

Thank you for this opportunity to address both Estonia and Finnish Sustainable development commissions as the representative of Estonian youth organizations and local youth councils. My name is Mikk Tarros and I'm the development advisor of the Estonian National Youth Council.

Youth civil society has been contributing to implementation of the Sustainable development agenda for some time now, although a lot needs still be done by both non-governmental organisations and governments. As part of our advocacy, for example, youth across Estonia have been contributing to the Estonia 2035 strategy and its future reforms in that matter. Also contributing to the Sustainable development goals (SDG) review has also been important to us, as main youth actions have been contributing to the report on grassroot level - from health to environmental matters.

In the current tough times we stress the importance of youth unemployment and mobility, SDG goal 4 and 8 are particularly relevant in that matter. We should also not forget the environmental discussions and the inclusion of youth in these decision making processes. In Estonia for example, we have created youth governing bodies to the ministries of Environment and Education. In the upcoming Estonian youth strategy there we have marked that a youth advisory body should be initiated also in Prime minister and President's office. We call other UN member states as well as Estonia to also include more youth civil society organisations to other decision making bodies and ministries, in order to achieve and monitor SDGs progresses.

Finally, we believe that the whole institution approach towards the monitoring and implementation is the key to success. Especially in how more institutional partners can contribute to the processes. We have many good examples of SDG implementation as well as SDG integration with other strategies, still a common understanding of how we could achieve more, is needed. We also need to enhance the cooperation with local governments and regions in order to reach more people in rural and remote areas as well as boost sustainable development in cities. Many core SDG areas depend on local democracy and action. Public transport, education, access to guidance, youth work or mental health services progress can all be traced back to local level. The good examples of Finland are certainly valuable in this case.

Thank you for your time