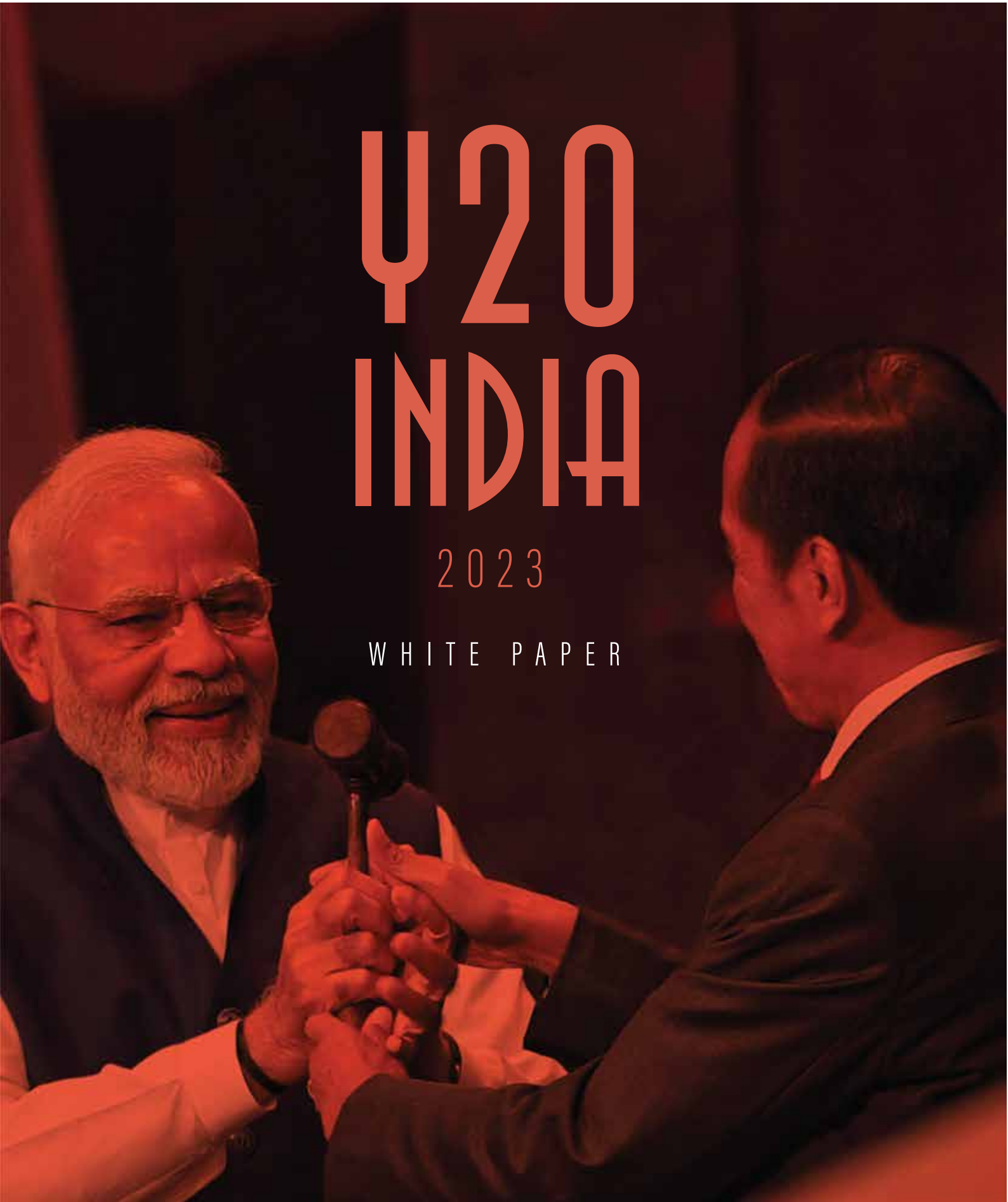Y20
INDIA
2023

WHITE PAPER

Y20 INDIA 2023

PEACEBUILDING & RECONCILIATION

USHERING IN AN ERA OF NO WAR

CONTENTS

Acknowledgement

This white paper is produced by Y20 India, the official Youth Engagement Group of the 2023 G20 Summit, with the support of the G20 Secretariat, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Dr Vijay Chauthaiwale, Mentor Y20 India, for his valuable guidance and support. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr Anirban Ganguly, Director, Dr Syama Prasad Mookherjee Research Foundation, for his pertinent insights and constant encouragement.

We gratefully acknowledge the interviewers, researchers, and speakers who assisted us in channelling our thoughts by supplying pertinent data and information, as well as literary contributors whose works, which have been already published or have been put up on accessible sources, have been incorporated in the present document. This paper is part of the efforts to include youths' perspectives on current issues of international importance. The white paper can be seen as a meaningful attempt to discuss the diverse perspectives of the concerned themes as well as suggestions that can be implemented.

The views contained in this paper are the sole responsibility of the authors. Any omissions, inaccuracies, or errors are our own. No endorsement is implied for any commercial entity or product mentioned in this publication.

