



# Developing Operational Guidelines to Support Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding

*Workshop Summary Report – June 4-5, 2014*

Developed by the UN Inter-Agency Network for Youth Development's Sub-Working Group on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding

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## Background

The inter-agency Sub-Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding,<sup>1</sup> co-chaired by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and Search for Common Ground, with support from PeaceNexus Foundation, organized a workshop to begin setting the parameters for the development of guidelines on young peoples’ participation in peacebuilding. These guidelines follow from the recently issued [Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding](#). The Principles, conceived to be overarching and applicable to a wide range of actors (the “*why*” and the “*what*”), need to be accompanied by operational guidance (“*how to*”) based on evidence and practice from the field.

Therefore, the workshop had two main objectives: First, to agree on key issues and parameters for operational guidelines on young people’s participation and peacebuilding, including selection of thematic sections. Second, to identify the key elements of the process for developing the guidelines on young people’s participation in peacebuilding, including consultation methodology, key stakeholders, timeline, and any additional capacity requirements.

The workshop welcomed approximately 34 participants from the UN, donors, and civil society partners, including key representatives from organizations working on youth and peacebuilding on the ground in several countries.

The following is a summary of the key conclusions and findings from the proceedings.

## Key Parameters

**During the first day**, open plenary focused on the shape of the main parameters of the operational guidelines. These discussions focused on who the guidelines should apply to, what the overall objectives of the guidelines will be, and what overall content the document will contain. The following table summarizes the main agreement points reached through several group brainstorming sessions.

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<sup>1</sup>This group includes over 40 members from the UN (PBSO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilization, UN-Habitat, etc.), NGOs (Mercy Corps, Women’s Refugee Commission, Search for Common Ground, Girls Scouts, etc.), CSOs (United Network of Young Peacebuilders) and academia.

## Objectives

- Create a set of field-driven guidelines, bringing best practices from the country level to the global level
- Increase learning of effective and innovative theories of change
- Make practitioners and policy makers more accountable

## Target audience

- Primary: Donors and international/multilateral organizations
- Secondary: National and local Governments, religious/traditional leaders, youth peacebuilders

## Scope

- Look at individual level, community level, national level.
- Promote youth as positive agents of change, partners, stakeholders, potential peacebuilders, and community activists.
- Support paradigm shift with evidence, theories of change, case studies, practice notes - creating technical assistance manual.

## Context

- Look at all violence- and conflict-affected situations, not only post-conflict.
- But take care to not define the context or peacebuilding too broadly (such as structural violence)

## Content

- Examples of cases/programs from the ground - successes and failures - that have been evaluated, reviewed, analyzed.
- A defining of terms - glossary, footnote, or definitions at the end.
- A living document/database that will continue to grow and be refined.

## Structure of the Guidelines

During the **second day**, working groups brainstormed optional outlines or structures for the guidelines. The three different options for structure were:

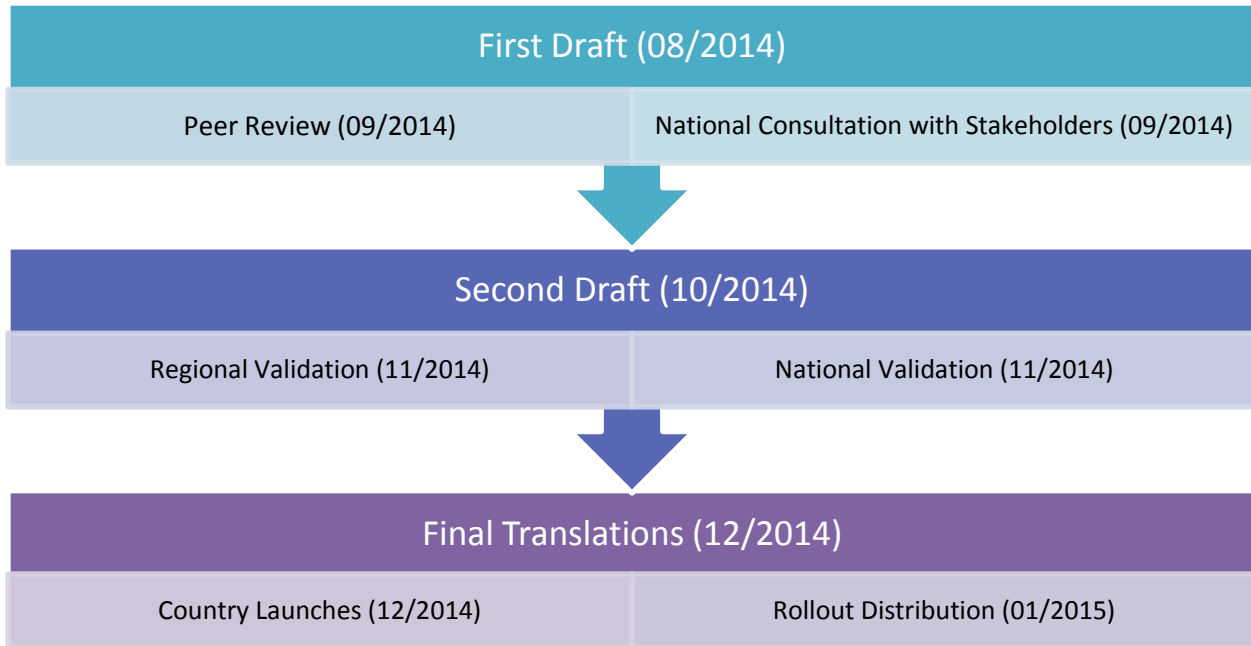
- I. Organizing the guidelines according to “levels” of intervention: Individual, Community/Local, National, Policy. This version would have a traditional introduction followed by a section defining the scope of the guidelines and peacebuilding. The next section would be a “Call to action” providing guiding questions followed by an annex that outlines suggested processes to follow on specific youth peacebuilding initiatives.
- II. Structuring the guidelines to levels of intervention, as well as cross-sectoral/integrative thematic areas (community development, policy environment, etc.) and more traditional sectors, such as education, security sector reform, rule of law, economy, health, and climate/environment.
- III. The third version is a hybrid database approach. This approach envisions an online database where the user enters several keywords (programme type, age group, sector, and level of intervention) and receives relevant examples. This model also allows for constant updating and streamlining.

## Moving forward

The workshop discussed in plenary the forward process for the development of the guidelines, including an indicative timeline. Key points are as follows:

- A small Task Force will lead the development of the guidelines and regularly report to the Sub-Working Group
- All drafts will be circulated to SWG members for review and inputs.
- The process will be open, inclusive, owned by the members.
- Accountability is an essential part of this effort: how we can be accountable to the people and help practitioners do better and more meaningful work.

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## Y4P Guidance Workshop 4-5 June

### FINAL Participant List

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