Partnership;
- VII. Commission in charge of Communications and Public Relations;
- VIII. Commission in charge of Gender;
- IX. Commission in charge of Research and Training.

The members of the WG will serve the group and CJPAC until its operationalization. They must also be active leaders in their organizations and be able to lead key aspects of the work plan.

5. Partnership

The WG and the Coalition has as institutional partners ECCAS, UNOCA, UN agencies and missions at regional and national levels, the AU through the Youth for Peace Africa Program and various national institutions.

6. Responsibilities of Members of the Working Group (MWG)

With the support of ECCAS and UNOCA who play important strategic role in the establishment and operational aspects of CJPAC, other regional and national partners, the

members of the Working Group (MGT) must commit their time and other basic resources to achieve the deliverables and work towards the effective establishment of the CJPAC within the agreed deadlines.

They will work for an inclusive and sustainable Regional Coalition of Youth-Peace-Security Civil Society Organizations that adapts to the realities of the region, fits into national, regional and continental frameworks and policies while contributing concretely to lasting peace and security in Central Africa.

They shall work to establish well-designed, accepted and validated statutory documents, operational plans, and other related documents that permit a smooth and sustainable functioning of the YPS Coalition in Central Africa.

They shall develop a database of related CSOs, experts and partners and engage preliminary mobilizations accordingly for the strategic and operational establishment of the YPSC-CA.

They shall promote the existence and work of the Coalition in the member Countries and institutions that includes liaising with various CSOs, institutions, partners and experts needed for the successful establishment and smooth running of the Coalition.

They shall attend all meetings especially those that need their attention and contribute generally through constructive ideas and opportunities at their disposal or through the personal responsibilities assigned to individual members.

Individual responsibilities

I. Coordinator:

- S/he is the main spokesperson of the WG and CJPAC;
- shall take charge of the leadership and management of the Working Group (WG) as a team with other related human, material and financial resources towards the timely realisation of all earmarked deliverables and related activities ;
- Use his/her initiative and acumen to direct the WG, motivate team work, engage with the ECCAS, UNOCA, AU, various stakeholders, partners and experts and lobby for their inputs and support;
- Oversee the delegation and supervision of responsibilities/tasks and harmonise various inputs and reports;
- Tracks WGM's participation, oversee their capacity needs, those of related YPS civil society organisations and identify opportunities to increase their participation and to fill any gap that may stand as a weakness to the fulfilment of the objectives/deliverables of the WG;
- Work with his team, ECCAS, UNOCA, AU and other strategic partners to organise key earmarked events, meetings and negotiate for a legal status, secretariat and functional resources for the Coalition.

II. Implementation Assistant:

In addition to their usual responsibility of contributing to the achievement of assigned deliverables, the Assistant must:

- In collaboration with the Coordinator, manage the daily activities of the WG;
- In collaboration with the Coordinator and within the framework of the established plans, follow up the operational aspects of the WG as well as the contributions of its members to assigned tasks;
- Assists in scheduling meetings, work sessions to keep members informed of key events/activities, follow-up their work on assigned tasks and collect feedback or reports.

III. Rapporteurs;

The rapporteurs must:

- Take minutes, write or harmonize reports of the WG, various meetings, working sessions, events and other related activities of the WG;
- Constantly keep track of the work of the WG;
- In consultation with the Coordinator, develop and distribute meeting agendas, minutes, reports and other documents necessary to facilitate the work of the group and the success of the various meetings, events and general responsibilities of the WG.
- In collaboration with the Implementation Assistant, provides reminders of deadlines to various tasks assigned to members and those to be realized by the WG and provide feedbacks on them.

IV. African Youth Ambassador for Peace (AYAP) - Central Africa

In addition to his usual responsibility of contributing to the achievement of agreed deliverables, the AYAP shall:

- Be the Ambassador of the Working Group and the Coalition and thus accompany the WG in in the attainment of its objectives through other means including strategic lobbying;
- Source complimentary support to realize the deliverables of the WG;
- Support the opening of more avenues that promote the activities of CJPAC and its member-organizations in their respective countries;
- As agreed, represent or accompany the WG or CJPAC in various strategic events and partnerships;

V. Commission in Charge of Advocacy and Policy:

The Advocacy and Policy Commission is composed of at least three members from different member states and different sex. It has two co-leads and members. Commission members, in addition to other special assignments that may be attributed to them and their regular work and contributions on key deliverables, shall:

- Work to develop an advocacy plan for the Coalition;
- Develop advocacy activities that shall be implemented to foster the Youth-Peace-Security agenda;
- Facilitate the designing and the implementation of advocacy activities linked to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Centrale Africa and the work of CJPAC.

VI. Commission in charge of Partnership:

The Commission in charge of Partnership is composed of at least three members from different member states and different sex. It has two co-leads and members. Commission members, in addition to other special assignments that may be attributed to them and their regular work and contributions on key deliverables, shall:

- Carry out a first mapping of the main YPS networks in the region;
- Work on the development of a partnership and collaboration plan as well as to propose areas of partnerships for the Coalition;
- In collaboration with the WG and coordinator, develop a draft database of related CSOs, partners, experts and represent the WG and Coalition in initiating key partnership and collaboration as the case may be;
- When need be, represent the WG in key meetings that warrants physical presence with ECCAS, UNOCA and other partners.

