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Biennial thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building

Speaker: Rhennystella A Wankya

Oral statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco

And co-signed by
VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development

Concerning
Technical cooperation and capacity-building in supporting States in the full and effective realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Thank you, Mr. President.

IIMA and VIDES welcome this panel and its great relevance for youth.

Physical and mental health are both fundamental components of the right to health. The online survey we launched in February of this year—which received 1,778 responses, 80% of which were from adolescents and youth across 46 countries on 5 continents—shows that mental health challenges have a detrimental impact on the enjoyment of human rights by young people

Insufficient investment in healthcare, reduced by 19–33% in 2025, is further aggravating the situation.

Although States have made progress, youth continue to have limited access to support systems, also because of financial barriers.

Our voices matter. Our experiences matter. Our future matters. We therefore call on States to:

1. Ensure that youth are partners in drafting and implementing physical and mental health policies.
2. Increase domestic investment in youth mental health through integration of health coverage.
3. Guarantee qualified mental health professionals, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

Thank you.