UNFPA Statement at the 74th World Health Assembly, May 2021

*Item 16: Committing to implementation of the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health (2016-2030)*

- Thank you, Moderator,
  UNFPA is deeply invested in implementing the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health 2016-2030. In collaboration with the H6 Agencies, a wide group of organisations and national stakeholders, we continue to support the delivery of country level programmes at national scale.

- We welcome the inclusion of healthy ageing in the Global Strategy and the Decade of Healthy Ageing as an opportunity to galvanize concerted action to improve the lives of older people and their families and communities.

- We advance the SDG 3 targets through the SDG3 Global Action Plan and its build back better approach by Engaging countries and stakeholders; Accelerating progress especially in a post pandemic world to build back better; Aligning policies, strategies and finances to ensure no one is left behind; and ensuring shared Accountability by reviewing progress and learning together.

- Bold investments are needed in our collective roadmap:
  - Primary Health care to provide accessible, affordable, equitable, integrated, quality primary care and public health services for all.
  - Sustainable financing to reduce unmet need for services and financial hardship arising from out-of-pocket payments
  - Engaging communities and CSOs to enable translation of lived experiences to knowledge generation, policy-making and health responses that are rights-based and accountable
  - Ensuring the implementation of action across the accelerator themes for individuals in fragile and vulnerable settings ensuring no one is left behind
- Utilizing partnerships especially through rights-based and gender-responsive approaches, leveraging investments and action in sectors beyond health and maximizing gains across the SDGs
- Equitable access to research and development for better availability of healthcare interventions for those who need them most.
- Quality and comprehensive data to understand health needs, design programmes and policies, guide investment and public health decisions and measure progress.

This is especially important in the immediate COVID-19 pandemic climate in which the needs of the largest and most vulnerable population - adolescents - have been more disrupted than we know and can see.

I thank you.