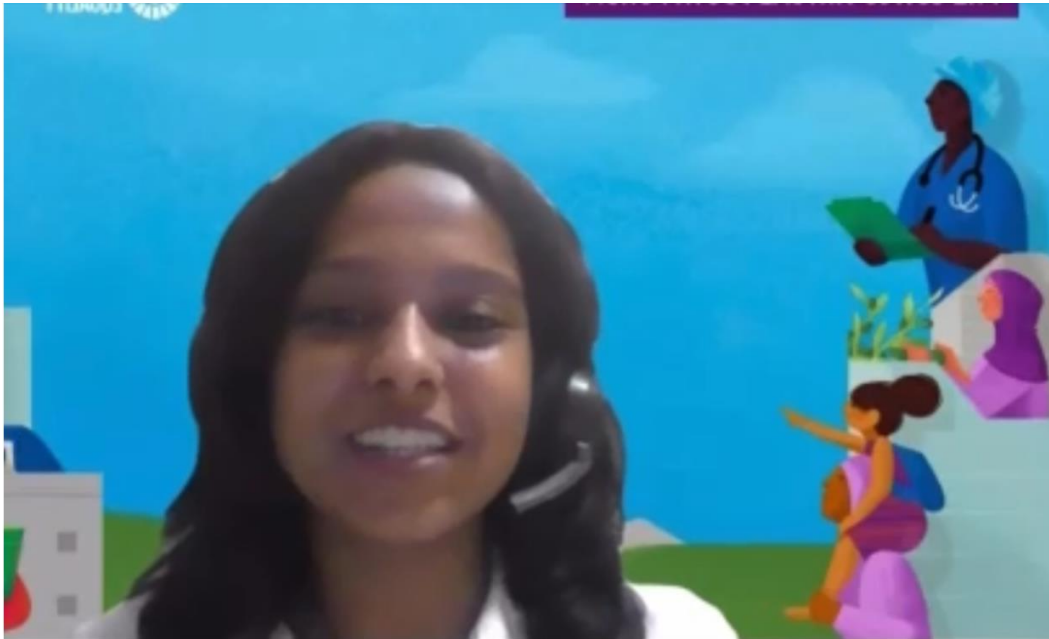


## Sugandha- Virtual Youth Forum Day 1 Closing

Thank you, Khadija.



As we near the end of today's session, let us all take a moment to reflect on how our advocacy efforts and knowledge were enriched by the conversations we all actively engaged and participated in. We navigated the intricate and intertwined layers of systemic poverty that lead us away from progress.

We unravelled the threads of intersectionality that bind all our experiences with poverty and its effect on gender inequality. Our brilliant panelists and moderators through their perspectives and experiences, helped us explore the deeply integrated systemic injustices and inspired us all to develop innovative solutions. These solutions are as diverse and thought-provoking as the challenges we aim to solve promise and their voices have added so much more value to this Forum

I think our conversations and advocacy efforts have painted a vivid picture that has helped us all realise that our perspectives, the perspectives of the world's future- youth and adolescents, are central to our cause. We are not here just to be bystanders and look in from a distance, rather we are here to stay at the centre of our movement of achieving gender equality. Our contributions and engagement are not a formality, they are a necessity and a testament to our undeniable power.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our speakers, panelists, and you, our fabulous participants. Without your engagement and support, today would have been rather dull and we would have missed out on learning so much.

As we move forward let us remember that the Virtual Youth Forum is not the end, rather it is the beginning. We are standing on the precipice of a better tomorrow and we can reach there by sharing the resources and valuable insights we have all gained today, with our renewed sense of purpose.

We have come along so far, achieved so many milestones, and undoubtedly contributed in our unique ways to advance gender equality through CSW. But the journey, the fight against injustice has not yet ended. We still have so many barriers to cross and so many challenges ahead of us. Let us take on these challenges head-on, one step at a time and do our part in creating a better world for ourselves and future generations, just as so many advocates have paved the way for us.

I would like to end today with a quote from Mother Teresa- "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

I truly believe in my heart and soul that together we can and will make strides in our quest for creating a better world where gender equality is the norm and poverty is eradicated. Let us strive to work together to help create a world where we are not oppressed, but rather supported. Let us make sure our voices and the voices of those less fortunate than us are heard loud and clear throughout the world. Thank you all so much for joining us today and I can't wait to see you tomorrow.

Over to you, Sandra.