

Statement CHOICE for Youth & Sexuality (Daphne Visser)

Esteemed Chair, States, and audience members, thank you for giving me the floor. As a young person, working for a youth-led organization, and being connected with many intersectional feminist youth activists around the world, I would like to use this time to raise your attention to the following points:

Currently young people make up the majority of the population in the world. Youth and adolescent issues intersect every topic that this year's theme of the CPD covers, and the issues youth and adolescents face are widespread and often overlooked. Policies will only effectively respond to these challenges when young people in all their diversity are meaningfully participating in all levels of decision-making, from policy design to evaluation. We therefore suggest including strong language on adolescents and youth, youth-led initiatives and meaningful youth participation throughout the outcome document.

To meaningfully participate, young people need education that provides them with information on their rights, their bodies and their development. We therefore strongly support reference to comprehensive sexuality education in the text. Including comprehensive sexuality education ensures a holistic approach that is scientifically accurate and respects the rights of adolescents and youth. We hope to see this language in full throughout the document.

Youth issues are also intersectional. Especially youth who are more marginalized, such as youth with disabilities, youth living with HIV, LGBTQ+ youth, and adolescent mothers are often left behind, even within education settings. Including language on multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination allows the outcome document to reflect the realities of these young people and recognizes that youth is not a homogenous group.

Therefore, CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality calls upon you to include and streamline language on adolescents and youth, CSE and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination throughout the resolution on population, education and sustainable development. Furthermore, we urge the bureau to commit to references that are based on evidence from research and good practices and are inclusive to young people in all their diversity and ensure the full, equal, effective, meaningful and inclusive participation of young people in all their diversity within all stages of education policies and curricula creation.

Thank you