

Distr.: General 31 October 2024 English Original: French

## Letter dated 31 October 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Following a discussion between Switzerland and a group of youth delegates to the United Nations, I have the honour of transmitting a joint statement by those delegates, addressed to the Security Council (see annex). The statement was also endorsed by the African Youth Ambassadors for Peace.

This joint statement was presented to Switzerland at the above-mentioned meeting.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pascale **Baeriswyl** Ambassador Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations





## Annex to the letter dated 31 October 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

## Joint statement to the Security Council from youth delegates to the United Nations and the African Youth Ambassadors for Peace

In the name of youth delegates to the United Nations and the African Youth Ambassadors for Peace, we want to express our deepest concern with regard to the ongoing conflicts, divisions and humanitarian crises we observe around the world. As was also said in this Council, now, more than ever, we need strong voices to stand for humane values. Through this letter, we aim not only to embody this voice but also to prompt the necessary actions to bring about peace.

As young people, we are alarmed by the devastating effects of ongoing conflicts on current and future generations. Children and youth do not start wars, yet they are the ones most exposed to their consequences. In 2023, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that global conflicts had resulted in the deaths of three times as many children as the previous year. We lack the words to describe our consternation in the face of such developments.

At the Summit of the Future, many warned that inaction could lead the planet "to a dark future". While this applies in many contexts, we believe that inaction in fostering peace is the most destructive barrier to all other developments. You are ambassadors to the United Nations because, just like us, you believe in the multilateral system – one that prioritizes cooperation for peace. Yet, this very system is at risk of eroding due to inaction and a lack of accountability. Many times this Council has declared its condemnation of humanitarian crises, but actions on the ground and at the national level have not followed suit.

We understand that the future of global peace does not rest entirely in your hands. Still, you hold more influence in shaping this future than the vast majority of people on this planet. The lack of peace and the observed impunity erode the trust that millions of young people place in their leaders and in the values of humanity that they are meant to uphold. Since we, as youth, do not yet have the authority to make decisions on a global scale, we implore you to use your power to urge all members of this Council and your national Governments to prioritize peace, humanity and the preservation of lives above all other interests or agendas. We ask that those who fail to do so be held accountable. In the same vein, we ask you to do everything within your power, at the national and multilateral levels, to ensure that the resolutions passed by this Council are enforced.

We recognize that prioritizing peace above all else demands both courage and the willingness to recognize our shared humanity over partisanship. We trust the President of the Security Council and the members of the Security Council to take bold actions for peace. African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace for the North African region, Arif Abdeljalil Moussa

African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace for the Central African region, Julien Vikemba

African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace for the East African region, Nashiba Nakabira

African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace for the Southern African region, Mpule Kgetsi

African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace for the West African region, Simone Mbode Diouf

Austrian United Nations Youth Delegate, Jana Berchtold

Austrian United Nations Youth Delegate, Markus Wainde Waine

Australian United Nations Youth Delegate, Vasil Samardzhiev

Belgian United Nations Youth Delegate, Sean Nart

Belgian United Nations Youth Delegate, Wouter Radeur

Bulgarian United Nations Youth Delegate, Aleksandar Yanev

Bulgarian United Nations Youth Delegate, Kosta Karakashyan

Estonian United Nations Youth Delegate, Riin Suuster

Estonian Youth Delegate for the Council of Europe's Congress, Henrik Harjus

Czech United Nations Youth Delegate, Veronika Novotná

Czech United Nations Youth Delegate, Giulia Cancellaro

Danish United Nations Youth Delegate, Jacob Blasius

Danish United Nations Youth Delegate, Silke Birkenborg

Finnish United Nations Youth Delegate, Adina Nivukoski

German United Nations Youth Delegate, Alina Reize

German United Nations Youth Delegate, Hannah Koch

German Youth Observer to the Summit of the Future, Selma Cafferty

Hellenic National United Nations Association Steering Committee, Greece, George Pericles Cheliotis

Hungarian United Nations Youth Delegate, Widad Brimo

Hungarian United Nations Youth Delegate, Annamária Wettstein

Italian United Nations Youth Delegate, Andrea Granata

Italian United Nations Youth Delegate, Chiara Gisinti

Lithuanian United Nations Youth Delegate, Vidmantas Mitkus

Lithuanian Youth Delegate for the Council of Europe's Congress, Sandra Slušnytė

Luxemburgish United Nations Youth Delegate, Georg Poensgen

Malaysian United Nations Youth Delegate, Elisa Shafiqah Binti Shahrilnizam

Mexican United Nations Youth Delegate, Omar Yoav Becerril Villegas

Mexican United Nations Youth Delegate, Uriel Trinidad Hernandez

Mexican United Nations Youth Delegate, Ana Espinosa

Mexican United Nations Youth Delegate, Kenia Calva Flores

Netherlands (Kingdom of the) United Nations Youth Representative on Human Rights and Security, Fenna Timsi

Norwegian United Nations Youth Delegate, Thomas Olson Aarheim

Peruvian United Nations Youth Delegate, Ana Paula Guillen

Polish United Nations Youth Delegate, Hanna Misniakiewicz

Polish United Nations Youth Delegate, Monika Zimnoch

Romanian United Nations Youth Delegate, Alexian-Arthur Stark

Romanian United Nations Youth Delegate, Patricia-Alexandra Nae

South Sudanese United Nations Youth Delegate, Ladu Kulang

Sudanese Representative, African United Nations Youth Delegate Programme, Rahma Ali Swiss United Nations Youth Delegate, Aneschka Berchtold

Swiss United Nations Youth Delegate, Flora Chiper

Swiss United Nations Youth Delegate, Hanishha Soosai

Swiss United Nations Youth Delegate, Marta Zaragoza Navarro

Swiss United Nations Youth Delegate, Mehdi Mesbah

Swiss United Nations Youth Delegate, Pleun Vaartjes Tanzanian United Nations Youth Delegate, Alex Masanja

Ukrainian United Nations Youth Delegate, Mariia Kotsiurba

Ukrainian United Nations Youth Delegate, Yurii Lomikovskyi

European Union Youth Delegate, Giulia Tariello

Youth Delegate of the Office of the Youth in Maritime, Yrhen Bernard Sabanal Balinis