



79TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Committee B Agenda item 20.1: Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative

UNFPA Statement

Thank you, Chair,

The UN80 initiative and discussions around the reform of the Global Health Architecture provide a decisive opportunity to move beyond fragmented, disease-specific silos toward agile, integrated health systems that are resilient, sustainable, equitable and grounded in human rights.

A health system that fails to guarantee quality, comprehensive care through the life-course is inherently fragile. While improved outcomes across sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health are a litmus test of a well functioning health system. Ensuring SRHR and gender equality must be foundational pillars—not optional add-ons—of global health governance.

In our pursuit of a more agile, integrated, efficient and effective multilateral system, we must ensure that reform enhances rather than diminishes specialized technical expertise. Evolution must be strategic: as we seek greater coherence, we must safeguard the unique mandates and institutional strengths that have proven indispensable to global health, serve the needs of Member States and are critical to improving health outcomes for all.

Furthermore, a robust global health architecture depends on the global public goods that underpin national capacity—including: normative guidelines and standards; data systems and anticipatory demographic intelligence; and supply chain & commodity security. Reform must protect these essential infrastructures to ensure national health systems remain technically sound, responsive to changing needs and rights-based.

UNFPA is a critical actor in the global health architecture and a proud contributor to strengthening national health systems through supporting the delivery of lifesaving information, services and supplies including in conflict and crisis settings. Moreover, we work to address the social, cultural and economic barriers holding millions of women, girls, and young people back from achieving the highest attainable standard of sexual and reproductive health. This includes through engagement with local communities to change negative social and gender norms and promote health-seeking behaviours.

The measure of success for a renewed global health architecture will lie in its ability to mobilize the whole of government and the whole of society in addressing the social determinants of health throughout the life course, and leveraging the resources needed, to promote health for all, everywhere - without discrimination.

We urge Member States to ensure that the global health agenda places fulfilling the health and rights of women, children and adolescents at its very heart and that we judge success by the improvements achieved in their health and wellbeing.

Thank you