



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

77th Session of the General Assembly

Third Committee - General discussion on item 25

Statement by

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New York, September 30th, 2022

Check against Delivery

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

As the UN youth delegates from the Czech Republic we are honoured to address the Third Committee under the agenda item “Social Development.”

It’s been 7 years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is based on one simple pledge - no one will be left behind. Now more than ever, it is essential to remember this promise. It is us, people under the age of 30, who represent 49% of the world’s population, but make up for only 2,6% of the world's parliamentarians. It is us, who will be living in future world of tomorrow, we should not be left out when it comes to deciding how this world will be shaped.

Based on the research of the Czech Council of Children and Youth, 65% of all young people in the Czech Republic thinks that they have zero or just marginal influence on any political decision-making however, the process of building more just and sustainable world cannot exclude the youth.

We call for the real participation of young people when addressing the current challenges such as climate crises, affordable housing, transformation of the educational system or mental health crises accelerated by the covid-19 pandemic. In line with the UNGA resolution 76/137 we call for “more ambitious national development strategies, efforts and investment in youth while taking note of young people’s diverse situations and conditions”.

Young people must be empowered to participate in social development actively and cannot be discriminated based on age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, disabilities, or socio-economic status. Our views and needs must be heard and reflected in designing all policies affecting us. That is why we commend the decision of the GA to establish the UN Youth Office to ensure that the voices of youth are more systematically represented.

We look with great expectation to the Declaration on future generations. Underlining the political commitment at the highest level to consider the interests of future generations. That is why the involvement of youth delegates is so important. Only this way, we can preserve the hope of young people that a better future for us is possible.

Though it is no longer only about our future. It is about the future and the wellbeing of the liberal democratic order and the continuity of multilateralism and social development as we know it.

Intergenerational solidarity and accountability, based on the Declaration on future generations should follow its basic principles of world peace, rule of international law respect and protection of human rights and finally the promotion of gender equality.

Promoting equality and non-discrimination should be our key priority.

Particularly when it comes to vulnerable and marginalized groups, including the LGBTQ+ youth whose concerns have not been sufficiently addressed beyond the realm of civil society and human rights defenders.

The rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ people all over the world continue to be violated. In 69 countries being gay is still a crime. Our identities are persecuted, and all over the world, there is an absence of positive laws, failing to catch up with our everyday realities. An absence of hope.

Even in places thought to be the beacon of hope for LGBTQ+ equality, regressions and set backs are crawling back in a riptide of deliberately negative state sponsored actions against us.

And yet we are here. Calling on states to respect the fundamental democratic principle of equality before the law and to ensure that their policies are free from violence and discrimination and for inclusive social development. Reiterating that development of such policies is impossible without full and meaningful participation of LGBTQ+ people, including youth.

Human rights must be enjoyed by everyone irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBTQ+ rights are human rights.

Mr. Chairman, we thank you for the floor.