**Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights**

**Panel 2: Youth mainstreaming in human rights mechanisms and next steps on youth and human rights at the international level**

**April 12, 2021**

Distinguished speakers and panelists,

At the outset, I would like to thank all of you for the insightful interventions on this highly relevant topic.

The Covid-19 pandemic is far from over and its effects to education and opportunities for children and young people have only just begun.  If we do not take substantial and immediate action focused on the needs of young people who are the most vulnerable, and yet often the least visible, the legacy of the virus will be witnessed for decades. In other words, targeted and large-scale policies are required more than ever.

The best way to do this is by listening to them. UN member states should work in cooperation with youth organizations and youth-led structures in order to thwart discrimination and to ensure that young people can enjoy their rights. The Human Rights Council**’**s assesment of the challenges faced by young people is essential in establishing the most effective measures for promoting and protecting the rights and freedoms of young individuals. In this context, novel mechanisms of youth representation, such anannual youth forum and a Youth Network under the supervision of the Human Rights Council, can provide not only a better understanding of human rights violations, but also new avenues to tackle widespread problems of this demographic group.

The 2030 Agenda stipulates that young people are powerful agents of change and recongnizes that the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated, indivisible and global.

As stated before, Romania is further committed to utilize its resources with the aim of creating a dignified future for our younger generations. A good example of our adherence to the aforementioned objective is the 15-year-old governmental program entitled the United Nations Youth Delegates of Romania. This initiative provides two youth delegates with the chance to not only represent the Romanian youth at the UNGA, but to also organize and participate in events aimed at training young people on the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, Romania looks forward to cooperating with international partners in order to guarantee that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will not continue to jeopardize the future of children and young people.

Thank you.