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14th Session Agenda Item: B

Realizing the Rights of all Children and Adolescents Ensuring Access to Healthcare for all Children and Adolescents Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

The United Nations Children's Fund Executive Board,

Noting that in 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was established to protect children and in Article 24, it is stated to provide good quality education on health and the well-being of children,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution S-21/2, Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development which mentions development policies and programs to achieve multiple goals including providing adolescents with appropriate sexual education in 1999,

Deeply concerned with the current state of sexual health services infrastructure, having an underdeveloped system which means that about 4.3 billion people do not have access to at least one essential sexual and reproductive service,

Noting the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) builds advocacy tools and develops technical guidance for violence prevention and response, by working with partners on a variety of global initiatives such as Together for Girls which works on strengthening capacity in-country, and providing strategic guidance, training and technical assistance,

Noting that UNICEF engages in Global Programme Partnerships (GPPs) such as the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children since 2016, which focuses on uniting public and non-public stakeholders, including donors, and governments in Member States where programmes are implemented,

Deeply concerned about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as a harmful practice which physically and mentally threatens girls and women, and the fact that 28% of girls aged 15-19 have undergone FGM in 31 Member States in 2021,

Bearing in mind, according to the data from the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO), half the world lacks access to essential health services, 100 million people are still pushed into extreme poverty because of health expenses, despite the fact that

the UN is working on this issue by offering Global Telehealth, which lets your health care provider care for you without an in-person office visit,

Recognizing the current issue of insufficient sexual education worldwide due to the lack of opportunities for sexual education, which leads to early and child marriages, unwanted pregnancies and high levels of gender-based violence,

Deeply concerned that the number of deaths of mothers and children is particularly high, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 70% of all reported maternal deaths are located, and underlining the importance of building and cooperating with a multilateral network for strengthening global innovative initiatives in order to end preventable deaths of women and children,

Re-emphasizing the importance of reducing poverty to relieve children from any kind of sexual issues and to allow children to go to school to be fully equipped with knowledge regarding sexual matters, which is mentioned in Sustainable Development Goal 1, No Poverty,

- 1. *Requests* Member States with UNICEF to improve sexuality education for children over five-years old, or children who receive formal education by:
 - a. Teaching the basic knowledge of reproduction and biological process, depending on the age, to let children gain more specific knowledge about sexuality as they mature by teaching about:
 - i. Sexuality and gender status;
 - ii. The danger of sexually transmitted infections (STIs);
 - iii. The importance and proper ways of using contraception;
 - b. Preventing children from adapting antiquated views that could restrict or limit the development of their sexual and personal identity;
 - c. Especially focusing on the distribution and access to the previously stated proposals for child refugees and internally displaced children that were forced to leave their home country due to ongoing conflicts and/or natural disasters;
 - d. Ensuring access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in and out of school by using an online tools and workshops;
- 2. *Emphasizes* Member States with UNICEF to improve sexuality education for children over 15 by:
 - a. Providing education on significant procedures that emerge when entering adulthood, for instance family planning, including how to use and access contraception;

- b. Teaching the basic knowledge of STIs, including Human Immunodeficiency Viruses/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and Human papillomavirus, such as infection routes, infectivity, symptoms, prevention methods, and treatments based on UNICEF's survey;
- c. Informing adolescents about the difficulties of early pregnancy and delivery including the physical influence on the body, possible complications, and social impacts such as significant changes in social life and future plans;
- d. Teaching self-defence to girls and boys to decrease the risk of being victimized by rape:
 - i. Teaching various types self-defense based on each country or religion
 - ii. Teaching specific hand-gestures made by the Canadian Women's Foundation;
- e. Empowering girls to raise their awareness of the importance of their human rights, and the risk of getting married at an early age by providing statistical data;
- 3. *Encourages* Member States to support less economically in building a cohesive infrastructure to strengthen the Member States' health care systems by:
 - a. Educating professionals with the purpose of to effect a positive human capital flight, in developing countries dispatching them to the developing Member States with lower GDP;
 - b. Raising awareness about institution that they can make use of, for instance through advertising etc.;
 - c. Creating a fund in which financially developed Member States could provide financial aid to help Member States with lower GDP to build a stable infrastructure for their citizens;
- 4. Welcomes UNICEF to expand the GPPs in developing Member States which have difficulties in making policy and legislation against FGM, in order to strengthen the relationship between public and non-public stakeholders, and to get rid of social pressure, in collaboration with Together for Girls and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children;
- 5. *Calls upon* all Member States to recognize all acts, methods and practices of sexual abuse, in all its forms and manifestations, as criminal and unjustifiable, to be eliminated, wherever and whomsoever committed them;
- 6. *Encourages* all Member States to work together to eliminate FGM, in order to get rid of social pressure and end the harmful practices, in several ways such as:

- a. Providing financial supports to the Member States where FGM is commonly conducted, to expand their budgets for promoting awareness of how physically and mentally dangerous FGM is, and taking surveys on the ongoing local situations regarding practices;
- b. Mobilizing personnel to the Member States where FGM is practiced, to take a survey of the local situation regarding the practice of FGM;
- c. Sharing methods or information on how to eliminate or abolish FGM;
- d. Launching international or national campaigns to develop awareness of FGM through media;
- 7. *Welcomes* that Member States increase the budget for telemedicine initiatives so that more residents in rural areas can have access to telemedicine services, and to also educate them about the service:
 - a. Increasing the number of professional staff dedicated to telemedicine services;
 - b. Dispatching professionals to educate people in rural areas about telemedicine services, and to train them in their use;
- 8. *Invites* that all Member States spread ideas of CSE by dispatching volunteers to Member States which lack sexual education by:
 - a. Advocating by Starting an awareness campaign about the significance of sexual education in hospitals and schools;
 - b. Holding workshops for parents or teachers to teach the international standard of sexual information about sexual intercourse, pregnancy, childbirth, and contraception;
- 9. *Recommends* Member States carry out the Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) programmes, which offer quality integrated and inclusive family planning and sexual and reproductive health services for people who are marginalized and hard to reach, for example the impoverished youth under 18, and people living with disabilities, by the International Planned Parenthood Federation;
- 10. *Strongly recommends* Member States train professionals who engage in healthcare services by:
 - a. Establishing institutions with specifically trained personnel for sexual matters, including treatment for STIs and children's mental health;
 - b. Holding official seminars for doctors, including pediatricians, to teach:
 - i. Appropriate knowledge regarding sexual health such as contraceptives and treatments for STIs of adolescents;

- ii. Sensitivity in teaching adolescents without making them feel unwelcome or embarrassed;
- iii. How they can effectively work on counseling adolescents who are diagnosed with STIs or pregnant and mentally suffering;
- 11. *Recommends* that Member States launch an international organization with a branch in every Member State that is dedicated to helping children who are suffering from sexual abuse, so that they can talk to the trained staff about their problems by:
 - a. Training professional staff or dispatching qualified staff from overseas according to necessity;
 - b. Enabling children to consult an expert about their situations;
- 12. *Encourages* Member States to help people get out of poverty, which is fundamental to poverty reduction and to provide children and adolescents with the proper education to protect themselves from sexual transmitted diseases by:
 - a. Providing citizens who are unemployed or have with low income with working opportunities created by Member States' governments which do not require professional skills and/or knowledge;
 - b. Enabling children in all Member States to continue studying at schools until they finish compulsory education, so that they do not have to work by:
 - i. Changing school fees depending on the family income in order to realize the society where all the children, even from poor and difficult economic situations, will not be taken away from appropriate education;
 - ii. Holding seminars for parents about the importance of learning at school so that children will be able to chase their future dreams and have no trouble mentally or physically including with sexual problems;
 - c. Informing adolescents of the risk of damaging their health, both physically and mentally, by engaging in sex industry work, and of other career path options which will enable them to become financially independent.