

35th Human Rights Council

Annual Full Day Discussion on the Human Rights of Women

Panel on Women's rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: health and gender equality

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of XXXXXX.

We commend the work of the High-Level Working Group for the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents, jointly convened by WHO and OHCHR, and we celebrate the launch of its report "Leading the realization of Human Rights to health and through health".

At a time where more partnerships and coordination are needed to seize new opportunities, overcome challenges, such as access to essential, good quality health services, and address barriers, such as violence and discrimination, we welcome the High-Level Working Group recommendations where key areas and critical steps needed are identified so that all women, children and adolescents, including the poor, vulnerable and marginalized, are able to realize their right to the highest attainable standard of health, as set out by the WHO Constitution, and relevant Human Rights instruments.

The human rights based approach to health policies and programmes imply that national and subnational strategies, including financial strategies and data collection, should be based on the principles of gender equality, non-discrimination, inclusiveness and transparency, as well as effective and participatory monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Such policies should also take into account age groups distinctive needs and adopt a gender-sensitive life course approach. Addressing human rights as determinants of health can effectively contribute to reducing inequities and foster development.

The uneven realization of human rights, particularly sexual and reproductive health and rights, risks the reversal of hard-won advances in preventable maternal and child mortality and undermines the health of adolescent and children in particular.

We believe that this report outlines the necessary framework to guide us in the implementation of Agenda 2030, in particular Goals 3 and 5 on Health on Gender Equality respectively and ensure that women, children and adolescent's needs, dignity and rights are protected and fulfilled, while removing harmful social, gender, cultural norms and structural barriers.

We strongly encourage 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 towards the fulfillment of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, children and adolescents.

I thank you.