

## **SDG 10 - Reduce Inequality**

Thank you, Mr. Moderator, I am speaking on behalf of the **Volunteer**

### **Groups Alliance.**

We have heard today that progress on Goal 10 is too slow, and that four years after the SDGs were signed, inequalities- both within and between countries are rising. The links between inequalities and marginalization are clear.

Every day, across the world, volunteers are working within and alongside marginalized communities to help address the *inequalities in public service provision, and to promote the accountability of the SDGs.*

Embedded in communities, volunteers can often get to places that others cannot, forging links with local communities and forming a bridge between formal and informal provision of public services. *They not only extend support to the most vulnerable but also empower marginalized people to take an active role in addressing the challenges they face.*

For example, in Rwanda, deaf volunteers supported and trained by VSO are teaching sign language to community health workers, meaning that deaf young people can access their sexual and reproductive health and rights for the first time.

We ask that member states recognize the role played by volunteers in their national plans and strategies for implementing the SDGs, and listen to the voices, evidence and data collected by volunteer groups and civil society organizations to help us meet the ambition of achieving SDG 10 and the whole 2030 agenda.

Thank you.