

**Tuesday, 21st of July. Statement on the Declaration  
Delivered by Rineke van Dam from Rutgers**

**Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Human Rights**

I'd like to highlight the consistent support from governments, UN agencies, and CSO colleagues from around the world, who agree that gender equality, women's rights and human rights are essential to achieve sustainable development, and must **cross-cut** the post-2015 agenda. We wear purple today to highlight these concerns and invite you all to join our colour campaign.

The full range of issues vital to achieve gender equality should be reflected throughout the draft and especially paragraph 19. This includes but is not limited to: women's economic rights, women's and girl's participation at all levels, including peace building, and the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls. **Sexual and reproductive health and rights** are inseparable from gender equality and elementary to the aim of this agenda for transformational change.

To reflect existing UN commitments and in line with a large number of member states' comments yesterday and today, paragraph 15 should refer to the **ICPD, the Fourth World Conference on Women**, the outcomes of their review conferences and **CEDAW**, amongst others.

We agree with member states that this draft has improved on **human rights** - for instance paragraph 18. However, we also agree with many that human rights references still need to be strengthened throughout the text, in specific by adding: non-discrimination in para 7, human rights of all women and girls in para 19 and realizing human rights for all in para 45. Listings should always be open, and include sexual orientation and gender identity. When 'national policies' or 'culture' are mentioned, the text needs to be balanced with 'in conformity with international human rights'. Moreover, 'cultural values in para 8 should be replaced by 'cultural diversity' as in para 31.

We support the very many member states yesterday and today calling for the deletion of para 38.

If retained, it should refer to the diverse forms in which families exist, and the human rights of individuals within families.

Finally, we reiterate the call by the Netherlands for the rights of adolescents and youth, their empowerment and their meaningful participation to be better reflected. Girls and adolescents should be added to the listing of people in vulnerable situations; paragraph 23 should expand with education on human rights, gender equality and comprehensive sexuality education; and paragraph 46 should refer to meaningful youth participation – in line with Canada’s request today.

#### **ENDORSEMENTS/COLLABORATION**

Family Care International

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)

Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV)

Africa Civil Society Coalition on Population and Development (ACCPD)

Rutgers - the Netherlands

The Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA)

Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)

Federation for Women and Family Planning, Poland

ASTRA Network

ASTRA Youth

YouAct

Ipas

P&D Factor – Associação para a Cooperação sobre População e Desenvolvimento, Portugal

Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

Population Matters, United Kingdom

International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion.

Austrian Family Planning Association

FEMNET - Pan-African Feminist Network

Reproductive Health Advocacy Network Africa (RHANA)

Federación de Planificación Familiar Estatal – Spain

Partners in Sexual Health (PSH)

dance4life

RutgersWPF Indonesia

RutgersWPF Pakistan

Rutgers Uganda

AIDS Accountability International

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)

CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality

ATSR - Tunisia

Action Health Incorporated, Nigeria

Africa CSOs Coalition on Population and Development

African Federation for Sexual Health and Rights  
 AWAZCDS-Pakistan  
 Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo (AIDOS)  
 Saathi - Nepal  
 Reproductive Health Matters (RHM)  
 Reproductive Health Training Center, RHTC - Moldova  
 RESURJ  
 International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)  
 Plan International  
 Advocates for Youth  
 World Assembly of Youth  
 Center for Women Policy Studies  
 World WYCA  
 Women for Women's Human Rights - New Ways  
 BOCS Global Think Tank Foundation  
 VSO International  
 Curious Minds – Ghana

### LANGUAGE SUGGESTIONS

Paragraph	Rationale
<p>3. We recognize that poverty eradication is <b><u>one of</u></b> the greatest global challenges and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We recognize that the dignity of the human person is fundamental. We intend, between now and 2030, to end extreme poverty <b><u>in all its forms</u></b> and hunger everywhere; to combat <b><u>all</u></b> inequalities <b><u>including gender inequality and all forms of discrimination; to redistribute wealth, resources and power;</u></b> <del>and</del> <b><u>to</u></b> build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; <b><u>to combat climate change, change development patterns and</u></b> to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its resources; and to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth <b><u>development</u></b> and shared prosperity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Poverty eradication is one of multiple challenges that need to urgently be addressed to achieve sustainable development.</i></li> <li>• <i>This paragraph should include a reference to combating <b>gender inequality</b>, as a key-cross cutting goal and issue, as well as to <b>eliminating discrimination of any kind</b> and ensuring a rebalance of wealth, resources and power.</i></li> <li>• <i>Climate change must be mentioned in this paragraph as a critical challenge that needs to be addressed.</i></li> <li>• <i>The goal of the agenda is <b>economic development</b>, which should not be conflated with economic growth. Economic growth does not always lead to development, and in fact can undermine it, especially when it results in greater inequalities within and between countries.</i></li> </ul>
<p>7. In these goals and targets, we are setting out a supremely ambitious, <del>and</del> transformational <b><u>and achievable</u></b> vision. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. We envisage a world free of fear and violence. A world <del>with</del> <b><u>where all people can enjoy their human rights to</u></b> universal access to quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This should be reframed to emphasize a world in which human rights are realized.</i></li> <li>• <i>We strongly support the recognition of the human right to water as foundational to women's and girls' empowerment.</i></li> </ul>

