



**CLOSING REMARKS BY NIYI OJUOLAPE,  
UNFPA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE, GHANA  
AT Y2Y COMMON TALK - VIRTUAL CONFERENCE  
ON WEDNESDAY, 08 JULY 2020.**

**Protocol Observed:**

- **Distinguished Participants from Benin, Ghana and Togo**
- **Young People**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**
  
- Very informative, yet fun and interactive session.
- The session reflects the results we see when institutions and organisations, including UN agencies like UNFPA believe in the energy, ideas, and aspirations of young people, and take a bold step to give them the power to take charge and act in their stead.
  
- We are all aware of the shock this year came with. The unique patterns since March 2020 changed in the face of the global development setting, as the human race faces a pandemic whose effects compound the challenges, we have spent many years tackling.
  
- The challenges that the young people have highlighted in the presentations and discussions, and their accompanying innovative interventions along with innovations from UNFPA COs are central to UNFPA's call to a full fulfilment



of young persons' potentials and zero sexual and gender-based violence against girls and women.

- In Ghana, UNFPA in partnership with government, UN sister agencies, religious and traditional leaders, civil society and youth networks are taking appropriate precautions to ensure that the needs of women and girls, including their health and well-being, are not clouded by an absolute focus on managing the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working with our partners to respond collectively and innovatively to suppress not only the spread of the virus, but the harmful practices that continually suppress the rights of girls and women, and the devastating socio-economic challenges that came with the pandemic.
- Today, while we bring an end to this event and also commemorate World Population Day, I am happy to make the call to remind ourselves that we cannot go back on our promise on getting to zero maternal deaths, zero unmet need for Family Planning and zero Gender-Based Violence, and Harmful Practices.
- Thanks for joining us on this platform to facilitate dialogues based on our experiences at the different COs and experiences of some youth-led organisations and networks.



- Thanks also to the moderators and presenters for your willingness to share. Only by sharing individual knowledge do we build a community of strong working ideas.
- Please do not end the discourse here.
- You play a critical role in ensuring that the contents of the Outcome Statement that will be developed based on your interactions here are disseminated to those who matter, and whose efforts at all levels will fast-track youth-centred, but also girls and women-centered interventions.
- Thank you!