VII. Commission in charge of Communication and Public Relations:

The Communication commission, composed of at least three members from different member states and different sex. It has two co-leads and members. Commission members, in addition to other special assignments that may be attributed to them and their regular work and contributions on key deliverables, shall:

- Develop a communication strategy for the Coalition;
- Manage and disseminate all useful information of the Working Group internally in collaboration with the Coordinator;

- Collaborates with the Coordinator in all aspects of external communication which is done either by the coordinator or this commission with copies to concern persons or the Working Group members as the case may be and ensure all outgoing information are scrutinize to support the attainment of the objectives of CJPAC, its core values, the interest and integrity of partners and stakeholders;
- Design and facilitate the development of various communication documents ;
- Coordinate the development of website, social media outlets for CJPAC, updates and manages their content daily ;
- Assist in all communication and public relations related activities for the WG, the Coalition and its activities.

VIII. Commission in charge of Gender:

The Commission in charge of Gender is composed of at least three members from different member states and different sex. It has two co-leads and members. Commission members, in addition to other special assignments that may be attributed to them and their regular work and contributions on key deliverables, shall:

- Develop a draft policy for gender mainstreaming in the work of CJPAC;
- Ensure the integration of gender aspects in the work and operational process of the CJPAC.

IX. Commission in charge of Research and Training:

The Research and Training Commission is composed of at least three members from different member states and different sex. It has two co-leads and members. Commission members, in addition to other special assignments that may be attributed to them and their regular work and contributions on key deliverables, shall:

- Develop a list of areas for research and training for the Coalition, its leaders and relevant civil society organizations to build their capacities;
- Facilitate various data gathering and research processes of the WG;
- Assist in the organization of key training workshops for the WG.

7. Partners

In addition to the main responsibility of ECCAS and UNOCA mentioned above, the representatives of these organizations within the WG will represent their organizations and support the members of the WG to achieve the set deliverables.

8. Frequency of meetings:

Coordination and orientation meetings of the Working group shall be organized twice per month. There shall also be a monthly briefing session with ECCAS and UNOCA on progress made and prospects. The frequency of meetings may increase where emergency matters arise. All members of the Working Group must attend all the working sessions including emergency meetings as well as activities of CJPAC and its partners.

9. Deliverables

- I. Launch the activities of the Working Group and lobby for the participation and support of strategic partners;
- II. Develop a final version of the CJPAC Charter for submission to the founding statutory Assembly;
- III. Develop a Manual of Rules and Procedures for the CJPAC;
- IV. Develop a Regional Intervention Roadmap or strategy document and its five years implementation strategic action plan to guide the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Central Africa;
- V. Carry out a first mapping and develop a database of active civil society organizations and networks working on the Youth-Peace-Security agenda in Central Africa;
- VI. Engaging with national level actors and stakeholders to facilitate the process through the development of national action plans and networks/coalitions, to ensure ;

- VII. Develop a communications strategy that includes the development of a CJPAC website, social media outlets and logo for CJPAC;
- VIII. Develop a draft gender mainstreaming strategy to be integrated in the CJPAC activities;
- IX. Develop an advocacy activity plan to promote the YPS agenda in Central Africa and initiate preliminary activities;
- X. Develop a research and training plan for CJPAC;
- XI. Identify partners for CJPAC and explore partnership opportunities including with COPAC;
- XII. Mobilize inputs from Youth-Peace-Security CSOs, stakeholders and experts to draft various statutory documents for the CJPAC prior to its subsequent validation;
- XIII. Organize regional and national workshops to share experience and good practices in the localization of UNSCR2250; the promotion of CJPAC and development of its priority areas of action;
- XIV. Support an Returning officer in the preparation of the election of officers of CJPAC during the elective General Assembly;
- XV. Plan, organize and manage an annual Central African Youth Peace and Security Forum and General Assembly of CJPAC in partnership with ECCAS, the United Nations, the African Union and other partners;
- XVI.** Collaborate with ECCAS, UNOCA and other relevant partners to establish a legal status, secretariat and means of operation for CJPAC.

10. Phases of implementation

The responsibilities of this Working Group are grouped into four phases:

- Phase 1: Launch of the Working Group and CJPAC, development of various statutory documents and conduct a mapping of active youth-led and youth focused CSOs;
- Phase 2: Conduct a baseline study and adopt a regional strategy and its implementation strategic action plan and;
- Phase 3: Engage sensitizations, consultations and capacity building on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and its implementation at regional and national levels;
- Phase 4: Engage various partnerships and organize a regional symposium to strengthen youth involvement in sustainable peace and security in central Africa;
- Phase 5: Finalize the operational aspects of CJPAC and engage in its plan actions at regional and national levels.

11. Responsibilities of Members of the Working Group:

In addition to working with the rest of the WG to achieve the deliverables and specifically assigned responsibilities, WG members shall:

- Act as focal points of the WG and promote the work of CJPAC in their respective countries and organizations;
- Attend all meetings and make useful contributions;
- Ensure that the Coalition's activities in member countries are consistent with its mission, objectives, various related frameworks and standards;
- ECCAS will provide institutional recognition/legal status to CJPAC, while monitor and evaluate its actions;

12. Qualification of Members of the Working Group (MGT)

WG members must demonstrate that they have the skills and experience required to serve in the group. WG members holding special posts of responsibility should note that these responsibilities will be extremely demanding and that their personal time is important.

Those wishing to serve must:

- adhere to a policy of non-disclosure of internal processes, information and documentation while work within strict timelines and deliver promptly;
- Demonstrate that they have unique skills and experience not only to represent their countries, but also to lead specific tasks centered on the actions of the WG;

At the end of the mission of this WG, the outlined deliverables elaborated on a validated plan of action shall be distributed to various youth actors, national, regional and international stakeholders, for their and inputs. This will lead to their validation and adoption into official use. See the validated plan of action for details on the deliverables.