

**EB152 – Jan/Feb 2023**

**Written Statement Germany**

**Item 21.1– Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment**

Germany appreciate WHO's efforts and progress in realizing and sustaining our joint objective of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and for inaction against it. We welcome the new three years strategy that provides a clear vision and focusses on culture change and leadership accountability. When implementing the strategy, we call for a solid monitoring based on tangible and measureable outputs.

Germany is aware that systemic and culture change takes time. Yet – especially in light of the time dimension – we are impatient to see tangible results in policy and most importantly in practice.

In this regard, we should not lose sight of what happens to the victims/survivors in DRC. We are concerned that until now only a little more than half of the identified victims have received support through the survivor assistance fund so far. We would therefore like to call on WHO to work with partners to speed up support services and continue to provide periodic updates on possible additional victims that come forward in DRC, as well as provision of financial support to victims.

In reply to guiding questions:

- Prevention of and protections from Sexual and gender-based violence should be a part of all humanitarian response. With regards to Gender-based violence service delivery, guidelines of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee or the International Rescue Committee provide good guidance.
- In operationalizing its Feminist Foreign Policy, the German Federal Foreign Office is finalizing its PSEAH Guidelines for humanitarian assistance, crisis prevention, stabilization and peace support. This could give more guidance to partners regarding our commitments and expectations on PSEAH, and what support we can give to partners in meeting those.
- Culture change goes hand in hand with palpable experience in how cases are handled. In this regard, we welcome the speeding up of investigations and the development of end-to-end processes for managing all types of allegations, and information flow to donors on the same. We also look forward to learning more about related standard operating procedures and measures to ensure adherence. We suggest that adherence to those be reviewed in 2024.
- Lastly, we would like to emphasize our appreciation for the quarterly briefings on PRSEAH. These are very helpful. To ensure even better preparation and exchange, we would suggest to receive the agenda, topics and supporting documents at least one week in advance and with the possibility to suggest specific topics if necessary.