



79TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Committee A Agenda item 12.4: Universal Health Coverage,

UNFPA Statement

Thank you, Chair,

Universal Health Coverage is fundamentally a matter of human rights, but it will remain an unkept promise unless it mandates the inclusion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. For UHC to be equitable, it must transition from elective to compulsory integration of the full spectrum of Sexual Reproductive Health services - from comprehensive sexuality education, family planning, maternal care and STIs and HIV prevention and treatment to addressing gender-based violence prevention and response and other harmful practices that affects the health and wellbeing of women and girls- integrated directly into Primary Health Care as the first point of contact.

Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights yields an impressive 8-to-1 return, yet remains critically underfunded. We call upon donor countries to honor their financial commitments and urge programme countries to increase domestic resource allocation for SRHR. By establishing dedicated budget lines, Member States can protect and transparently manage domestic resources, safeguarding SRHR gains against unpredictable political and financial climates while ensuring integrated services reach the 2.1 billion people currently facing extreme hardship.

A resilient primary health care system to attain UHC requires formalized decision-making roles for civil society, women, and youth in all their diversity, moving from "consultation" to direct oversight and monitoring. Furthermore, we urge the private sector to shift from traditional philanthropy toward shared value creation through strategic investment, scaling innovative solutions that bridge the 'last-mile' gap in health service delivery for those furthest behind and ensure equitable access to all.

UNFPA will focus its technical cooperation on ensuring that comprehensive SRHR is at the heart of the social contract of UHC. We view these services not as a policy option, but as a binding requirement for a functional health system.

I thank you.