

World Youth Alliance Oral Intervention

Thank you Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates and members of Civil Society,

World Youth Alliance, a global coalition of young people promoting the dignity of

the human person in policy in culture, welcomes the opportunity to present its views on fertility, reproductive health and development to the Commission. The relationship between population, fertility, economics and development is complex because it depends on the human person, whose creativity and innovative potential cannot be measured. Therefore, all population and development policies should have the human person as their end.

population. Therefore, we propose the promotion of **education for freedom**, and advocate **family and human-centred development**.

Education connects reproductive health to development. Too often, education is sacrificed for a government's perceived need to decrease fertility rates and reach demographic targets. This stalls development, because no investment is made in

potential to generate wealth and drive development.

Reproductive health education should be pragmatic, teaching women and men about the reality of their fertility and what it means for their lives. Reproductive health programmes should be designated to serve the needs of women, including adolescents, and must involve women in the leadership, planning, decision-

Mr. Chair,

Person-centred development recognizes that human beings have inherent worth that is not dependent on a particular time, place or situation in society. The freedom proper to the human person cannot be compromised for economic goals

no matter how laudable. Human beings are the objects of sustainable development and economic prosperity and all population and development policies must be oriented around this principle. We invite persons at all levels of society to use their creativity, skills and resources to create the necessary environment for authentic development.

Thank you,