

Opening Session

MALE SPEAKER 2: Ladies and gentlemen, Ms. Rachel Arinii. [Applause]

RACHEL ARINII: Good evening Vienna. Good thanks to all the attendees, my colleagues and my friends. My name is Rachel. I am 21 years old. I carry the voice of the young people at this conference and beyond. [Applause]

I come from Indonesia, the largest, mostly in population in the world. I come from a fundamentally strict religious background and I understand what it means to be a young woman in today's world. I have friends who have been raped, married off at young age, trafficked, and infected by HIV. Some of these things happened to me and now I support it to demand justice.

Now I am aware that the young people have fights and that we are diverse. Today, we celebrate our diversity. Like many other young people, I live in an era where we are supposed to benefit from universal access and I see the action agenda, but suddenly young people's lives still remain challenged by poverty, inequality, and violence.

Young people account for around 40-percent of new infections, but we don't account for 40-percent of budgets and programs. [Applause] The theme of this conference is right here, right now. Tonight, my peers and I urge you to become a focus for young people.

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We want to highlight three critical areas for young people. The first is that we need to fully acknowledge and protect the human rights of young people. It is sexy to say that you work with young people, but we know the truth, it is still hard to acknowledge, accept, and celebrate that the young people are entitled to all human rights, including accepting our diversity and understanding in the complexity of our identity.

For example, our human rights cannot be fully protected if young people who use drugs cannot get clean needles. Young people living with HIV cannot choose the school they want to attend or a job they want to apply just because a blood test is required. Our human rights cannot be fully enjoyed if young sex worker cannot access health services.

Our human rights cannot be fully enjoyed if the girls and young women are not able to access legal and safe abortions services and female condoms. We long for comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare services.

Identity is complex. Young people are more dangerous and number in epidemiology. We need a floor leveling. We must respect the diversity of the young people. We must eliminate policies that discriminate against us. We demand more inclusive and progressive agendas that protect sexual rights and sexual diversity.

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The second area is access to information and services. When I was 15, my teacher together asked for a special meeting. A male guest in doctor's coat accompanied by our emom [misspelled?] told us that the condom company was only a propaganda to make people lose faith in God and they're asking to see nurse.

No girls could ask questions because they say only boys were at risk. This is my sexual advocations. Yet, I was refused by the clinics when I went for HIV testing, they said I am too young and I'm not married and not to mention our struggle to access therapy. But I know that I'm also too young to die of AIDS.

I realize that sometimes what is written on paper, even international agreements can be useless. We have to do better than this. We call on decision makes to provide a evident based, comprehensive sexual education for young people, both in and out of school.

They should recognize the rights of young people to enjoy their sexual at the safe and pleasurable place, free from coercion, discriminations, and violence. We call on decision makers to provide comprehensive, youth-friendly HIV care, services, and support that actually can be accessed by young people.

Those services should be delivered by trained health providers who respect the diversity and rights and

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confidentiality of young people. To achieve this, we must eliminate legal barriers, such as age, parental, and spousal consent.

The third area is sustaining young people leadership. Young people involvement is critical. We believe we are capable of reversing the impact of HIV epidemics and the new AIDS die supporting this. More and more youth leaders and activists have taken steps to build their own responses. They have established their owned networks, called for a strong leadership, mobilized resources, and promoted many youth based organizations.

We are already out there, we just need to be recognized, respected, and supported. Most youth-led networks and initiatives are informal and run by volunteers, but we are flexible. Here call creative and open to collaborate. Sadly, we almost always have no funding for operational costs.

As with any HIV programs, we have to acknowledge that one size doesn't fit for all. But today's architecture often only recognize one size fits all. I want to accord the concern, broken promise kills. We should put health resources as country priorities. We call for a more sustainable findings for programs and treatment, which includes core funding for initiatives and network.

All of these three areas cannot be achieved without meaningful youth participations. We call for meaningful

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involvement of young people in the development of programs, by yet policy, but especially, we want a seat at a table to make a decision, a seat at the table to make a decision and not making cookies and coffee. [Applause]

In order to realize right here, right now for young people, we demand that you, you, and you to invest in young people's leaderships, especially the leadership of the young women and girls. We hope the new youth entity for women breeds a formal platform for young women and girls to meaningful participate at every level.

We need international approaches that foster transparencies, accountabilities, and support of our networks. We need a mentorship and also a partnership, not just a jargon. My peers and I will not only be the leaders of tomorrow, we are the leaders for today. We intend to work together for right here, right now for all.

And now I have to challenge you. I have to challenge you to follow up all the commitment in this conference to make this conference not to become just another conference, to translate from paper to people, and now make it happen.

[Applause] And with women rights for upcoming activity.

[Applause]