



# The Second National Conference on UNSCR 2250

**"Palestinian Youth Deserve Freedom and Just Peace"**

**Final Report**

12 November 2022



## About YWCA

YWCA Palestine is a Palestinian non-profit NGO based on membership. It was established in Jaffa in 1893 and was officially established in Jerusalem in 1918, and is part of the global YWCA movement. YWCA aims at empowering women and youth through the adoption of targeted programs and projects; improving their socioeconomic status through promoting their access to financial and technical resources and influencing decision makers; creating and developing economic opportunities available for them; and raising their national and social awareness as well as calling for raising their awareness to obtain their individual and national rights.

# Contents

About YWCA ..... 2

Summary on UNSCR 2250 ..... 4

Conference Background ..... 5

Main Objectives..... 6

The Conference Proceedings ..... 7

Closing Statement ..... 15

Youth Attendance and Participation..... 15

Inclusiveness and Media Coverage..... 16

The Conference Recommendations ..... 16

Public policy paper ..... 17



## Summary on UNSCR 2250

UNSCR 2250 is a pioneering resolution on youth, peace and security; it was adopted by the member states in 2015. The resolution recognizes the positive and important role of the youth in maintaining and promoting international peace and security. It calls for the promotion of youth's responsibility in decision making at local, national, regional and international levels and for considering the establishment of mechanisms that would empower the youth to effectively participate in peace processes. The said resolution mainly addresses five main components: participation, protection, prevention, partnership and disengagement and reintegration.







## Conference Background

YWCA Palestine held its first national conference for the youth under the framework of UNSCR 2250 in 2018 and was entitled “Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Building the Future of Freedom and Justice.” To build on the success of the first conference, the second conference was held in 2022 and was entitled “Palestinian Youth Deserve Freedom and Just Peace” under the auspices of HE Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh and in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Over two hundred young males and females from different districts in the West Bank, including the capital Jerusalem, attended this conference, along with participants from the Gaza Strip via video conference. They were all granted space to present their opinions and views on the UNSCR 2250 and elaborated on its connection to their lives under occupation and the daily social, economic and political challenges they face.

The conference aimed at reaching a number of applicable recommendations that would promote and protect the rights of the youth, and call on the government to adopt policies inclusive of youth in accordance with Resolution No. 2250 and other relevant resolutions.



1. Raise the awareness of the Palestinian youth on UNSCR 2250, which promotes the role of youth in peace and security, and the challenges in enforcing it in a military occupation context and under difficult living conditions.
2. Encourage the support for Palestinian young leaders to become active and positive elements of change in their communities through the inclusion of youth in decision making positions and mechanisms.
3. Establish mechanisms to assist the youth in leadership and support, and call for the adoption of Resolution No. 2250 at the national level, whilst these youth will be capable to engage with the Palestinian government in drafting policies that empower them socially, economically and politically and eventually lead to the sustainability and advancement of the Palestinian society.
4. Promote cooperation between YWCA Palestine, public sector organizations and other civil society organizations in building the capacities of the youth in participation, protection, prevention and partnership with relation to peace and security; thus promote regional and global solidarity networks with Palestinian youth for lasting and just peace, particularly with global YMCA/YWCA movements, as well as with ecumenical partners and other UN and international organizations who endorse human rights, security and just peace in Palestine.



# The Conference Proceedings

## Opening Session

The Prime Minister's advisor on strategic affairs, Dr. Daoud Al-Deek, attended the opening session on behalf of HE the Prime Minister. YWCA chairperson Ms. Haifa Baramki as well as the deputy representative of UNFPA in Palestine Mr. Ziad Yaish.

In her welcoming speech, Mrs. Baramki said: "The conference aims to shed light on our achievements throughout the past years since the international youth conference that was held in 2018. It also aims at raising the awareness of our Palestinian youth on the importance of this Resolution and discussing the upcoming challenges that will be faced in its implementation in light of the colonial occupation that continues to commit crimes against our people, particularly against our youth and children."

She also said: "The conference aims at preparing the young leaders to becoming active and positive agents of change in their communities, the thing that would be attained by engaging them in decision-making positions and mechanisms. It also aims at calling for the full adoption of Resolution No. 2250 at the national level".

She expressed her hopes that the outcome of the conference would be a national action plan that would include all partners, and a roadmap that would pave the way towards enhancing the status quo of the Palestinian youth on all fronts. She reiterated that our youth deserve freedom and peace to become the leaders of change in an independent and democratic Palestinian state where justice, security, peace and acceptance of others prevail.

In his speech on behalf of UNFPA, Yaish stressed that the engaging the youth and empowering

them stands as an utmost importance and a priority to the United Nations and the international community in order to meet the 2030 SDGs, whose more than one third of them are directly or indirectly affiliated with the youth.

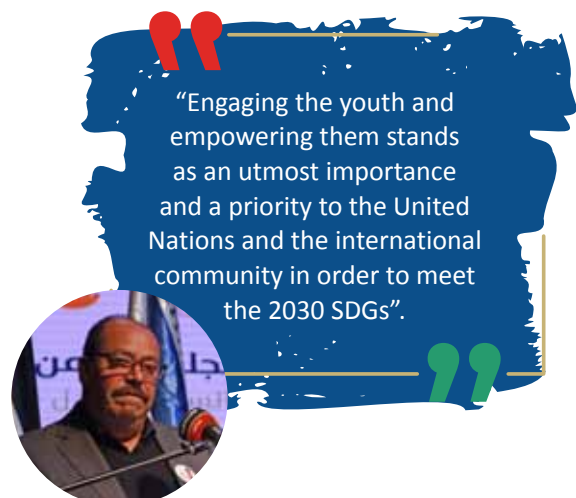
He also stressed on the importance of building communities that feature justice and flexibility in order for everyone to share welfare. This could be attainable through the implementation of UNSCR 2250 on youth, peace and security. He pointed out to the importance of focusing on empowering the youth, while providing them with the necessary tools to become effective and influential in their communities; such as developing the spirit of volunteerism, and engaging them socially and politically.

He noted that the youth are all the more voicing their exasperation, their feeling of being excluded and of having limited options, particularly when it comes to their professional future and job opportunities compared with other countries that present equitable opportunities in terms of work and health services. Yaish stressed that UNFPA is committed to supporting the national efforts in improving the coordination and cooperation with the relevant stakeholders within a national coalition and an action plan for the implementation of Resolution No. 2250 in order to promote and strengthen the inclusion of youth in decision-making and in maintaining civic peace.

Deputy Representative of UNFPA in  
Palestine **Mr. Ziad Yaish**



YWCA Palestine Chairperson  
**Ms. Haifa Baramki**



The opening speeches were followed by a short documentary that addressed YWCA's efforts throughout the previous years in working on UNSCR 2250 at the national level. The video included a recorded speech by the secretary general of YWCA in Sweden, who are partners in this conference, where he expressed his pride of the existing partnership between YWCA Sweden and YWCA Palestine and of their support to the efforts towards the adoption of Resolution No. 2250 at the official national level and community level in Palestine, as it will positively reflect on the reality of youth, particularly in light of the difficult circumstances there are living through.