Drishti Rawal
Secretary,
Policy and Research
Y20 India Secretariat

CONTRIBUTORS

Drishti Rawal
Secretary, Policy and Research

Contributing Authors

Raj Shekhar (Policy and Research Associate)
Palak Kohli (Research Co-ordinator)
Aditi Narayani Paswan (Track Chair)

Content Supervisors

Pathikrit Payne (Co-ordination Head)
Priyank Kumar Chauhan (Special Co-ordinator)

Knowledge Partners

Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
United Nations in India

Executive Summary

This Y20 White Paper on "Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in An Era of No War" focuses on navigating the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts such as the Russo-Ukrainian War towards a world of peace and prosperity. The paper highlights the importance of facilitating global consensus on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, promoting equitable collaboration between the Global North and South, and countering non-state actors through concerted efforts.

Drawing from India's experience of navigating internal and external conflicts, the paper emphasises the need for socio-economic stability and peace-building efforts in preventing wars. It highlights the fact that peace cannot be established or sustained only through the absence of armed conflict and that factors like the economic and social stability of a State play a critical role in this regard. Through specific case studies, the paper suggests that the G20 nations can learn from India's experience in making and implementing its socio-economic policies and devising effective peace-building efforts in once-restive regions.

In addition to short-term measures such as the use of force to extinguish conflicts, the paper highlights the importance of long-term measures that ensure peace-building and reconciliation. Empowering the youth through education and awareness is identified as one of the most important long-term measures. The paper also highlights the Indian ethos of diplomacy, which is premised on the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "The World is a Family", and has been reflected in ideas such as non-violence, the Five Postulates of Panchsheel, recent efforts of "Namaste diplomacy" and "Medical diplomacy" and the recognition of Yoga as a source for blending and creating a people-centric model of diplomacy are also highlighted in the paper.

Finally, the paper stresses the importance of focusing on both short-term and long-term measures, including regulation of non-state actors, to achieve global peace and stability. It must be remembered that while focusing on long-term measures to maintain peace, short-term measures to extinguish conflicts in restive regions of the world must not be neglected. The paper concludes with a call to all G20 nations to work together towards ushering in an era of no war, by adopting ethos of diplomacy, education, and empowerment.

Glossary

1. **Conflict Resolution:** Refers to efforts to prevent or mitigate violence resulting from intergroup or interstate conflict, as well as efforts to reduce the underlying disagreements.[1]

2. **Global North:** Refers to the economically developed societies of Europe, North America, Australia, Israel, South Africa, amongst others.[2]

3. **Global South:** Refers to the economically backward countries of Africa, India, China, Brazil, Mexico amongst others.[3]

4. **Insurgency**: Refers to an uprising or rebellion by an organised group against their government or governing authority. Frequently, other terms are used to describe situations of insurgency, including uprising, rebellion, and insurrection.[4]

5. **International Borders**: Refers to the outermost boundary in a country in the form of an imaginary line that separates a country from other countries.[5]

6. **Non-State Actors:** Organizations and individuals not connected with, directed by, or funded through the government are non-state actors. They can be corporations, NGOs, and even paramilitary and armed resistance groups.[6]

7. **Rule of Law:** It comprises a number of principles of a formal and procedural character, addressing the way in which a community is governed. The formal principles concern the generality, clarity, publicity, stability, and prospectivity of the norms that govern a society. The procedural principles concern the processes by which these norms are administered, and the institutions.[7]

8. **Terrorism:** Acts committed for political, religious, ethnic or ideological purposes suitable to create fear in the population or any section of the population and thus to influence a government or public body.[8]

---

[1]NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION AFTER THE COLD WAR (Washington, DC: The National Academies Press 2000).

[2]Lemuel Ekedegwa Odeh,

A Comparitive Analysis of Global North and Global South Economies, 12(3) Journ. of Sust. Develop. in Africa, 338 (2010),

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265425871_A_comparative_analysis_of_global_north_and_global_south_economies.

[3]Id. at 2.

[4]Emily Crawford, *Insurgency,* OPIL (Feb. 1, 2023, 3:54 PM),

https://opil.ouplaw.com/display/10.1093/law:epil/9780199231690/law-9780199231690-e308#:~:text=1%20Insurgency%20is%20an%20 uprising,uprising%2C%20rebellion%2C%20and%20insurrection.

[5]Mesikel Pelawi, *Territorial Borders in International Law.* IJLTC (Feb. 1, 2023, 3:57 PM),

https://ejournal2.undiksha.ac.id/index.php/IJLTC/article/view/1245.

[6]*Terrorism and Role of External State and Non State Actors,* INSIGHTSIAS (Feb. 1, 4:00 PM, 2023),

https://www.insightsonindia.com/security-issues/terrorism/terrorism-and-role-of-external-state-and-non-state-actors/#:~:text=Organizations%2 0and%20individuals%20not%20connected,exporter%20of%20terrorism%20to%20India.

[7]Jeremy Waldron, *The Rule of Law,* STANFORDENCYCLOPEDIAOFPHILOSOPHY (Feb. 1, 2023, 4:03 PM),

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rule-of-law/.

[8]*Terrorism Definition,* OECD (Feb.1, 2023, 4:06 PM), https://www.oecd.org/daf/fin/insurance/TerrorismDefinition-Table.pdf.

THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE
Introduction

Throughout history, the principle of individual self-determination has played a significant role in shaping society. Beginning in the 19th century, discussions on the Rights of Man led to efforts towards ending slavery and recognizing labour rights. The term self-determination was later used to describe these rights and was codified in documents like the Magna Carta and the USA's Bill of Rights. The idea of self-determination resulted in a rejection of colonialism and a push for gender justice and equal rights, leading to the widespread recognition of human rights.

The aftermath of the First Gulf War and the fall of the Soviet Union brought about unipolar world order and the acceleration of the process of globalisation. This resulted in increased cooperation and interdependence among states, as well as the rise of non-state actors such as NGOs, MNCs, and in some cases, terror organisations. The rise of violent extremist ideologies has been a major threat to world peace in recent times, and the multilateral organisations that were established to deal with such issues have not been effective in defining terrorism or stopping the proliferation of violent non-state actors.

Unfortunately, instead of having a clear stance against all forms of terrorism, some have made distinctions between 'Good Terrorist' and 'Bad Terrorist', which has only served to normalise violence in the world. The influence and power of non-state actors like terror organisations have become so strong that they can challenge sovereign states, cause full-fledged wars, and even attempt to establish their own states.

Further, the world needs a new look at the concept of economic sanctions that have often been imposed by powerful economic blocks or military alliances on nations they consider their adversary. Such sanctions not only impact the targeted states and their innocent civilians but also bring a devastating impact on the rest of the world as well. Any unilateral sanction on any major commodity results in immense economic pressure on developing countries and smaller economies, which may even result in vulnerable economies reaching the brink of economic collapse. This results in not just creating economic havoc but creates civil unrest, and collapse of rule of law and eventually may lead to a civil war.

This has been a persistent challenge for the world in the 21st century and highlights the importance of continued efforts towards peacebuilding and reconciliation to bring about a world without war.

I. Facilitating Global Consensus on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

The contemporary meaning of the word 'security' has expanded to include social, political, economic and environmental factors, in addition to military aspects.[9] With the constant threat of new crises arising, it has become the responsibility of the world community to maintain peace and stability. Although the number of inter-state wars has declined since the end of the Cold War, micro-threats to international and regional peace persist, such as violent non-state actors that pose asymmetrical challenges to global security. Additionally, the issue of international terrorism and transnational criminal activities is exacerbated by rogue states that either harbour or actively support such threats to global peace. This not only violates their responsibility as members of the world community but also increases the risk of non-international and international armed conflicts.[10]

The last few years have only added to the complexities, following the prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 Taliban offensive, and the ever-continuing political and economic uncertainties. This calls into question the effectiveness of international organisations like the United Nations and has increased the moral obligations of regional powers in building and maintaining peace. The challenges and objectives of the members of the G-20 in peacebuilding must be recognized in the backdrop of the ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. This Sanskrit phrase, which means the world is one family, highlights the importance of recognizing the interconnectedness of all nations and promoting a sense of global unity.[11] As one of the most significant multilateral forums that bring together the youth cohort, the future of the global family, Y20 has immense potential to contribute to peacebuilding by providing youth-centric perspectives on key issues, in line with the idea of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

A. Encouraging Young Voices in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

Young voices are essential in the peacebuilding and reconciliation process. Education plays a crucial role in promoting a civilised society where reconciliation is based on balance, honesty, and accountability. This includes academic and vocational education that empowers individuals and society to self-determine and self-actualise.[12] Successful reconciliation efforts in the past have shown that a functional and peaceful society can be achieved through active participation and engagement in sports, art, tourism, education, and cultural activities. This mobilises youth and contributes to the wider peacebuilding objectives.

However, it is important to address the needs and concerns of the youth, particularly those in rural areas. Failing to provide educational opportunities, employment, and identity may result in young individuals being vulnerable to extremist rhetoric. To ensure the active involvement of youth in peacebuilding, creating global youth networks is crucial. This allows youth to collaborate and exploit opportunities that contribute to peacebuilding measures. It is important that efforts are made to encourage and support young people in developing these networks, providing them with the resources they need to succeed. By working together, young people can help to create a world where peace and understanding are the norms, and where conflicts and differences can be resolved through dialogue and cooperation. National youth councils can also be established to provide youth with the opportunity to participate

[9]H.H. Hama, *State Security, Societal Security and Human Security,* 21(1) Jadavpur Journal of International Relations, 1-19 (2017).

[10]9 C. Kegley, *World Politics: Trend and Transformation* 11 (Thomson/Wadsworth 2006).

[11]Probal DasGupta, *India's leadership of G20: The future is now,* FIRST POST (Jan. 05, 2023, 06:59 AM), https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/indias-leadership-of-g20-the-future-is-now-11929532.html; also see, T. C. SCHAFFER & H. B. SCHAFFER, INDIA AT THE GLOBAL HIGH TABLE: THE QUEST FOR REGIONAL PRIMACY AND STRATEGIC AUTONOMY (Brookings Institution Press 2016).

