

Statement on agenda Item: 12.8

Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030)

Thank you chair. This MMI statement is supported by PHM.

The Report on the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health recognizes many of the challenges in pursuit of the Strategy's objectives and targets. However, we are concerned that many conservative and regressive steps in health policies for women, children and adolescents are currently pushed by various governments worldwide, such as the recent ruling in Alabama outlawing abortion. Policies that neglect scientific evidence are detrimental to reproductive rights, especially of marginalised groups.

Additionally, we are concerned about the removal of all references to "sexual and reproductive health" in the recent UN Security Council resolution on ending sexual violence in conflict. 60% of maternal deaths, 53% of child deaths, and 45% of newborn deaths occur in conflict, war and humanitarian settings. The impact of this amendment is thus likely to have a devastating impact on progress towards improving women's, children's and adolescent's health.

We urge MS to promote evidence based health policy, including regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights. We believe that an intervention by WHO is urgently needed to reassert it's accountability to women, children and adolescents worldwide.

Total: 190 words

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