

Statement by Wanda Nowicka on behalf of Federation for Women and Family Planning¹

Mr. President,

It is my honour to present this statement which has been prepared in consultation with civil society organizations in Mexico that thank the State for its comprehensive national report, and the other States participating in Mexico's Universal Periodic Review for their recommendations.

According to the working group report paragraphs 18, 31, 33, 64, 73 and 74, we appreciate that Mexico has taken and plans to take important steps to promote and protect rights of all children to freedom from violence, equal opportunities, food, health and education in particular migrant and indigenous children.

We would like to highlight the importance of comprehensive sexuality education for children and youth. According to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality, and sexuality is an integral aspect of human development. Providing sexuality education to children and youth is crucial to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular as they relate to education and health, and is key to empowering children to protect themselves from sexual abuse.

We are pleased to note that Mexico hosted in 2008 a gathering of Ministers of Health and Education of Latin America and the Caribbean, and signed the Ministerial Declaration, Preventing through Education. To meet the commitments made in the Declaration, we urge Mexico to take action to promote comprehensive sexuality education in schools for children and youth, which should be developed holistically, within the context of emotional and social development, and based on gender and human rights.

Such education should include but not be limited to medically accurate, evidence based, non-biased information about human development, reproduction, contraception, abstinence, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS. Equally importantly, it should also include information about relationships, decision-making, assertiveness, skills to cope with social/ peer pressure, sexual orientation, gender and body image.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹Also on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative (a collaborative project of Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD), Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA; India), FWFP (Poland), Mulabi – Espacio Latinoamericano de Sexualidades y Derechos, and others) and the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights.