**Draft script: Shawgi Ahmed, EAA Youth Advocate**

2 mins intervention during Session 3 | Youth mainstreaming in human rights mechanisms and next steps on youth and human rights at the international level, 3-5PM CEST

1. Thank you Moderator.
2. Echoing this morning’s discussion, I’d like to particularly shed light on the most marginalized youth in the situations affected by conflict and insecurity. They are facing far worse challenges with their human rights disrupted, let alone their **right to education**. Education was already in crisis even before the pandemic, with over 258 million out of school children and youth, and the situation has only worsened over the past year.
3. The right to education is a *fundamental*human right, and an *enabler* of other rights such as civil and political rights. When the right to education is violated, it results in exacerbating our social and economic exclusion. And yet, despite its essentiality, education is a right that is often least prioritized and protected in situations of conflict and insecurity, and current pandemic has not been an exception.
4. With the education right disrupted, there is a significant knowledge and information gap in the most marginalized and vulnerable communities. The rights-holders themselves are unware of the human rights and lack access to information on various legal mechanisms that could protect them from violations.
5. In order for us to mainstream youth rights across different legal mechanisms, it is as equally important as high-level advocacy efforts to raise awareness amongst children and youth and empower them with essential knowledge on human rights and skills to advocate for them. This way, we could maximize advocacy efforts on all fronts to put pressure on the duty bearers from the top-down and the bottom-up.
6. In this endeavor, Education Above All Foundation, through its PEIC programme, works with strategic partners such as OHCHR to create quality learning resources and grassroots training opportunities designed *for youth by youth* on human rights and advocacy, which would serve as strong foundation for human rights advocacy and mainstreaming of their rights across existing legal mechanisms in the long run.
7. I firmly believe in this strategic intervention and the power it holds to empower marginalized youth with knowledge and skills that are so important yet aren’t always easily available.
8. When our passion, drive for positive change and commitment for better future are met with the right skills, tools and guidance, we are truly empowered to join the forces with global leaders, hand-in-hand, to make positive changes across all systems to safeguard human rights for all.
9. Thank you.