Statement By Khaled Emam
Executive director of Justice Call and organizing partner of the Major Group Children &Youth (MGCY).

Mr. President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Khaled Emam and I am excited to speak to you today on behalf of Justice Call, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and the Major Group Children &Youth (MGCY).

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, young peacebuilders, and youth-led organisations continue to support local communities to recover from the pandemic and decrease the fragility at local and national levels.

However, those young people and CSOs in particular in the MENA region are facing multiple challenges such as limitations of civic space and authorities’ attacks on civil society. This in turn hinders the implementation if the SDGs, which is worsened by the lack of resources available for young people to achieve the SDGs.

At Justice Call, we believe that civil society organisations, especially those led by young people, fulfil the most important role in promoting human rights and building peace on the ground, and therefore they must be protected and supported by all means possible.

That's why we call on Member states, UN agencies and international stakeholders, to support youth-led efforts and to ensure safe environments for meaningful and effective partnership that can accelerate the progress towards the 2030 Agenda by following actions:

- Provide sustaining and flexible financial support for participatory approaches by youth-led organisations
- Enhance the space for civil society and youth groups to work together towards achieving the SDGs and building back better

Thank you!