

**Statement on behalf of the Tunisian Association for Reproductive Health (ATSR) for
the general debate of the 56th session of the CPD**

First of all, we would like to thank you Mr Chair for your conduct of this session. We would also like to thank the other members and the secretariat for their support and guidance, and also we appreciate the opportunity to speak during the general debate.

I'm delivering this statement on behalf of the Tunisian Association for Reproductive Health (ATSR), founded in Tunisia and member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The Association is working on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and comprehensive sexuality education for young people in all their diversity.

In Tunisia, access to information relating to sexual and reproductive rights to young people is not effective, despite the fact that the Constitution guarantees the principle of equal rights for all citizens. This right has not been taken into consideration in both education and health systems.

Furthermore, in Tunisia the situation of teaching sexuality education in schools is still poorly understood and faced with a lot of controversies. Various constraints such as restrictions on what topics can be covered, heavy teaching loads, teachers' inadequate training, lack of community support, and limited funding impede proper implementation.

A part from the lack of information about youth sexuality and the limited related services and the emergence of discrimination against young people, especially girls not attending school, LGBT community and persons leaving with HIV, it should also be noted that no mention of sexual and reproductive health of young people is made in school curricula.

Comprehensive sexuality education is a proven intervention that benefits young people's health and well-being and can contribute to their human capital.

CSE is a way to prevent gender-based violence, sexual harassment, adolescent pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

Also, CSE educates young people on human rights and gender equality, nonviolence and non-discrimination as well as skills to build healthy relationships.

We believe that CSE is a key intervention that should be part of policies and integrated into school curricula when the goal is sustained and inclusive development and hope that all young people worldwide enjoy their sexual and reproductive rights.

Thank you.