Thank you for taking part in the Model United Nations. I appreciate your commitment to our global mission of peace, sustainable development and human rights.

Our world today enjoys remarkable opportunities to advance common progress. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are our blueprint for dignity, prosperity and a healthy planet.

But “we the peoples” also face many complex challenges. Armed conflicts have deepened. Global anxieties about nuclear weapons are the highest since the Cold War. Climate change is moving faster than we are. Inequality and nationalism are on the rise, while trust and solidarity are on the decline.

These problems and challenges are increasingly global – and increasingly grave.

We need less hatred, more dialogue and deeper international cooperation. Multilateralism is more important than ever. Empowering the world’s young people is also an imperative.

We must do more to enable young people to shape the decisions affecting their lives. Your potential is the world’s potential. As you stand up for our shared values, the United Nations stands with you.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful Model United Nations Conference.