

Promoting health through the life-course
70th World Health Assembly

Joint Statement

**High-Level Working Group on Health and Human Rights of Women,
Children and Adolescents Agenda item 16.3**

“Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health”

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of 46 CSOs

- We commend the work of the High-Level Working Group for the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents jointly initiated by WHO and OHCHR and very much welcome the recommendations of this High-Level Working Group;
- Too often human rights and fundamental freedoms, including sexual and reproductive health and rights are neglected around the world, and harmful social, gender, cultural norms and structural barriers persist with great consequences to women’s, children’s and adolescents’ lives, dignity and wellbeing. The challenges and opportunities have been identified and we all know what the solution is. A human rights’ based approach to health policies and programmes, based on the WHO constitution, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant Human Rights instruments, is fundamental if we want to bring change and ensure the fulfilment, protection and respect of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all.
- The principles of gender equality, non-discrimination, non-violence, inclusiveness, participation and transparency must be the basis for any Government or local authority when developing their health national and subnational strategies, as well financial strategies.
- Solid accountability mechanisms at the various levels of decision making need to be put in place. Let’s not forget that Governments must be accountable to the people and for the people. Evidence based and data collection needs to be strengthen and well-funded, without which it won’t be possible to have effective and meaningful monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and ultimately develop and implement informed policies to overcome obstacles and truly make a difference on people’s lives.
- Members of society in general need to be protected and empowered to claim their human rights. A safe space for CSOs to work needs to be guaranteed, and partnerships with Governments and the UN system and other stakeholders developed.
- We endorse the call for the Director-General of WHO and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a joint programme of work to support the implementation of these recommendations and create the necessary institutional capacity and expertise at global, regional and country levels to coordinate, track progress towards the fulfilment of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, to and through health especially for women, children and adolescents.

CSOs

1. International Planned Parenthood Federation
2. P&D Factor - Associação para a Cooperação sobre População e Desenvolvimento, Portugal
3. Federación Planificación Familiar Estatal
4. Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights
5. Sex og Politikk, IPPF Norway
6. AIDOS - Italian Association for Women in Development
7. The Asian Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
8. Simavi, The Netherlands
9. Sensoa (Belgium)
10. International Women's Health Coalition
11. Rutgers the Netherlands,
12. dance4life,
13. CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality,
14. HIVOS,
15. International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPF AR)
16. the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN)
17. Gestos– HIV, Communication and Gender
18. Latin American and the Caribbean Council of AIDS Service Organizations
19. ASTRA Network
20. Population Connection
21. WAAI: Youth for sexual and reproductive health -Tunisia
22. Chanan Development Association (CDA) Pakistan
23. Rutgers Pakistan
24. Southern African AIDS Trust
25. AwazCDS-Pakistan
26. Women Deliver
27. Advocates for Youth
28. Family Planning Association of Malawi
29. Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB)
30. Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP)
31. White Ribbon Alliance
32. DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era).
33. Fundacion Arcoirs. Mexico
34. Center for Reproductive Rights
35. Management Sciences for Health
36. SERAC-Bangladesh
37. Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
38. Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)
39. Plan International
40. The International HIV/AIDS Alliance
41. Aidsfonds
42. RFSU
43. Family Planning NSW, Australia
44. Amnesty International
45. Uganda Youth and Adolescents Health Forum
46. Hope for Future Generations- Ghana