

*The Third Conference on National Dialogues, 5-6 April 2017*

*The House of the Estates, Helsinki*

## **Youth in National Dialogue Processes: Resolution 2250 an Entry Point**

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security was adopted in 2015, urging greater representation by young men and women in the prevention and resolution of violent conflict. It has been a much overdue recognition of the positive roles youth play for security and conflict transformation – also because young women and men living in conflict, post-conflict and forced displacement settings have been too commonly perceived as either perpetrators or victims of violence.

The Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security – currently under way - provides a unique opportunity to present evidence of young women and young men's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution. Especially the youth space of dialogue and mediation has not been studied sufficiently and this conference session on youth in dialogues provides an important opportunity to elaborate on this topic further. The central statements that will be further explored, supported and challenged during the session, include:

1. Young people's dialogue and mediation efforts are less recognized and reported because we usually fail to understand them as such
2. Young people have their distinct approaches and methods for dialogue and mediation.
3. Young people have an extended 'sphere of influence' on and access to conflict actors that are different from that of traditional political and societal elites or other peace actors.
4. Young people's dialogue and mediation efforts can have stronger traction if they receive due recognition, and sustainable support

### **Panel:**

Ms. Marie Makweri, Peace and Reconciliation Advisor, Finn Church Aid – South Sudan (Moderator)

Mr. Mir Mubashir, Project Manager, Berghof Foundation

Ms. Irena Grizelj, Independent Researcher and Consultant – Youth, Peace and Security

Ms. Irene Limo, Coordinator, Peacemaking Unit, ACCORD

Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Professor, School of International Service, American University & Senior Adviser, KAICIID (Concluding comments / Respondent)

