

Thank you, Mr. President.

I speak today in my capacity as a representative of the Major Group for Children and Youth.

In 2019, the world witnessed a moment of profound hope as Sudan began a transition toward democratic governance and sustainable development. Today, however, we remain deeply alarmed by the political instability and armed conflict that have resulted in nearly 8.6 million internally displaced persons, 13 million forced to flee the nation. For children and youth, the consequences are devastating — a generation uprooted, their futures held hostage by war.

As we review Sudan's VNR, we underscore the importance of transparency, inclusion, and accountability. Paragraphs 79 and 84 of the 2030 Agenda emphasize that VNRs must be country-led and involve multiple stakeholders — including indigenous peoples, civil society, and persons with disabilities. A national review must reflect the lived realities of all Sudanese.

This year's in-depth reviews remind us that sustainable development is not possible without peace, justice, and institutions that protect the rights and dignity of all. There is no meaningful path to health, gender equality, equitable labor opportunities, or global partnership while conflict and displacement continue to define daily life. Development does not happen in a vacuum.

We reaffirm our commitment to the children and youth of Sudan who peacefully advocate — often at great personal risk — for human rights, democratic governance, and a future rooted in peace and opportunity. Their courage must not go unnoticed, and their voices must be heard.

Thank you.