In his speech representing HE Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, the prime minister's advisor on strategic affairs Dr. Daoud Al-Deek stated that peace and security in the Palestinian context are farfetched as long as the Israeli occupation still exists on our land. Ending the occupation is essential to realize this goal. All efforts must be deployed and all social powers and categories, led by youth, must engage in this legitimate struggle to end the occupation, attain freedom and build a modern and democratic state."

Al-Deek referred to the violations practiced by the occupation against the Palestinian youth, stressing the fact that Resolution No. 2250 carries a message of hope for Palestinian youth to end the occupation, which in effect requires the UNSC and other UN Agencies to assume their responsibilities and implement all pertinent. resolutions to the Palestinian cause.

He added that the government is striving relentlessly to address the increasing unemployment and poverty rates. It is focusing on creating spaces for the employment of youth through the restructuring of the educational system, improving the education's outcomes and connecting them to the labor market's needs and demands. The government has also established "The National Technical and Vocational Education and Training Commission (NTC)", "Nablus University for Vocational and Technical Education" and "The Programming Academy" in an attempt to generate thousands of job opportunities for the youth. Moreover, state owned lands and Waqf lands have been made available for investment by the youth. The government has also made progress in the voluntary civil service program.

In conclusion, the conference coordinator Bakr Shakhshier presented the opening statement. He stressed on the importance of building on the previous accomplishments with regards to the youth, peace and security agenda in Palestine in light of the current circumstances, changes in the field and living conditions that Palestinian youth suffered and still suffer from.

The opening session ended with shows presented by Douban Professional Dance Group followed by a song presented by a group of children from Tammoun-Toubas using sign language as recognition of this category of the society.

"The government is striving relentlessly to address the increasing unemployment and poverty rates. It is focusing on creating spaces for the employment of youth through the restructuring of the educational system, improving the education's outcomes and connecting them to the labor market needs and demands."



The Prime Minister's Advisor on Strategic Affairs  
**Dr. Daoud Al-Deek**





## Session One

### The National Framework of Resolution No. 2250: The Status of Palestinian Youth under Occupation

The first session included a discussion on the status of the Palestinian youth under occupation; it was facilitated by human rights activist Ms. Lamia Shalaldeh.

The session addressed the difficult political, economic, social and living conditions that the Palestinian youth undergo, the thing that undermines their chances of becoming integrated and participating effectively in their societies as well as in decision-making processes.

The Director General of Population and Social Statistics department at the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Mr. Mohammad Dreidi presented PCBS's indicators on the conditions of youth in Palestine, particularly with relation to political participation and the economic and social contribution of youth in Palestine.

Dr. Dalal Ireqat, Associate Professor in Diplomacy, Conflict Resolution and Strategic Planning at the Arab American University's Faculty of Graduate Studies, addressed the academic side of Resolution No. 2250 and the related international laws and conventions, how there are connected to the local understanding of this resolution's applications and the obstacles ahead of its application in light of the occupation and the current political situation.

Youth activist and journalist Mr. Bakr Abdulhaq focused on his experiences in the field and the challenges and successes he faced in his work in the field and in his academic experience. He discussed his initiative to establish the Palestinian observatory "Tahaqaq" (Investigate), the first Palestinian platform designated to expose any misleading and wrong information. He also talked about his participation in the latest local elections and the obstacles and opportunities connected to it.

Executive Director of Flow Accelerator, Ms. Majd Khalifa, talked about her experience in business development, investment, entrepreneurship and innovation, particularly with the youth. She stressed on the importance of focusing on this aspect as an introduction to solve the problems of youth as well as to face the challenges lying ahead of them, particularly the economic ones; unemployment and lack of opportunities, yet at the same time, to tackle such issues in order to promote and strengthen the Palestinian economy.

In the last intervention of this session, the youth and cultural activist Ms. Rula Rizeq, member of Ramallah Municipal Council and the Culture and Education Programs Coordinator at Abdel Muhsen Qattan Foundation, talked about the arduous status of the youth in the Palestinian society. She stressed on the importance of supporting them and enabling them to effectively participate in decision making processes on all levels, yet in parallel protecting them whilst maintaining all the aspects of a normal and stable life through utilizing the relevant national and international tools. She referred to her experience in the last elections of Ramallah Municipality and her work in the Municipal Council, then concluded by asking the attendees if they had any feedback on the session or if they wished to share any experiences or difficulties they encounter on daily basis.



"We call on decision makers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to examine the deteriorating conditions the people are living through in light of the systematic policies by the occupation to oppress, kill and forcibly displace Palestinian residents, particularly youth and children. It is now the time to work collectively by setting a clear path to end the occupation. It is our right to live in peace, we have the right to self-determination and we have the right of return of all Palestinians who have been displaced from their homes and homeland."



Human Rights Activist **Lamia Shalaldeh**



"PCBS is currently working with the Higher Council for Youth and Sports and the UNFPA to implement a project to measure the welfare index amongst youth. It includes indicators to measure welfare amongst youth as well as other indicators relating to social and demographic aspects, social and political participation of youth and the opinions and approaches of youth towards different social and economic issues."



The General Director of  
Population and Social  
Statistics at PCBS

**Mr. Mohammad Dreidi**



"He who has youth has the ability to change. They are the most targeted category by the occupation as they are the most attractive in the Palestinian society. However, they are completely excluded, particularly in decision-making positions and everyone is responsible for this! My advice to youth who have suffered oppression throughout 74 years of occupation is to assume responsibility for internal change. We are in need for internal change, which will lead to changes in the community culture."



Associate Professor in Diplomacy,  
Conflict Resolution and  
Strategic Planning at the Arab  
American University's Faculty of  
Graduate Studies

**Dr. Dalal Ereqat**



**40%**

The unemployment rate  
amongst youth in Palestine  
during 2021 was



**24%**

of youth wish to  
immigrate.



**40%**

of youth believe in their  
ability to participate in  
political life.

“Positive entrepreneurship is the way to escape the unemployment crisis in our country and to change the Palestinian society’s culture. Despite the high unemployment rates amongst youth, they are able to create success stories in their homeland and around the work using information technology and the internet. My passion is create opportunities and success stories for youth in unutilized sectors.”



Executive Director of Flow

Accelerator **Ms. Majd Khalifa**

“We call on youth to be in advanced stages of decision making and not only serve as a bridge for older generations. I always thought of emigrating from Palestine, but I always see the glass half full through the achievements I made. I am convinced that whoever cannot overcome difficulties in their homeland will not be able to overcome them abroad. We must convince decision makers that youth must be at the forefront.”



“Youth present an impressive model in challenging difficulties in their occupied country and are creating a new approach in the struggle, particularly since our lives are under constant threat and in light of denying us our most fundamental rights, such the right to movement. Youth must be participants and active in decision-making and change, knowing that their participation is limited and sometimes absent in some fields and areas. Their participation would simulate their aspirations and hopes for a better life.”

