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Thank you, Mr Chair,

We seize this opportunity to welcome initiatives of both Secretary General and the current, as well as former Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly to strengthen the voice of youth and enable their participation in high-Level discussions within the United Nations framework. No goals, of any agenda, can be fully achieved without young people and their active and meaningful participation and contribution to the work of the United Nations. We all live on the same planet, we face the same problems, and therefore, we all should have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes.

Slovakia's long-standing position is that much more must be done to provide youth with adequate space to actively contribute to the efforts of the United Nations. Our position has been clearly reflected in the basic spirit of SDGs to “leave no one behind”. Without voices of young people being heard or inviting youth to actively participate and contribute to the work of the United Nations, we cannot achieve our goals.

The establishment of the United Nations Youth Office was undoubtedly a crucial step in fostering the position of youth and amplifying their voice, and we fully support the work of its operationalization to be completed.

And now, allow me to pass the floor to the Slovak Youth delegate Mr. Pavol Beblavý.

Mr Chair,

on behalf of the Slovak youth, I would like to appreciate the importance Slovak authorities pay to the work with youth on a national level. In this regard, I would like to mention that Slovakia already took concrete steps, for instance by beginning with curricula reform to make a formal education more attractive.

The Slovak youth, taking into account current challenges the international community is facing, considers the improvement of educational opportunities, economic development, security, and environmental sustainability to be of the utmost importance. All these concerns form an integral part of the sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

Furthermore, it is necessary to note that the achievement of these goals would not only benefit the global youth, but also every human being living in the World under the United Nations umbrella.

Therefore, The Slovak youth seizes this opportunity to urge the global community not to abandon these goals and advance their implementation within its political activities. However, this effort would be incomplete without the active inclusion of youth. The Slovak youth calls upon the international community to further integrate youth of the World into the decision-making processes of the United Nations. This can be done by expanding existing programs, such as the youth delegate program, or by creating new programs tailored specifically for

youth. In this regard, cooperation with regional and non-governmental organisations dedicated to youth is particularly important.

We strongly believe that deepening cooperation between youth and the United Nations would be beneficial for all parties involved.