

## **FINAL DRAFT OCTOBER 18 – 5 PM**

October 18, 2023

Final CSO Statement for UNECE Conference

Group Two – Families, Sexual and Reproductive Health Over the Life Course

As UNECE CSOs, we recognize the progress achieved to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, yet challenges remain. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential for gender equality, economic development, health equity and human rights. We call for reproductive justice for all and call on governments to:

- Fully decriminalize abortion and make abortion a constitutional right for all, and ensure access to safe abortion in line with the WHO Abortion Care guidelines
- Require that comprehensive sexuality education be provided as part of mandatory school curricula following the technical guidance by UNESCO.
- Prevent, effectively respond to, and end sexual and gender-based violence.
- Provide modern contraceptives for free and universally to all regardless of legal, age, social, religious and economic status.
- Guarantee affordable, accessible, quality and respectful maternal care.
- Establish clear and transparent national budget allocations to deliver comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and care throughout the life course.
- Prioritize, invest in and remove access barriers affecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of underrepresented communities, including people living with HIV, LGBTQIA+, youth, elderly, differently abled, rural, displaced, ethnic minorities in all their diversity, and those affected by armed conflict, humanitarian, environmental, and public health crisis.

AND

- Support and protect human rights defenders and CSOs working on sexual reproductive and ensure their meaningful engagement in policy and legal processes.

We call on governments to refrain from actions that undermine sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to condemn in the strongest terms such efforts. To honor human dignity, rights and equality, governments of the UNECE must act decisively ensuring every individual's autonomy over their life and body.

Thank you.