Youth activist and journalist

**Mr. Bakr Abdulhaq**



Youth and cultural activist

**Ms. Rula Rizeq**





## Session Two

### Policy Paper Discussion

In the second session of the conference, the YWCA of Palestine presented a general policy paper titled “Creating an Empowering the Environment for the youth to Lead the Future” prepared by researcher Mr. Hasan Mahareeq. The paper addressed a specialized analysis of the status of Palestinian youth empowerment as an entry point to promoting the political and civic participation, and lead production sectors in Palestine. The analysis was based on a revision of the national policies pertaining to the youth and their linkage to UN conventions and resolutions on the youth, particularly UNSCR 2250, which stresses out the significance of the role of Member States in taking the necessary measures to protect youth and foster their participation in public affairs, in addition to introducing the mechanisms that should guarantee their social and civil integration in the national policies.

The secretary general of YWCA Palestine Ms. Amal Tarazi moderated the session. In her speech, she mentioned the integral and vital role of youth in the society, and referred to the centrality of their position in the YWCA’s strategy and programs at the policy level and in the field.

Researcher Hasan Mahareeq presented the paper findings, including the analysis of the role of the relevant official institutions in the scope of national policies relating to youth. He presented the complementary policy options that revolved around two main options; one relating to promoting security and rule of law and the other relating to improving the education outcomes and entrepreneurship. He explained the policy proposals related to both options, then concluded the presentation of his paper with the key conclusions and recommendations.

Comments on the conclusions and recommendations of Mr. Mahareeq’s paper followed his presentation; they were based on the positions and policy roles of representatives of relevant official bodies, like representatives of relevant organizations which scope of work focuses on the youth; for example: Dr. Daoud Al-Deek , Prime Minister’s advisor on strategic affairs, was delegated from. the Prime Minister’s Office; Dr. Omar Awadallah, Deputy Minister to the UN and its Competent Agencies represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Mohammad Musleh, advisor to Minister of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment represented the said ministry; Mr. Rami Mihdawi, Director of the Palestinian Employment Fund, attended in person; Ms. Eman Tahboub, Acting Director General of the Youth affairs was delegated by the Higher Council for Youth and Sports.



“The young females and males lie at the center of the strategy and work programs of the YWCA of Palestine on both policy and field-work levels, for we do believe in their vital and significant role in the society.”

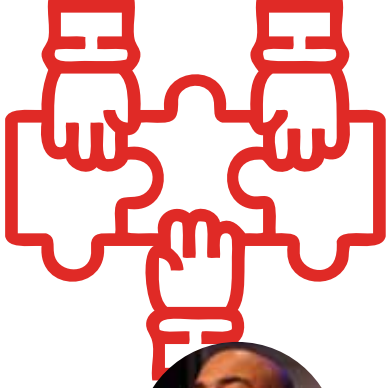
General Secretary of  
the YWCA of Palestine  
**Mrs. Amal Tarazi**



“We can provide an incentivizing environment for the youth by developing mechanisms and tools for participation in the building and development process in promoting the culture of tolerance and dialogue, denouncing violence and respecting other religions in accordance with strategies that address the structural barriers preventing the integration of youth and their participation in realizing peace, security and development, while promoting partnerships, cooperative work and investing in the youth and early childhood.”

The Prime  
Minister’s Advisor  
on Strategic Affairs

**Dr. Daoud Al-Deek)**



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for the UN and its Specialized Agencies

**Dr. Omar Awadallah**



“Technical and vocational training is one of the most important tools that could play a vital role in mitigating unemployment in the Palestinian society. Governmental efforts in this regard are being exerted on the highest levels. It is also important to upsurge the expanding the cooperatives, particularly in the agricultural sector, as they form a fundamental part and developmental provider to reduce unemployment. Moreover, to support small and micro enterprises is highly important and has a positive economic impact.”

Director of the Palestinian Employment Fund

**Mr. Rami Mihdawi**



“Our youth are the generation of the future and our hope to build the Palestinian State. The Higher Council for Youth and Sport’s vision is to create effective Palestinian youths who are capable of obtaining equal opportunities, capable of participating politically in the different aspects of life, and being able to promote voluntary work. All efforts and objectives must be unified through feasible mechanisms that could be implemented and followed-up in order to make a significant change in the status-quo of the youth”.

Acting Director of Youth Affairs at the Higher Council for Youth and Sports

**Ms. Eman Tahboub**

“We all know the song (Youth will not tire, their goal is independence – Mawtini Lyrics - (الشباب لن يكل همهم أن يستقل): our topmost goal is the independence and ending the colonial occupation. Therefore, UNSC Resolution 2250 could be a starting point for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to work with the youth as they are the most significant segment of our people and the most targeted”.



“Palestinian startups and Palestinian youth are competing in the regional and global markets. Thus, Ministry of Entrepreneurship must be prioritized and should get higher allocations in its budget in order to serve youth and startups.”

Advisor to the Minister of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment

**Mr. Mohammad Musleh**



## Session Three | Youth in the Field

The third session of the conference was entitled “The Palestinian Youth’s Understanding and Application of Resolution 2250 in the Field” and was facilitated by Ms. Sireen Hosho, Programs Manager at YWCA Palestine. Hosho focused in her opening remarks on the importance of supporting the economic and social entrepreneurship by the youth and on empowering them economically in order to maintain a source of income that should assist them in building their future and possibly create opportunities for their peers as well. She also highlighted the importance of this vision in the YWCA’s strategy and programs.

During the session, several experiences from the field were presented on the Palestinian youth’s understanding of Resolution No. 2250, their use of the resolution’s tools and applying it in the social and economic work and entrepreneurship in their local communities and on the national level. The floor was given to five initiatives and youths who benefited from the different trainings and programs implemented by YWCA to share their experiences and opinions, and to discuss the initiatives they are implementing and developing in the society. The following initiatives shared their experiences during this session: Al-Jalazon Refugee Camp female youth initiative to combat cyber blackmail crimes; Dair Abu Mishal youth initiative to combat violence and bullying at schools; “Bihimitkom” Society initiative to highlight the banking rights of persons with disabilities; Cliché youth corporation for embroidery and clothes production; Al-Bushra Mills youth company for the production of Tahini in the Gaza Strip.





## Closing Statement

After the conclusion of the three discussion sessions, conference coordinator Bakr Al-Shakhsheer closed the conference proceedings by reading the closing statement. The statement included a number of recommendations that promoted the role and rights of the youth in Palestine within the framework of UNSCR 2250. He also called on the Palestinian government and all official and community-based bodies to adopt these recommendations and work towards fulfilling them in order to have a positive impact on the status-quo of the Palestinian youth.



## Youth Attendance and Participation

The conference was attended by approximately 250 youth from different backgrounds and sectors and who came from different areas in the West Bank. There were students from schools, universities, colleges and vocational and technical training institutes; youth associations; voluntary groups; scouts groups; local youth councils; UN agencies on youth; entrepreneurs; political and social activists; and persons with disabilities among other categories.

