

Joint Youth Statement: A Call for Inclusive Partnership in Advancing Ethiopia's YPS National Action Plan (NAP)

We, representatives of Sustainable Cooperation for Peace & Security (SCPS) and Positive Peace Ethiopia (PPE), assembled in Addis Ababa on 27 October 2025 during the Youth, Peace & Security Symposium, supported by the Africa–Europe Foundation, reaffirm our commitment to elevating youth-led peace, security, and inclusive governance as a non-negotiable political priority across Africa and Europe.

1. Context & Purpose

As we mark the 10th Anniversary of the UN Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda and move toward the 7th AU–EU Summit in Luanda, we recognize the crucial role Ethiopian youth play in shaping national and regional peacebuilding strategies.

Ethiopia is at a pivotal moment, having demonstrated a political commitment to initiate the development of a YPS National Action Plan (NAP). Drawing from Italy's recent experience and Europe's broader civil society networks, we seek to strengthen Ethiopia's youth-led input and establish a more equitable and impactful Africa–Europe collaboration model.

2. Youth Expectations for Partnership

From the workshop findings, youth leaders identified the following essential expectations for a meaningful, equitable partnership between European civil society and Ethiopian youth-led organisations:

- **Institutional Strengthening and Technical Mentorship:** Direct expert support enabling Ethiopian youth-led CSOs to strategically co-create policy-ready inputs and robust youth participation mechanisms for the NAP, ensuring technical parity in policy dialogue.
- **Peer Exchange and Twinning Projects:** Joint programmes between Italian/European youth platforms and Ethiopian networks, study exchanges, and entrepreneurial or volunteering projects to facilitate deep sharing of best practices and mutual learning.
- **Shared Platforms and Strategic Advocacy:** European partners are encouraged to use their platforms to strengthen Ethiopian youth contributions within international dialogues.
- **Flexible, Multi-Year Funding:** Immediate access to transparent and inclusive grant processes, prioritizing flexible, multi-year funding that positions youth-led organizations as co-implementers and decision-makers, moving decisively beyond the recipient/beneficiary model.

3. Call to Action for Institutions & Donors

We call for immediate and decisive action from key stakeholders to institutionalize the YPS agenda in Ethiopia:

- **To the Government of Ethiopia:** Officially recognize and resource a Permanent Youth Consultative Mechanism (or "Body") emerging from this process, granting it a formal mandate to monitor and provide policy guidance throughout the NAP development and implementation lifecycle.
- **To the Africa–Europe Foundation and Global Partners (UN, AUC):** Actively broker and formalize sustainable alliances between European civil society and Ethiopian youth organizations to jointly co-design, co-monitor, and co-evaluate the entire NAP framework.
- **To the European Union (EU) Institutions and Member States:** Commit to the principles of Flexible, Multi-Year Funding (as articulated above) and ensure that all accountability frameworks feature transparent co-leadership and decision-making roles for youth representatives.

4. Legitimacy and Process

This Joint Statement is the result of a fully youth-led, participatory, and co-creative process, ensuring legitimacy, inclusivity, and local ownership:

- 16 youth representatives from Ethiopian CSOs, universities, and community initiatives participated in a full-day workshop in Addis Ababa.
- Youth engaged in interactive plenary sessions, group work, and pillar-based consultations that specifically mapped national needs reflecting the five YPS pillars.
- A facilitated co-creation exercise enabled youth to identify core priorities, challenges, and expectations for national and international cooperation.
- Findings were synthesized by PPE and SCPS with the mandate to represent youth voices in national and regional policy spaces.

5. Commitment

SCPS and PPE commit to working together to finalize this Joint Youth Statement, aggressively disseminate it across national and regional networks, and sustain continuous advocacy for the achievement of its points.

Signed in Addis Ababa, 28 October 2025

**Positive Peace Ethiopia
(PPE)**

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