

**UNECE ICPD@25 Regional Conference Enabling Choices:
Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development**

Interventie namens Nederland in Second thematic session: Families, sexual and reproductive health over the life course, 2 oktober 2018

Onderwerp NL statement: Families, sexual and reproductive health over the life course

- Thank you, Madam Chair.
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

- We support Chapter two.
- However, we do recall the 2013 Chair's summary: "The promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential to achieving gender equality, social justice and sustainable development." To this we strongly re-commit, as our SRHR policies have delivered results for individuals and families in all their diversity. We hope this will be reflected in today's summary.
- We also request that the Regional Report and the Conference Proceedings Report will be transmitted to the Commission on Population and Development.
- The SRHR of women, girls and young people, LGBTQI and marginalized groups require constant monitoring and protection.

- I'll highlight five Dutch policies, many designed with civil society like Rutgers here:
- ONE: Education in school about sexuality and sexual diversity is obligatory for children up to about 15 years of age. Still, it could be improved. Rutgers calls for incorporating sexuality education, including sexual diversity, sexual resilience, sexual rights and gender equality, into the national school curriculum, every year, including beyond the age of 15.

- Therefore we welcome UNESCO's Revised Guidance, and the commitment of all relevant UN Agencies.
 - TWO: Extensive contraception counselling and removal of financial barriers for women whose situation is not ideal to have a child, like drug users, psychiatric patients or the homeless. And investing in preventing unplanned pregnancy with 53 million euros.
 - THREE: The new "National Action Plan on STIs, HIV and Sexual Health", is focused on prevention and a positive approach to sexuality, in cooperation with schools, expertise centers like Rutgers, the AIDS Fund, the National Statistical Office, and the medical community.
 - FOUR: Other emerging issues relate to sexual harassment, including cyber bullying, sexting and 'exposing', for which we either have existing policy or are developing one.
 - FIVE: We believe in multi-stakeholder approaches. For example, in relation to sexual violence in sports clubs, which we are addressing in collaboration with NGOs, sports clubs and sports associations.
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- In conclusion: today, at age 25, as a young adult, ICPD has never been more relevant. Therefore, we re-commit to the ICPD.
 - I thank you.