

Canada's National Statement at CPD56

Mesdames et messieurs les Représentants permanents, chers délégués, distingués collègues,

Je suis honorée de prononcer cette déclaration au nom du Canada.

À l'occasion de la 56^e session du CPD, nous exprimons notre reconnaissance au président, aux co-facilitateurs, aux membres du Bureau, au FNUAP et au Secrétariat pour leur leadership, leur soutien et leurs conseils.

Nous accueillons les groupes de la société civile, les peuples autochtones, les jeunes et les autres parties prenantes qui ont partagé des perspectives importantes à ces discussions.

Le Canada réaffirme son soutien à la mise en œuvre du Programme d'Action de la CIPD et des conclusions de ses conférences d'examen, ainsi que le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030.

Il me fait maintenant plaisir de céder la parole à Mme Topaza Yu, notre déléguée représentant de la jeunesse.

Distinguished colleagues, as we accelerate our efforts toward achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, strong policies and programs depend on everyone having a seat *and* a voice at the table to ensure that no one is left behind. This is why Canada remains determined and fully engaged to ensure that the poorest and most marginalized have access to sexual and reproductive health services and inclusive, equitable and quality education.

Access to quality education for all learners underpins our ability to succeed in realizing a more peaceful, inclusive, just, resilient, and sustainable world. This includes access to comprehensive sexuality education, which we know is essential to supporting safe communities and empowering young people to live healthy and productive lives.

Unfortunately, growing opposition to sexual and reproductive health and rights will further impede our ability to achieve the SDGs by 2030. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that women and girls, in all their diversity, have access to accurate and reliable information so they can make free and informed choices about their bodies, lives and futures. Canada remains committed to supporting access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights globally, including CSE.

We also recognize that the combined impact of the climate and biodiversity crises, Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the food security and malnutrition crisis, and the lingering effects of COVID-19, continue to threaten the achievement and fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda. However, in the face of these challenges, we must continue to work together to galvanize a global community that is resilient and empowered through inclusive and quality education. Canada is proud to be a leader in education programming and remains committed to continuing to support global, national and local responses to education for displaced children and youth.

Education is both a human right and a powerful tool that can promote gender equality, contribute to the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence, improve nutrition, break the cycle of poverty and build a sustainable tomorrow. And the best way to build more sustainable and resilient education systems is

to meaningfully engage youth, including adolescent girls and young women, in these efforts and to give them a voice and seat at the table.

As Canada's youth delegate to the Commission on Population and Development, I call on all States to reflect critically on the principle of "Nothing for Us, Without Us", which reinforces the importance of ensuring that the people who are being impacted by your work have an opportunity to inform your work so that it reflects their experiences and needs. This can be done by empowering youth and ensuring full youth participation in leadership and decision-making through an intersectional approach rooted in the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.

Thank you. Merci.