

Position Paper

Committee: Security Council

Delegation: Sierra Leone

**Topic: Addressing the Disproportionate Effects of
Armed Conflicts on Children**



This month, November 2025, Sierra Leone holds the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council. The main focus issues of this presidency include African peace and security and involvement of youth in conflicts. Therefore the topic of “addressing the disproportionate effects of armed conflicts on children” is certainly one of the top priorities for Sierra Leone’s presidency of the Security Council, and our delegation is working intensively on this issue.

Sierra Leone believes that addressing youth-related issues is at the heart of preventing violence, and is a strong foundation to promote stability everywhere, especially in countries suffering, or recovering, from conflict. Sierra Leone has established the *National Youth Service* in response to the United Nations’ call for Member States to implement the *World Programme of Action for Youth*, with the main aim to promote youth empowerment¹

In West-Africa, in the many conflict and post-conflict countries, there unfortunately has been a lot of youth participation in group violence and a persistent risk of youth mobilizing into violence². Sierra Leone, and its neighbours, have young populations, and our governments emphasize that reducing poverty and preventing violence are important for improving the lives of young people, and thereby of the society as a whole.

¹ National Youth Service of Sierra Leone website, November 2025: <https://nys.gov.sl/overview/>

² Publication: Understanding Youth Violence : Cases from Liberia and Sierra Leone, World Bank Group, Open Knowledge Repository, 2014
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/27412d42-7835-5e7e-b10a-232bd0ee2732>

Note Coat of arms of Sierra Leone image taken from Wikipedia, November 2025:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Sierra_Leone

Sierra Leone believes that “social exclusion (of youth) is a multi-dimensional phenomenon”³ and that policies addressing social exclusion of youth “have been effective in addressing problems arising from the lack of employment, poor skills, low income, high crime environments, poor housing and poor health among youth.”⁴ Thus the the Head of the Sierra Leone Delegation, H.E Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu, co-authored with the delegation of Guyana a new draft resolution on Youth, Peace and Security, which is currently being put up to the vote⁵. This draft resolution builds on earlier UNSC work on this important topic, *inter alia* on the resolution 2250 (2015) which calls Member States to increase representation of youth in decision making processes at all levels of government and society⁶.

The delegation of Sierra Leone realises a strong link between the topic of youth, peace and security with the topic of women, peace and security (WPS). Sierra Leone is closely involved in the Security Council work on both of these important topics, and our delegation is co-chairing, together with Switzerland, the Informal Expert Group on WPS.

Within the UN, the Sierra Leone delegation works closely with other G77 Member States, as well as with the countries of the African Union. We also work closely on the important topics with other like-minded countries, and hope for strong support of all the Security Council members for our draft resolution on Youth, Peace and Security.

Last, the delegation of Sierra Leone advocates for greater African representation on the Security Council, to help meet the recently increasing geopolitical challenges and offering to build on our own experience of overcoming conflict and implementing post conflict reconstruction.

³ National Youth Service of Sierra Leone website, November 2025: <https://nys.gov.sl/overview/>

⁴ National Youth Service of Sierra Leone website November 2025: <https://nys.gov.sl/overview/>

⁵ Security Council Report, Security Council Programme of Work for November 2025: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2025/11/security-council-programme-of-work-for-november-2025.php>

⁶ Meetings coverage and press releases, United Nations, “Security Council, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2250 (2015), Urges Member States to Increase Representation of Youth in Decision-Making at All Levels”: <https://press.un.org/en/2015/sc12149.doc.htm>