



26th January 2024

Youth Intervention at the UN Partnership Forum 2024

Thank you Madam President for the floor.

My name is Oumäïma Makhrouk from Morocco, and it is my honour to address you on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth. MGCY engages more than 10 thousand youth-led organisations and young people in over 60 intergovernmental and 200 multi-stakeholder processes. In times of multiple crises, as we strive to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty, the voices of young people, particularly from the MENA region, stand as pillars of hope and progress.

First, the youth constituency continues to champion the cause of youth engagement within the ECOSOC cycle. We emphasise the need for youth to be equal partners in sustainable development, at all stages of inception, design, implementation, review and follow-up. The ECOSOC HLPF review cycle this year should provide actionable recommendations.

Second, as we navigate the challenges of our time, it is imperative that this year's ECOSOC cycle and HLPF are closely intertwined with the Summit of the Future. We must strive for coherence and integration, moving away from siloed approaches at the UN. A number of youth constituencies and organisations are already working together as part of the Summit of the Future Youth Working Group convened by MGCY and planning upcoming Youth Assemblies and activities.

Third, the urgency to implement the SDGs, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report last year, cannot be overstated. With SDG1 under review, the youth constituency echoes the calls for the reform of the global financial architecture, including reform of the boards of the Multilateral Development Banks to include young representatives, and establishing a sovereign debt authority to **comprehensively address unsustainable and illegitimate debt, including through extensive debt repudiation.**

Finally, young people from marginalised and grassroots communities must not be spoken for - but should be speaking themselves. To ensure this, we call for member states to provide financial support for youth participation at the upcoming ECOSOC Youth Forum and other international processes, including the HLPF and the Summit of the Future, and put commitments into action.

More than 30 young people participating today at the Partnership Forum are the human faces of the 2030 Agenda, and the importance of intergenerational partnerships could not be any higher.

Thank you.