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Thank you, Madam Chair, Madam Moderator:

Right now, we are facing as humanity, one of the biggest challenges. Now the real test is how to get through it with the least losses possible. What we know is that COVID19 will not go away easily, so we need to look at the 2030 agenda with new lens, and we need to be open to review our 2030 goals and adjust them accordingly, so that the new challenges posed by COVID-19 are considered.

COVID-19 has uncovered many inequalities and injustices, leading us to emphasize that the first big lesson is that the 2030 agenda should be made more visibly and fundamentally deeply committed to ensure the realization of Justice, **Dignity and Equality for All**.

We are in dire need of deep systemic reforms. A multilateral system should focus on people, specifically workers and the most marginalized groups. The crisis has demonstrated that wage support and social security are priorities, which need to be adequately resourced in post-COVID responses, through interventions that go beyond, business as usual, and that are bold.

Governments and international institutions have to be bold in taking up those challenges. In no way can the poor be asked, again, to bear the negative impact of the economic crisis or to be expected to continue in the situation of inequalities and injustice that deprived them of access to quality health and education, dignified employment, and political participation.

The activation of effective political interventions by each and every part of our global community is one of the requirements to rebuild back better, **to rebuild back equitably, fairly, and sustainably**. We have an opportunity right now -deep as the human toll of COVID-19 has been and continues to be- to reimagine and to work for a better world, a world where the 2030 agenda's full promise is realized. This is our opportunity to reimagine and work for a better world where people are no longer in conditions of -almost permanent emergencies, deprivation, conflicts and occupation; contexts where education and lifelong learning are usually denied, where equal opportunities are starkly absent, and where coronavirus hits the poorest most brutally.

For example, conflicts caused by occupation not only violate international human rights and humanitarian law, but also increase violence and have a dramatic effect on education. As a Palestinian teacher living in Ramallah in the West Bank, which has been under occupation since 1967, so I can tell you that education must always express a sense of cultural and political identity that is incompatible with any idea -or practice- of oppression , imposition, or annexation.

Finally, Madam Chair, we cannot emphasize strongly enough that responses to COVID-19 and its impacts can only succeed when our global governance institutions and national political systems are democratic, fair and inclusive. An essential ingredient here is protecting the spaces in which civil society can operate free of any restrictions, and should be an integral part of processes and platforms that shape the 2030 agenda and post-COVID responses. As rebuilding and protecting quality public services that benefit all people becomes a top priority, where teachers and nurses and doctors and all workers are treated with

dignity and according to the principles of decent work, civil society's role in advocating for rights, and in articulating people's demands should be underlined. We also need to emphasize here the primacy of the common good to which all actors, particularly for-profit and business actors, should be subjected to. As we need tools and resources we need values, we need hope, solidarity and political will

Thank you very much.