[12]QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, https://quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/QUNO_Building%20Peace%20through%20Reconciliation_0.pdf (last visited Jan. 21, 2023).

in the formation of policies, plans, and actions that contribute to peace and security. States should finance various activities of youth groups that actively take part in dispute resolution and contribute to peacebuilding objectives.

B. Promoting Youth-led Solutions for Dealing with Internal Conflicts

Youth-led solutions are becoming increasingly important in global efforts to prevent and resolve internal conflicts. With their unique perspectives and innovative ideas, young people are critical to achieving lasting peace and stability in regions affected by conflict. To facilitate such peacebuilding processes, it is essential to provide young people with the resources and support they need to develop their own solutions. This can be achieved through the creation of local and global youth networks, where young people can collaborate and share their experiences, skills and knowledge. By building these networks, we can help to create a supportive and empowering environment for young people to take action and contribute to peacebuilding initiatives in their own communities. In addition, it is important to promote youth-led solutions by encouraging youth participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes. This can be done by giving young people a voice in decision-making and creating opportunities for them to participate in dialogue and negotiation. This not only ensures that the perspectives and needs of young people are taken into account, but it also provides them with the skills and experience needed to lead peacebuilding initiatives in the future.

Defined as, 'a process undertaken to realise transformative communication that requires space or opportunities for engagement and a diverse group of participants committed to values such as mutual respect, empathy and a willingness to consider different perspectives, Intercultural Dialogue (ICD) is another crucial tool through which youth can promote peace and prevent conflicts[13]. The involvement of young people in political and peace processes, can increase legitimacy and reduce the risk of future instability and displacement. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified social challenges and vulnerabilities for young people, including hate speech, mistrust, and violence between different community groups. School closures have also led to increased dropouts and missed opportunities for cross-cultural engagement. With global interconnectedness intensifying through trade, internet connectivity, and mobility, it's crucial to promote a "transformative intercultural dialogue" to foster inclusive and sustainable societies, rather than a room for hatred and violence. By imparting this collective dialogue, youth can become global ambassadors of peace and contribute to a more peaceful world.

II. Equitable Collaboration of the Global North and Global South

The division of the world into the Global North and South was established during the Cold War and was based on the level of economic and industrial development. In order to achieve successful peacebuilding and reconciliation, it is crucial that the countries of both the Global North and South have an equal voice in international forums and institutions. However, many Global South countries are underrepresented in these forums highlighting the need for significant changes in international fora and multilateral institutions to encourage greater collaboration between the Global North and South.

[13]United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) & Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), *Measuring intercultural dialogue: A conceptual and technical framework,* UNESDOC, (Jan. 21, 2023, 5:04PM), https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373442?posInSet=1&queryId=5c83dffb-d4fc-4124-b3f9-32b3b5c29c87&fbclid=IwAR02IBg pn2RpwKzkA7OlLJguY24ge0nEca9eNxiVHGcUCcpq13RyDIxxWsQa.

It is crucial to reject the notion that solutions to global challenges and conflicts must only come from developed nations. Direct involvement of the Global South in conflict resolution processes can lead to more effective results. The world is full of diverse opinions and interests that can lead to conflicts and harm innocent people and the economy. peacebuilding is, therefore, necessary and can only be achieved through inclusive consensus and collaboration. Mediation is a hallmark of a civilised society and has been an effective tool for resolving inter-state conflicts[14] Regional institutions, such as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, have successfully mediated inter-state conflicts in Africa.

Young people also have a crucial role to play in peacebuilding and dispute resolution, as they can be dynamic agents of change. Young people have occasionally mediated and negotiated peace deals, like in South Sudan, where youth delegates took part in negotiations between the government and opposition parties. They were present at the negotiation tables in different capacities and were motivated for peacebuilding and conflict resolution. They were also included in South Sudan's High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF), where they shared a position paper with political parties over "disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration".[15] Even in Sierra Leone, where young people were educated as community mediators and peace educators to foster reconciliation and forestall the recurrence of violence, some youth have also participated in peacekeeping and peacebuilding initiatives.[16] Youth can contribute to peacebuilding efforts by becoming involved in relevant organisations, educating themselves on conflict resolution, connecting with others across cultures, and using social media to raise awareness and reach out to peacekeeping agencies and the international community.

A. Reforming Global Institutions to Usher in Global Peace

In order to bring about global peace, it is imperative that the international community works towards reforming global institutions which play a crucial role in preventing and resolving conflicts. The current the international system is facing numerous challenges, including increasing conflict, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, poverty, inequality, and climate change. These challenges require global institutions that are effective as well as truly representative.

