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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

5 January 2015

Excellency,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I wish to thank you for your letter dated 18 December 2014, in which you underscored the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Your comments on the advanced unedited version of the Secretary-General's synthesis report are much appreciated. While paying my utmost priority to respect the work done by Member States of the United Nations, we took all comments we received from stakeholders very seriously. I wish to refer you to the final edited official version of the report, which was issued on 23 December 2014 (A/69/700).

I continue to rely on your active engagement to urge world leaders and the international community endeavour to take global action towards ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet.

I would be grateful if you could share this letter with the co-signatories.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Amina J. Mohammed
Special Adviser of the Secretary-General
on Post-2015 Development Planning

His Excellency
The Right Honorable Baroness Jenny Tonge
President
European Parliamentary Forum
on Population and Development
London



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email

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cc: Tol



H.E. Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

ACTION
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AJM ✓
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Brussels, 18 December 2014

Your Excellency,

We address you as Members of Parliament from across the world and as Members of parliamentary networks from Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa committed to protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of the world's most vulnerable people.

We congratulate you on your Synthesis Report "The Road to Dignity by 2030" that was released on 4 December and the way this complex endeavour was organised to ensure input from a broad range of stakeholders. We welcome that the need to empower women and girls realizing their rights are addressed as a key challenge in the report. We have also taken note of the place gender equality and reproductive health and rights occupy therein. While the report speaks of women's reproductive health and rights, we regret to see that neither sexual health or rights nor a reference to the ICPD Programme of Action or the Beijing Platform for Action and their review conferences is made.

Against this background, we draw your attention to the Stockholm Statement of Commitment that was signed by 260 Members of Parliament from 134 countries in the framework of the 6th International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in April 2014.

Therein, Parliamentarians from all regions of the world call for an inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the post-2015 development agenda as well as for stand-alone goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential elements of human dignity and human development, and a core basis for social and economic progress. Achieving poverty eradication, educational, health, economic and sustainable development objectives hinge on the fulfilment of these rights for all women, men and young people.

As a committed defender of women's and girls' health and rights, you know that for the 'century of women', to become a reality, these most intimate and fundamental of human rights need to be part and parcel of a future development agenda. Therefore, we call on you to include sexual health and sexual rights as well as references to the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action in the final version of your report.

Sincerely,

DEV/04/001

DEV/03/001

Baroness Jenny Tonge

President, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)
Chair, All-Party-Parliamentary-Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health
House of Lords, UK

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House of Representatives, Uruguay

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The Parliament, Austria

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Shadow Minister for Women, Carers and Community
Vice-Chair, Australian All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development
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Chair, Health Labour and Social Affairs Committee of the Pan African Parliament
National Assembly, Cameroon

Hon. Lourdes Palacios, MP

Member, Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG)
Asamblea Legislativa, El Salvador

Hon. Andrew Toboso, MP

Member, African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA)
National Assembly, Kenya



To:
Cc:
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Subject: Fw: Global Parliamentarians' letter on UNSG Synthesis Report and sexual health and rights therein

----- Forwarded by Margaret King/NY/UNO on 18/12/2014 07:28 PM -----

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Date: 18/12/2014 11:53 AM
Subject: Global Parliamentarians' letter on UNSG Synthesis Report and sexual health and rights therein

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Please find attached a letter regarding the release of your Synthesis Report and a call to include **sexual** and reproductive **health** and **rights** therein. The letter is signed by 17 parliamentarians from around the world and across the political spectrum. We would be delighted to discuss the matter with you and we can be contacted via secretariat@epfweb.org.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Jenny Tonge

President, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)
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House of Lords, UK

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Global MP letter UNSG Synthesis Report.pdf