In order to ensure the attendance and participation of the youth in the Gaza Strip, the conference hall was equipped with a live broadcast for the conference proceedings in coordination with the YMCA in Gaza. The conference was attended by a number of policy makers from different official bodies, community-based organizations, entrepreneurship bodies, UN agencies, international organizations and other NGOs operating in the youth sector in Palestine.

The youth who had benefited from different YWCA programs were given the opportunity to volunteer and participate in the planning and preparations for holding the conference. The selected group were provided with the necessary trainings and support and worked on three main components during the preparation processes for the conference; like media, reception and order, and documentation.

This aforementioned step has amplified the quality of arrangements done to hold this conference, as the touch of the youth was apparent.

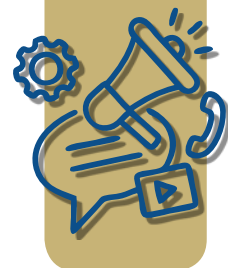


## Inclusiveness and Media Coverage

One of the points that was given extra attention during the planning and the executing of this conference was to ensure that everyone was able to access/come to the conference and participate in it. For this purpose, a free transportation service was made available to participants who commuted between the main cities and the conference venue in Ramallah.

Furthermore, and to avoid any discrimination against any of the attendees, we provided simultaneous interpreting from Arabic to English as well as sign language interpreting for the hearing impaired persons. Moreover, in order to ensure that the conference proceedings were accessed by the largest number of Palestinians, particularly the youth who were not able to attend in person, the conference proceedings were broadcasted live on the YWCA's Facebook page.

The conference was widely covered by visual, audio and written media platforms. Several news agencies covered the opening session, which was broadcast live on the Palestine TV. Several news agencies also broadcasted the video and published. Some written reports on the conference, including the Palestinian News & Information Agency-WAFA, Watan News, Raya Media Network and others.



## The Conference Recommendations



Form a national coalition for the implementation of UNSCR 2250 while ensuring youth participation alongside the relevant ministries, governmental institutions and civil society organizations in order to combine all efforts towards accomplishing comprehensive and fair laws and legislations that are in favor of the youth.

Form an inter-ministerial committee that shall be comprised of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment, Ministry of Labor including the Palestinian Employment Fund and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in order to promote the collaboration and networking between the different governmental entities, map the market needs, submit suggestions on adapting the educational outcomes with the market needs, and initiate in opening new entrepreneurship fields for graduates.

The Higher Council for Youth and Sports must assume its responsibilities in overseeing the sectoral plans related to empowering and developing skills of the youth, following up on the implementation of policies by the relevant ministries and realizing the actual outcomes based on measurable, clear and specific indicators.

Increase the financial resources needed to enable the Ministry of Entrepreneurship perform its duties, particularly with relation to creating new dimensions in the Palestinian market to promote innovative and entrepreneurial ideas, as well as to strengthen the cooperative relations with the private sector to invest in the infrastructure of these projects, and learn from the experiences of other countries around the world.

The government should allocate adequate budgets for scientific research in the IT sector and digital solutions, should adopt applied research to provide workers in the field of entrepreneurship with tangible results, improved productivity and quality in the provision of solutions and services locally and internationally.

Network with international partners to exchange expertise in the field of entrepreneurship, intensify the cooperation with foreign markets, present the youth with opportunities to market their initiatives in international exhibitions and network with global donors and business incubators.

Create legislative and policy measures that aim at ensuring the engagement of the youth in the decision-making processes, thus grant them 30% quota; i.e., as a representation in the different positions.

To take this conference as the base to raising awareness amongst the Palestinian youth on the UNSCR 2250 and its importance in endorsing the role of the youth in peace and security, and in encountering the future challenges in implementing it within the Israeli military occupation's context and the dire living conditions.

To boost the support to the Palestinian youth leaders in becoming the active and positive agents of change in their communities through engaging them in decision-making positions and mechanisms.

Public policy paper

October, 2022

# **Palestinian youth and the domestic application of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security**

“Creating an empowering environment for Palestinian  
youths to lead the future”

YWCA

Prepared by: Hassan Mahareeq

2022

## **Contents**

Executive Summary: .....	18
National policies and agenda according to requirements of Resolution 2250 ...	19
Policy options .....	20
Analysis of the roles of official institutions .....	21
Policy proposals to promote security and respect for the rule of law: .....	22
Option Two: Improving the outputs of the education system .....	23
Policy Proposals:.....	23
Conclusions and recommendations: .....	24
Recommendations for Option 1 .....	25
Recommendations for Option 2 .....	26
Intervention Plan:.....	27
Required interventions:.....	27



## Executive Summary:

The Palestinian youth sector is considered one of the social sectors that poses a major and complex challenge to national policy makers as a result of the vast diversity in social backgrounds, the class stratification of the youth sector, the various accelerated and accumulated needs of this sector. This is in addition to the diversity of skills this current generation of youth needs given that they are the vehicles for progress and development in Palestine.

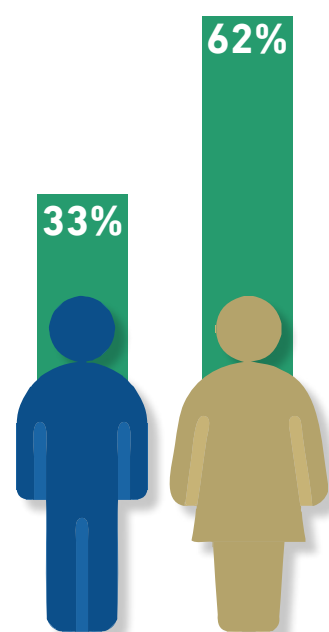
Over the past 20 years, efforts by national policy-makers have gone towards the development of the youth sector to promote its political, economic and social partnership in a bid to understand the reality of Palestinian youth and the dynamics of this sector. The age group of this sector was set as 18-29, in accordance with the UN definition, without consideration of the socioeconomic backgrounds, which play an important role in determining the fate and future of youth, which is not a homogenous sector. It is one with many differences and diversity, which explains the shortcomings in public policies and national strategies when addressing the subject of youth and ways to empower and build their capacities.

These policies were not reflected sufficiently vis-à-vis Palestinian youth. Neither did Palestinian society see any quantum leap regarding the skills among youth. This can be attributed to multiple reasons pertaining to the everyday life of all Palestinians and the daily measures and policies they are made to endure by the Israeli occupation. These measures hinder any progress at the social development and economic level, coupled with the complicated political reality, which produced the geographic and political division. This further exacerbated the challenges facing youth and their efforts to change a reality that limits their ability

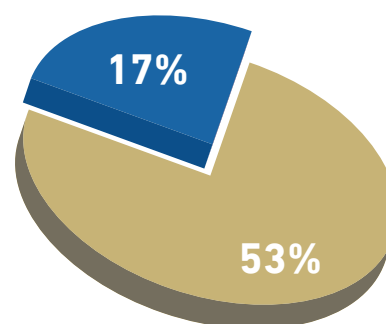
to achieve their aspirations and ambitions in an independent and developed Palestinian society.

