

## **Celebrating innovations and good practices – Inequalities, social inclusion, and rights**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and partners,

Madame/Mr. Chair,

The Danish Family Planning Association welcomes the review process as a key moment to celebrate, reaffirm and build on the progress that we have made on the ICPD Agenda, and the ICPD + 25 review process, the beyond 2014 reviews, and the outcomes of these reviews.

Social inequalities are on the rise within our region. Overlapping and intersecting crises - humanitarian, financial, migration, climate and conflict related - worsen already existing inequalities, all of which negatively affect the sexual and reproductive rights, especially the most marginalized communities and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. At the same time, we see anti-gender trends in our region that have devastating effects on human rights - curtailing access to lifesaving services, information and limiting civic space for human rights defenders, civil society and youth organizing. This organized, well-financed and targeted attack on human rights can result in worsening social inequalities, discrimination against women, girls, young people, LGBTIQ communities, as well as a weakening of democratic values.

In the face of this pushback, we also find hope. A return to rights-based values, where we have previously seen backsliding. We see good practices in terms of addressing social inequalities that enable access to services and information, stop the spread of misinformation and fulfill rights. In Denmark, we see efforts to liberalize our abortion laws after 50 years and while CSE has been mandatory for more than 50 years at the elementary school level, this year marked a change in terms of mandatory CSE with an increased focus on consent in the youth education sector. The Danish government is currently implementing its national action plan to address and eliminate gender-based violence, including femicide.

30 years since the ICPD conference in Cairo, we must have women, girls, adolescents, and marginalized groups, the ones that are most left behind, at the forefront of our minds, as we urge Governments and other stakeholders to act now, for the good of our communities, countries, region, and planet.

Thank you for the word