The United Nations, as the largest and most important international organisation in the world, has a crucial role to play in promoting peace and preventing conflict. However, despite its noble goals, the UN has consistently fallen short of delivering on its mandate. One of the key reasons for this is the lack of representation within its institutions. The UN, as it stands, is not a truly representative institution that reflects the global diversity of its member states, with its governing bodies being dominated by a

---

[14]L. Nathan, *A Case of Undue Pressure: International Mediation in African Civil Wars in African Civil Wars,* Centre for Conflict Resolution (University of Cape Town, South Africa, 1-15 (1998),
https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/A%20Case%20of%20Undue%20Pressure_Nathan2008.pdf.
[15]Altiok, Ali, and Irena Grizelj, *We Are Here: An Integrated Approach to Youth Inclusive Peace Processes,* Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, 9-36 (2019),
https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Global-Policy-Paper-Youth-Participation-in-Peace-Processes.pdf.
[16]A. McIntyre and T. Thusi, *Children and Youth in Sierra Leone's Peace-building Process,* 12(2) African Security Review, 1-6 (2003),
https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/22702/Children_youth_sierraLeone2.pdf.

small number of powerful nations. This has created an unbalanced and skewed approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, with the interests of these dominant nations taking precedence over those of other countries. To truly promote global peace and prevent conflict, the UN must undergo serious reforms to ensure its representative nature. This could involve a reform of the Security Council to better reflect the diversity of the world and to allow for more inclusive decision-making processes. Moreover, the UN should also work to ensure that its personnel, including peacekeepers and mediators, better reflect the diversity of its membership. This would help to ensure that the UN is more culturally aware and responsive to the needs of the communities it seeks to serve.

Another aspect of reforming global institutions is the creation of new ones that better reflect the current geopolitical reality. This could involve the creation of regional organisations that have a specific mandate to deal with regional conflicts. These organisations can play a key role in promoting peace and stability in their respective regions, working closely with existing global institutions to address regional and global challenges.

B. Making G20 a Globally Inclusive Platform

As an important platform addressing global economic and financial issues, it is essential to ensure that the G20's approach is inclusive and equitable, taking into consideration the perspectives and concerns of all countries, particularly those from the Global South. The G20 Presidency of countries from the Global South, such as India and Indonesia, can play a crucial role in promoting inclusiveness and equity within the G20. These countries have unique economic and social challenges that must be addressed in order to achieve inclusive growth and a sustainable global economy. By having leaders from the Global South at the forefront, the G20 can ensure that these perspectives and concerns are taken into consideration and integrated into the G20's agenda and decision-making processes.

Y20, G20's youth engagement group, can also contribute to making the G20 a more inclusive platform. The involvement of young people from both the Global North and the Global South can bring a fresh and diverse perspective to the table, ensuring that the G20's policies take into account the needs and perspectives of all segments of society, including young people. The youth-centric perspective is particularly important as young people are the future leaders of the world and will be affected by the decisions made by the G20. By engaging with the G20 and bringing their perspectives to the forefront, Y20 can help to ensure that the G20's policies are inclusive and equitable, taking into consideration the unique challenges faced by young people from the Global South.

C. Building a Framework for Civilizational Dialogue

In today's interconnected world, civilizations have had a significant impact on the course of human history and continue to shape the world we live in. To effectively address global challenges, it is imperative that a framework is established that promotes open and honest communication between civilizations and encourages the exchange of ideas and perspectives.

Building a framework for civilizational dialogue is essential for promoting equitable collaboration between the Global North and Global South. One of the key aspects

of this framework should be the recognition and accommodation of diverse civilizational perspectives, including those from non-Western countries. These perspectives play a crucial role in shaping global understanding and must be included in any civilizational dialogue. By considering the diverse experiences and perspectives of civilizations, we can create a more inclusive and equitable framework that promotes mutual understanding and respect. Cultural resources can be a valuable input for peacebuilding and civilizational collaboration. The cultural heritage of a civilization can provide a rich source of inspiration for promoting peace and understanding between civilizations. For example, Indian cultural resources, such as its philosophy of ahimsa (non-violence), can be used to promote peace and cooperation in the world. By utilising cultural resources, civilizations can work together to address global challenges in a more inclusive and sustainable manner.

Young people can play a crucial role in promoting civilizational collaboration and peace. By learning about different civilizations and their cultural resources, young people can become global ambassadors of peace. Through their actions and interactions with people from different civilizations, they can promote mutual understanding, respect, and collaboration, leading to a more peaceful and equitable world.

III. Countering Non-state Actors through Concerted Efforts

The rise of non-state actors such as terrorist organisations, separatist groups, and insurgent groups has posed a major threat to international peace and security due to the fragility of nation-states. Many countries continue to face the compound challenge of cross-border terrorism, insurgency, and separatism as a threat to their national sovereignty and security. Today, non-state actors are benefiting from new and emerging technologies, such as terror groups using social media networking platforms for recruitment. The conflict-ravaged regions pose challenges not only to the country affected but also to international security and global peace.

The post-Covid-19 world is likely to witness a rise in non-state actors as a result of resource scarcity and deepening geopolitical rivalries. A consolidated effort to maintain global peace and security requires regulation of non-state actors that disrupt human life and pose a huge security challenge to targeted countries. The existing mechanisms have proved to be inadequately effective in responding to terrorism, organised international crime, insurgency, and separatism across the world. In order to address these challenges, there is a need for a comprehensive approach that involves all stakeholders, including governments, international organisations, civil society, and the private sector. This can involve measures such as strengthening the capacity of states to address these threats, improving intelligence sharing, and promoting dialogue and conflict resolution. By working together, it is possible to effectively address the challenges posed by non-state actors and promote global peace and security.