Unemployment rates continue to rise among youth, averaging at 25% in Palestinian society. Employment rates are particularly noticeable among the 19-29 age group who hold college diplomas or higher degrees. In 2022, the unemployment rate stood at 48% (29% in the West Bank and 72% in the Gaza Strip)<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, unemployment rates are higher among females, in direct correlation with academic achievement levels, whereby unemployment among females almost reached 43%<sup>2</sup> in 2022.

As part of the preparation of this paper, the national policies on youth were reviewed. They acknowledged the importance of the role of youth in leading an awareness-based national movement through their involvement in the leadership of popular movements against Israeli occupation policies. Moreover, their strategic approaches<sup>3</sup> call for promoting youth involvement in decision-making positions, in formulating public policies, supporting education, training and capacity building, empowerment, combatting poverty media, technology, sports, entertainment, health, environment and positive behaviors. Government plans also included a linkage between the youth sector and entrepreneurship and pledged to provide facilitation for integrating Palestinian youth in the labor market.<sup>4</sup>



Unemployment rates among youth



Youth employment rates in the informal sector

1 Survey on working force, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, second quarter, 2022.

2 Unemployment in Palestine, Palestinian National Information Center, WAFA, 2021. [https://info.wafa.ps/ar\\_page.aspx?id=3424](https://info.wafa.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=3424)

3 Sectoral strategic youth plan, 2021 – 2023

4 100-day government plan to promote the local economy

This policy paper provides specific analysis on the empowerment of Palestinian youth as an entry point for promoting political and civic participation and for pioneering production sectors in Palestine. The paper is based on a review of the national policies for youth in relation to UN conventions and resolutions pertaining to youth, on particular, UNSCR2250. This resolution focuses on the importance of member states to take the necessary measures to protect youth and promote their participation in public affairs, in addition to guaranteeing mechanisms for their social and civil integration in national policies.

This analysis is based on the reality and opportunities for empowering youth on the assumption that fostering economic independence for youth magnifies their ability to make decisions and vitalizes their political and social participation, considering this as the space in which youth can exchange ideas for creating social and political change, which guarantee institutionalization for building a society capable of keeping up with the fast pace of development in the world. Policies capable of providing social and economic protection for youth among the most important factors that led to social prosperity in human societies and reinforced the ability of youth to apply their vision for change towards more just and equal societies.

**Table:**

Youth priorities	Most significant challenges	Factors that hinder political participation
Security, rule of law	Rising unemployment rates and lack of job security	Shrinking civil space and increased rate of violations against the right to assembly and self-determination
Improvement in standards of living and creating jobs	Increasing political and economic polarization	Increased religious-political tendencies among youth
Reliable relations with family and community	Lack of abidance by official parties to towards promises to develop the youth sector	Halt of legislative process and irregular election process
Political and civil participation	Increased desire among youth to immigrate	Increased control from family and primary relations

## National policies and agenda according to requirements of Resolution 2250

One of the most important pillars of Resolution 2250 is promoting the participation of youth at the decision-making levels, integrating them in the formulation of public policies, involving them in security and peace-keeping and safeguarding them from political and economic exploitation. When the resolution was adopted in 2015, it was within the context of growing crises in the region, including the emergence of terrorist movements and their threat to the security and peace of peoples in the region and on the premise of recognition from the world and governments of the importance and vitality of youth among peoples.

Furthermore, the amended 2003 Palestinian Basic Law and the declaration of independence, comprised an important reference for the domestic, which official and civil institutions worked within in building their interventions in the youth sector. This was based on the premise that the Basic Law guaranteed all citizens rights, which naturally included the youth sector, civil, political, health, social, cultural, educational, housing and labor rights.

The core of interventions by youth institutions in Palestine is represented in their efforts to create participatory spaces and to lead national dialogues in order to implement the resolution on the ground. This could be achieved by creating policies and agendas at the national level in partnership with the political echelon, which in turn would shoulder the responsibilities of implementing the rights guaranteed by the Basic Law and implementing the stipulations of UNSCR 2250. The resolution includes a clear demand to governments to expedite the implementation of the resolution in regards to promoting legal protection and political participation for youth to improve their reality.

The national agenda included, without exception, the importance of developing sectors in order to provide

qualitative services to youth and to create the necessary jobs in the labor market so they could achieve their aspirations and desires and encourage their integration and political participation. The national policy agenda for 2017-2022 constituted a source of formal commitment to implement policies to improve the quality of young people's lives through providing good education, promoting social justice and the rule of law, providing health care and achieving the aspired economic development.<sup>5</sup> (fn9)

Furthermore, public policy No. 21 clearly states the importance of empowering youth<sup>6</sup>(fn10) through a commitment by the government as one of the main operators in Palestine, the government's pledge to care for and support pioneer projects for youth, to promote their participation in public life and to take decisions, upgrading educational outputs to enable youth to join the work force, improving the levels of security and enforcing the law, which reflects the resolution's call for the need to include youth in sectoral planning.

The 2017-2020 and the 2021-2023 National Strategy Plan for Youth<sup>7</sup> (fn11) both included the importance of community participation, galvanizing political and civil participation among the various youth groups and empowering youth in managing public affairs. This is through involving them in voluntary campaigns and initiatives meant to improve the reality of Palestinian youth. The plan also confirmed the importance of combatting poverty among youth, reinforcing their protection, providing safe community environments to develop their capabilities and skills and providing necessary spaces for them to expend their energy and maintain their overall health.

It should be noted that international treaties and conventions comprised a reference in all of the national plans and agendas for youth, in particular Resolution 2250, with a focus on its articles of participation and prevention, as solidarity with the spirit of the resolution. Another reference is the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW, in addition to the Global Action Programme designed by the UN in 1995. This includes general guidelines for the necessary measures and procedures at the national level to improve the conditions of youth. It focuses on the importance of promoting development opportunities that magnify the presence of youth at all levels of political and community participation. Moreover, some of the national plans are based on the European Social Charter on youth participation.<sup>8</sup> (fn12) which called the right of youth to social, legal and economic protection and their right to training, empowerment and protection from exploitation and violence in addition to the promotion of their political participation.

## Policy options

Policy papers are considered a tool for structural change, aimed at providing mechanisms for action to official institutions in targeting specific social sectors, based on the premise that reform or structural change are among the most important factors for achieving cultural change. That is, they contribute to transforming patterns, behaviors and social identity into supporting factors for the process of change and modernization and to create a cultural climate that supports marginalized social sectors and speeds the process for their integration and representation of their interests.

