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Ressort: Politik

OSCE launched the Perspectives 20-30

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Engaging young people in a comprehensive approach to security is one of the goals of the OSCE which has launched the "Perspectives 20-30" initiative to bring young experts and practitioners together in order to develop a farsightedness for addressing current and future security challenges.

With the support of the Slovak OSCE Chair, the OSCE-wide Youth Forum in Bratislava on 28 and ?29 October 2019? will offer

a platform for young people from the OSCE area and beyond to exchange ideas and engage in an open, informal dialogue with each other and with delegates of participating States and OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

There are currently 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 in the world. This is the largest youth population ever. However, more than half of all children and adolescents aged 6-14 lack basic reading and maths skills, though the majority of them are attending school. This global learning crisis threatens to severely hinder progress

towards the SDGs.

12 August was first designated International Youth Day by the UN General Assembly in 1999, and serves as an annual celebration of the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth Under the theme of "Transforming Education", International Youth Day 2019 highlights the importance of making education more relevant, equitable and inclusive for young people all over the world. Highlighting the necessity to engage young people in efforts towards a safer and sustainable future, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Slovak Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Miroslav Lajcák declared: "For too long, young people have been

shut out of our discussions, or dismissed as part of the problem. Now we know that we cannot achieve any of our goals or objectives without them. Young people are already contributing to comprehensive security, peace and sustainable development – and inclusive education can propel them forward."

The Special Representatives on Youth and Security Alba Brojka and Samuel Goda called to mind, that with almost 38% of its population aged under 30, the OSCE is an important platform to promote youth participation in playing a part in comprehensive peace and security efforts across and beyond Europe. "Young people have proven to be bridge-builders, experts and contributors to peace and security in the

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OSCE area. Quality education

is crucial in strengthening youth engagement to address current and future challenges," they stated. Brojka, who was recently appointed as Special Representative, highlighted that Albania, as the incoming OSCE Chair, will continue to see engagement with and for young people as a priority.

"From the Helsinki Final Act onwards, to the most recent Ministerial Council in Milan, OSCE participating States have repeatedly recognized the positive role that young people can play in all three dimensions of security, and how education can contribute to these efforts," OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger noted. It's important now to turn commitments into a tangible reality for all.

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