

Date: Jan 31, 2023

Organization: World Youth Alliance

Statement Delivered by: Sofia Piecuch, Director of Advocacy

Madam/Mister Chair, distinguished representatives of Member States and civil society,

I am honored to speak today on behalf of the World Youth Alliance, a global coalition of over 200,000 young people between the ages of 10-30 looking to uplift the dignity of the human person through education, advocacy and culture. We seek to prioritize person-centered policy solutions, particularly those that address the root of issues that societies are facing.

In order to accelerate the recovery from Covid-19 and enable the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we wish to uplift a best practice from our organization: human dignity education.

For many years, the World Youth Alliance's Human Dignity Curriculum has taught children ages 4-18 across Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America to understand their dignity and worth as humans, understand human freedom as linked to their dignity, see themselves as subjects and not objects, and to develop good habits freeing them to pursue human excellence, long-term goals, and authentic happiness. It has been implemented in formal and non-formal classroom settings, the latter notably among street children, refugees, juvenile delinquents, and children with disabilities.

The children we have seen go through the Human Dignity Curriculum exhibit perseverance in difficult times (such as dealing with a difficult school subject), an awareness of how their actions affect others, a deep level of self-knowledge, and ambition to improve their communities. All of these qualities cultivate individuals who are resilient to uncertainty and emerging leaders who are honest and hardworking. This is essential groundwork that needs to be prioritized to ensure recovery from the global pandemic and also that the SDGs are always pursued with the service of people in mind, not just to meet targets.

Thank you for the opportunity to share about our Human Dignity Curriculum.