Based on the previous analysis of Palestinian youth priorities, it is clear that the most important priorities regarding their needs are security and the rule of law. This can be attributed to the absence of the rule of law in the lives of Palestinian youth and the tenuous sense of personal safety, all of which negatively reflect on their political and social participation. This priority becomes a demand in light of the ongoing political division and the different legal references between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is in addition to the increased influence of the executive authority at the expense of the judicial authority, which has compromised the ability of judicial institutions to enforce the law. <sup>9</sup> (fn13). This is in addition to the

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5 National Policies Agenda, 2017– 2022, Fourth National Plan for Palestine, the government, 2016 –17 (footnote 9)

6 National Development Plan, Public Policies, 2021 –2023, Prime Minister's office, 2020 (fn10)

7 Sectoral Strategy for Youth, 2021– 2023, Higher Council for Youth and Sports, 2020 (fn11)

8 Amended European Social Charter, Human Rights Library, University of Minnesota , 1996 (fn12)

9 The Rule of Law in the State of Palestine, Cathrine Abuamsh, this week in Palestine, 2021. <https://thisweekinpalestine.com/wp-content/uploads/2021004/09/.pdf> fn13



rising level of violations of freedoms, especially the freedom of expression and arbitrary political arrests among youth.<sup>10</sup> (fn14) Moreover, the absence of security services and police in Area C - an Oslo Accords designation – comprised one obstacle to enforcing the law in many aspects of the lives of Palestinian youth.

Meanwhile, the rule of law is considered one pillar of democracy in modern societies because it guarantees the separation and balance of authorities and powers of the executive, judicial and legislative authorities. Also, legal protection is considered motivation for the political participation of youth because it safeguards against the violation of their political social and economic rights and entrenches the principle of equality before the law and judiciary. It also limits the influences of parties over each other and restricts political, factional, familial or tribal authorities in favor of the participation of citizens as active political and social individuals.

The second priority for the youth sector in Palestine, according to need, is improving their living conditions, creating appropriate jobs and improving the level of job security. This is reflected in the high unemployment rates and the level of frustration among youth towards the government's promises to improve youth employment as a productive working force in Palestinian society. This was reflected in the low levels of confidence in official institutions and skepticism over their ability to develop the Palestinian market and create new job opportunities that coincide with the numbers of youth seeking work and jobs.

Hence, in this paper, we will focus on the most significant challenges facing Palestinian youth and ways to address these challenges and overcome obstacles for a more optimistic future for them. Addressing these challenges is imperative for empowering youth to become actively involved in political participation, which would guarantee their independence as a precursor to this participation. Furthermore, providing youth with social and economic protection is one of the most important factors that enable them to liberate their political will and boost their confidence in the values of democracy and good governance in the administration of public affairs.

## **Option one: Enhancing security and the rule of law**

### **Policy paper: Enhancing security and the rule of law**

- International organizations and their responsibility to protect the Palestinian people
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Interior ministry

## **Analysis of the roles of official institutions**

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:**

One of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' most important tasks is to maintain the positions of the UN and its agencies towards the Palestinian cause and to continuously work towards passing UN resolutions that encourage the recognition of Palestinian rights and galvanize international mechanisms for their application on the ground.<sup>11</sup> (fn15). Moreover, the Foreign Ministry represents Palestine in all official regional and international meetings and conferences, to ensure that the Palestinian cause is always present in international arenas. The Ministry represents the need of any occupied people against whom all forms of oppression and violations are exercised, in order to provide an umbrella of protection and to push for just political solutions based on the right to self-determination and establishing an independent, democratic state that respects the rights and dignity of all its citizens.

International cooperation and development is considered one of the most important duties of the Foreign Ministry in taking initiative in developing and reviving economic relations with the world's countries. It also promotes cooperation with the rest of the world through Palestinian economic missions. For young Palestinians, the Foreign Ministry is considered a partner and a responsible party in terms of encouraging the flow of foreign investment and providing the necessary facilitation for investment researchers in

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<sup>10</sup> Statement demanding respect for and protection of the freedom of opinion and expression, Al Haq, 2022. (fn14)

<sup>11</sup> Tasks of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from MoFA website. <http://www.mofa.pna.ps/ar-jo> (fn15)

Palestine. The Ministry also provides scholarships, secures university seats and training and empowerment workshops through its cooperation with universities and international training institutes. 12 (fn16)

In conclusion, the role of the Foreign Ministry pertains to responsibilities towards providing means of international protection for the Palestinians as a people under occupation, through the implementation of UN resolutions, their adoption and nationalization at the domestic level. This is in addition to its development role in creating investment education and training opportunities at the international level for Palestinian youth, which serves the objectives of this paper in developing an environment that would empower youth through a network of roles among decision-makers in the Palestinian government.

**Interior Ministry:**

The role of the Interior Ministry according to its consecutive policies and strategies for the security sector, indicates that it makes concerted efforts to ensure commitment to the principles of human rights and gender inclusivity in handling citizens’ security issues. It also works on entrenching the concept of respect for the rule of law, through respecting citizens’ freedoms, providing civil protection and facilitating access to security services and protection for the people.

The Ministry’s security sector strategy also includes an updated system of laws and regulations for security forces and crime prevention, 13 (fn17) which is based on human rights. This is in order to achieve the original goal of the Ministry in maintaining society’s internal front, preserving its interests and protecting it from foreign or hostile interferences that could undermine the social unity and fabric.

The Ministry also promised to conduct a review and update of its procedures to coincide with commitments as part of the various international protocols, treaties and conventions signed by Palestine. It takes into consideration that this would expedite the process to join international institutions and forums involved in the governance of the security sector.

**International institutions:**

International institutions support official and civil Palestinian institutions to develop their performance in governance and implementation of laws and resolutions in line with international standards. They also support defenders of the Palestinian cause in amplifying their voices in international platforms and facilitate for Palestinian delegations to participate in international organizations that are capable of providing support for restoring Palestinian national rights.

The role of international institutions is also considered important in supporting the activities of young Palestinians and increasing their presence at the international level through participation in international youth conferences. During these events, networking is carried out in defense of the Palestinian cause and raising global awareness on it, in addition to confirming adherence to international and UN resolutions that support the protection of the rights of youth and of halting Israeli occupation violations against them.

At the local level, international institutions contributing to reviving youth issues by demanding from Palestinian decision-makers to ensure protection of the political, social and economic rights of Palestinian youth. They also stressed on the need to revive political life for youths in a democratic fashion and to help them reach decision-making positions, develop policies supporting youth and allowing for personal freedoms so they can exercise their social and political roles and lead a process of change and modernization.

