



Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Poland



Public task "Poland's regional position  
in times of global tensions and rivalry:  
challenges for Euro-Atlantic security"  
financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Poland within the  
"Public Diplomacy 2022" competition.



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# FROM VANCOUVER TO VLADIVOSTOK

## WORKSHOP ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

# STAKEHOLDER

YOUTH (ORGANIZATIONS OF YOUTH FORUMS  
FROM THE OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES)

## CONTEXT

The inclusion of youth in the OSCE peace and security agenda dates back to the Helsinki Final Act and has been repeatedly reinforced in subsequent OSCE decisions. Currently, around 38 percent of the population living in the OSCE territory is under the age of 30.

In 2018, the Ministerial Council in Milan adopted a Declaration on the Role of Youth in Contributing to Peace and Security Efforts, recognizing the role that young people can play in building a culture of peace, dialogue, justice and peaceful coexistence, trust and reconciliation.

It referred to two UN Security Council resolutions: the first one on examining progress on youth, peace and security (2250, 2015), and the second, which recognizes the role that young people can play in conflict prevention and resolution and calls for increasing role of youth in security-related discussions and facilitating their equal and full participation in decision-making (2419 of 2018).

In addition, Norway, on behalf of itself and Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and Sweden, submitted an interpretative statement calling for consideration of establishing mechanisms to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue. The role of youth in ensuring peace and security was recognised, the importance of women's participation was emphasized, and a call was made for a gender perspective to be taken into account in peace efforts.

In addition, the Secretary implements the “20-30 Perspectives” initiative, which engages young people in a discussion on the vision of security in the 2030 perspective. Another OSCE body cooperating in this field is the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which organizes the Young Policy Advisers Course, Young Leaders Training, and the School of Political Parties and Democracy.

The office also works to support young people in defending their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion and belief. The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) also takes account of the issues of youth from minority communities by organizing programs and supporting relevant language and educational policies, while the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media encourages young people, in particular young media workers and students of journalism, to promote and protect freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

## GOAL

Indicating priorities that take account of the youth perspective in each of the three areas of the OSCE activity and proposing the institutional inclusion of young people in the consultation (or decision-making) process by the Organization's institutions.