14.03.2024

**Annual Day on the Rights of the Child - Afternoon panel**

Hey everyone!

My name is Anghelina , I am a 17-years-old child human rights defender from Moldova. I am honored to speak today on behalf of the Child Rights Connect and the Children’s Advisory Team.

Today I am here to discuss a very important topic, which is affecting the future of kids directly - how can the UN increase efforts to ensure adequate child rights mainstreaming.

This year, our Children’s Advisory Team at Child Rights Connect played a crucial role in shaping the child-friendly documents like the OHCHR report on Children’s rights and inclusive social protection, the “Children's Vision for Human Rights” report for the UDHR 75 Initiative, and contributed to General Comment N26 on children’s rights to a clean and healthy environment. We supported a global child-friendly survey by the OHCHR, involving over 4000 children across 53 countries, demonstrating the impact of children’s perspectives. Additionally, we presented it at a high-level event in December for the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

This is a call for global institutions, all UN organizations, governments, and society to mainstream child rights, emphasizing that our rights are human rights. It's crucial for the UN to build on examples of child participation, ensuring systematic involvement. Given the opportunity, children consistently showcase their ability to speak up and significantly contribute to advancing reports and initiatives.

As a child myself, I know how hard it is to face violence and worldwide issues without being supported and given the opportunity to express my vision, propose my solutions, and raise my voice.

As we face crises in climate change, peace, security, and education, prioritizing child participation, access to information and the opportunities to speak up is imperative.

Remember, we are stepping into a new era of human rights, where children are the fully-aware rights stakeholders and the vital part of our shared future.