**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur**

**on the Right to Education**

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*Statement by the UN Youth Delegates of the Czech Republic*

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Thank you, Mr. President,

We have the honor to speak in our capacity as the UN Youth Delegates of the Czech Republic.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

We would like to thank you for your timely report. We appreciate your attention given to future-oriented education and to the important, however often neglected, comprehensive sexual education and mental health education.

Our generation has inherited a world shaped by many challenges. Climate change, digital revolution, spread of disinformation and democratic backsliding place new demands on the skills that we need in our work but also in our daily life.

As young people, we want to feel empowered to tackle the challenges. However, formal education does not always equip us with the right tools. That is why we, as Czech UN Youth Delegates, would like to also highlight the role of non-formal education. Personally, we are both keen non-formal educators teaching high schoolers about sustainability, gender equality and human rights. We have witnessed that non-formal education provides young people with the skills to think critically, solve problems creatively and take action. It also helps educators to bring high-quality training to young people regardless of their gender, race or whether they come from a big city or a small rural village.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

what can young people do, together with states, to further strengthen the role of non-formal education in our traditional educational systems?

We thank you.