



Statement by Simona Petrů a Kristina Šůsová

Czech UN Youth Delegates

at the Conference on Disarmament

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Thank you for the floor, Madam Chair.

In our capacity, as Czech Republic's UN Youth Delegates, we are very grateful for the opportunity to speak here today.

Growing up in the Czech Republic, we feel very privileged since we have never experienced an armed conflict in our country and never felt threatened in our homes. The success of the European project protected us from insecurity and dangers of the conflicts, enabled us to develop our skills and knowledge, and empowered us to plan a better future for ourselves. Thus, reaping the benefits of a peaceful life, we are certain that peace is a crucial prerequisite for prosperity, and it is definitely a priority for young people starting their lives.

However, in order to maintain peace all around the world, it is necessary to educate the younger generations about the dangers posed to humankind by various types of weapons. Therefore, we consider disarmament education to be a significant steppingstone to maintain peace and security globally. Only an educated population can make the right decisions about peace and security. Hence, we are convinced that disarmament education should become an obligatory part of school curricula in the form of for example a project day (or week) and inform the children about related issues, such as nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, military spending, or the role of civil society, women, and youth in disarmament efforts.

The necessity of high-quality education is nowadays even more urgent. With autonomous weapons, military cyber operations and other new means of warfare being on the rise, it is necessary that children and youth all over the world understand the link between disarmament, development and peace. They should learn that the primary purpose of weapons should be protection, that different weapons have a different level of risk, and that peace is as fragile as crucial and needs to be actively protected.



Hand in hand with education, the youth should be given a chance to have their say in disarmament affairs. The success of the idea of disarmament will seriously affect the lives of every single one of them, and it is only fair to give them a chance to actively participate in the process. It should be also remembered that there are many people who significantly contributed to peace at a very young age, such as Nadia Murad or Malala Yousafzai. The more youth will be given an opportunity to take part in the peace-making processes, the more youth peacemakers will exist.

We strongly believe in a very positive impact of bringing the disarmament issue closer to the youth through education, youth participation and other means. The 1.8 billion youth in the world have a great potential to be a generation of peacemakers, the generation which will fulfil SDG 16 and achieve a truly peaceful world.

We thank you for your attention.