

# Report from Meetings on Youth, Peace, and Security and Intergenerational Dialogue

April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024



**Swedish Dialogue Institute**  
for the Middle East and North Africa

## Report

On April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa took part in a global dialogue conference on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS), in Amman.

In connection to the dialogue event, an informal workshop was organized by the Dialogue Institute, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. The aim of the workshop was to enable frank and interactive discussion between member states on how intergenerational dialogue can be a method to support the implementation of the YPS agenda. It was attended by government representatives from different parts of the world, as well as representatives from the League of Arab States and the UNDP regional hub for the Arab States.

### *International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding*

On April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding<sup>1</sup> hosted a country-to-country exchange on Youth, Peace, and Security. The meeting, that took place in Amman, was attended by officials, regional organizations, UN representatives, and youth civil society organizations. It provided a platform for the participants to share experiences, best practices, and recommendations fostering intergenerational learning, exchange and collaboration between policymakers, development partners, and youth representatives to catalyze learning and networking to support more youth-inclusive peacebuilding and statebuilding initiatives and international assistance<sup>2</sup>.

The event encompassed a diverse set of sessions and workshops that provided participants with foundational framing on YPS, within the context of current peace and security challenges. Elements that were covered included sessions on financing of youth engagement and initiatives, lessons from in-country and regional initiatives on YPS, political dialogues on youth in peacebuilding and statebuilding. The exchanges provided an opportunity for civil society to showcase their work on the YPS agenda<sup>3</sup>, and for the government members to connect with civil society, as well as with their peers and colleagues to discuss potential new partnership and cooperation.



<sup>1</sup> [The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding - IDPS \(pbsdialogue.org\)](https://pbsdialogue.org)

<sup>2</sup> [Exchange on Youth, Peace and Security \(YPS\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Empowering Youth Voices: Highlights from the IDPS Youth, Peace, and Security Exchange \(April 2024\)](#)



*Presentation of “Connecting generations - a guidance note on Inclusive Intergenerational dialogue”*

### *Workshop*

In connection to the meeting, an informal workshop on intergenerational dialogue and youth inclusion, was organized by the Dialogue Institute, FBA and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. It was attended by government representatives from different parts of the world, and by representatives from the League of Arab States and the UNDP regional hub for the Arab States. The aim was to enable frank and interactive discussions between member states on how to move from the recommendations identified at the dialogue exchange to actionable next steps.

The workshop included a brief joint presentation by the Dialogue Institute and the FBA of the ‘Guidance note on Inclusive Intergenerational Dialogue<sup>4</sup>’, highlighting the importance of dialogue across generations, providing a clear definition of intergenerational dialogue, and introducing best practices for conducting a dialogue in a way that is meaningful for different generations.

The presentation was followed by discussions with participants, where they were divided into groups for discussions, for experience sharing. The conversations centered around examples and experiences of intergenerational dialogue initiatives, including promising practices. Throughout the discussion the participants highlighted the importance of creating safe and honest spaces for dialogues and stressed the need for inclusivity, ensuring that voices, needs, and aspirations of both younger and older generations are considered.

Participants also pointed to challenges encountered in facilitating intergenerational dialogues. They raised issues such as power dynamics, non-inclusive dialogues, lack of interest and difficulties in engaging between the different age groups, and misunderstandings, as well as generational differences when it comes to digital communication.

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<sup>4</sup> [Connecting Generations - Sweden Abroad](#)

In discussing how to overcome these challenges they highlighted the value of formal/informal setting, of having a good facilitator and of creating conditions for inclusive dialogues, including through finding connections. On moving forward, participants' recommendations included enhancing inclusive and meaningful dialogues, increasing collaborative efforts and partnerships, empowering youth-led organizations, restructuring financial funding systems and increasing reach out and networking.

There was a general agreement that intergenerational dialogue can serve as a transformative tool for addressing issues related to sustainable peace and development, especially when it comes to implementation of the YPS agenda.

### *Informal roundtable discussion on YPS agenda in the MENA region*

In connection to the event, the Dialogue Institute hosted an informal dinner and roundtable discussion on the implementation of the YPS agenda in the MENA region and how intergenerational dialogue can be a supportive methodology. The participants, who represented different UN agencies, the FBA and Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, argued that intergenerational dialogues can play an important role for including youth in the work for peace and development. They also underlined the need to support networking and coalitions building and to join forces in changing perspectives.

In the discussion the participants shared their own generational identities and what influenced their respective generations, mentioning elements such as the Arab revolutions, technology shifts, earthquakes, financial crisis etc. The discussion also addressed the challenges of generational biases and respective generations stereotyping of each other and how to overcome this by trying to better understand where each one is coming from.

The dinner was a chance for the Dialogue Institute to contribute to networking and exchanges between UN agencies and other organizations working on the YPS agenda. Also, it was an opportunity to discuss how to take forward the work on intergenerational dialogue and mainstream the methodology in meetings, conferences, programmes and projects.

