Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

We live in a time of great peril and magnificent promise. It is our collective will, commitment and inspiration that will determine the path we will follow.

We, the Bulgarian Youth Delegates, have the honor to be among you today and represent the Bulgarian youth’s proactive stand towards achieving increased international harmony and cooperation and providing a better understanding of global issues. We highly appreciate the opportunity to speak with the voice of the youth in our country and take part in shaping the future of tomorrow.

In our globalized world we recognize the education as a key component for ensuring a sustainable and peaceful development of each nation. Two crucial aspects of the educational process, namely the rights-based access to health education and the formation of social values as an element of culture of peace, are often underestimated and that hinders the youth civic engagement and involvement.
Mr. Chairman,

We alight with the assumption that education should not be reduced only to its economic implications disregarding the importance of building key competence skills. A more holistic approach towards an implementation of non-formal education in the school curricula should be established. Considering the globalized world we live in it is crucial for the development of young people's personal skills in order to help them become responsible members of society.

Furthermore the non-formal education is a key approach for establishing a better access to non-discriminatory, content-oriented, gender-sensitive comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). It is an important element for the healthy well-being of each young person and although there is no clear evidence for its impact over decreasing the HIV/AIDS epidemic rates, it is crucial for promoting sexual reproductive health and rights and empowering youth to make more informed decisions for their sexual life.

Speaking from personal experience, CSE is the key for young people to acquire essential life skills, develop positive attitudes and moral values. Hence the non-governmental bodies should be recognized and supported as one of the main deliverers of CSE through non-formal education by governments, schools and other stakeholders.

Thus we encourage governments to ensure programs and policies as well as to remove all legal, structural and social barriers to secure an open and free access to content-specific comprehensive sexuality education for young people in and out of school in all regions.

Mr. Chairman,

Now at a time of high youth unemployment, poverty, gender, ethnic or religious intolerance, many of us have lost their sense of belonging to nations or communities, have lost trust in the efficiency of governments, and social skepticism is surrounding us. Education as a means to build social values like humanism, responsibility, honesty and tolerance, to construct a culture of peace, to strengthen the respect for compatriots and national institutions, is more needed than ever.

Worldwide, education is increasingly focused on developing the students’ knowledge and technical skills and neglects the advancing of virtues and emotional intelligence that are at the core of a non-violent and peaceful lifestyle. The attention to building narrow technical specialization and the present fierce rivalry are often in contradiction with the mode of behavior in a spirit of respect, tolerance and non-discrimination.

A revision of the educational curricula is necessary for promoting values, attitudes and competences, as dialogue, consensus-building, and mutual respect. Hence core subjects such as psychology, ethics, analytic history have to be more practice-based, oriented to the traditions and historical background. That would contribute to the development of
each person individually, ensure succession and at the same time it could be a powerful
unifying principle in the modern world.

Mr. Chairman,

Since 1945 the world has experienced only 26 peaceful days. With the world crisis
continuing longer than expected the peace is increasingly jeopardized and we witness an
increased number of internal conflicts, insurgencies and violence. We, the young people
of the UN, do not want to live in a world where other young people are suffering from
the terrors of war, instability and insecurity. Youth as having a key role in the peace and
security could be an agent of peacebuilding and positive social change. This role could
be fulfilled only by youth raised in line with values and sense of respect for the world
surrounding them.

Therefore we strongly encourage governments, the UN system and civil societies to
provide a collaborative framework to engage, empower and educate youth in
peacebuilding, solving conflicts and being an integral actor in public life.

We urge the UN entities to ensure that the social values of youth are promoted not only
through formal and non-formal education but also through other interactive and current
means such as key messages in the social networks, movie art or cultural festivals.

We recommend that the implementation of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Youth
is conducted in line with the provisions of the Declaration on a Culture of Peace

We urge that attention is paid to the establishing of an UN Permanent Forum on Youth
as a body, monitoring the implementation of the UN World Program of Action for
Youth and the UN System-wide Action Plan on Youth.

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Delegates,

We, as young people, consider that in our rapidly developing and globalizing world
virtues such as humanism, responsibility, honesty, and tolerance are of fundamental
importance. The United Nations as an embodiment of the international community has
the responsibility to highlight the essential role of education based on those values and
to promote human rights as a key to developing a sustainable, peaceful and harmonized
world.

Thank you.