The rise of non-state actors such as terrorist organisations, separatist groups, and insurgent groups has posed a major threat to international peace and security due to the fragility of nation-states. Many countries continue to face the compound challenge of cross-border

terrorism, insurgency, and separatism as a threat to their national sovereignty and security. Today, non-state actors are benefiting from new and emerging technologies, such as terror groups using social media networking platforms for recruitment. The conflict-ravaged regions pose challenges not only to the country affected but also to international security and global peace.

The post-Covid-19 world is likely to witness a rise in non-state actors as a result of resource scarcity and deepening geopolitical rivalries. A consolidated effort to maintain global peace and security requires regulation of non-state actors that disrupt human life and pose a huge security challenge to targeted countries. The existing mechanisms have proved to be inadequately effective in responding to terrorism, organised international crime, insurgency, and separatism across the world. In order to address these challenges, there is a need for a comprehensive approach that involves all stakeholders, including governments, international organisations, civil society, and the private sector. This can involve measures such as strengthening the capacity of states to address these threats, improving intelligence sharing, and promoting dialogue and conflict resolution. By working together, it is possible to effectively address the challenges posed by non-state actors and promote global peace and security.

A. Global Co-operation to End Insurgency and Terrorism Being Led by Non-State Actors

To regulate non-state actors through concerted efforts, countries should set aside their differences and cooperate with each other in order to defeat terrorism. The international community should work together to implement joint anti-terrorism measures to combat the threat posed by non-state actors. This could include sharing intelligence, exchanging information, and carrying out joint operations. Leading regional powers like India can play a key role in ending insurgency and terrorism. India's success in ending insurgency in its Northeast provinces and busting terror modules through Bangladesh's cooperation demonstrates the positive impact that regional powers can have.[17]

Diplomatic pressure must also be applied on countries that provide safe haven to non-state actors. This could include imposing economic sanctions, freezing assets, and other measures aimed at curbing their activities. The international community must work together to ensure that non-state actors are not able to carry out their activities without consequences. It is also essential to address the root cause of the problem. This can be achieved through the development and poverty reduction programs, promoting education and social awareness, and providing opportunities for the youth of the region. The absence of these basic necessities often leads to the rise of non-state actors who use violence and terrorism as a means to achieve their goals.

B. Developing a New Approach on a Global Level

In the fight against terrorism and non-state actors, it has become apparent that a new global approach is needed. The approach of sometimes differentiating between 'good terrorists' and 'bad terrorists' has only served to normalise violence in the world. The influence and power of non-state actors like terror organisations have become so strong that they can challenge sovereign states and even attempt to

[17]Joyeeta Bhattacharjee, *India-Bangladesh defence cooperation: Coming of age, at last?* ISSUE BRIEFS AND SPECIAL REPORTS (Jul. 26, 2018), https://www.orfonline.org/research/india-bangladesh-defence-cooperation-coming-of-age-at-last/.

establish their own states. This highlights the importance of continued efforts towards peacebuilding and reconciliation to bring about a world without war. To develop a new global approach, it is important to understand that terrorism is not just a military problem, but rather a socio-political problem as well.

The first step towards change would be building and supporting institutional frameworks to promote values such as democracy, multiculturalism, and ethnic and religious tolerance. A viable counterterrorism strategy should not only focus on ending the current violence but also challenge and denounce illogical notions that threaten the growth of strong democratic institutions and effective administration. This means that the strategy should be a combination of soft power and hard power methods. It should be carefully calibrated to cope with violent, armed terrorists while ensuring the protection of civilian rights, culture, and traditions. Cross-cutting issues such as ties to international organised crime, illegal drugs, money laundering, illegal arms trade, and the spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and other potentially lethal substances should all be included in such a strategy.

Implementing this new approach will require cooperation and coordination between different countries, organisations and institutions. It will serve as a foundation for a new platform for legal assistance to different countries in matters related to early investigations and prosecution of terror groups. A new global approach that considers the socio-political aspects of terrorism will be much more effective in bringing about lasting peace and stability in the world.

C. Empowering Youth to Counter Non-State Actors

The states need to develop collaborative strategies to educate and train youth in the face of the danger posed by non-state actors. The approach must be nuanced and tailored to the region, taking into account the indigenous factors and the mindset of youth in the area. To address this challenge, a regional youth-led values incubation centre can be established to provide guidance and support to the youth in promoting values such as democracy and rule of law.

Capacity-building camps can be introduced to equip youth with the necessary skills to combat terrorism, insurgency, etc. International cooperation and exchange programs should also be established to enable youth from different countries to interact with each other and learn from each other's experiences. In addition, the engagement of youth in counter-terrorism efforts can also be achieved through the integration of technology and media. The use of social media, for example, can be harnessed to counter the spread of extremist ideologies and disinformation. Youth-led initiatives that use technology and media to promote peace and counter hate speech can be supported and amplified. Moreover, educational institutions can also play a crucial role in this effort by incorporating courses and training programs that sensitise students to the dangers of extremism and terrorism. By engaging youth in these efforts, they can be made more resilient to the influence of non-state actors and become an important bulwark against terrorism and extremism.

