

Key points to cover:

- gender equality and the power of adolescent girls
- opportunities for girls, girls' value, the opportunities to support them to be more powerful and for a more enabling environment
- The importance of amplifying the voices of girls and young people across the globe and having them 'at the table'

*Suggested talking points on girls and adolescent development:*

- Introduce, name and organization
- When we support girls and their allies in civil society organizations with the resources, networks and platforms they need to power their activism, we begin to see cultural conversations shifting, harmful practices eroding, power balancing and systems of oppression cracking. These changes are necessary so that girls live in safety, dignity and freedom. And through it all, the world is transformed
- At my organization, Purposeful, the question we ask and aim to answer is: *"what does the world we want to build with and for girls look and feel like?"*
- This is a question we must all be asking ourselves, for a remade world.
- Adolescent girls around the world are demanding their voices be heard, their aspirations supported, and their rights met. Yet today, girls in almost every context face tremendous barriers to accessing the information, services, and support they need to achieve these aims. They are excluded from public debates and spaces, face restricted access to education, and lack access to health services. These constraints deny them the ability to make informed decisions and choices for themselves, to care for their health and bodily autonomy, to make their voices heard, and to be treated as equals.
- In 2021, UNICEF made several ambitious commitments that will, with appropriate follow-through, help the world act on what may otherwise be a fleeting opportunity to achieve these aims. UNICEF is committed to advancing bold, transformative change toward a more gender-equal world.
- And I have a responsibility to state that UNICEF must embody this commitment in practice and structure --including in moving resources directly to girls. When UNICEF cannot do this directly, UNICEF must partner with groups that can and are already reaching girls - that support girls in ways that their autonomy, power, and strategic vision are prioritized. In short, we must have structural ways to support autonomous girl-led work -- through innovative and strategic partnerships.
- And we see this happening. UNICEF's support to the Global Resilience Fund, for example, was a visionary recognition that whilst UNICEF could not directly fund girls during the pandemic, they could partner with a mechanism that had the capacity to make this happen. This kind of approach must remain central to ensure every girl's rights are met.
- Thank you.