**Policy proposals to promote security and respect for the rule of law:**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Interior Ministry	International institutions
Overseeing the harmonization of local legislation with international treaties to coincide with the global system based on human rights	Expediting the process of updating laws and procedures for security forces to guarantee their respect for rights and freedoms	Formulating a unified strategy for international institutions in Palestine that builds on the principle of prioritization, interests and Palestinian rights

12 Sectoral strategy for foreign policy 2021 – 2023, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Development Plan, 2021.(fn16)

13 Strategic plan for security sector, 2017 – 2022, Ministry of Interior, 2017 (fn17)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Interior Ministry	International institutions
Furthering the demand to provide protection for the Palestinian people from the occupation's oppression, violation of freedoms, right to life and self-determination	Halting all forms of violations that stymie the freedom of Palestinian youth to exercise their role in political change and expression of their opinions.	Supporting democratic forces, especially youth movements, in demanding elections and the restoration of democratic life to ruling institutions in Palestine
Overseeing the process of change based on shadow reports by CSOs, taking them into consideration and conducting the necessary amendments according to demands	Correlating laws and regulations with international standards in line with the obligations of the State of Palestine as a signatory to international treaties and conventions	Supporting official Palestinian parties at UN bodies and in international arenas to criminalize anything in contravention with UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 2250, which is considered an umbrella of protection for youth in conflict areas.
Raising money and setting up the necessary funds to encourage investment in Palestine and providing training and empowerment opportunities in universities and international institutes	Distributing the police force in a fair and balanced manner throughout districts in the homeland, to guarantee a sense of security, rule of law and the preservation of civic peace	Supporting civil society institutions and supporting them within the framework of implementing Resolution 2250 at the local level and issuing the necessary legislation to apply it.
Supporting the involvement of active Palestinian youth who defend the Palestinian cause and encouraging their participation at the international and UN level; offering them ample opportunities to represent Palestine's youth and their concerns and aspirations	Providing the necessary protection to guarantee the right to peaceful assembly and expression of opinion, through providing them with a safe and democratic space for protest and objection	Building partnerships with CSOs to promote the political participation of youth, integration in their communities and protection of their rights.

## Option Two: Improving the outputs of the education system and enhancing entrepreneurship

### Policy paper: improving the outputs of the education system and enhancing entrepreneurship

- Higher Council for Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Labor
- Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment
- Higher Education Council
- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

### Policy Proposals:

#### Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

- Improving and developing administrative units at the ministry to guarantee effective implementation of the ministry's plans and strategies
- Changing the local culture on university campuses so it is based on developing critical thinking among students and encouraging a spirit of adventure and discovery
- Increasing ministry budgets, whereby the ministry's 2022 budget was ILS219,943,427, or %2 of the overall general budget. Salaries comprised 57.8% of the ministry's budget while scientific research stood at 1.7% of the budget.
- Accomplishing a contemporary education law for higher education and providing legal protection that guarantees the independence of higher education institutions

- Developing technical training and empowerment projects that target teachers in entrepreneurial projects outside of universities in response to the ongoing need for education and development.
- Updating new specializations in universities and updating the admissions criteria
- Promoting strategic cross-sectoral partnerships that include partner government institutions such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor, the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, CSOs and the private sector, aimed at updating programs and curricula within the framework of an integral national partnership.

### **Ministry of Labor**

- Developing the Palestinian market's infrastructure to absorb entrepreneurial projects
- Increasing budgets earmarked for the labor sector whereby the Ministry of Labor's 2022 budget was ILS76,921,425, or 0.45%.
- Developing curricula and vocational training programs and improving acceptance levels in these programs.
- Strengthening coordination between the three production parties (Ministry of Labor, private sector and unions).
- Updating tax systems and laws and adapting them in favor of small and entrepreneurial projects
- Modernizing an incentives system to encourage the entrepreneurial sector and providing measures of protection and positive discrimination for startups in the market
- Taking the necessary measures to encourage women's projects to shift from conventional to entrepreneurial projects.
- Supporting entrepreneurial youth to access global markets to provide their services and working to attract global entrepreneurial companies through annual trade expos.

### **Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment**

- Investing in networking with international and local financing funds to support entrepreneur projects.
- Following up on national policies and strategic plan regarding entrepreneurship and small projects and oversee their implementation.
- Building partnerships with civil society institutions that offer training and empowerment projects and fund entrepreneur projects.
- Transferring and adopting successful international experiences in the entrepreneur sector and startups and adopting the local market to comprehend them
- Providing the necessary budgets to develop and follow up on policies of the entrepreneurial sector and recruiting and employing exports in the field of developing entrepreneurship and projects.
- Contributing to the development of the entrepreneurial sector such as developing IT and communications and achieving flexible movement in digitalization services and exchanging them with global markets.

### **Conclusions and recommendations:**

This paper is based on the analysis of the roles of decision makers in dealing with the challenges facing Palestinian youth. In terms of priorities, the primary need among youth is a sense of personal safety and the rule of law. This is followed by improved living conditions. Treatment of these challenges is considered inevitable in order to foster a suitable environment and objective conditions for the political, social and economic participation of the younger generation.

Throughout the preparation of this paper, it was clear that all government strategies showed interest and an acknowledgment of youth and the importance of their development role along with plans to address the challenges they face. Some were interested in promoting security and the rule of law and protecting the Palestinian internal front in addition to updating laws and legislation from the perspective of international standards and gender. Others were interested in promoting the roles of youth through integrating them in the labor market and speeding up the absorption process for increasing numbers resulting from soaring unemployment rates, especially among graduates. This is through promoting entrepreneurship, creating funds and raising money for investment in this sector.



The role of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports was prominent as overseeing interventions and policies regarding the development of Palestinian youth, especially in regards to empowerment and training and eventually to provide conditions conducive with their participation in policy formulation and integration in their communities and reaffirming their vital role.

In spite of their availability, strategies of the various decision-making posts continue to be isolated from one another. What's more, there is no indication of a division of roles between the various government bodies. Also, the enacted policies regarding the promotion of the role of youth and dealing with the challenges facing them, have not actually been implemented on the ground. This is due to the shortcomings of administrative bodies in implementing plans and strategies, in addition to the absence of coordination and cooperation between various government bodies charged with implementation.

Sectoral planning as a concept among decision makers and the absence of its content, shows the gaps in implementing public policies and their ineffectiveness in dealing with the challenges facing youth. These have only become more complicated in light of this fast-changing and developing world and has an impact on the extent of these institutions presence and role in the minds of Palestinian youth and their ability to implement policies in favor of public affairs. This can only be explained as a structural malfunction among decision-making centers resulting from the interaction of several factors, including the absence of accountability and transparency as criteria for ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of institutions that provide services to citizens.

## Recommendations for Option 1

One: Developing an official security policy by working to complete a legislative framework to regulate the work of security services, which would eliminate the overlapping of powers. Also, to draft a security doctrine based on respect for right and liberties and far removed from political tensions; developing and supplying security academies with curricula, courses and extracurricular activities that foster respect for human rights and promote integrity in the work of the security establishment.

Two: Addressing legislative and legal shortcomings through updating the system of enacted laws and reinforcing its ability to achieve public and private deterrence. This requires general, presidential and legislative, elections to be held and to reconvene the party for the original constitutional legislation. In parallel, it is imperative that the effectiveness of the justice system is also boosted, especially the regular judiciary, in dealing with disputes. This is through establishing effective training academies for judges and providing financial and logistic resources.

Three: Strengthening efforts to combat political, administrative and financial corruption and promoting transparency, integrity, accountability and social oversight, which will positively reflect on the sense of equal opportunity and hence, the overall sense of citizenship, affiliation and abidance by the law.

Four: Enhancing the principle of the rule of law and bolstering the sense of security through restoring confidence in the governing system; developing the concepts of the social contract that guarantees the sovereignty and independence of the judiciary authority; boosting the efficacy of its system by expediting court proceedings and developing the justice system in a way that guarantees the application of the justice system.

