



Statement by Finland

WHO EB156

Agenda item 14 Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

Thank you Chair,

Finland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Gender equality and the promotion of the rights and status of women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, are longstanding principles of Finland's development and foreign policy.

Access to sexual and reproductive health services and ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for all are essential elements to the achievement of SDGs and UHC, and to economic growth and economic resilience. The cost-benefit ratio of investments to sufficient SRH services and maternity and child health clinics is high and they have a significant impact in reducing maternal, infant and child mortality.

In our view, the WHO Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health should focus on sufficient access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services for all, including adolescent and youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education. It also needs to address harmful traditional practices, and build young people's agency on their bodily autonomy and their ability to make safe and healthy choices for their future.

Thank you.