

Joint statement by Sweden, Finland, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, Germany and Denmark

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates

On behalf of Denmark, Sweden, Finland, UK, the Netherlands, France and Germany, please allow me to express our strong support for the paragraphs in SRHR and services. We would also like to express support for the inclusion of unsafe abortions, which is a major cause of maternal mortality. Without access to safe and legal abortion and post abortion care, women are not able to decide freely on matters related to their sexual and reproductive health, and thus not able to fully enjoy their human rights. It is unacceptable that women are still dying from easily preventable conditions.

We welcome that the Commission has again reaffirmed the ICPD PoA. We believe that to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity the full implementation of the Cairo and Beijing programmes, and platforms of action, is required.

We believe that every person has the right to decide over his or her body and sexuality. It is imperative that all people including adolescence have access to comprehensive sexuality education. Youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services are an investment for the future.

We also very much look forward to discuss the issue of adolescence and young people in the Commission in 2010.

Allow me Mr Chair to extend our sincere appreciation for your presidency of the Commission. We would also like to thank the facilitator and the constructive partners that contributed to a successful result.

Thank you!