Building Disarmament Capacity through Education & Research

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Building Disarmament Capacity

- Strengthen capacities for better disarmament outcomes
- Harness diverse thinking from around the globe
- Elevate the voices of young people in disarmament research
Strengthening capacities for better disarmament outcomes

- Disarmament Orientation Course for newly-arrived Geneva diplomats
- Quarterly briefings to all UN regional groups
- Capacity-building on norms, international law and cyberspace
Harnessing diverse thinking from around the globe

- Senior Fellowships and Fellowships
- Global Disarmament Research Network (GDRN)
- Women in AI Fellowship
- Maximising reach is key
Elevating young voices in disarmament research

➔ Graduate Professional Programme

➔ Youth Global Disarmament Essay Competition

➔ Participatory Research with Conflict-affected Youth
Why Involve Young People in Research?

→ Beyond tokenistic youth inclusion
→ Embracing the Participatory Paradigm
→ Moving to research WITH and BY young people
Participatory Research with Conflict-Affected Youth

➔ 2023: MEAC with partners pilots participatory research methodology with conflict-affected youth; today, a larger, global initiative (Nigeria, Colombia, Iraq).

➔ The aim is to elevate youth voices in policy and programming discussions, and allow them to express their needs, challenges and aspirations without filters and help communicate evidence to different audiences.

➔ Integrated curriculum: 1) 5-day participatory training on photography and 2) research skills.

➔ Along recurring themes MEAC will attempt to create a “conversation” across contexts.

➔ A proposed high-level event shall bring resulting visuals, participant reflections, and research to policymakers to ensure that young voices are heard at the policy and programming level.
Methodological note – it is difficult to engage young people directly in conflict-related discussions. Doing so indirectly through a broader programme focused on photography, resilience building, and expression is easier, safer and more ethical.
Observations that align with other research findings:

**Young people need outlets and connection** for socio-emotional processing.

Young people have limited options for self-expression, resulting in feelings of isolation.
Reflections on Research Through the Medium of Photography

Value of visuals in distilling and communicating complex research findings to a broader audience, regardless of their expertise or background.
Further information

Course offerings

Global Knowledge Network

Participatory research with conflict-affected youth
Thank you!

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