

CONCEPT NOTE

EMPOWER

2026

Youth Leading for Peace and Security

A youth-led conference bringing 250 young leaders together with policymakers, UN agencies, civil society and academia to position young people as **partners in peace and security**.

SAVE THE DATE

12–14
NOVEMBER 2026

Doha, Qatar

12 November
High-Level Opening Ceremony

250

Youth delegates
based in Qatar

18

Interactive
workshops

5

Power
Speeches

4

Panel
discussions

1

Youth
Exhibition

1

Youth
Declaration

BACKGROUND

Young people today are navigating a rapidly changing world shaped by economic uncertainty, digital transformation, climate challenges, conflict and evolving workforce demands. Despite being one of the most connected and creative generations, youth still face limited access to global platforms, leadership opportunities, mentorship and meaningful participation in decision-making spaces.

For 16 years, EMPOWER has been a flagship event enabling young people to move from awareness to action through experiential learning, networking and youth-led engagement, in line with EAA's commitment to empowering youth as catalysts for positive change in their communities and beyond.

RATIONALE

Young people represent the largest generation in the history of the Arab region and will play a defining role in shaping its future stability, prosperity and resilience. Yet, despite being disproportionately affected by conflict, displacement, economic instability and social fragmentation, they remain underrepresented in decision-making on peace, security and development.

At the same time, youth continue to demonstrate leadership, innovation and resilience through community action, social entrepreneurship, digital engagement, volunteering and peacebuilding initiatives.

THE 2026 THEME

"Youth Leading for Peace & Security"

Recognising young people as meaningful participants in decision-making, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and reflecting Qatar's longstanding leadership in advancing the global Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

WHAT MAKES EMPOWER DIFFERENT?

1 Rooted in EAA's global mission

Directly connected to EAA's mission of empowering young people through education, economic empowerment, youth leadership and active citizenship.

2 From awareness to action

A practical platform that turns EAA's investments in youth development into real opportunities to learn, connect, lead and influence change.

3 Youth as co-creators

Through global partnerships, volunteering and advocacy, youth are speakers, facilitators, advocates and decision-makers, at the centre of design, delivery and outcomes.

4 A journey, not a one-off

Part of EAA's Youth Empowerment Journey: from volunteering to advocacy, participation to leadership, and local engagement to regional and global influence.

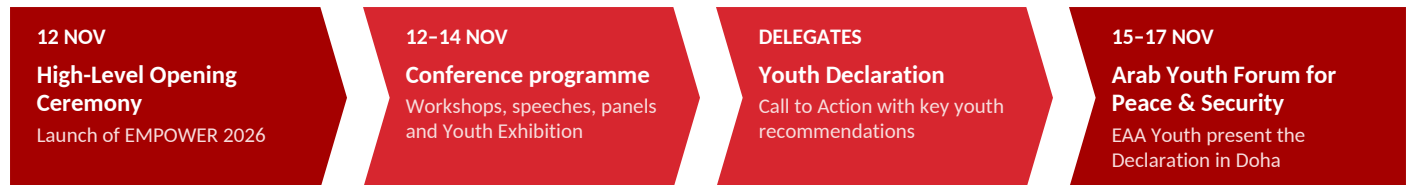
OBJECTIVES

- 01** Provide youth with a platform to exchange ideas, experiences and innovative solutions on youth, peace and security.
- 02** Strengthen youth leadership and advocacy skills through interactive workshops, panel discussions and youth-led engagement.
- 03** Showcase youth-led initiatives, campaigns and projects through exhibition booths and interactive engagement spaces.
- 04** Connect youth with international experts, organisations and changemakers to encourage collaboration and partnership.
- 05** Give youth meaningful opportunities to lead sessions, workshops, panel moderation and engagement activities.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- **High-Level Opening Ceremony**
12 November
- **18 Workshops**
Interactive, led by youth and experts
- **5 Power Speeches**
Local and international voices
- **4 Panel Discussions**
Youth and experts in Youth, Peace & Security
- **Youth Exhibition**
Youth-led projects and partner initiatives
- **Youth Declaration**
A youth Call to Action

FROM CONFERENCE TO REGIONAL IMPACT



TWO SIGNATURE MOMENTS

YOUTH EXHIBITION

Showcasing youth-led work

A dedicated exhibition space to showcase youth-led community projects, campaigns and partner organisations' youth-focused initiatives, with interactive engagement spaces for delegates.

EMPOWER 2026 YOUTH DECLARATION

A youth Call to Action

Delegates will develop the Declaration with key recommendations on youth, peace and security, for EAA Youth to present at the Arab Youth Forum for Peace & Security in Doha, 15-17 November.

ALIGNED WITH GLOBAL & REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

UN Security Council Resolutions

Resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535 recognise youth as positive agents of peace and call for their meaningful participation.

League of Arab States

Supports implementation of the Arab Strategy for Youth, Peace and Security (2023-2028).

Arab Youth Forum for Peace & Security

EAA Youth will present the EMPOWER 2026 Youth Declaration at the regional conference, 15-17 November.

HOST



STRATEGIC PARTNER



Who will be in the room

250 youth delegates aged 15-35, alongside youth leaders, policymakers, UN agencies, civil society, academia, local and international speakers, and EAA Youth Advocates and Volunteers.