

Honourable chair, esteemed delegates,

To fulfill our promise of leaving no one behind, we must measure who we are leaving behind.

It is crucial not only to the Agenda 2030, but also to the realization of the ICPD agenda itself, that we start collecting data on adolescents - especially related to their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Due to taboos and cultural norms surrounding the sexuality of adolescents, their issues are insufficiently measured, and as a result they are left behind in policies and programs. At the same time things like gender-based violence, child, early and forced marriage, female genital cutting and HIV disproportionately affect adolescents, especially young girls.

Just because we do not know or measure something, does not mean it is not an issue. I teach comprehensive sexuality education to adolescents aged 10-14 and I always receive a lot of questions about puberty, menstrual hygiene and gender relations. A recent study in the Netherlands also showed that adolescents want to learn more about topics like love and relationships. All of these topics are addressed by comprehensive sexuality education, so measuring the number of schools that provide comprehensive sexuality education disaggregated by age groups would be one of the ways to ensure young people's needs get measured.

As the Dutch Youth Ambassador for SRHR I spoke with young people, who worried about their friends already being pregnant or forcibly married at age 13. I spoke with young people who, in their early teens, were already experiencing violence and discrimination because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. I spoke with young people who were likely to have to work in prostitution at an early age, but who, due to their age, stigma, and discrimination, were unable to access services and information.

These examples illustrate that adolescents are still being left behind. If we are to truly leave no one behind, we must also leave no one uncared for. Therefore we need to start collecting data on adolescents and their sexual and reproductive health and rights. This will not only help us recognize the urgency of their issues, but will also enable us to identify gaps and challenges, take action, and make tailor-made policies, that will contribute to realizing the human rights of young people.

Alongside governments, civil society organisations also play a crucial role in collecting this data. This important role must also be recognized in this year's review of the methods of work. It is vital that the work of the commission is inclusive to youth and civil society, as they play an indispensable role in the implementation, monitoring, and review of the ICPD agenda and the Agenda 2030.

The Agenda 2030 calls for transformation and inclusivity. To fulfill that promise we have to start collecting data on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and make our methods of work inclusive. We have the opportunity to transform, set an example in inclusivity, and to truly leave no one behind.

Thank you.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

I appreciate your help in resolving this matter.

Your prompt response and attention to detail are greatly appreciated. I am confident that your expertise will ensure a successful outcome for all involved. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification.

I am sure that your continued support and cooperation will be invaluable. I look forward to our future collaboration and the positive results it will bring. Thank you once again for your time and effort.

With best regards,
[Signature]

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