



## **UNFPA STATEMENT TO CRPD COMMITTEE SECOND SESSION AUGUST 16, 2021**

### **MS. MONICA FERRO, DIRECTOR, UNFPA GENEVA OFFICE**

Greetings and thank you to the CRPD Committee for the opportunity for UNFPA to provide an update on the UNFPA's work on the rights of persons with disabilities, specifically young persons with disabilities

As you know, young persons with disabilities throughout the world are disproportionately isolated within their own communities, often invisible and prone to more rights violation, discrimination, and stigma.

UNFPA through its global, regional, and country level presence in over 130 countries, advocates to ensure persons with disabilities everywhere are free from violence and discrimination and are able to exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights. Putting the talents, hopes, perspectives and unique requirements of young persons with disabilities at the center of sustainable development is the answer to 'Leaving no one behind'.

UNFPA works to support young persons with disabilities in taking leadership over critical issues that affect their bodies, health, lives, and societies. In line with this, UNFPA's global strategy for adolescents and youth -- "My Body, My Life, My World" and the UNFPA's global We Decide initiative promotes the human rights and social inclusion of women and young persons with disabilities. Under these flagship initiatives, UNFPA is leading an interagency collaboration to support the Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities created and led by youth.

The Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities is giving young persons with disabilities direct access to and representation at the various levels of UN processes. Youth are being consulted and working directly with UN partners to develop intervention for UN Agencies to be more inclusive of and meaningfully engage with young persons with disabilities.

A standing youth agenda every year at the CRPD Committee and COSP to make sure that youth are well-represented will provide a concrete way forward for a committed and accountable intergenerational strategy for meaningful partnership with young persons with disabilities. We recommend that the Global Network

of Young Persons with disabilities be engaged in different policy dialogues and consultations processes, which concern their rights.

UNFPA commits its leadership and resources to supporting the Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities, and harnessing UN system wide synergy to push the bar for inclusion of young persons with disabilities.

Disability inclusion contributes to every single transformative accomplishment of UNFPA. This is why UNFPA continues to work with persons with disabilities to share their perspective, experiences, expertise, and ideas on how we can work with the broader UN system and member states but also on critical issues such as bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence.

To conclude we would also like to invite the Committee members to join us for a panel discussion on this September 10 to discuss concrete ways by which the Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities and the Committee Members can engage more systematically.

Thank you.