Joint Statement

Thank you, Mr. President. This statement is delivered on behalf of FRHAM, RFSU and IPPF.

We congratulate the government's commitment towards the recommendations received at the Third Universal Periodic Review cycle last year and applaud their approach of ensuring accountability while working closely with stakeholders and civil society organisations towards implementing the recommendations, and moving forward, monitoring the progress of the implementation as this also sets the tone towards achieving the sustainable development goals.

We celebrate Malaysia's commitment to respecting, protecting and fulfilling sexual and reproductive health and rights, namely in ensuring universal access to stigma-free and friendly services for all people, especially unmarried women, adolescents and vulnerable groups. We underscore the importance of ensuring that every individual has the ability to fulfill their rights and have control over their bodies, their lives and their futures.

We stress the importance of the commitment to reduce rising maternal mortality and to guarantee full access to safe abortions as provided for under the law, and we encourage the new Government to maintain and scale up such efforts.

We commend Malaysia's intention to enabling young people in Malaysia to be fully informed on their sexual and reproductive health and rights so they are empowered to act and protect themselves through a full institution of a comprehensive sexuality education well-funded and accessible to all.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm the added value of a Civil Society's participatory approach and commend the new government's willingness to engage with Civil Society and acknowledging the efforts of those working for an inclusive agenda, namely the LGBTI- and the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights communities. We are encouraged by the new government's approach to consulting and working with Civil Society Organisations as a key ally for achieving progress in the Sustainable Development Agenda, including gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights in Malaysia.

From our side, we stand ready to work in partnership with the Government and all other stakeholders to ensure that these recommendations are implemented and all human rights and fundamental freedoms are guaranteed for all.

Thank you