

Excellencies,

Dear delegates,

The ICPD+30 Regional Review is an important opportunity to assess progress in the implementation of the commitments made to advance gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights in the UNECE region. Yesterday we, civil society representatives from throughout the region, discussed many important achievements witnessed in the last five years but also recognised the large diversity amongst and within our countries. At the same time, these tumultuous years of multiple crises, including COVID-19 pandemic, several armed conflicts especially Russia's war against Ukraine, increasing pushback against democracy and human rights, demonstrated significant gaps and shortcomings.

We believe that there is an urgent need for renewed commitments and concrete actions to realise the promise of gender equality, respect for dignity, bodily autonomy and human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights. As representatives of civil society from the UNECE region, we call on the governments and all actors to:

- Refrain from, and counteract initiatives and actions that undermine and jeopardize gender equality and human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Combat shrinking space for civil society, and provide political and financial support and protection to civil society organisations and individuals who defend human rights, gender equality, women's and LGBTI rights and SRHR.
- Reform relevant laws and policies, including on SRHR, to bring them into line with human rights standards and public health recommendations;
- Scale up action to address gaps in policy implementation
- Strengthen laws, policies and actions against all forms of discrimination, including intersectional and multiple discrimination, in the enjoyment of human rights including on the basis of disability, HIV status, ethnicity, age, sex, legal status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious convictions and economic status.
- Guarantee universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including modern contraceptives, safe abortion, maternal health care, assisted reproduction; ensure that these services are accessible, affordable and of high quality; and pay special attention to sexual and reproductive health needs through the life cycle.
- Ensure provision of comprehensive sexuality education out of schools as well as part of mandatory school curricula
- Implement and strengthen training and education on gender equality, SRHR, SGBV and SOGI for medical professionals, police and justice officials and other relevant actors.
- Prevent, investigate, effectively respond to and ensure accountability for all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, online and offline, as well as harmful

practices, institutional violence, including obstetric violence, and provide all necessary support to survivors.

- Develop and implement targeted measures, including through temporary special measures/affirmative actions, to ensure inclusion and equity in SRHR for marginalized groups.
- Take an intersectional approach in developing and implementing strategies, policies and programs of relevance to SRHR in order to address specific experiences and needs of the most marginalized.
- Ensure disaggregated data collection and dissemination to better monitor implementation of ICPD Programme of Action
- Ensure that civil society and affected communities are actively engaged in design, monitoring and evaluation of all strategies and programs.