The government must ensure transparency and trust in their actions against non-state actors and make it available to the youth. Youth must be informed about their role in preventing activities such as terrorist funding, gun running, and narcotics production smuggling. By empowering and educating youth, we can build a better future where they are equipped to counter the threats posed by non-state actors.

Case Study 1:
Democratic Peacebuilding in India's Northeast

India's Northeast region had been characterised by decades-long disputes between various states and had faced violence and insurgency. In recent years, the Indian government has made continuous efforts to end violence and promote peace in the region through various peace accords and border dispute settlement agreements. One such notable agreement was the Bodo Accord, signed in 2020, which resolved the five-decade-long Bodo issue in Assam. Similarly, the Bru-Reang Agreement was signed in 2020 to resolve the 23-year-old Bru-Reang refugee crisis, and the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) Agreement was signed in 2019 with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (SD) resulting in the surrender of 88 cadres. The Karbi Anglong Agreement was signed in 2021 and the Assam-Meghalaya Inter-State Boundary Agreement was signed in 2022.

These peace accords have been instrumental in resolving long-standing disputes and integrating the Northeast into the mainstream of society. The Indian government has also allocated increased funds for the all-around development of the region and aims to make it an economic hub connecting Southeast Asia under the Act East Policy. With the peace accords and increased investment, the security situation in the Northeast has improved, and the region is now transforming into an aspirational area. This serves as a testament to the effectiveness of democratic politics in resolving conflict and promoting regional development. The successful resolution of disputes and the overall improvement in the security and economic conditions of the region through peace accords and increased investment demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach.

Case Study 2:
Constitutional Peacebuilding through Amendment of Article 370 & Abrogation of Article 35-A

On 5th August 2019, the Indian Parliament passed a resolution which amended Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and abrogated Article 35-A. This landmark decision, which had been a long-standing demand of the Indian people, was taken to integrate the state into the national mainstream and provide the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the same democratic rights, privileges and benefits that are enjoyed by the citizens of other states in India. Despite several geopolitical and domestic challenges, this decision was achieved peacefully and marked a new era of peacebuilding and reconciliation.

The amendment to Article 370 and abrogation of Article 35-A has brought the state of Jammu and Kashmir closer to the national mainstream. The people of the state are now entitled to the same democratic rights, privileges and benefits as the rest of the country. This has helped to foster a sense of unity and national integration, breaking down the barriers between the people of the state and the rest of the country. The democratic provisions of the Indian Constitution have been now fully applied to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. This has allowed the people of the state to participate in the democratic process and to have a voice in the governance of the state. It has also ensured that the rights and freedoms of the people are protected. The complete integration has also brought investment into the state and extended the welfare policies of the Union

government to the region. The people are now entitled to the same social security, education, healthcare and other benefits as the rest of the country. This has had a positive impact on the quality of life of the people and has helped to promote inclusive and sustainable development.

The peaceful resolution of the long-standing demand for the amendment of Article 370 and abrogation of Article 35-A in India is a model for other developing countries to resolve internal disputes peacefully through democratic constitutional methods. This decision has demonstrated the strength and resilience of India's democratic institutions and has provided a positive example for other countries to follow.

Case Study 3:
Proposed
NMFT Permanent
Secretariat to
Counter Terror
Financing

No Money For Terror (NMFT) is a counter-terrorism initiative taken by the government of France which aims to choke all avenues for non-state and state actors that contribute towards the act of terrorism.[18] India has embraced this initiative and proposed a robust system to root out terrorism through a centralised task force. India has zero tolerance towards terrorism and has implemented a strong framework of counter-terror laws, empowering its agencies to effectively combat terrorism. The country has seen a significant reduction in terrorist incidents and has ensured strict punishment in terrorism cases.

India is keen on setting up a secretariat to deal with anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism issues. The country is optimistic about institutionalising the NMFT conference by making it an annual event. The Indian government's proposal for a permanent Secretariat to counter terror financing is a major step in the global fight against terrorism. India's zero-tolerance policy, strong counter-terror laws, and its efforts to seek the permanency of the NMFT initiative demonstrate its commitment to combating terrorism. The country's optimism about global cooperation is a testament to the need for nations to work together to combat this borderless threat.

Case Study 4:
National
Education
Policy, 2020

The National Education Policy of India 2020 (NEP 2020) replaced the previous National Policy on Education, 1986, and outlines a comprehensive framework for elementary to higher education as well as vocational training in both urban and rural India. This framework is giving shape to a new vision of education that aims to transform India's education system by 2030.

NEP 2020 champions a vision to "develop knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living, and global well-being, thereby reflecting a truly global citizen." By empowering young people through education, the policy seeks to create a diverse and inclusive society and to prepare young people to be responsible global citizens. The policy is a significant step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and towards fulfilling the United Nations' "Youth 2030 Strategy" and the Kyoto Declaration's commitment to equipping

[18]PIB, https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1877292 (last visited Feb. 2, 2023).

young people with the skills and knowledge needed to become agents of positive change. It is crucial to provide young people with education and activity-based learning that focuses on life skills that affect society as a whole and on which their actions matter, in addition to academic, professional, and vocational abilities. The G20 members must prioritise educating young people about global goals, peace, morality and ethics, and responsible citizenship, which is reflected in India's National Education Policy 2020.

