**Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights
12 April 2021**

**Session 3 Youth mainstreaming in human rights mechanisms and next steps on youth and human rights at the international level

Statement by Greece**

Thank you Ms Chair,

Greece aligns itself with the Statement to be delivered by the EU. I would like to thank all panelists for their fruitful interventions.

Although youth still lacks a universally accepted definition, young people could be defined as the keepers of our planet’s future.The promotion of their rights and their protection against multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination remains always vital.

Youth mainstreaming in human rights mechanisms is key. This could be achieved through trying to insert the youth perspective in a series of relevant resolutions presented at the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. In parallel, the UPR process always offers fertile ground for constructive recommendations. Furthermore, ahead of a possible future mandate for a Special Rapporteur on youth, the existing mandate holders can always underline the youth perspective in their reports and press releases.

And what about the next steps. The UN Youth 2030 Strategy will soon be three years old. We believe it would be useful for the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth to analyse the progress achieved on the implementation of the human rights dimension of the Strategy and inform the Human Rights Council in the near future, possibly when we mark the five years since the launching of the Strategy.

Another step forward could be the organization of a Forum meeting with the objective to produce a specialized toolkit or guidelines for governments in order to promote the issues that affect the youth; smooth transition from education to employment, strengthening the participation in political life, sexual and reproductive health and rights, empowerment of young people in vulnerable situations, protection in the framework of pandemics, protection against sexual harassment etc.

In this context, we underline that the upcoming panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic Ideal, mandated in HRC Resolution 43/18 penholded by Greece, will take place during the 47th Session of the Council. Its thematic will be focused on the human rights of young people and we hope that it will further contribute to the discussion on youth and human rights at the international level.

Thank you