



Statement by Petra Sýkorová and David Ulvr

Czech UN Youth Delegates

at The Third Committee of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly

New York, 3 October 2017

Thank you mister chair,

let us express our gratitude that we can speak both on behalf of the Czech Republic and the Czech youth in the Third committee of the General Assembly. Our role is to represent the voice of youth in the United Nations and we promise that we will do our best for them to feel heard and more importantly to show that the young generation is playing a precious part in the world politics.

We are speaking here as the members of the first generation of young people who were born into free democratic liberal country of the Czech Republic. Therefore, we feel the responsibility of such privilege. We feel obliged to continue the tradition of those who fought for our freedoms and to keep on building the respect towards human rights which has been strongly incorporated into our society. Thus, we emphasize the importance of the resolution concerning youth that will be negotiated during the 72nd session of the General Assembly.

The fact that we can be speaking here on behalf of the Czech Republic means that the right of every young Czech citizen to speak up is finally taken into consideration. However, we are aware that this is only a start and we will need more measures and actions in order to guarantee the best future for everyone in our country and across the world.

Therefore today, we are making a call. And we are calling for space. Space that would enable us to create and express our opinion in an atmosphere without the bias of ageism. Space, which would offer better access for young women to political engagement. Space that would ensure everyone quality inclusive education based on participatory learning, not only theoretical but also practical training and paid internships that respect and acknowledge young individuals as equal human beings.



Because such an environment would mean development towards a society free of prejudice, hatred and fear. And this is the only type of society from which we all can benefit.

The UN General Assembly resolution 70/133 recognizes that youth participation is important for development, and urges Member States and UN entities to explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people. Therefore, the key for the design of sustainable function of every country and the whole world accordingly is systematic involvement of young people, youth organizations and civil society.

Youth participation should be strengthened by means of education and capacity building. It needs to be institutionalized in decision-making processes and youth need to be included in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development strategies. We also endorse focus on sufficient participation of youth from various marginalized groups.

We especially recall the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, which emphasizes the importance of youth involvement in decision-making processes. We recommend this will be included in this year's youth resolution as well. Thus, we hope that this session will lead to a strong and ambitious document, which would serve as a basis for the following steps and policies.

Locally, such measures could for example include school parliaments, town children and youth parliaments and boards, youth councils or participatory budgeting or co-management practices – which teach, empower and enable young people to the basis of democratic life.

There is a statement saying *“hope is born of participation in hopeful solutions.”* Therefore, according to us, *“effective and meaningful participation”* is the answer and our starting point.

Thank you.