

## Attachment 7 f

### Draft of the Commission on Health for the Action Program 2018-2020

March 2017

IAW supports the UN Sustainable Goal 3, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” on the whole, and as a guideline for the IAW Action Program 2018-2020, see <sup>1</sup> We strongly request a regular follow-up system at several levels, with national and NGO indicator-based reporting and statistical information in percentage and absolute figures, as well as binding agreements for implementing this SDG goal!

**Violence against women and girls** comprising both structural and personal violence is addressed in Goal 5, “Achieve gender equality & empower all women and girls”. <sup>2</sup> Violence is an overarching issue with immense impact on the victims’ physical and mental health. We request to critically analyze socio-economic and societal structures with a view to changing them, and thus improve women’s status and wellbeing in all countries.

#### **A. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, SRHR must be universally accessible.**

##### **IAW requests**

**a)** Governments and societies that deny women these rights to immediately fulfill their obligation by implementing universal sexual and reproductive health and to consider the immediate and long term benefits for families and the society as a whole.

**b)** Our membership to spread information about what is at stake and lobby and advocate for change.

##### **SRHR include:**

- No female genital mutilation/cutting and other traditional practices affecting the health of girls and women
- Obligatory and comprehensive sexuality education for girls and boys to reduce unwanted pregnancies and the personal and societal burden of HIV/AIDS.
- Universal access to family planning with particular attention to women’s and adolescents unmet needs for counseling and family planning services
- Access to safe and legal abortion combined with family planning counseling
- No forced marriage which is depriving young girls and women of a proper education and restricts their opportunities of gainful employment
- No abuse of women especially young women as “reproductive machines”
- Reduction of maternal deaths in percentages and in absolute numbers

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eda.admin.ch/agenda2030/en/home/agenda-2030/die-17-ziele-fuer-eine-nachhaltige-entwicklung/ziel-3--ein-gesundes-leben-fuer-alle-menschen-jeden-alters-gewae.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eda.admin.ch/agenda2030/en/home/agenda-2030/die-17-ziele-fuer-eine-nachhaltige-entwicklung/ziel-5-geschlechtergleichstellung-erreichen-und-alle-frauen.html>

- Reducing physical and mental morbidity of women related to pregnancy and child-birth
- Combating all forms of sexual exploitation and violence including mass and gang sexual aggression.

## **B. Non-communicable diseases NCD**

### **IAW selects two priority issues to be dealt with from 2018 to 2020.**

We ask our membership to spread information about what is at stake and lobby and advocate for change.

#### **1. Smoking** which entails a heavy toll of cancers and of Chronic Respiratory disease, CRD.

Women's health is severely affected by

- Active smoking which is increasing fast among women and girls. Cessation tools should be made available everywhere to smokers who want to quit. Women also need to be protected from false advertising about how "safe" electronic cigarettes are.
- Passive smoking which is particularly risky for pregnant women and babies.
- Health risks such as CRD and blindness related to cooking in dwellings without outlet for the smoke. This violates women's right to a safe and clean environment.

#### **2. Cervical cancer** which, according to WHO, currently affects an estimated one million women the vast majority living in low resource countries.

IAW therefore

- Requests universal and easily accessible health services for prevention, curative treatment or palliative care.
- Asks for access to the Visual Inspection method with Acetic acid, VIA, in settings where sanitary infrastructure is poor.

Final Draft March 2017 revised by Gudrun Haupter and Ursula Nakamura