



Blog by Mariam Naguib

*Mariam is a medical student at the University of Toronto and a passionate advocate on adolescent health. She is one of the six new youth commissioners to the **Lancet Standing Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing**, Moderator of the a [Satellite session at IAAH](#) hosted by the UN Secretary-General's Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent (IAP).*

Moderating a session is alike to creating space for voices to be heard, and though never will every voice be present, how do we create a space that allows for a diversity of representation. On October 28th, in Delhi, India was the 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health, fitting with over 1000 registrants from over 65 countries, and over 100 youth delegates. There were academics, funders, non governmental agencies, UN agencies, and members of government, students and more. A perfect moment to present the 2017 Report of the UN Secretary General's Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent called [Transformative Accountability for Adolescents](#) with 6 recommendations.

Remarks were heard from one government official, an academic researcher, a leader of a youth advocacy organizing, a director of a UN body and two youth advocates, all from different geographies. Each individual is sitting at the table with their own set of priorities based on the institution they represent and their professional experience on their ground. Sometimes that means that the idea from one sector, is seen as less feasible from another sectors perspective. What can be done in one context is less possible in another.

The highlight came with the perspectives of the youth advocates. A youth from Ghana spoke to the realities of which the youth advocates are and what youth are thus not represented or at the table, and the importance of [#LeavingNoOneBehind](#). A second young professional, a physician and public health specialist from Egypt spoke to the importance of contextualizing the recommendations with the local realities. For example, when providing advocacy tools, understanding the realities on the ground and how human rights are protected or not in certain spaces altering the strategies that can be used.

Overall, the recommendations were developed with the highlighting of 'remedy' that aims to go beyond the nature of reports being published simply critiquing gaps but rather building recommendations on what is needed to fill those gaps and why they exist, which is a productive way to move adolescent health forward.