We, adolescents and young people, account for 1.8 billion people in the world. We were left behind in the MDGs and we demand our voices to be heard this time. We have gathered here from all over the world, from the U.S. to Kenya, from Ukraine all the way to Pakistan in order to make you listen to us. On behalf of the Youth Caucus, that unites us in all our diversities, I am speaking to you today to demand meaningful youth participation throughout the new development agenda, and to commit to including a strong paragraph on young people's rights in this resolution. We demand our voices to be heard, our diverse needs and challenges to be addressed, and your commitment to fulfilling our human rights in order to achieve sustainable development.

Denying the reality that adolescents and young people are sexual beings, and that our needs include sexual and reproductive health information, education, and services, will jeopardize the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as sustainable development will only occur when all individuals can fully realize their human rights.

Denying us our sexual and reproductive rights puts our lives at risk and violates our bodily autonomy. Responding to this requires that governments recognize our rights to pleasure, to freely express
our diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, and to live free from all forms of stigma, discrimination and violence. Another crucial element is taking measures to achieve gender equality, and to ensure that young women and girls live without discrimination, harmful practices, and early, child, or forced marriages. And no sustainable development will be achieved without governments providing quality, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services; information and education, including access to safe and legal abortion services, contraception, and comprehensive sexuality education, and ending the harmful legislation of our sexual and reproductive rights.

We, adolescents and young people, demand the full realization, protection and promotion of all our human rights. We demand to be seen as the rights holders and valuable agents of change that we are. We know that when our health and rights are neglected in adolescence and youth, our futures are at risk and we will encounter serious social and health risks throughout our lives. We know that when adolescents and youth are not meaningfully engaged in the design, implementation, governance, evaluation and accountability mechanisms of policies and programs that affect us, we do not feel the benefits of those programs. We know that we
care about our health and rights now and that we are setting the stage to enjoy good health and full realization of our rights in our futures - and we demand nothing less of you.