

**Statement of I.R.Iran on**

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

We appreciate the DG for this valuable report about women, children and adolescents' health, we emphasize the need to pay more attention to the issue of equity in health mentioned in the eighth paragraph. We would like to highlight the following subjects

- 1- An important point in maintaining the women's and children's health is to provide a setting that meet their basic physical and psychological needs. Therefore, serious attention to maintain and strengthen family relationships is essential for the comprehensive health of its members.
- 2- We would suggest that the word "pregnant women" to be changed to "pregnant mother" in paragraph 5. Because the use of term "mother" for a pregnant woman will cause her to feel a greater commitment to maintain the health of human being who is evolving inside her and protect her child better against threatening factors.
- 3- Considering the issues caused by the reduction of the total fertility rate, it is suggested that the family planning programs mentioned in paragraph 21 of the document, to be changed from trying to reduce the number of births, to encouraging timely and conscious pregnancies and increasing the fertility rate to higher than replacement level. In order to make an informed decision, women should be aware of the benefits of early marriage and timely and multiple childbearing.
- 4- Despite the emphasis of paragraph 25 on the need to meet the necessary medicinal needs to save and improve the lives of infants and children, it should be noted that unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) have threatened this necessity in the I.R.Iran. Although, with the aid of a robust and coherent health system, the I.R. Iran has been able to manage these issues, we request WHO to support children and women health in order to minimize harms due to such unilateral coercive measures.
- 5- It is suggested that the health services listed in paragraph 22, to be provided free of charge in the health system of member states. Because it is directly related to saving human life, and indirectly it can act as an incentive for childbearing in those countries that are experiencing a reduction in the young population.

**Mr/Madam chairperson! Thank you for giving me the floor.**

**Prof. Hossein Farshidi**

**Deputy Minister for Public Health Affairs**

**Ministry of Health & Medical Education**

**I.R.Iran**