

HL Intervention Text:

Twenty-one years.

This year marks twenty-one years since the conception of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and for those years—I ask negotiators—just what do you have to show?

This convention was conceived to curb temperature increases and cope with impacts of current climate change, yet here and now, twenty-one years later, atmospheric CO₂ has reached unprecedented levels and our adaptation fund remains full of nothing but empty promises.

You all gather here under the pretense of collaboration for a sustainable future, and yet sit in this plenary divided—past, present and future responsibilities must be held accountable, but not while undermining global action to combat climate change.

There's a Somali proverb that goes: a mere finger can't obscure the sun. You cannot hide the truth by deception; as any one of the thousands whom are in need in Somalia and the Philippines this week could tell you, no amount of political stalling can hide the fact that a *climate crisis* is here.

The defining problem of my generation blinds us, burns us, and it's easy to look away, but why raise a finger when we could join hands?

Member states, rather than the interests of corporate lobbyists and money, let your definitive common ground guide your politics: youth, your shared future, transcend borders, emphasize cooperation and mutual understanding. Corporations may have a responsibility to their shareholders, but they are a fraction of our world's population. This convention has a responsibility to ensure the health of our planet.

Though we have been charged with championing naive and unrealistic expectations, it has been the ambition and unbridled hope of youth that have made up the driving force in what has become an uphill battle for climate justice.

As our window of opportunity to avoid irreversible climate change closes and you, the current architects of global climate policy, idle, we persist! Idealistically, perhaps, but in full regard of the science behind our precarious circumstances and armed with an urgency to match.

We are not just a special interest group. We are the future scientists, economists, and politicians of this convention—the principal recipients of these negotiations' outcomes.

Where our human existence is non-negotiable, you've made a twenty-one year wager out of the fate of our future.

In these final hours, ministers and delegates, I beg: do not let Warsaw become a second Copenhagen. Greed and the petty interests of a minority should not rob us of what are inarguably inalienable human rights.

With our homes, livelihoods, and even geophysical existences at risk, raised ambition on climate change is not optional—*it is vital*.