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Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies, and colleagues,

I am Dr Poorvaprabha Patil, representing Children and Youth International and I am speaking on behalf of the UN Major Group of Children and Youth.

Thirty years after the Copenhagen Declaration, our generation confronts intersecting crises—economic inequality, precarious work, climate shocks, and mental-health emergencies—that threaten the very foundations of social development. These crises are not isolated; they converge in communities, hospitals, and classrooms, where social and health systems are often the first and last lines of defence.

Linking frontline realities with social policy is key to strengthening the three pillars of social development. Expanding universal social protection, ensuring access to education as well as decent and dignified work, and integrating a focus on wellbeing, mental health and psychosocial support into all dimensions of social policy will accelerate progress on poverty eradication, inclusion of groups experiencing social and structural exclusion, and ensuring dignity for all.

Earlier this week, over 100 young people gathered in Doha for the WSSD2 Youth Assembly. This was the culmination of an 18 month journey, a youth-led roadmap that spanned grassroots consultation to global advocacy - and centered the leadership of those most affected by our failure to advance social development, including young refugees, indigenous youth, youth discriminated on work and descent, and those from informal settlements. They highlighted the need for the Doha Political Declaration to be underpinned by robust implementation and accountability mechanisms to take it from words to action.

To realise this, we urge Member States here to:

- Institutionalize meaningful youth engagement within national social development strategies and budgets, beyond tokenism.
- Commit to strengthening the role and rights-based participation of youth and civil society in CSocD and across all social processes at the UN, ensuring meaningful accountability in all follow-up and review.
- Prioritize health as a social development imperative—by expanding universal health coverage to include mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and social care services within social protection systems, and ensuring fair pay and safe working conditions for health and care workers.
- Integrate climate and health resilience as a cross-cutting enabler of the three social pillars to protect against future shocks.

Our generation refuses to inherit systems that were never built for our future—we are here to rebuild them, with equity, dignity, and compassion at their core. The promise of Copenhagen will not be realised through commitments on paper, but through courageous implementation that centres people over profit, and justice over convenience. We are not the generation of waiting—we are the generation of doing. Across every community, young people are already redefining what social development looks like: inclusive, intersectional, and rooted in care. What we ask of leaders today is not permission, but partnership. Let Doha be remembered as the moment we turned the Copenhagen promise into reality—for every person, in every community, in every generation.

Thank you.