<p>education and to <b>quality</b> health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world where access to safe and affordable drinking water is a basic and universal human right; where food is safe, affordable and nutritious; where there is adequate and accessible sanitation. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and there is affordable, <b>accessible</b>, reliable and sustainable energy.</p>	
<p>15. We recall <b>reaffirm our commitment to fully implement</b> the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits which have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and have helped to shape the new Agenda. These include the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the Millennium Declaration; the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the World Summit for Social Development; and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+ 20”) and its follow-up; <b>the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and their subsequent reviews, among others.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>It is important to include the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as critical contributions toward sustainable development, recognizing that their full and effective implementation will be necessary if we are to achieve the SDGs and the new sustainable development agenda. The ICPD Programme of Action, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of their review conferences have recently been reaffirmed by member states through their 20-year reviews and their links to the new agenda explicitly recognized.</i></li> </ul>
<p>18. This is an Agenda which encompasses all human rights. It will work to ensure that human rights and fundamental freedoms are enjoyed by all without discrimination on <b>any</b> grounds, <b>including</b> of race, colour, <b>ethnicity</b>, sex, <b>gender, sexual orientation and gender identity</b>, age, language, religion, culture, migratory status, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth, <b>marital status, occupation, geographic location, pregnancy status, HIV or health status</b>, disability or other status.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The amendments are to reinforce an inclusive agenda that ‘leaves nobody behind’ and reflect leading grounds of discrimination found worldwide.</i></li> <li>• <b>Gender</b> should be included as a key basis for discrimination.</li> <li>• The term ‘sexual orientation and gender identity’ is agreed inter-governmental language, for example in Resolutions <a href="#">67/168</a> and <a href="#">69/182</a> of the General Assembly of 2014 and 2012 and Resolutions <a href="#">17/19</a> and <a href="#">27/32</a> of the Human Rights Council of 2011 and 2014 respectively.</li> </ul>
<p>19. Working for <b>Realizing</b> gender equality, <b>the human rights of all women and girls</b> and their empowerment of <b>women in all their diversities across their lifespan</b> and girls will <b>be</b> make a crucial contribution to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The proposed amendments reflect the range of key elements required from a holistic approach to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, also in line with SDG targets</i></li> </ul>

progress across all the goals and targets **and must be addressed in a cross-cutting way throughout the sustainable development agenda**. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities. Women and girls must enjoy **their rights to** equal access to education, health, **including universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights**, economic resources **including their rights to land and inheritance**, and political participation, **including in peacemaking processes and post-conflict negotiations**, as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, **decent work and social protection**, and leadership. **Women’s and girls’ burden of unpaid care work will be reduced and redistributed**. All forms of gender inequality, discrimination and violence against **all women and children, both boys and girls, including harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation**, will be ~~combated~~ **eliminated**.

- 1.4, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, & 5a).
- *Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will not be achieved until their universal sexual and reproductive health and rights are respected and protected. These are fundamental rights, inter alia, for women and girls to be able to fully participate in and contribute to poverty eradication, economic growth, and sustainable development, including to enable girls to complete their education and women to be able to lead healthy, productive lives. **Reproductive Rights** are explicitly recognized in Target 5.6. **The rights of women and girls to control all matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence**, are also recognized in multiple development agreements, including Beijing, ICPD+5 and Beijing+5 and their subsequent reviews, Rio+20 and numerous General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions.*
  - *This paragraph must stay focused on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls. As the SDGs recognize, there are specific forms of violence and discrimination that girls face as a result of their gender, including CEFM and FGM, among many others.*

23. We commit to **ensure the human right to equal access to** ~~providing~~ **quality and inclusive** education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary **and to promote life-long learning opportunities for all**. All people irrespective of gender, age, race or ethnicity, **health condition or any other status**, including **women and girls**, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, **migrants, and children, adolescents** and youth in vulnerable situations, should have access to **quality** learning that helps them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities, **live sustainable and healthy lifestyles** and to participate fully in society, **including through education on**

- *The goal on education specifies “promote life-long learning opportunities for all and should be reflected.*
- *The language on promoting sustainable development, gender equality and human rights is also extracted from target 4.7.*
- *Important to incorporate the education-related targets from Goal 4 and 13, including those that are cross-cutting.*
- *Include a reference to comprehensive sexuality education as a critical element that can change gender norms, increase respect for human rights, and contribute to overall health and wellbeing.*
- *We welcome the inclusion of the language on nurturing environments for children and youth and suggest further*

<p><b><u>sustainable development, climate change, human rights, gender equality, comprehensive sexuality education, peace and non-violence.</u></b> We will strive to provide <b><u>empower</u></b> children, <b><u>adolescents</u></b>, and youth <b><u>and provide them</u></b> with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, including through supportive families, schools and stronger communities, <b><u>an enabling legal and policy environment, and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against them.</u></b> <b><u>We commit to ensure their active participation in decision-making processes.</u></b></p>	<p><i>language to contribute to that section of the paragraph.</i></p>
<p>38. [<i>Prefer deletion:</i> We recognize the role of the family <b><u>families</u></b> as a contributors to sustainable development; one measure of success of the new Agenda will be its ability to strengthen <b><u>support,</u></b> and protect all families <b><u>in their various forms and ensure equality and non-discrimination within them.</u></b>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We prefer deletion of this paragraph. If that is not possible, suggest amending it as above. International agreements since ICPD in 1994 have recognized that various forms of the family exist and that the role of the state is not necessarily to support families in order to better meet the needs and respect and protect the human rights of individuals within them. At a minimum, this paragraph must recognize the diversity of families.</li> </ul>