Five: Developing and updating the system of laws and procedures to motivate youth and encourage them towards social and political participation and to guarantee their protection; implementing UN resolutions pertaining to the promotion of youth participation and integration; adapting laws with international standards and treaties and carrying out the obligations of the State of Palestine.

Six: Reviewing policies and plans of the security sector and foreign policies from a gender lens; providing the necessary budgets to reinforce the role of women at all decision-making levels; positive discrimination in favor of their presence in the public sphere; bolstering the role of women in promoting the rule of law and involving them at the international level to represent their national causes.

Seven: Reminding international and UN institutions, agencies and countries of their moral responsibility to provide protection for the Palestinians; halting all forms of violations and mistreatment of Palestinians perpetrated by the Israeli occupation; recognizing the Palestinians' right to self-determination; providing the necessary support for implementing UN resolutions on the ground.

## Recommendations for Option 2

One: Assigning a committee comprised of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment and the Ministry of Labor (Employment Fund) to promote cooperation and networking between the three government parties; monitoring market needs; offering suggestions on how to correlate education outputs with the market; opening new areas of entrepreneurship for graduates.

Two: The Higher Council for Youth and Sports must shoulder its responsibility in overseeing sectoral plans for the empowerment and development of youth skills; follow-up on the implementation of policies by the relevant parties; achieving actual and measurable outputs.

Three: Securing the necessary financial resources to empower the entrepreneurship ministry to carry out its duties, especially in creating spaces in the Palestinian market for creative and leadership ideas; strengthening cooperation with the private sector in developing the infrastructure for these projects; drawing on the experiences of other countries, especially Rwanda and Estonia, given the similarities with their poor infrastructure in the fields of IT and entrepreneurship projects. These two countries were able to create thousands of jobs in the youth sector.

Four: Formulating effective policies and measures to reevaluate the outposts of the open education system in Palestine and pointing them in the direction of outputs that coincide with the labor market; addressing the gaps in knowledge and empowerment for beneficiaries of the open education program.

Five: Encouraging institutes and IT and communication training centers; raising funds to finance their activities in the field of youth empowerment; providing them with the cognitive and technological skills to develop and formulate digital solutions to problems facing Palestinian society.

Six: Formulating policies that provide opportunities for promoting partnership with the private sector in a bid to boost entrepreneurial projects and startups in Palestine and to make this part of their social responsibility; formulating the necessary incentives for this sector through tax deductions.

Seven: Reviewing tax laws and systems to coincide with the social and political circumstances of the people; shifting the approach towards taxes from one of mere tax collection to a concept of social development and growth.

Eight: Reviving the role of the Higher Council of Palestinian universities to determine the needs of each national university in developing its outputs; specifying the necessary developmental budgets; investing in new majors; reconsidering the admission requirements for these majors; developing the practical sections for these majors.

Nine: Providing the necessary government budgets for scientific research in the fields of IT and digital solutions; taking steps towards applied research in a way that will allow entrepreneurs to implement their research results and improve production and quality of their solutions and services, locally and internationally.

Ten: Networking with international partners to exchange expertise in the field of entrepreneurship; increasing cooperation with external markets and providing opportunities for youth to present their initiatives at international expos; connecting them with funders and global business incubators.

## Intervention Plan:

This requires exerted and congruent national efforts to create an enabling environment for youth, which will have a direct impact on the formulation of a roadmap aimed at absorbing youth potentials by boosting entrepreneurial and empowerment projects and developing them in the Palestinian market.

Such an intervention requires a clear distribution of responsibilities among parties, most importantly the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, which has expressed special interest in the political participation of youth through encouraging their integration in the labor market. Furthermore, among the tasks of the Ministry of Labor is its responsibility to coordinate between educational outposts and labor market requirements. Furthermore, the role of the Ministry of Education is key to infrastructure development and technical operations in order to encourage the involvement of youth in the entrepreneurial market. Finally, the Ministry of Higher Education has direct responsibility in organizing the higher education sector, majors and their distribution, in addition to overseeing qualitative outputs of the educational process in Palestinian colleges and universities.

As for the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, its responsibilities are to oversee the development policies of the entrepreneurial sector through supervising the interventions of other decision-making parties and how they complement one another; following up on implementation, performance and achievement oversight in addition to overseeing the information exchange process between the various sectors.

## Required interventions:

Studying and identifying the needs of entrepreneurial projects in Palestine, by reviewing three levels:

Infrastructure of entrepreneurial projects in terms of the Palestinian market's preparedness to integrate these projects and absorb their products and services, especially pertaining to the technical structure for IT and communications.

Correlating the necessary human capital and its needs with the operation of entrepreneurial projects and business sponsorship requirements.

Studying the necessary technical improvements regarding the registration and periodicity of entrepreneurial projects, tax exemptions and duration; facilitations to improve the chances of success for entrepreneurial projects in Palestine.

Developing a national plan on the basis of a needs-assessment study, to bolster the situation of entrepreneurial projects in Palestine. In this regard, decision-making centers will participate in developing the infrastructure for these projects. It is also important that the plan defines the practical roles and responsibilities of these decision-making parties, the time period allotted for the interventions and the powers of each party, including the oversight and follow-up tools for their interventions.

Establishing a database to exchange data and information on entrepreneurial projects: databases are considered an important tool for managing the tasks and responsibilities of the parties involved in the intervention (Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Economy, Higher Council for Sports and Youth, Ministry of Communications)

Determining the necessary budgets, whereby each decision-making center demines the budget needed to update and develop infrastructures for entrepreneurial projects. For example, the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment presents a plan to facilitate the registration and tax exemption procedures for projects to the Ministry of Economy. The needed financial costs would be attached to the plan so as to improve efficacy of these procedures.

Mapping out partner CSOs and private sector institutions, which fall under four categories:

Awareness: CSO partners, especially youth institutions raise awareness among the youth sector on the importance of entrepreneurial projects as an approach for solving the unemployment problem and promoting financial and social independence for them.

Empowerment: CSO's and private sector institutions take part in this through sponsoring business incubators, offering training to provide young beneficiaries with the necessary skills and to develop these skills in the field of IT and management; developing innovative ideas and turning them into practical endeavors capable of competing in local and international markets.

Financing: Institutions that finance small projects fall under this category. The current funding policies for entrepreneurial projects are reviewed and reconsidered and new funding methods are found to minimize risks for these projects and which will encourage a spirit of adventure and renewal in the entrepreneurial market.

Monitoring and accountability: The relevant institutions specialized in policy oversight and good governance follow up on the national plan for entrepreneurship and monitor the levels of implementation, performance and government funding for these interventions; they also hold decision-makers to account for gaps and provide alternative solutions.

Building interventions with the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through enhancing cooperation with international institutions working in the Palestinian territories. These interventions are aimed at amplifying the causes of Palestinian on international and UN platforms. Furthermore, these parties provide the necessary spaces for young Palestinians to market their projects on these platforms, thus enabling them to access global markets.