Alliance for Health Promotion

Meeting:
Seventy-first World Health Assembly (A71/1)

Agenda Item:
12.3 Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016–2030): sexual and reproductive health, interpersonal violence, and early childhood development

Statement:
We applaud and support the implementation of this roadmap. Given that approximately half of the world’s population is under 25 years, this strategy has come at a better time to achieve the SDGs.

The UHC drive must put women and their partners at the centre, reaching them from preconception until their children reach adolescence. It is crucial for governments to remove all economic, legal and discriminatory health system barriers, especially for adolescents, to access services that effectively respond to their needs. Psychosocial and mental wellbeing enables women and adolescents to acquire competencies to assert and protect their sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). Male engagement in SRHR helps reduce related violence against women and adolescents.

Eliminating major risk factors early from pre-conception and pregnancy to early childhood protects both mothers and children, particularly in low and middle income settings. Access to mental health services improves health outcomes for mothers, their children and adolescents. Nurturing, responsive care is especially crucial for HIV/ART exposed children’s cognitive and social development.

We call on WHO and Member States to adopt a health promotion approach in implementing of this strategy and to seek governments’ financial investment and accountability; enact policies and allocate resources for integrating the nurturing care framework given its unquestionable social, health, economic and overall development benefits; strengthen inter-ministerial collaborations and partnerships with civil societies to implement UHC especially for women, children and adolescents; and invest in human capital (including adolescents as peer educators) for the services to reach all.

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