

Thank you, under-secretary,

30 years have passed since the Cairo declaration, and today I can proudly say that we the youth are looking back with sincere gratitude.

In the past 30 years we have seen great positive changes on intersectional forms of discrimination, sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health and especially in engaging us, the youth, and inviting us to the table when important decisions are being made.

I encourage you all to look around this room today.

(Pause)

30 years ago, we, the youth, were only a few, today we are many.

As mentioned by our under-secretary, UNFPA organised a global youth dialogue. With the attendance of 400 young persons, parliamentarians and members from different governments, we succeeded in creating an event that comprehended the essence of meaningful youth participation and showcased the power of intergenerational collaboration.

The global youth dialogue stands as a firm example of how to create events that involve youth, and hopefully the outcome will inspire UNFPA and other UN-agencies to repeat the success. Denmark strongly believes that the future also belongs to youth, so that is why we are disappointed that there are no references to the Cotonou Youth Action Agenda in the adopted political declaration.

We have walked many miles together for the past thirty years, and we still haven't reached the finish line. We still face great challenges regarding reproductive rights, digital violence, mental health and most importantly barriers to representation, especially for civil society organisations and young persons in all their diversities.

As I am privileged to stand here today, it is not only my choice, but my duty to ensure that we work towards bringing more young voices to the table.

We must ensure that reproductive rights are defended all over the world.

We must ensure strong and early preventive measures for mental health issues.

Finally, we must address intersectional forms of discrimination, and ensure more inclusivity and representation in our decision-making processes.

(Pause)

So, as we are all gathered here today, let us make a pledge to use the momentum we have gained for the past 30 years to keep moving forward. So that when we look back at this moment in 30 years, or hopefully sooner, we can proudly say, that we have reached the finish line.

Thank you chair.