



United Nations Population Fund

77th World Health Assembly

Agenda Item 17

Statement by UNFPA, the UN Sexual and Reproductive Health Agency

Agenda Item 17 Pillar 4: Draft fourteenth general programme of work, 2025-2028

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

UNFPA expresses its full support for the draft fourteenth general programme of work which recognises that the lack of progress towards, and that the lack of prioritization of gender equality has far-reaching negative consequences for individual health and well-being;

It has consequences for the capacity of health systems to ensure that women and girls can access all the services they need without discrimination, including sexual and reproductive health services; and women's empowerment in the health and care sector.

New UN estimates, released last year, raise concern: The maternal mortality ratio has stagnated in most regions between 2016 and 2020 and has worsened in some regions. Poor quality of care in low- and middle-income countries accounts for more than 50% of maternal deaths in these settings. UNFPA works to support countries to transition to midwifery models of care as critical to improve both quality of care and maternal and newborn outcomes.

UNFPA welcomes strategic objectives aimed at strengthening primary healthcare and essential health system capacities to achieve universal health coverage, while simultaneously addressing inequities and gender disparities and welcomes the joint outcome 4.2, aimed at enhancing equity in access to sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent, older and other population-specific health services and improving immunization coverage.

UNFPA also welcomes the inclusion of 5.6.2, which measures the number of countries with laws guaranteeing equal access for men and women aged 15 and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information, and education and other new measurements included under joint outcome 4.2.

UNFPA looks forward to working with WHO and other global health partners to align around country priorities and deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

I thank you.