

DENMARK

Thank you, Chair, for giving DENMARK the floor and for your effort to steer us to the successful adoption of a political declaration and a CPD session that has galvanized our commitment to achieving the ICPD programme of action. As mentioned by the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation on Monday, DENMARK is proud to cohost the Nairobi Summit later this year.

My Minister also stressed that we need all hands on deck to achieve our common goals. That goes for us Member States but not least also civil society. That is why I am proud to share my remaining speaking time with a prominent Danish CSO, The Danish Family Planning Association.

Good morning, Honorable chair – esteemed Delegates – CSO colleagues.

Let me start by thanking the government of Denmark for giving my organization the opportunity to take the floor here today, thereby underlining the importance of partnerships to lift the ICPD agenda.

Mr. Chair:

One of my main points here today is that ICPD PoA remains a valid and truly transformative agenda that is highly relevant in all corners of the world. – no matter the specific country or context.

Allow me to share two small personal stories from my life to this point: I would have lost my life, and so would my son, had doctors not had the opportunity to monitor me and ultimately perform an emergency C-section when I gave birth.

Also, through systematic screenings, it was discovered that I was in serious risk of developing

cervical cancer. Counselling and treatment was available, and it was tough, but as a result I'm healthy and alive and around for my son and family.

I'm privileged. I live in a country where my sexual and reproductive health rights are realized and I did not become one of the 800 women who die of pregnancy related causes every day or the 250 thousand women who die from cervical cancer every year.

25 years on to the implementation of the ICPD PoA, it is unacceptable that it is still a matter of luck of where you were born whether you survive child birth or cervical cancer – or if you have the right and access to other sexual and reproductive health services for that matter.

And this takes me to my second overall point here today; It is time for governments to step up its attention to and investments in the promises they signed on to back in Cairo, 25 years ago - and in the subsequent follow up conferences.

Increased attention and investments are needed – especially with regards to advancing the human rights of young people, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Bodily autonomy, the right to decide over your sexuality, control your fertility, is crucial for people's wellbeing, for their ability to realize their potentials - and for sustainable development as such.

Mr. Chair

My country, Denmark is a strong supporter of the ICPD PoA, politically and financially. We at the Danish Family Planning Association applaud this.

In Denmark, it is broadly recognized that investments in core areas of the ICPD agenda have helped develop and continue to make up the welfare state we have today.

However, challenges of course remain in our implementation of the PoA.

For instance, while the CSE curricular in schools is very good, a recent study has documented that actual CSE in schools is uneven and that teachers lack training in CSE.

Another challenge concerns sexual and reproductive health throughout the life course. My

organisation runs several counselling services on sexual and reproductive health matters, and over the last years, have seen an increase in questions from older people and health professionals about matters related to older people's sexual health and wellbeing.

Considering the demographic development in Denmark, whereby we see an increase in the number of older people, we must take measures to ensure that our health and social systems are geared to address issues of sexual health for the older generations. Including breaking down the taboos surrounding this issue. Both as a matter of health and in terms of quality of life.

Mr. Chair, the 2030 and ICPD agendas are interlinked and today we look to governments from all regions to ensure that the ICPD and its review conference priorities are meaningfully integrated into their work on realizing the 2030 Agenda. And when engaging in ongoing discussions on UHC, we should recognize that it must include SRHR in the integrated services packages, including access to safe and legal abortion.

As we welcome the adoption of the Political Declaration, let's also hope that we use the momentum of the 25th anniversary to accelerate action. In a time, where the support to the multilateral system and basic notions of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, seems to be called into question, it is time to stand firm. For the health and prosperity of future generations,

I thank you.