

The Netherlands.

Honourable chair, esteemed delegates,

First of all, we would like to thank you Mister Chair for your conduct of this session. We would also like to thank the other Bureau members and the secretariat for their support and guidance. Besides, we welcome the work of the Population Division in the field of population.

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I'm delivering this statement as a civil society member of the Netherlands delegation to the CPD. I would like to acknowledge my government for supporting **civil society participation**, for bringing young voices to these discussions and for giving me the opportunity to deliver this statement.

When the ICPD Programme of Action was adopted, I was four years old... I think I can safely say I'm amongst the youngest in this room.

At the age of 18 I had the privilege to go to university and became a member of a mixed fraternity.

And although I made lifelong friends, I also soon found out that it was a space of hierarchy, unequal power relations, inequality between men and women, rich and poor, toxic masculinity and hashtag#metoo.

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I wish the discussion about #metoo and consent had taken place when I was young. That all primary and secondary schools included **comprehensive sexuality education** in their curricula.... Education about consent, falling in love, female pleasure, **sexual orientation and gender identity**.

It would have made my relationship when I was 17 years old more equal. It would have helped, fighting coercion and harassment in the fraternity. It would have made it easier for my friends, to come out. It takes full comprehensive sexuality education to become a resilient and happy person. And to make your own decisions about love and life.

And if even I faced these issues, I can't help to think about all those girls who do not have the privilege to stay in school, or go to university. Who only receive information about their sexuality by experience. Who do not have access to Sexual and Reproductive Health services. Who live in far more patriarchal societies.

It is important that more data is collected on **young people's access to information**, including on comprehensive sexuality education around the world. And. On their access to modern contraceptives, also when they are not married or in a union.

This information is critical to effectively address current and emerging population issues. It is the reality young people live in.

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Many people in the world, especially young people, still do not have their **human rights** fulfilled. Still today, there are young women that cannot go to, or stay in school, for example due to... adolescent pregnancies or something simple as menstruation. Many maternal deaths are preventable, including by providing **safe abortion services**.

And in many countries young and unmarried people are stigmatized and discriminated against when seeking sexual and reproductive health services,... resulting in STI's, unplanned pregnancies and a rise in HIV infections. We need data on young people to address these issues.

Luckily for me, the ambitions of
The Netherlands surpass those of the ICPD and the
2030 Agenda when it concerns **sexual and
reproductive health and rights**.

There is clear proof that our ambitions and policies
pay off. The Netherlands has one of the lowest
teenage pregnancy and abortion rates in the world.
The Netherlands collects comprehensive data on
young people's sexual and reproductive health.
Through that data we know our successes, but also
where there is room for improvement.

Don't let young people down! Let's invest in their
access to information, and let's invest in
comprehensive data collection on the realities and
challenges that young people face, in particular related
to their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Thank you