Case Study 5: 'Self-Directed Emotional Learning for Empathy & Kindness (SEEK)' Online Course

The UNESCO MGIEP partnered with the New Delhi Institute of Management (NDIM), India to deploy the SEEK online course. It aims to provide learners with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to become agents of change for sustainable development. The course is designed for educators, students, and anyone interested in promoting sustainable development through education. It covers topics such as sustainable development goals, education for sustainable development, and peace education. The course is offered online and is self-paced, allowing participants to complete it at their own convenience. This initiative aims to empower educators with the knowledge and skills needed to create sustainable development-centred classrooms and to support learners to become agents of change for a sustainable future. Through the course, participants learn about the interconnections between various sustainability issues and understand the role of education in addressing them, including topics such as Climate Change, Global Citizenship and Inclusion.

WAY FORWARD

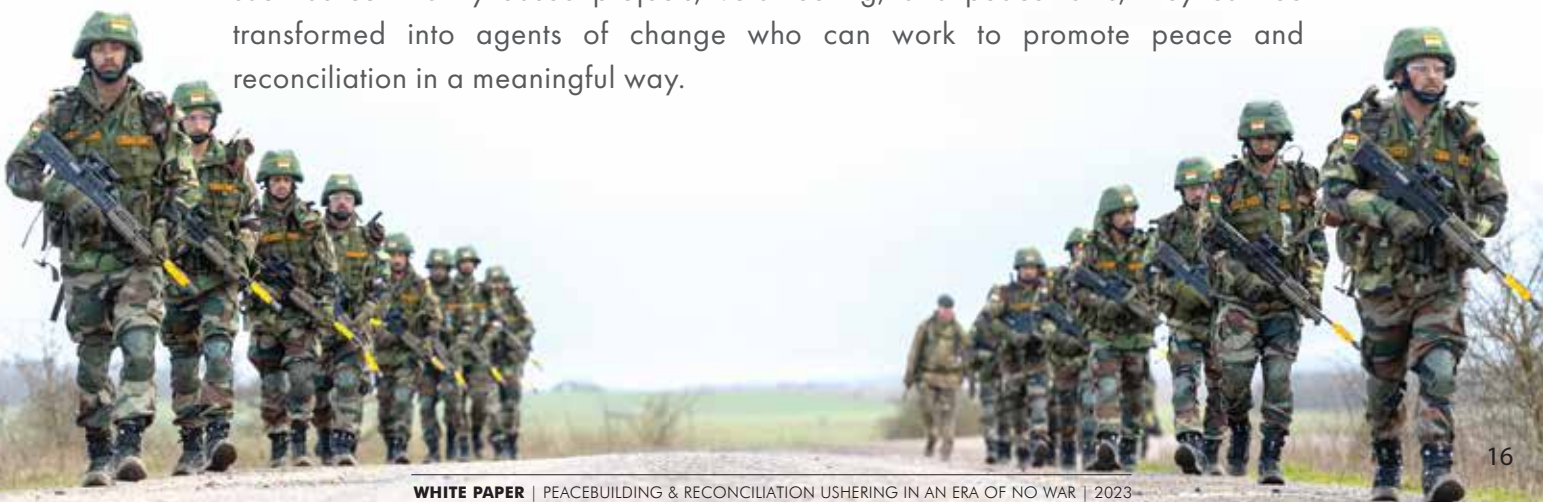### Combating Terrorism through Co-operation

Terrorism is one of the major threats to peace, stability, and security across the world. To effectively combat terrorism, it is crucial to promote cooperation among states, regional and international organisations, and other stakeholders. This cooperation can be facilitated through the sharing of intelligence, best practices, and resources. It is important to address the narrative of extremist groups that spread violence and hate. This can be done by promoting moderate and peaceful narratives, as well as investing in education, social and economic programs that can provide alternatives to the extremist ideology. By working together to address the root causes of terrorism and promote a narrative of peace and cooperation, states and international organisations can help to create an environment in which terrorism becomes less attractive and less viable.

Reforming Global Institutions to Usher in Global Peace

In order to bring about global peace, it is imperative that the international community works towards reforming global institutions which play a crucial role in preventing and resolving conflicts. The current international system is facing numerous challenges which require global institutions that are effective as well as truly representative. To truly promote global peace and prevent conflict, such institutions must reflect global diversity in their structure as well as in their personnel to allow for more inclusive decision-making processes. This would help to ensure that global institutions are more culturally aware and responsive to the needs of the communities they seek to serve.

Empowering Youth through Education and Awareness

The role of education in promoting peace and preventing conflict cannot be overstated. By teaching young people about the importance of peaceful coexistence and the dangers of violence, we can empower them to play a critical role in promoting peace in their communities. It is also important to equip them with the necessary skills to resolve conflicts and promote peace in their communities. This can be done through education and training programs that focus on conflict resolution, communication skills, and understanding different perspectives. By equipping the youth with these skills and involving them in peace-building initiatives such as community-based projects, volunteering, and peace talks, they can be transformed into agents of change who can work to promote peace and reconciliation in a meaningful way.

Y20 INDIA

2023

WHITE PAPER