

PORTUGAL

STATEMENT

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

78TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(19 – 27 MAY 2025)

Item.79; Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Portugal reaffirms its commitment to the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, making investment in health and well-being a national priority through 2030. This includes action on protective factors and risk reduction across the life course, with a strong emphasis on equity, sustainability, and the needs of future generations.

Our strategy prioritizes five key areas: reducing health inequalities; supporting healthy behaviours and environments; addressing the health impacts of climate change; responding to both communicable and non-communicable diseases in an integrated way; and consolidating progress in areas such as maternal and child health and vaccine-preventable diseases.

Aligned with our National Health Plan, Portugal aims to maintain a maternal mortality ratio at or below 7.1 per 100,000 live births by 2030; reduce infant mortality to 2.5 per 1,000, neonatal mortality to 1.1 per 1,000, and under-five mortality to 2.6 per 1,000. We are also committed to ensuring that 99.5% of births are attended by qualified professionals and to eliminating congenital syphilis and neonatal tetanus.

Particular attention is given to vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, people with rare diseases, those experiencing homelessness, migrants, and minority groups. Health professionals receive continuous training, including in sensitive areas such as female genital mutilation.

Portugal places a strong focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, ensuring universal and equitable access to high-quality services - including comprehensive sexual education, STI prevention, family planning, and maternal care.

We also invest in the first 1,000 days of life as a foundation for lifelong health. Promoting breastfeeding, healthy environments, mental health care, and meaningful adolescent participation are central to our policies. Public spaces must be safe, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of all children and youth, including those with special needs.

A comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach to health promotion guides our work - embedded in education, urban planning, and social protection - as we continue building resilient, inclusive systems that meet the needs of women, children, and adolescents.

Thank you.

[325 words]