ITEM 2

2. Uzma Yaqoob, Forum for Dignity Initiatives, Pakistan

Good afternoon, everyone!

My name is Uzma Yaqoob, from Pakistan. I represent CSOs and youth organizations from 25 countries that convened for a forum ahead of this August gathering on 13-14 November.

The Asia Pacific is the most populated region on Earth, with 60%of the world’s population living in the region. The region bears the brunt of the rapidly escalating climate crisis that has led to more frequent and harsh climate emergencies and yet comprehensive SRHR services are largely missing in climate related discourses, programmes and implementations at all levels.

Throughout the region, women, girls, indigenous peoples, persons with disability, LGBTIQ+ persons, older people, women and girls living with HIV,, people living in humanitarian crisis due to conflict and climate-induced disasters, migrants and refugees, sex workers and other marginalised groups continue to experience inequalities, inadequacies in and unequal access to quality, safe, affordable, and responsive sexual and reproductive health services.

We call members states to following call to action;

Invest in building climate resilient health systems that will support and ensure SRH services in times of crisis or disaster.

Invest in research, data collection, and evidence building to understand the extent and nature of impact of climate change related disasters on women’s SRHR. Support and use research done by CSOs and local groups.

Ensure that national policies, programming, and budget related to climate change and disaster risk reduction incorporate gender mainstreaming and SRHR and include gender and age-differentiated impact analysis of climate change disasters and gender equality.

This promising yet significant agenda to protect SRHR of people in Asia Pacific cannot be achieved without the participation and support of CSOs as "equal partners". Member states must review the treatment and shrinking spaces towards CSOs working for SRHR and provide an enabling environment for CSOs that is harassment and persecution free.

I thank you