7. Nusrat Sharmin Resma, Bangladesh Youth Health Action Network

Honorable Chair, and distinguished delegates,

This is Nusrat Sharmin Resma, I am from Bangladesh. I represent CSOs and youth organizations from 25 countries that convened for a forum ahead of this 7th APPC on November 13-14.

As representatives of a generation poised to inherit the future, we recognize the urgency and responsibility that come with shaping a world that is just, equitable, and sustainable for all. We call the member states and stakeholders to-

- Enable and empower youth in decision-making spaces to uphold human rights and actively engage in the decision-making process by establishing adolescents and youth advisory boards or councils at various levels of government and organizations to ensure the representation of youth voices in policy discussions inclusive of people from diverse backgrounds and representation beyond demographic.

- Enact robust legislation to ensure high standards of healthcare for youth, including comprehensive support for HIV, AIDS, mental health, non-communicable diseases and more. Adopt policies that specifically address the healthcare needs of adolescents and young people, ensuring access to SRHR regardless of whether they have subdued to child marriage or not. Establish youth-led and community-based healthcare centers. Promote inclusive family planning and establish a volunteer peer leader mechanism to enhance support for such initiatives.

- Prioritize budget availability for and integrate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) into school curricula, and update curricula to make it comprehensive. CSE programmes and resource material must be tailored and made accessible for marginalized youth, such as youth with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ youth.

- Create adolescent and youth-friendly pathways, incorporating technology to address population issues within the community. Design digital platforms and apps that provide information and resources on sexual and reproductive health, family planning, and other relevant topics. Implement measures to protect young people from discrimination, violence, and exploitation, creating safe spaces for their physical and mental well-being.

Thank you.